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## For Immediate Release

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### **Macomb County weighs impacts of proposed federal budget on services**

On March 16, 2017, the White House released a \$1.1 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 2018. It proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense spending that will be “offset by targeted reductions elsewhere.”

For Macomb County’s more than 600 businesses that hold contracts with the Department of Defense and the thousands of people they employ, this may be great news. Conversely, the targeted reductions may also have a negative impact on many county residents.

“We are under a new administration and need to prepare to make changes as the federal budget is adjusted,” said Macomb County Executive Mark A. Hackel. “Our three-year budget forecasting process is predicated on anticipated revenue from known federal sources. If that is going to change, we need to be ready to act accordingly.”

Steve Gold, director of Macomb County Health and Community Services, prepared a report about the potential impact to Macomb County. The report (available online at <http://finance.macombgov.org/Finance-Transparency-Reports>) demonstrates Macomb County government is at risk of losing nearly \$30 million in federal funding under the proposed budget. These cuts might include:

- A loss of \$5 million provided through Housing and Urban Development to Macomb Community Action for programs that provide assistance to individuals and families in need. Some examples include funding cuts to emergency housing assistance, local communities for road repair, maintenance of recreational centers in eligible neighborhoods, deferred loans available for needed housing repairs and the county’s weatherization program.
- Nearly \$2 million less for the Macomb/St. Clair Workforce Development Board through the elimination of the Senior Community Services Employment Program and a 21 percent reduction in programs that train or retrain people for work.
- More than \$1.5 million reduction in federal FEMA Homeland Security support for the Department of Emergency Management & Communications.

- Nearly \$500,000 less to the Health Department for programs that offer nutritional support to women, infants and children as well as water quality testing at Macomb County’s public beaches.
- Nearly \$17 million in cuts to Macomb County Community Mental Health through the rollback of the Healthy Michigan Plan.

Additional budget adjustments proposed by “America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again” would further reduce federal support to Macomb County by nearly \$4 million, including \$3.4 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, \$200,000 for Michigan State University Extension services, elimination of the Americorps program which provides staffing for grassroots organizations, as well as funding for the Anton Art Center.

“We are committed to working with our federal partners to understand the implications of these proposed budget priorities,” said Hackel. “Our county, like many others around the country, relies on federal funds to support local programs and create impactful partnerships.

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