

**FY 2017-18 CHESTER COUNTY
DRAFT HUMAN SERVICES
BLOCK GRANT PLAN
SUMMARY**

March 2017

CHESTER COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DRAFT BLOCK GRANT (HSBG) PLAN

SUMMARY

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Public Hearing Notice

The Chester County Commissioners, in conjunction with the Director of the Chester County Department of Human Services, scheduled two Public Hearings to gather public input on our FY 2017-18 Chester County Human Services Block (HSBG) Grant Plan. The Public Hearings were advertised in the Daily Local News as required by the Sunshine Act. In addition, stakeholders were notified by e-mail of these meetings through all of the human services departments' Advisory Boards, committees and websites, Family and Community Partnership, System of Care Advisory Team, Chester County Department of Community Development's E-Newsletter, and Access Services, the contracted provider of our family engagement activities. A proof of publication will be included in Appendix "D" of the Plan.

The first Public Hearing will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017 from 1:30 – 3:00 PM at the Brandywine Health Center's Conference Room in Coatesville to reach constituents and families who are available during the daytime hours. This site was selected for a daytime meeting because ChesPenn Health Services, which also includes the Community Dental Clinic, is located in the same building. We anticipated being able to reach consumers at this site as they are familiar with the building.

The second Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 from 4:30 – 6:00 PM at the Government Services Center in Suite 170 in West Chester. The Hearing is scheduled for residents and consumers who are only available in the late afternoon or early evenings.

The opportunity for public input is to obtain feedback on the draft plan, which outlines proposed programming. This input will help to guide any changes to the initial budget as well as mid-year reallocations.

County Planning Process

The Chester County Department of Human Services (DHS) has set in place mechanisms that lay a foundation for involving internal and external stakeholders in the planning process for the FY 2017-18 Chester County Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Plan. We continue to integrate our System of Care approach along with the Recovery Oriented System of Care, which is built on engagement with families, youth, and adult consumers in all categorical areas, inclusive of all ages, all human services, as well as juvenile delinquency and adult probation, into our planning efforts. The philosophical concepts of System of Care are cross systems, single plan, engagement, accessibility, person-centered, member driven, youth guided, strengths based, culturally competent, community-based services, least restrictive setting, and fiscally responsible services, which are used to guide the planning process in Chester County.

The Policy Leadership Team and the Planning Team continue to provide leadership and guidance for the FY 2017-18 Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) planning. The HSBG Policy Leadership Team is comprised of the Directors of all the categorical human services departments, the Director of the Department of Community Development, and the Deputy Human Services Director of Managed Behavioral Health Care. This is the same team that meets monthly to review spending and re-allocate funds. The HSBG Planning Team is facilitated by the Department of Human Services Planner and comprised of the Director of the Department of Community Development, Director of the Drug and Alcohol Department, and the planner from Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We continue to acknowledge throughout our planning efforts that HSBG funds are not newly acquired funds, but comprised of the historical allocations for, Mental Health, Intellectual Disability, Drug and Alcohol, Human Service Development Fund, and Homeless Assistance. Therefore, we prioritize maintaining essential services in these critical areas.

A significant change in the FY 2017-18 Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) is the removal of the Department of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Special Grants Funds from the Block Grant. However, in keeping with our System of Care philosophy, the CYF Director will continue to serve on the Policy Leadership Team. Additionally, the Planner for CYF will remain a member of the HSBG Planning Team in FY 2017-18.

Our planning is multi-pronged. Data and input is gathered at department specific as well as cross system levels. Cross systems includes across human service categorical areas as well as broader county cross system efforts.

Each of the categorical departments engaged department-specific stakeholder groups to gather input for the FY 2017-18 HSBG planning. These groups included advisory boards and community committees, including but not limited to: Department of Drug and Alcohol Services (D&A) Advisory Board; Directors of County D&A Providers; Mental Health Adult Subcommittee of the Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disability (MH/IDD) Advisory Board; Intellectual Disability Committee of the MH/IDD Advisory Board; Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) Leadership Team, ROSC Action Committee, Decade to Doorways Committees, RoadMAPP Committees, and ongoing mental health, drug and alcohol and in-home provider meetings.

The ongoing meetings of several human service cross systems stakeholder groups has been an opportunity for regular input for our planning, including the Family and Community Partnership, Equal Voices Group, and System of Care Advisory Team. All of these groups have open membership and are composed of consumers, families, youth, providers, and county staff.

“Decade to Doorways,” Chester County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the RoadMAPP to Health, an ongoing comprehensive county health and human services planning effort that addresses both physical and behavioral health needs, continue to inform and guide our HSBG planning as well. A number of committees have evolved from these two planning processes that include county staff from all of the Human Services departments, Health Department, Department of Community Development, provider agencies, United Way, the business community, and various other community stakeholders. The broad based representation on

these committees has provided continuity to all our county's planning efforts, including HSBG planning.

The Draft FY 2017-18 HSBG Plan is a product of all the planning processes described above. A summary of the draft is presented and discussed at the two Public Hearings. The draft plan was posted on the Chester County Department of Human Services website for review and comment. Following the public comment period, a final draft is presented to the Chester County Commissioners for approval, prior to submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

Needs Assessment

Outcomes were developed in FY 2013-14, the first year of the Human Services Block Grant, for all of the categorical areas in the Human Services Block Grant and they have been tracked and trended over the past three fiscal years to help inform our HSBG planning. In addition to the outcomes, we also utilize trend and unmet need/demand data from across the systems and a variety of sources, including the categorical departments and community based information and referral agencies. Major challenges in the past year have included continued need for more global outreach and education for the community at large; high demand for drug and alcohol treatment with significant growth in admissions for opioids as the primary drug; and the need for meaningful community employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. We are continuing our joint efforts with the Department of Community Development, our sister agency, to address the needs of individuals who are homeless, particularly those with mental health and drug and alcohol disorders. The lack of transportation options continues to be a challenge in Chester County, especially for people living outside of the limited public transportation service area in the county.

Human Services Narrative

The organizational design of the County of Chester incorporates all the human service categorical departments (Aging, Children, Youth and Families, Drug and Alcohol, Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Veterans' Affairs and the Youth Center) reporting to the Human Services Department Director. In addition, Child Care Information Services, HealthChoices, the Human Services Development Fund, and state food programs are administered directly out of the Department of Human Services (DHS). The Homeless Assistance Program is overseen by a sister county department, Department of Community Development, which works very closely with the Department of Human Services.

This structure assists the County of Chester to continue to implement our Human Services Block Grant Plan because we have the infrastructure and organizational design to be successful. The County of Chester has had this organizational design for more than twenty years. In this design, the Department of Human Services does not have a vested interest in any one categorical area and therefore can ensure the plans and funding decisions are fair from the broad perspective.

The flexibility of the block grant funding helps support Chester County's System of Care and Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) philosophy, that is incorporated throughout all of the human services categorical departments. As a result of the county's human services' organizational design and our commitment to embracing a System of Care philosophy across all human service departments, we are able to support a strong evidence based and evidence informed community system that helps to provide a broad array of services for residents of all ages that best meet the needs of those we serve.

A Look Back at the Human Services Block Grant in Chester County The planning and decision-making processes needed to implement the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) needs to be very fair and collaborative across all systems. Looking back at the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) process after almost five years of participation, the HSBG process has worked extremely well in Chester County as a result of cross-system collaboration, planning and decision-making. The flexibility accorded through the Block Grant allowed us to look at financial planning across the human services and not just individual budgeting within the categorical departments and has also helped us to make mid-year decisions to reallocate funds to address unexpected and unmet needs.

The feedback we have received through our planning meetings and Public Hearings over the past five years has been very important to us and has been used to guide our programming and services across all of the human service systems. Current programs were enhanced and some new initiatives were started in response to this feedback. Below is a list of some of those programs or initiatives.

- Implemented a Mental Health First Aid for Adults and Youth Training Initiative and almost 2,000 people are certified trainers to date
- Funded an Information and Referral site in Coatesville that served over 750 unduplicated clients last fiscal year
- Increased the number of Peer Support Specialists who work with people with mental health issues
- Staff from the human service departments have participated in almost 650 community outreach events over the past three years to increase education and awareness about services
- Developed System Maps to help residents understand how to access all of the human service departments
- Developed and funded a new Certified Recovery Support Program for people struggling with addiction issues as part of our Recovery Oriented System of Care efforts
- Implemented Acute Homeless Case Management and Critical Time Intervention as a program geared toward assisting individuals with mental health and co-occurring issues who are experiencing homelessness to find and maintain housing
- Increased funding for rental assistance to help low-income individuals and families remain in safe and affordable housing and emergency shelters
- Increased education and awareness efforts and funding to address the opioid epidemic in the county, especially regarding Narcan and its availability
- Facilitated focus groups within the African-American community to gather feedback on ways to address access to services

- Utilized a Master's level intern to outreach to libraries, community agencies, and faith-based organizations to educate people about how to access health and human services in the county
- Enhanced evidence-based programming to ensure children and youth remain in their homes and improve school attendance
- Facilitated two series of 10 trainings through Drexel University for community, staff and families regarding trauma and trauma-informed care and practices in partnership with two community Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) Coalitions

Programming Priorities – FY 2016-17

Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Review Meetings were facilitated monthly throughout the 2016-17 fiscal year to monitor the spending and discuss changes and modifications, if necessary. These meetings allowed us to track service needs and areas that were projected to be under spent or over spent, as well as to consider new needs as they were identified. This fiscal monitoring, in addition to our routine monitoring of productivity, quality and outcomes, informed changes in programming and funding.

Below is a summary of the programmatic changes and funding enhancements that have been made during our fifth year of HSBG implementation (FY 2016-17). Some of these changes did not involve funds being spent, but were resource intensive and are noteworthy because they reflect our comprehensive planning and collaborative efforts across all systems.

- Increased our outreach and education efforts across all systems and in cooperation with our primary prevention provider and through the use of an intern to reach more people and to provide more opportunities to help residents learn how to access services
- Increased the amount of funding to providers offering evidence-based programs to individuals and families throughout the county, including some who have bilingual staff
- Developed and funded a new Certified Recovery Support Program to assist people struggling with addiction issues
- Enhanced efforts to address the increasing opioid epidemic through education and awareness and partnerships with law enforcement, pharmacies, health care providers, hospitals and community members, including, but not limited to, physician forums and community education regarding Narcan
- Continued to support the four regional cross-system partnerships building efforts across the mental health and drug and alcohol systems and the homeless services system providers to ensure collaboration across the systems
- Expanded opportunities for chronically homeless individuals and families to help them find and maintain safe and affordable housing
- Enhanced our Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) efforts to address and implement strategies for the development of services and natural supports for people with co-occurring disorders, including Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement
- Increased funding for Rapid Re-Housing to help individuals and families remain in safe and affordable housing
- Conducted an extensive Asset Mapping Project of the mental health and substance abuse services throughout the county as part of our ROSC efforts and the data is being incorporated into our behavioral health service system planning

Programming Priorities – FY 2017-18:

We anticipate at this point that any funds that may be carried over from FY 2016-17 would be used for the priority areas identified in our FY 2017-18 HSBG Plan. Below is a summary of the Human Services Block Grant Planning that summarizes the priorities, common themes, and goals of the categorical departments included in the Block Grant. Goals and priorities are not listed for the Department of Aging Services as they are not included in the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG). The Department of Aging has their own Five-Year Plan that details their goals and priorities. Prior to the finalization, the elements of this plan summary will be incorporated into the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' format when the guidelines are released in the spring.

GOALS - The goals reflect what the Departments want to accomplish with HSBG funds:

- To promote and ensure access to needed services for residents of all ages and abilities ensuring the services are provided as an integrated system that is accessible to consumers and demonstrates positive outcomes. Services received should be based on individual client need, and provided in the most appropriate, least restrictive level of care
- To ensure residents have access to available resources to meet emergent needs and provide supports to develop community access and skills for individuals and families to live and maintain in the community
- To ensure that timely, accessible support services representing the full continuum of care are available to clients by strengthening peer outreach and engagement
- To prevent and end homelessness by using the HSBG Housing Assistance Program funds for homeless prevention and emergency shelter services
- To develop and maintain an integrated system of services that support children and adults with mental illnesses and/or intellectual disability to live full and productive lives in the community. To achieve this, in 2017-18 we will focus on strengthening peer, employment, and crisis support; managing funding sources to meet emergency needs; promoting advocacy services; and strengthening administrative functions to assure quality, health, and safety

COMMON THEMES FROM PLANNING INPUT- The categorical departments included in the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Plan coordinated many meetings of internal and external stakeholders to gather input for the FY 2017-18 HSBG Plan, as previously described. Below is a summary of the common themes (not in rank order) from the feedback:

1. Need for increased public education and outreach with family, community, and residents, including assistance navigating the systems
2. Need for increased supports and education regarding opiate and prescription drug abuse and addiction and medication-assisted treatment
3. Need for increased evidence-based, evidence-informed, trauma-informed, and best practice programs across all areas

4. Need for flexible, supported housing options and supports for individuals and families and people with special needs, including homeless diversion options and programming
5. Need for increased services and supports for transition-aged youth
6. Need for more peer support and Recovery Oriented services
7. Need for increased supported employment supports and services
8. Need for more bilingual services across all human services departments
9. Need for additional and creative options to enhance long-term recovery for people with co-occurring disorders
10. Need for more staff training and more expert training opportunities

TOP FY 2017-18 PRIORITIES (in rank order) – As a result of the current planning and stakeholder input, review of current programming, unmet needs, last year’s priorities, and outcomes the following priorities were identified for the FY 2017-18 Block Grant.

D&A:

1. Ensure timely, accessible assessments and treatment services representing the full continuum of care, including medication assisted treatment and recovery support services, are available to clients
2. Provide support to our outpatient providers to ensure a stable, accessible system
3. Enhance opioid/overdose prevention efforts
4. Expand and enhance peer services and culture

DCD:

1. Support Emergency Rental Assistance Program
2. Provide Emergency Shelters
3. Provide “Transition in Place” programs

DHS:

1. Support outreach and information and referral services throughout the county
2. Provide parenting supports and skill development for families (Family Center and Fatherhood)
3. Develop and implement an outreach and communication plan for accessing services and education about available services

ID:

1. Meet emergency needs of all consumers with Intellectual Disability
2. Support immediate emergent needs through Office of Developmental Programs initiatives for employment, Life Sharing and communication
3. Support advocacy, education and outreach efforts

MH:

1. Expand and enhance peer culture
2. Enhance engagement activities to retain consumers in treatment
3. Support and expand supported employment and supported education