

CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

Recommendations for Construction and Rehabilitation include funding for preventive maintenance, repair of existing state facilities, and construction of new capital facilities for all functions of state government including universities. Capital projects have traditionally been funded primarily from the General Fund, Post War Construction Fund, Cigarette Tax Fund, and a number of smaller dedicated capital funds. However, certain capital projects, particularly for state office buildings, prisons and universities, have been funded through the issuance of bonds.

The capital recommendations for the 2003-2005 biennium represent a strong commitment to the preservation of basic infrastructure. This includes \$37.8 million for preventive maintenance for most state facilities, which is approximately the same funding amount as the 2001-2003 biennium. The recommendations also provide \$85.7 million for repair and rehabilitation projects and \$243.3 million for lease appropriations.

Department of Natural Resources

Recommendations for the Department of Natural Resources are designed to insure that adequate funding is provided to protect the state's capital investments and to provide a safe and pleasurable experience for those who visit the state's park system. Due to restricted or reduced capital funding, many repair and rehabilitation projects have been placed on hold or funded through preventative maintenance. The recommendations provide for necessary repair and rehabilitation projects, as well as preventative maintenance.

Department of Correction

Recommendations for the Department of Correction include \$57.5 million for maintenance and rehabilitation of the State's correctional facilities. The repair and rehabilitation projects include: 29 projects related to life, health, and safety issues; 27 projects responding to necessary building/structure preservation; 8 projects responding to pertinent security issues; and 12 projects responding to program expansion associated with offender population increases.

Health and Human Services

The recommendations for the State operated health facilities (includes State developmental Centers, State Hospitals, and facilities operated by the State health department) total \$31.7 million. Significant funds are included for renovations designed to improve the care and comfort of those served. Major projects recommended include \$4 million to FSSA for asbestos, PCB's/EPA/IOSHA/ADA compliance, demolition, \$200,000 to finalize a master plan for regional facilities, and Life and Safety Contingency Funds at various FSSA facilities. To accommodate the State's regional health care facility approach, the recommendations include authorization of bonding to finance construction of one additional regional health care facility. Based on the authority provided in previous years, this additional authority will provide the authority to bond to finance construction of a total of five regional health care facilities.

Higher Education

The recommends include \$25.6 million for repair and rehabilitation for the seven state-supported institutions of higher education. This amount is the repair and rehabilitation appropriation for the 2003-2005 biennium.

Department of Administration

Finally, the recommendations include \$189.9 million for the biennium for the Department of Administration for payment of capital lease rentals to the State Office Building Commission. Of that amount, the Department will pay the Commission \$94.6 million, which is included as a General Government expense, to pay debt service on bonds issued to finance improvements to the Indiana Government Center campus. The Department will pay the remaining \$95.2 million, reflected as a Public Safety expense, to the Commission to cover costs associated with the financing of four correctional facilities.