County of Chester
Pennsylvania
Annual Report Summary
For the Year Ended December 31, 2017
Prepared by the Office of the Controller
Margaret Reif, Controller
To the residents of Chester County:

I am pleased to present to the citizens of Chester County our thirteenth Annual Report Summary for the Fiscal Year ended 2017. The information contained in this Summary is a condensed overview of the County of Chester’s audited 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and presents select information about the County’s revenues, spending, and demographics in an informal, easy to understand format.

The Office of the Controller has prepared the Annual Report Summary to help taxpayers understand the financial position of County government and how their tax dollars are being spent. It remains as important as ever for taxpayers to have a clear understanding of the financial pressures facing government. Transparency remains our highest priority.

Please explore this and other resources (such as those on https://www.chesco.org/), and contact your elected officials to express your views on the direction of our nation, state and county.

This Annual Report Summary is unaudited and excludes many material disclosures, financial statements, schedules and notes to the financial statements found in the County’s CAFR. Readers desiring more detailed financial information can obtain the full 180 page document on the County’s website at https://www.chesco.org/206/Controller under “Reports & Forms” “CAFR & Annual Report Summary”.

I hope that you find this report informative. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (610) 344-6155 or controllerdept@chesco.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Reif
Controller, County of Chester
Welcome to Chester County!

The County of Chester, one of Pennsylvania’s original three counties, was named by William Penn in 1682. It is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, in the scenic Brandywine Valley approximately 30 miles west of Philadelphia. Chester County originally included what is now Delaware County, parts of Lancaster County and Berks County.

The original county seat was the City of Chester, at the eastern edge of the County. As the population spread west, the county seat was moved to a more centralized location known as the village of Turk’s Head. Those on the eastern side of the county were not happy with the move. In an attempt to appease everyone, in 1788, Turk’s Head was renamed “West Chester”. Unfortunately, this name change did little to satisfy those on the eastern edge of the County. On September 26, 1789, they separated and created Delaware County. West Chester continued on as the seat of, the now smaller, Chester County and still is to this day.

Today, Chester County has 73 political subdivisions, consisting of one third class city (Coatesville), 15 boroughs and 57 townships, Our County covers 782 square miles, of which, includes about 212 square miles of preserved open space as well as some of the most productive agricultural land found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Today our approximate population of 519,293 and its employment base continues to grow (as it has for the last thirty-plus years) as suburban development continues, industry and agriculture thrive, and high technology businesses grow along its Route 202 corridor.

Chester County also continues to benefit from being one of the highest ranked median income regions as well as having many of the best public school systems found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Photo credits: Chester County Planning Commission (Cover, pg 3, 4, 11, 12, 17, and 18), Elaine Deutsch (pg 11 and 12), Tacie Himelright (pg 2 and 18), Chester County Commissioner’s Office (pg 10)
Quick Facts....

Population

Chester County’s 2017 population estimate was 519,293.
This is an increase of 0.6% from 2016 and an increase of 7.2% from ten years prior.
The median age of County residents in 2017 of 40.3 years old, was unchanged from 2016.
The largest increase again in 2017 was in the 65 and over population.
- 25.8% are under 20
- 17.8% are 20-34
- 26.6% are 35-54
- 14.1% are 55-64
- 15.8% are over 65

Housing

The average Chester County household size remained unchanged, again in 2017, at 2.7 people.
The average family size remained steady at 3.2 people.
In 2017, 94.6% of all housing units in Chester County were occupied, of which 75.4% were owner occupied.
The median monthly rent in the County increased in 2017 to $1,250. This is higher than the Commonwealth median of $893 and the national median of $1,012.
The average value of owner occupied housing increased to $355,000 with 70.7% of owners having a mortgage.
62.1% of the housing in Chester County are single family homes with 74.2% of all types of housing units having 3 or more bedrooms.

Education

Education continues to be a priority for Chester County residents.
- There are 14 public school districts in Chester County.
- We are also proud to be the home to eight universities and colleges.
- 58.4% of County residents have a Bachelor’s or higher degrees which is significantly higher than the national average of 40.5%.
Business and Transportation

Chester County continues to be a world leader in the cultivated mushroom industry as well as being the Commonwealth’s leader in the value of agricultural crops. Chester County is also a transportation hub for many manufacturers and distributors.

Twenty years ago, Chester County made a choice to redirect growth, to protect open space, and to revitalize its towns and communities.

An emphasis on establishing multi-modal corridors (highways, rail, freight, biking and walking) stimulating the efficient movement of people and goods has long been a priority.

Income

Chester County’s 2017 average estimated household income, of $96,656 for all industries, is well above the National average of $60,336.

Chester County is a very affluent county with 61.7% of its households making $75,000 or above, as compared with the national average of 40.3%.

Employment and Health Insurance Coverage

In 2017, Chester County continued its low unemployment rate trend with an average rate of 3.6 percent.

Along with low unemployment comes a high number of residents that are covered by health insurance. In 2017, 94.5% of Chester County residents had health insurance coverage with the majority covered under private health insurance.

Did You Know?

Chester County is a third class county. This means that the County’s population during the last census of 2010 was between 225,000 and 500,000 residents. Given the fact that we are now over the 500,000 citizen threshold, it is likely that we will be reclassified after the 2020 census.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, PA Department of Labor, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
The Office of the Coroner is an independent agency serving the citizens by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. They determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent, and provide notification to the legal next of kin.

Christina VandePol, MD
Coroner
610-344-6165
coroneroffice@chesco.org

The Office of the Clerk of Courts manages all paperwork for all criminal cases in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. The Clerk’s office also assesses fines, costs and restitution and collects the fees in conjunction with the Adult Probation and Parole Departments. The Clerk of Courts staffs all criminal, juvenile and dependency hearings held in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas.

Yolanda Van de Krol
Clerk of Courts
610-344-6135
cclerk@chesco.org

Margaret Reif
Controller
610-344-6155
controllerdept@chesco.org

The Office of the Controller supervises the fiscal affairs of Chester County. The Controller maintains accounting records, processes accounts payable, manages payroll and retirement disbursements, and is responsible for the internal audit function. The Controller also prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Row Officers
The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the County. The core functions of the Office of the District Attorney’s is to investigate, prosecute, and prevent crimes. It is the District Attorney’s duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Office of the Prothonotary acts as the chief clerk and record keeper for the civil and family divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. Work is generated from the court and through filings such as divorces, name changes, custody cases, Protection from Abuse orders, mental health hearings, medical malpractice cases, judgments & liens, as well as passport applications.

The Office of the Recorder of Deeds is an important interface between taxpayers, real estate professionals and County government, and is responsible for the public repository of real estate records, military discharges, commissions and official documents.

The Office of the Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans’ Court provides estate administration, marriage license, adoption, and guardianship filing services to individuals and the courts. The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over the probate of wills, granting of letters and is the agent for the collection of state inheritance tax.

The Office of the Sheriff provides security services, efficient notification of civil actions, Protection from Abuse orders, gun permits, background investigation services to the public as well as Sheriff sales. It also provides transportation and custody services for adult and juvenile prisoners.

The Office of the Treasurer serves to receive, record and deposit County funds resulting from payment of taxes, payment due on the sale of various state and county licenses, funds collected in the performance of public services, other state-related revenues, and payment of judgments and fines. The Treasurer’s Office issues licenses for hunting, fishing, pistol permits, and dog ownership.
Guide to County Services

We encourage you to visit our website www.chesco.org for additional resources.

Agriculture Development Council ............................................ 610-344-6285
Community & Economic Development .................................. 610-344-6900
Conservation District ............................................................. 610-925-4920
County General Operator ....................................................... 610-344-6000 / 1-800-682-1100
Domestic Relations ............................................................... 610-344-6215
Election/Voter Service ........................................................... 610-344-6410
Jury Service Center ............................................................... 610-344-6174
Parks & Recreation ............................................................... 610-344-6415
Veterans’ Affairs .................................................................. 610-344-6375
Human Services ................................................................. 610-344-6640
Aging Services ................................................................. 610-344-6350
Elder Abuse ........................................................................... 800-564-7000
Pocopson Nursing Home ......................................................... 610-793-1212
Child Abuse Report Line ........................................................ 610-344-5800 / 800-932-0313
Children, Youth & Families ................................................... 610-344-5800
Crime Victim Center ............................................................. 610-692-7420
Drug and Alcohol ................................................................. 610-344-6620
Mental Health / Intellectual & Develop. Disabilities ................. 610-344-6265
Domestic Violence 24 Hour Hotline ...................................... 888-711-6270
Drug/Alcohol Crisis ............................................................. 610-344-6620
Mental Health 24 Hour Crisis Hotline ....... 1-877-918-2100 / 610-280-3270
Rape Crisis Center .............................................................. 610-692-7420
Suicide Prevention Lifeline .................................................... 800-273-8255
Poison Control ...................................................................... 800-772-7112

Pennsylvania State Hotlines
Suspected Welfare Fraud ......................................................... 800-932-0582
Elder Abuse Unit ................................................................. 866-623-2137
Consumer Protection ............................................................ 800-441-2555

511PA is Pennsylvania's official travel information service. Call (511 or 1-877-511-7366), visit www.511PA.com, or use the 511PA mobile app for reliable, current traffic and weather information, as well as links to other transportation services.
The human services provided by the County are, in large part, funded by grants received from the Commonwealth and federal government.

In 2017, human services, including the geriatric center, made up 50.1% of the County expenditures.

**Department of Aging**: The primary goals of the department are to develop, coordinate and support comprehensive community based services which assist persons age 60 and older to remain independent and self-sufficient in the community.

**Children, Youth & Family (CYF)**: The mission of CYF is to utilize high-quality, comprehensive social services that strengthen the family's ability to provide for the safety and well-being of each child.

**Department of Community Development (DCD)**: The Chester County Department of Community Development provides housing, neighborhood improvement, workforce development, and social services to citizens so that they have the opportunity to successfully live and work in a safe, stable, and desirable community.

**Drug & Alcohol**: Drug & Alcohol provides effective, high quality alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services for the citizens of Chester County in order to prevent the onset of substance abuse and addiction wherever possible and, where it does exist, to mitigate its effects on individuals, families, and communities.

**Geriatric Center**: Pocopson Home is Chester County's short and long term healthcare facility. The Home offers both short and long term medical and nursing services, placing emphasis on rehabilitation for the purpose of returning residents to their homes and community environment.

**Health Department**: The Chester County Health Department provides personal and environmental health services to residents and visitors so that they may grow, live and work in healthy and safe communities.

**Human Services**: Department of Human Services protects vulnerable children and adults, promoting independence and well-being for the visitors and citizens of Chester County so that they may lead stable, safe, and fulfilling lives.

**Managed Behavioral Health Care (MBHC)**: MBHC provides services to all eligible County residents in a coordinated and collaborative manner. To best meet our residents’ needs, the department ensures that decisions are made on a sound planning basis, measures are put in place to maintain high quality services, and the statutes and regulations are followed consistently by and between the different services comprising the human services system.

**Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (MH/IDD)**: Every Chester County citizen experiencing mental illness or developmental disabilities may access services and natural supports that foster recovery and integration into a greater community where they are valued and enjoy fulfilling lives.
Health Outcomes/Health Factors

Where we live matters to our health. People who live in communities with ample park and recreation space are more likely to exercise, which reduces heart disease risk. People who live in communities with smoke-free laws are less likely to smoke or to be exposed to second-hand smoke, which reduces lung cancer risk.

Chester County has been ranked as the healthiest county in Pennsylvania, according to the study published in 2017 by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The study looked at a number of factors, length and quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and the physical environment.

Source: County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin
County Residents Challenged to Walk

WalkWorks ChesCo! is the County’s response to the national Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge, a two-year competition that empowers cities and counties across the nation to create a positive health impact.

At the end of 2016, the county was selected out of 400 applications as one of 50 members of the HealthCommunity 50 and received $10,000 in community seed funds to establish the program.

Such was the success of the first year of WalkWorks ChesCo!, where we exceeded our goal of walking a combined 1 Billion steps, that the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge judging panel awarded Chester County with an additional $10,000 to support and promote the program for year-two.

According to Chester County Health Department Director, “Our new goal is ‘5 & 5’ – five billion steps and 5,000 registrations by the end of 2018. It’s a good balance of being a stretch, but one that we believe can be achieved with effort.”

Register to participate at https://chesco.org/walkworks. The program syncs with most devices and mobile apps that already track steps and it also allows users to convert other physical exercise into steps to be manually added.

Fighting the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic

The Chester County Commissioners, District Attorney, the Department of Drug & Alcohol Services and the Health Department hosts its annual Color 5K, run through the streets of West Chester every November.

The event raises tens of thousands of dollars to support the County’s new program, Community Outreach and Prevention Education, or COPE, that will address all aspects of substance abuse addiction. COPE will provide one-to-one support for overdose survivors and their families and friends; provide overdose prevention information and outreach to first responders, hospital staff, family members and friends; and importantly, provide expedited admission into detox and a review of all treatment options for overdose survivors who agree to treatment.

For more information on the annual Color 5K Run, please visit our website at https://chesco.org/color5k.
**Black Rock Sanctuary** consists of 119 acres of wetlands, woodlands and meadows, dedicated to wildlife habitat and public use. It is one of many desilting basins found along the Schuylkill River.

**Hibernia Park** consists of over 900 acres of trails, woodlands, meadows, open fields, play areas, pavilions, camping and picnic areas. Chambers Lake is a great spot for boating and fishing. Campgrounds are open on weekends May through October. Walking tours explore the legacy of the iron masters and country gentlemen who owned the estate.

**Nottingham Park** sits atop an outcropping of serpentine stone greater than one square mile in size - one of the largest serpentine barrens on the East Coast. The 651-acre park features former feldspar and serpentine quarries, and numerous former chromite ore mines.

**Springton Manor Farm’s** historic landscape of fenced fields and stone walls include a colonial plantation, Industrial Revolution era scientific farm, Victorian tenant farm, and gentleman’s country estate. The Manor House and Carriage House overlook 300 acres. Springton Manor has been in agricultural use since the early 1700’s. On this demonstration farm, you can meet the animals and learn about Chester County’s farming history. The barn complex consists of the Great Barn, sheep shed, goat shed, a roost and equipment shed.

**Warwick Park’s** hardwood forests, meadows, wetlands, and the French Creek are all jewels within the Park’s 535 acres. The park features an ADA accessible fishing deck along the French creek, a portion which meanders through the park. An ideal site for nature study, the Horse-Shoe Trail, extending from Valley Forge to the Appalachian Trail, adds length to the numerous miles of multi-use park trails.
**Wolf's Hollow Park** contains 569 acres and nearly ten miles of trails providing hikers with routes ranging from moderate to challenging. Birders appreciate the several hundred acres of mature woodland habitat that attract many less commonly observed birds such as Brown Thrashers, Scarlet Tanagers and Baltimore Orioles.

The **Chester Valley Trail** is a multi-use, rail-to-trail facility that roughly follows U.S. Routes 30 and 202 through central Chester County from West Whiteland Township east into Montgomery County. The trail provides a key connection of “The Circuit”, the planned 750-mile trail network throughout Greater Philadelphia.

The **Schuylkill River Trail**, with almost 10 miles in Chester County when completed (5.8 miles is currently open), will parallel the Schuylkill River from the Route 422 bridge at Pottstown, south to the Route 29 bridge into Mont Clare. The trail will ultimately run from Pottsville in Schuylkill County to the Delaware River in Philadelphia.

**The Struble Trail**, with 2.6 miles currently open, follows the east branch of the Brandywine Creek as it flows towards Downingtown. Sitting on the original rail bed of the Waynesburg Rail Line, the trail is generally flat, and although some undulations occur, the terrain is considered low in user difficulty.

For more information on our trails and parks, please visit our website at: [https://chesco.org/178/Parks](https://chesco.org/178/Parks)
The County’s Financial Position

Chester County’s financial position remains very strong and is able to maintain sufficient net financial resources to protect against shortfalls.

The County’s AAA/Aaa debt ratings were reaffirmed in December 2017, for the 11th consecutive year, from the three rating agencies: Standard & Poor’s, Fitch Ratings, and Moody Investors Services, Inc. Chester County is one of 46 counties in the United States, and the only county in Pennsylvania (as of January 2017), to have AAA/Aaa bond ratings from all three major rating agencies. AAA/Aaa rating has and will continue to result in lower debt service on County debt, saving taxpayers money.

The County’s fund balance policy establishes the objective to strive to maintain an unrestricted fund balance, in the General Fund, of not less than two months of the subsequent year’s budgeted expenditures. Included in the unrestricted fund balance will be a Working Capital Reserve. Ten percent of subsequent year’s General Fund budgeted expenditures will be assigned as Working Capital.

In 2017 the County had $16.5 million in the working capital reserve, which represents 10 percent of the 2018 expenditure budget. The General Fund’s unassigned fund balance is $24.9 million and assigned fund balance is $24.5 million totaling to $49.4 million, which represents approximately 37.6 percent or 4.5 months of General Fund expenditures.

Because of the County’s strong financial position, it is able to issue general obligation notes and bonds to help fund the County’s Capital Improvement and Open Space Projects at the lowest rates of interest available to county government.

Your Real Estate Dollars

In 2017, on average, Chester County residents paid $3,263.45 in taxes per $100,000 of their home’s assessed value. Of that assessment, only 13.4%, or $436.90, were County taxes. The pie chart to the right illustrates how your local real estate taxes are typically used.

County real estate taxes funded 39.9% or $164.2 million of the County’s activities for 2017. 60.1% or $247.8 million of the County’s spending was funded by Commonwealth and federal grants, charges for services, and interest from investments.
Financial Position

The net position figure represents the amount that the County owns versus the amount owed.

The accounting policies of the County of Chester conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$99,938</td>
<td>$179,310</td>
<td>$147,861</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,366</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>58,471</td>
<td>32,401</td>
<td>36,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
<td>406,875</td>
<td>412,229</td>
<td>425,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>2,673</td>
<td>3,085</td>
<td>2,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>569,323</td>
<td>628,144</td>
<td>613,598</td>
</tr>
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Deferred outflows of resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Def. charge on refunding</td>
<td>51,052</td>
<td>51,090</td>
<td>27,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total deferred outflows</strong></td>
<td>51,052</td>
<td>51,090</td>
<td>27,370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Liabilities

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>26,437</td>
<td>29,417</td>
<td>31,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>4,678</td>
<td>7,763</td>
<td>3,909</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term liabilities</td>
<td>651,262</td>
<td>703,254</td>
<td>645,118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>682,377</td>
<td>740,434</td>
<td>680,515</td>
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</table>

Deferred inflows of resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Def. inflows of resources</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>14,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total deferred inflows</strong></td>
<td>601</td>
<td>879</td>
<td>14,232</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Net Position*

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Position</strong></td>
<td>$(62,603)</td>
<td>$(62,079)</td>
<td>$(53,779)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Negative net position is due to the cumulative effect of debt used to finance capital assets titled to others. Grants were provided to land conservancies for open space and to municipalities for park development and community development projects.
Financial Summary

Dollars In: Revenue includes all amounts of money received by a government from external sources during its fiscal year, net of refunds and other correcting transactions, other than issuance of debt, sale of investments, and agency or private trust transactions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dollars In …*</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program revenues:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>$ 65,388</td>
<td>$ 69,599</td>
<td>$ 70,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grants and contributions</td>
<td>170,824</td>
<td>186,503</td>
<td>188,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital grants and contributions</td>
<td>3,188</td>
<td>3,128</td>
<td>3,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Revenues:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>153,695</td>
<td>155,069</td>
<td>164,204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment earnings</td>
<td>818</td>
<td>1,344</td>
<td>2,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>4,805</td>
<td>5,997</td>
<td>7,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$398,718</td>
<td>$421,640</td>
<td>$437,692</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dollars Out …*:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dollars Out …*</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
<td>$ 38,323</td>
<td>$ 39,966</td>
<td>$ 38,707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judicial government</td>
<td>46,019</td>
<td>48,866</td>
<td>47,858</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>19,334</td>
<td>29,975</td>
<td>26,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>40,813</td>
<td>42,595</td>
<td>44,807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public works</td>
<td>1,636</td>
<td>1,642</td>
<td>2,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human services</td>
<td>197,999</td>
<td>218,348</td>
<td>214,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture &amp; recreation</td>
<td>12,738</td>
<td>13,107</td>
<td>15,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; development</td>
<td>11,825</td>
<td>9,091</td>
<td>13,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on long-term debt</td>
<td>22,956</td>
<td>26,951</td>
<td>25,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$391,643</td>
<td>$430,541</td>
<td>$429,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(ex pressed in thousands)

Dollars Out: Expenditure includes all amounts of money paid out by a government during its fiscal year - net of recoveries and other correcting transactions - other than retirement of debt, purchase of investment securities, extension of loans, and agency or private trust transactions.

General Government – Services provided by the County for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole, including the administrative departments such as the Office of the Controller, Commissioners, Treasurer, and Recorder of Deeds.

Judicial Government – Services provided by the County to the courts including the Court of Common Pleas and the following row offices: District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, Prothonotary, Coroner, and Sheriff.

Public Safety – Services provided by the County for the safety and security of the public including emergency management, the 911 communications system, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services.

Corrections – Services used to support the prison, Adult and Juvenile Probation and other correctional programs.

Public Works – Services for maintaining and rehabilitating the 95 County owned bridges.

Human Services – Services with the purpose of promoting the general health and well being of the community as a whole, including public health, the human services funds, and the Pocopson Home, a long-term nursing facility.

Culture & Recreation – Services to provide County residents opportunities and facilities for cultural and recreational programs including libraries and parks.

Conservation & Development – Programs provided by the County to achieve a satisfactory living environment for the community as a whole including: planning, water resources, agricultural development, and soil conservation.

Please see our full CAFR for complete details.
Since 1989, Chester County has created and funded one of the most comprehensive and sustained efforts in the Country to preserve the most productive non-irrigated agricultural soils in the world, provide adequate local and County park and recreation opportunities, preserve significant natural areas, and encourage revitalization of developed areas.

In 2017 the County preserved 25 farms comprising 1,327 acres. Working through the Preservation Partnership Program, the County and its partners preserved 1,031 acres of land, including the first phase of the 982 acre Strawbridge property.

The number of acres preserved throughout Chester County increased to 136,015 acres or 28% of the County.

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**Top 10 Chester County Employers**

- Vanguard Group ......................... 11,000
- County of Chester ....................... 2,658
- PA System of Higher Education ...... 2,633
- Chester County Hospital ............... 2,286
- QVC, Inc. .................................. 2,200
- Main Line Hospitals .................... 2,160
- Giant Food Stores, LLC ............... 2,104
- The Devereux Foundation ............. 2,047
- CC Intermediate Unit ................... 1,844
- Downingtown School District .......... 1,600

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

**Small Town, Big Films**

The West Chester Film Festival presents short films that are 30 minutes or less from around the world. Over 60 films will be shown during our West Chester Film Festival, our West Chester Family Film Festival, and our West Chester Young Filmmaker Film Festival. Join us for a weekend every April for the annual West Chester Film Festival. Submissions are juried by a panel of industry professionals and winners chosen according to content, innovation and technical execution.

**Grade = A+**

Receiving an “A” for:
- Public Schools,
- Good for Families,
- Outdoor Activity,
- Nightlife,
- Health & Fitness,

Niche.com is confirming what Chester County residents already know; Chester County is a Great Place to be.

**Happiest Places in America**

Chester County stays in the top 10 for a third year in the 2017 Happiest Place in America. Based on 8 factors, including:
- marriage and divorce rate,
- income ratio,
- employment,
- activity rate & life expectancy

Chester County shows what a great place it is.

Source: smartasset.com
Education is Essential

1 – Downingtown STEM Academy, Downingtown
4 – Conestoga High School, Berwyn
8 – Unionville High School, Kennett Square
14 – Great Valley High School, Malvern
29 – Henderson High School, West Chester

A good education is essential for all students. Not only does a great educational system teach our youth book knowledge, but it also builds a foundation that allows them to take their next step. Chester County is proud to have 5 High Schools in the top 30 in Pennsylvania.

Source: https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/pennsylvania

Higher Education

Chester County is home to 8 colleges and universities including Lincoln University, the United States' first degree-granting historically black university.

- Delaware County Community College
- West Chester University
- Immaculata University
- Cheyney University
- Lincoln University
- University of Valley Forge (formerly Valley Forge Christian College)
- Penn State Great Valley Campus
- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine’s New Bolton Center

Know Your Numbers

Chester County continues to earn national awards for both its financial reporting and budgeting - 36 years for the Controller prepared audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and 26 years for the Finance prepared, Commissioner approved, Annual Budget. Please visit the County’s website at https://chesco.org/ to view or download these documents.
Waste, Fraud, & Abuse Hotline

Report waste, fraud, and mismanagement of our county tax dollars

610-344-5912
ControllerInfo@chesco.org

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REPORT:

✓ Suspected theft or misuse of County property or cash
✓ False reporting of hours worked
✓ Submission of illegitimate vendor invoices
✓ Falsification or misrepresentation of expense reimbursements
✓ Mismanagement of tax dollars
✓ Spending in excess of what is reasonable and necessary
✓ Violations of the County’s purchasing policy
✓ Other suspected fraud or abuse
✓ Fraudulent reporting of medical, disability or workers’ compensation claims

YOU CAN HELP SAVE MONEY TOO!

We would love to hear your ideas to improve efficiency and save the County money!

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

YOU can help save money too!

We would love to hear your ideas to improve efficiency and save the County money!

• Fraud investigations are opened within 24 hours of receiving fraud tips.
• Status reports can be provided regarding your tip. Just provide your full name with your submission.
• You can submit fraud tips anonymously either by voice mail, e-mail or regular mail.
• If you choose to remain anonymous, be assured that your complaint will receive the same attention as all tips we receive.
• As we have no way of tracing the source of anonymous tips, status reports can’t be provided on tips submitted anonymously.
• Fraud & Abuse Hotline extends only to Chester County government resources and activities.
• Any type of fraudulent activity involving private business or governmental agencies not related to Chester County should be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Include as much detailed information as possible in your tip. Vague allegations may not be able to be substantiated.

Fraud & Abuse Hotline Contact Information:

Contact us via E-mail:
ControllerInfo@chesco.org
or http://chesco.org/FormCenter/Controller-13/Waste-Fraud--Abuse-Form-65 for our online form.

Mail your tip to:
Fraud Hotline
Office of the Controller
313 West Market Street, Suite 6302
PO Box 2748
West Chester, PA 19380-0091

Telephone:
610-344-5912
Please leave a detailed message.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!