MRS Tax Levy Review

Prepared for the

Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee

Prepared by the

Economics Research Group
Center for Economic Education
University of Cincinnati

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<u>Principal Investigators</u>

Marie Haney, Associate Director of Research
Amy Merrell, Research Assistant
George Vredeveld, Director

For additional information contact the Economics Center for Education & Research, email Econeduc@uc.edu.
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Introduction

The Hamilton County Mental Retardation Services Tax Levy was first approved in 1974 with a 1.5 mill levy. The Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities levy plan request for the 2000 to 2004 period consists of a 2.73 mill renewal and a .80 mill increase. If the proposed renewal and increase pass, the taxes on a $100,000 home would be approximately $115.43 a year.

The following report was conducted for the Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) to provide information about how the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (HCBMR/DD) operates and the effect this has on the Mental Retardation Services Tax Levy. The report consists of five sections as follows.

I. Program Reports – Pages 3 – 40

Each of the seven program reports are formatted to provide consistent information about each of the Hamilton County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities' (HCBMR/DD) major programs. Each report includes a program description, the eligibility criteria for program participation, the sources of funds and distribution of funds for the program, whether or not the program is mandated and according to what code, and other budget notes or items of interest on the program.

This section of the report addresses Items 2 and 13 from the list of questions provided by the TLRC.

II. External Funding Sources – Pages 41 – 54

This section of the report outlines all of the sources of funds from which the HCBMR/DD receives income. We have outlined individual and family co-payment programs, state MR/DD funds, Ohio Department of Education funds, and Federal funds. We discuss whether or not the HCBMR/DD is receiving all they are entitled to based on eligibility criteria and total amount received.

A subsection in Section II discusses the co-payment programs in more detail. Section II addresses Items 1 and 8 from the list of questions provided by the TLRC.

III. Budgets and Staffing – Pages 55 – 68

Section III deals with issues relating to the HCBMR/DD budget and staffing levels. This section includes discussions on Items 3, 6, 7, and 12 from the TLRC list of questions.