

**FY 2020-21 CHESTER COUNTY
DRAFT HUMAN SERVICES
BLOCK GRANT PLAN
SUMMARY**

March 2020

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 2020-21 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, 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 Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 from 2:00 – 3:30 PM and will be held virtually. To register, please go to www.chesco.org/hsbg.

The second Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, June 18th, 2020 from 12:00 – 1:30 PM and will be held virtually. To register, please go to www.chesco.org/hsbg. This time was selected in an attempt to allow residents and consumers to join over their lunch break.

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 2020-21 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 includes 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.

Our planning is cross-system and multi-leveled. 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.

The Policy Leadership Team continues to provide leadership and guidance for the FY 2020-21 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, Deputy Human Services Director of Managed Behavioral Health Care, and the Fiscal Officer and Program Specialist from Human Services. 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, and across, these critical areas.

The FY 2020-21 HSBG plan is informed by a variety of stakeholder groups. These groups included advisory boards and community committees, including but not limited to: Department of Drug and Alcohol Services (D&A) Advisory Board; 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, and ongoing mental health, drug and alcohol and in-home provider meetings. Consumers, individuals in recovery and families are key participants in these groups.

“Decade to Doorways,” Chester County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, continues to inform 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 2020-21 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 Plan is presented to the Chester County Commissioners for approval, prior to submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

Needs Assessment

We continue to track the outcomes that were developed for all of the categorical areas of the Human Services Block Grant. We also track Management Outcomes and Indicators for each of the human service departments that have been used in our Block Grant planning. In addition to these outcomes, we utilize trend and unmet need/demand data from across the systems and a variety of sources, including community based information and referral agencies and the categorical departments. Major challenges include the continued lack of transportation options in Chester County for people to access services, especially for people living outside the limited public transportation service area in the county; need for more global outreach and education for the community at large; high demand for drug and alcohol treatment including 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 experiencing homelessness, particularly those with mental health and drug and alcohol disorders.

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, 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, the Department of Community Development, which works very closely with the Department of Human Services on joint projects including those specifically addressing chronically homeless people with significant mental health and substance abuse issues.

This structure assists the County of Chester in continuing 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 almost twenty five 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, evidence informed and trauma 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:

Looking back at the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) process after almost nine years of participation, we recognize that the flexibility accorded through the Block Grant allows us to look at financial planning across the human services and not just individual budgeting within the categorical departments. It has also helped us to make mid-year decisions to reallocate funds to address unexpected and unmet needs. As a result, the HSBG process has worked extremely well in Chester County because of our continued emphasis on cross-system collaboration, planning and decision-making.

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

- Continued Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) for Youth and Adults Trainings through various providers with more than 4140 certified as Mental Health First Aiders to date
- Hired a Mental Health Diversion Specialist to serve as the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Coordinator and support and progress our work around the “Stepping Up Initiative”
- Enhanced evidence-based programming to ensure children and youth improve school attendance, remain in their homes, and stay safe in the community
- Increased education and awareness efforts and funding to address the opioid epidemic in the county, especially regarding Narcan and its availability and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Increased funding for rental assistance to help low-income individuals and families remain in safe and affordable housing and emergency shelters
- Increased the number of hospitals who are providing warm handoff services to individuals who survived an overdose
- Transitioned to utilizing 211 through the United Way of Chester County as the initial access point for our Coordinated Access system and increased street outreach services to address and enhance services for chronically homeless individuals and families, especially those with mental health and substance use issues
- Developed a guide to assist families in selecting a residential provider for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Expanded training relative to suicide prevention to include QPR trainings in Chester County Schools, with more than 3,200 trained in schools and in the community, in collaboration with our partners at the Chester County Suicide Prevention Task Force and the Chester County Intermediate Unit and established Valley Creek Crisis Center as an affiliate with the Suicide Prevention Lifeline, which resulted in an increase in the numbers of calls by approximately 700 calls a month.

Programming Priorities – FY 2019-20

Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) Review Meetings were facilitated routinely throughout the 2019-20 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 ninth year of HSBG implementation (FY 2019-20). 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.

- Focused efforts on outreach and education across all categorical departments, and in cooperation with our primary prevention and information and referral providers to assist residents in learning how to access critical services
- Supported providers who offer evidence-based programs with increased funding with an emphasis on those who have bilingual staff

- Implemented a Peer Support Expansion Initiative to strengthen our system by establishing a comprehensive training institute through The Council of Southeastern PA to recruit, vet, and train Certified Peer and Recovery Specialists for employment opportunities across the System of Care.
- Enhanced our Recovery Oriented System of Care (ROSC) to address and implement strategies for people with co-occurring disorders including continued Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement
- Developed a Training Series to focus on both non-clinical and clinical opportunities for staff growth and enhancement
- Expanded the programs, such as Rapid Re-Housing, homeless case management, Family Unification, Transition Age Youth, and Mainstream Voucher programs that are available to address the chronically homeless individuals in an effort to maintain safe and affordable housing
- Developed a cross-system Plans of Safe Care (POSC) Leadership Team, which includes staff from the Departments of (need to spell out all acronyms and put the abbreviation in parentheses) Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol, Children Youth and Families, Human Services, and Health and a community-based provider to address infants who are substance exposed and their families

Programming Priorities – FY 2020-21:

We anticipate at this point that any funds that may be carried over from FY 2019-20 would be used for the priority areas identified in our FY 2020-21 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.

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 access to quality, culturally competent alcohol and other drug prevention, intervention and treatment services, including Medication-Assisted Treatment and Recovery Supports, provided in an efficient and cost-effective manner
- To increase public awareness and services (prevention, intervention and treatment) focused on opiate/overdose epidemic, reducing opioid overdoses and deaths occurring in the County

- 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 through strong outreach, engagement and the continuation of the peer support initiative.
- 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, we will focus on continuation of peer initiative, employment, and crisis support; enhance core mental health recovery services; managing funding sources to meet emergency needs; promoting advocacy services; and strengthening administrative functions to assure quality, health, and safety
- To prevent and end homelessness by using the HSBG Housing Assistance Program funds to support emergency shelter and rapid re-housing, as well as integrated permanent housing solutions, including case management
- To conduct, in partnership with the Department for Community Development, a Transportation Study Assessment to assess areas of need and initiate planning to address identified needs.
- To reduce the number of individuals with serious mental illness in jail through our Stepping Up efforts

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 2020-21 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 evidence-based, evidence-informed, trauma-informed, and best practice programs across all areas
3. Need for increased supports and education regarding alcohol and other drug problems including opiate and prescription drug abuse and addiction and medication-assisted treatment
4. Need for increased services and supports for transition-aged youth

5. Need for flexible, supported housing options and supports for individuals and families and people with special needs, including homeless diversion and street outreach options and programming
6. Need for more bilingual services across all human services areas
7. Need for continuation of peer initiative and recovery support services
8. Need for increased supported employment services
9. Need for more resources for individuals with complex needs, including individuals with a criminal justice involvement, as well as vulnerable individuals who are homeless, as well as individuals transitioning to the community from State Hospital level of care
10. Need for increased resource availability to keep pace with the increase in registration related to the historical ID eligible category, as well as the expanded eligibility that added autism and developmental disability aged 0-8 to those who apply for waiver resource
11. Need for transportation issues to be studied in an unified fashion so that needs can be prioritized in an appropriate way so that they can be addressed appropriately

TOP FY 2020-21 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 2020-21 Block Grant.

D&A:

1. Identify, contract with, and monitor organizations that provide quality, culturally competent alcohol and (all) other drug prevention, intervention and treatment services, including bi-lingual and Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)
2. Provide, support and participate in County, community based and other activities that focus on substance use disorder (including opioid/overdose) prevention, public awareness/education and treatment, and related services
3. Support and provide funding for new and enhanced recovery support initiatives/services, including but not limited to, training for Certified Recovery Specialist, recovery housing initiatives, case management services, and warm hand off services

DCD:

1. Support Emergency Shelters
2. Provide hotel vouchers for persons experiencing homelessness when no emergency shelter is available, particularly for pregnant women and/or households with infants
3. Support Rental Assistance Programs

DHS:

1. Support outreach and information and referral services throughout the county

2. Provide parenting supports and skill development for families
3. Ensure coordination of and maximum use of all funds across all systems

ID:

1. Support Emergent Health and Safety needs of all consumers with Intellectual Disability and Autism
2. Ensure that individuals receiving supports in CLAs are living quality, meaningful lives
3. Provide opportunities for competitive integrated employment for consumers with ID and Autism

MH:

1. Build on results of peer initiative and enhance peer culture
2. Expansion of Stepping Up Initiative
3. Develop and implement a 5 year plan based upon the Children's Mental Health Service System Mapping

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