

Saving revenue sharing will be 'an uphill battle'

By Carol Azilian
staff writer

Michigan government leaders, claiming they're "hard-pressed" to provide essential and basic services, are making strong pitches for continuing federal aid to help pay for those services.

State, county, city and township officials urged members of a U.S. House of Representatives government operations subcommittee Monday to restate the federal revenue sharing program. Some \$175 million will be distributed this fiscal year to local governments in Michigan.

Congress must act to renew federal revenue sharing funds, which are derived from personal income tax, before the program expires Sept. 30.

At a time when local units of government are hard-pressed to provide essential and basic services, Congress should act to reauthorize this important program which for over 10 years

has provided a reliable and steady source of financial assistance," said a statement from Gov. James J. Blanchard.

SEVERAL LOCAL officials made similar pleas before Reps. John Conyers, D-Detroit, Sander M. Levin, D-Southfield, and Ted Weiss, D-New York, at a hearing in Ferndale.

The congressmen have used the "grass-roots approach" in three other states — California, Alabama and Pennsylvania — in an attempt to strengthen their case for continuing the program.

All three support a bill which would extend the program for five years and restore the states' share of the funds. Their bill would increase the appropriation to local units from \$4.6 billion to \$5.3 billion.

But Conyers cautioned that the bill may receive little support in Congress. "We have an uphill battle in persuading our colleagues about the wisdom of this legislation," he said.

"We're asking for almost chicken feed to support state, county and municipal governments, but funding like drunken sailors when it comes to military spending."

BOTH BLANCHARD and state Rep. Joe Forbes, D-Oak Park, echoed the need for restoring the state's share, which was eliminated three years ago.

Michigan ranks among the top five states sending taxes to Washington, but is the last state to get assistance back, Forbes said. In 1980, Michigan sent \$23.7 billion in tax revenues to Washington. The state received \$15.4 billion in 1980. The \$7 billion loss is larger than the state's general fund budget.

"Since that time (1980), state governments have been authorized to receive shared-revenue funding, but have received no appropriations," Forbes said. "This has resulted in a loss of approximately \$95-\$100 million per year for the state government, an economic shock causing administrative tremors throughout the system."

BLANCHARD URGED Congress to oppose President Ronald Reagan's proposal to merge the federal revenue sharing program with the federal community block grant program.

"Merging the two programs runs the risk of causing confusion at the local level and, in fact, reducing unfairly the actual funding levels for both programs," Blanchard said.

Conyers agreed, calling Reagan's proposal a "polite way of wiping out federal revenue sharing without having to take the heat."

Here is the difference:
• General revenue sharing dollars, usually handed down with "no strings attached," are used to help pay for a variety of city services — from public safety to road improvements.

• Community block grants are aimed specifically at eliminating blight, health and safety hazards, improving low-to-moderate-income housing and preserving historic buildings, among other things.

CLAIMING THE elimination of federal revenue sharing would cause further hardship to financially strapped Wayne County, County Executive William Lucas said: "We need this to get on an even footing. Without it, we don't have a fighting chance."

Wayne County, which faces a \$350-million deficit, needs the \$11.3 million allocation it received this year from the federal government to help pay for public safety and health care services, Lucas said.

Lucas suggested Congress consider a proposal to tie the revenue sharing program to the national unemployment rate.

"We would suggest that you consider authorizing a standby counter-cyclical, anti-recession assistance program to provide hard-pressed local governments with a reasonable level of funding to help them cope with the recession."

"Such a provision would start as the recessionary cycle begins and stop as

the economy improves," Lucas said.

Wayne County's executive also urged that "general revenue sharing allocations to local governments be increased to reflect increases in program costs due to inflation."

While the funding level has remained the same — \$4.6 billion — since 1978, the buying power of revenue sharing dollars has been "eroded by inflation," Lucas said. Thus, he said, local governments receive 40 percent less federal government aid than they did in 1976.

MAYOR COLEMAN Young of Detroit told the congressional committee his city is in "deep fiscal trouble."

"But we're not alone," he said. "You're aware of cuts across the board which have put poor people on the rack."

"I'm not here on a begging expedition," Young said. "I'm here demanding some degree of equity for all cities, particularly Detroit."

Storm spotters class Monday

A class designed to teach participants how to spot severe storms will be conducted from 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m. Monday at the Oakland County Board of Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 North Telegraph, Pontiac.

"Skywarn spotters" assist the National Weather Service in identifying

and reporting severe storms and determining the type, location and direction of movement of tornadoes and thunderstorms.

There is no charge. Groups interested in attending may contact the Oakland County EMS/Disaster Control Office at 858-5300.

Town meeting calls on deaf

The Michigan Department of Labor's Division of Deaf and Deafness plans a town meeting 7-9:30 p.m. Monday in Room 115 of the Southfield Civic Center, 26000 Evergreen.

There will be a demonstration by a "hearing ear dog," trained to alert deaf persons when door bells and phones ring.

The meeting is one of eight being conducted throughout the state to discern the problems and aspirations of deaf and hearing-impaired persons in Michigan.

Dog classes start in HP

Dog obedience and conformation handling classes are being sponsored by the Hazel Park Recreation Department and Bartop Dog Training Club beginning this week.

Beginning obedience classes are at 1 and 7 p.m. Friday, April 8, at a fee of \$25. Don't bring your dog the first night but do bring health certificates for DHL, parvo, rabies and a fecal exam. Classes are held in the Hazel Park

Recreation Center, 620 W. Woodward Heights (9¼ Mile), a block west of I-75.

Conformation handling classes begin at 8:45 p.m. next Wednesday, April 13. Bring dogs and health certificates the first night. Fee is \$20 for 10 weeks or \$4 per night for walk-ins.

Questions may be called to the recreation center at 547-5535 or Karen Parady at 398-4135.

Great Sale!
Save on famous Brown Jordan
tamiami patio furniture

Brown Jordan's best
seller in aluminum with
canary vinyl lacing.

Reg. '885"
SALE
\$579.95

5 pc. set including
48" table.

Terrace
CASUAL CONTEMPORARY AND PATIO FURNISHINGS

33021 Grand River, Farmington (2 bks east of Farmington Road) • 478-6550
Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9 • Daily 10-6
Master Charge and Visa accepted or use our finance program

New Faces Wanted

BE A MODEL!
DO T.V.
COMMERCIALS!
TRAVEL!
BE A NEW
YOU!

You could earn
\$35-\$150 per hour
as a professional
Train where top American •
Canadian • European Models train

Auston's
Professional Modeling & Finishing Schools, Inc.
2079 15 Mile • Sterling Heights, MI 48077

NAME _____ Age _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
STATE _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

Men • Women • Children
Auston's wants you! On-the-Job
Training
581-2515
Dearborn

State Licensed
Banded
668-6346
Southfield
Troy-Sterling Heights Grand Opening!
787-0585

Train to Qualify for Agency Representation and Modeling
Assignment Consideration in: DET • NY • PARIS • TORONTO

Stacy Preston
New York Cover Girl
an Auston Graduate

The TI Computer Advantage Club
First stop on the way to the top
... for the whole family.

The family that's going places needs the tools to get there, and our Computer Advantage Club has them. Useful hands-on training in the computer basics essential to success in tomorrow's world. Each course (three for children 8-15 and two for adults) includes 10 hours of instruction ... in skills that last a lifetime.

Children's Computer Awareness \$49.95
Introduces children to the way computers work. Training with TI BASIC and TI LOGO.

Programming Discovery in TI LOGO \$49.95
Children explore geometrical, mathematical, and logical concepts and develop programming skills.

Programming Discovery in TI BASIC \$49.95
Children explore programming concepts and logic in TI BASIC using sound, color, graphics, music and speech.

Adult Computer Awareness \$49.95
Introduces home, business, and educational uses of computers through casework and TI BASIC Programming.

BASIC Programming for Adults \$49.95
Programming instruction with hands-on creation of programs using features of the TI-99/4A and TI BASIC commands.

To enroll, just call us (toll-free) for times, dates and locations in your area.
Call 1-800-858-4069,
8 a.m.-8:30 p.m., M-F, and
12 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. and
Sun. (CST). In Texas, call
1-800-692-1318.
Major credit cards accepted.

CLASSES IN:
• WARREN
• BIRMINGHAM
• NORTHVILLE

Creating useful products
and services for you.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
Copyright © 1981 Texas Instruments

Fully lined collar

Single needle shoulder

Removable collar stays

Full sleeve placket with button

Two button adjustable cuff

Double needle side seam

Seven button front

Full length tail bottom

The pinpoint oxford
by Preswick & Moore,
exclusively ours

A lot of fine features for \$35. It's soft to the touch, but made of pure cotton to keep its shape. A classic, traditional look, cut for a gentleman's fit. And a quality-tailored dress shirt with detailed attention to construction found only in the best shirts. Choose white, blue or ecru. Sizes 14½ to 17½, average sleeve lengths. In Men's Dress Shirts, at Nordlund, Oakland and Twelve Oaks.

hudson's
mens store

ORDER BY PHONE: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In Metro Detroit, call 569-2454. Elsewhere, order toll-free 1-800-233-2000.