OTHER BUDGET RECCOMENDATIONS

THE BUDGET ALSO CALLS FOR:

- Helping communities across the state with income tax losses resulting from the pandemic through a $70 million investment, with payments not to exceed $25 million to any one city.
  - A Constitutional Revenue Sharing increase of 1.8 percent is provided to cities, villages, and townships, while a one-time 2 percent increase is provided for Statutory Revenue Sharing.
  - A one-time increase of 2 percent is also recommended for Statutory County Revenue Sharing. Local communities are also supported with $5 million in grants to support efforts in finding and training new law enforcement officers, fire fighters, and paramedics.

- A $175 million deposit to the Budget Stabilization Fund to replace half of the withdrawal in 2020 needed for the pandemic response. In addition, a Venture Michigan II Fund payoff is recommended to purchase the remaining tax vouchers issued by the state. By clearing the remaining debt associated with this program, it is projected that $150 million in general fund will be saved over the course of the next two fiscal years, an 88 percent return on investment.

- Other recommended investments include:
  - A renewed request for $5 million to fund security upgrades at the Capitol to implement a weapons ban.
  - $10 million to alleviate affordable housing needs across the state and revitalize downtown areas.
  - $12 million for local trial courts to comply with new defense standards for low-income individuals.
  - $7.7 million for a trooper recruit school.
  - $20 million to support the enacted clean slate legislation for criminal record expungement.
  - $73.6 million to support two new veteran homes in Grand Rapids and Chesterfield Township to provide quality long-term care for veterans and their eligible family members.
  - An additional exemption from Michigan's 6 percent sales and use tax on menstrual products and provides for $5 million from the general fund to hold harmless the School Aid Fund from the proposed exemption.