

# UUP

The Ohio Urban University Program

## The State's Economic Development Resource



The Ohio UUP is a program of the University System of Ohio and the Ohio General Assembly.

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## Save a Cleveland State University program that is trying to save the state -- editorial.

A state struggling to boost its economy, promote regionalism and create fairer taxation systems can't afford to lose one of its best and brightest think tanks.

Yet that is what Gov. Ted Strickland and Chancellor Eric Fingerhut propose in taking an eraser to the \$5.2 million annual budget line for Ohio's Urban University Program.

Wise lawmakers should find enough money to save an urban research program that earns high marks in academic circles nationwide. The Urban University Program is based at Cleveland State University's Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, and provides \$1.6 million a year to the college.

The Levin College is the cornerstone of Cleveland State University's academic reputation. It is also the first place that journalists, lawmakers and business leaders turn for reliable statistics and expert analysis related to urban affairs.

Ohio's recent business tax reforms, its economic development efforts, brownfield cleanup regulations and explorations of regional approaches to governing are all topics that got off the ground with the help of the staff of Levin College and the Urban University Program.

None of that seems to impress Fingerhut, who says the urban program must die.

Ned Hill, the Levin school's interim dean, said the program could survive on half of the \$5 million, as long as CSU retained powerful partnerships with Ohio State, Kent State and Wright State universities, and the Universities of Akron, Cincinnati and Toledo.

But even at \$5 million, the research done by the Levin College and the others is a bargain. As Ohio's cities search for ways to revitalize in difficult economic times, disbanding a network that provides solid research would be an awfully costly way to save not quite 0.02 percent of a \$54.4 billion, two-year, state budget.

The legislature must show Fingerhut that priorities, if poorly conceived, can and will change.

### For more information:

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