To the residents of Chester County:

I am pleased to present to the citizens of Chester County our sixteenth Annual Report Summary for the Fiscal Year ended 2020. The information contained in this Summary is a condensed overview of the County of Chester’s audited 2020 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) 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 ACFR. Readers desiring more detailed financial information can obtain the full 174 page document on the County’s website at https://www.chesco.org/206/Controller under “Reports & Forms” “ACFR & 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 has long been a county of firsts. We are home to Cheyney University, the first historically black higher learning institute (see page 18) in the United States. The first county archives in the state was created in Chester County. Chester County continues to be first in cultivated mushrooms production, with over half of all US consumed mushroom grown here.

As one of the first counties in the state, Chester County has frequently been in the forefront of history. Along with many battle sites from the Revolutionary War, (see page 17) Chester County has been in the midst of other “battles”. Chester County was a major stop on the Underground Railroad. Local Quaker and black abolitionists joined together to channel runaway slaves from the South through the region and on to safety in Canada. In June 1852, the Women's Rights movement hosted its convention, advocating for the vote for women, in West Chester. World War II had created a demand for mass produced penicillin and in June 1943 Wyeth Laboratories, located in West Chester, Chester County, delivered their first batch thus saving many lives on the battle fields of Europe.

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 which includes approximately 222 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 is 526,759. Our 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: Tacie Himelright (cover, pg 18), Elaine Deutsch (pg 14, 17-18), Chester County Commissioners (pg 15-16), Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens (pg 17), Chester County Planning (pg 17)
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 continues to have a diverse tax base with the top ten taxpayers representing only 2.4 percent of the total assessed values.

The County’s AAA/Aaa debt ratings were reaffirmed in December 2020, for the 12th consecutive year, from the three rating agencies: Standard & Poor’s, Fitch Ratings, and Moody Investors Services, Inc. Chester County is one of a handful of counties in the United States, and the only county in Pennsylvania (as of December 2020), to have AAA/Aaa bond ratings from all three major rating agencies. The 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 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 2020, the County had $18.4 million in the working capital reserve, which represents 10 percent of the 2019 expenditure budget. The General Fund’s unassigned fund balance is $31.2 million, and assigned fund balance is $26.4 million totaling to $57.6 million, which represents approximately 29.3 percent or 3.5 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 2020, on average, Chester County residents paid $3,417 in taxes per $100,000 of their home’s assessed value. Of that assessment, only 12.8%, or $437, were County taxes. The pie chart to the right illustrates how your local real estate taxes are typically used.

County real estate taxes funded 32.8% or $170.4 million of the County’s activities for 2020. 67.2% or $349.0 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>(expressed in thousands)</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$171,829</td>
<td>$154,026</td>
<td>$227,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,177</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>1,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>29,339</td>
<td>41,823</td>
<td>47,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
<td>424,619</td>
<td>412,944</td>
<td>396,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>2,803</td>
<td>2,669</td>
<td>2,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>629,767</td>
<td>612,747</td>
<td>675,551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred outflows of resources</strong></td>
<td>58,376</td>
<td>20,653</td>
<td>46,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total deferred outflows</strong></td>
<td>58,376</td>
<td>20,653</td>
<td>46,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>29,227</td>
<td>34,547</td>
<td>55,833</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>3,378</td>
<td>7,807</td>
<td>8,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term liabilities</td>
<td>712,994</td>
<td>634,907</td>
<td>676,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>745,599</td>
<td>677,261</td>
<td>740,036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deferred inflows of resources</strong></td>
<td>3,476</td>
<td>19,877</td>
<td>37,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total deferred inflows</strong></td>
<td>3,476</td>
<td>19,877</td>
<td>37,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Position</strong>*</td>
<td>$(60,932)</td>
<td>$(63,738)</td>
<td>$(55,591)</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>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program revenues:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>$70,088</td>
<td>$69,746</td>
<td>$64,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grants and contributions</td>
<td>$186,225</td>
<td>$185,943</td>
<td>$262,168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital grants and contributions</td>
<td>$5,688</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$3,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Revenues:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>$165,551</td>
<td>$173,215</td>
<td>$170,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment earnings</td>
<td>$3,784</td>
<td>$4,606</td>
<td>$2,244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>$9,258</td>
<td>$12,695</td>
<td>$17,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>$440,594</td>
<td>$451,105</td>
<td>$519,452</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dollars Out ...* |        |        |        |
| General government | $42,358 | $46,984 | $73,736 |
| Judicial government | $51,280 | $50,220 | $47,937 |
| Public safety | $29,557 | $30,942 | $53,650 |
| Corrections | $48,353 | $48,436 | $48,422 |
| Public works | $1,891 | $1,953 | $1,908 |
| Human services | $215,420 | $220,808 | $230,776 |
| Culture & recreation | $14,348 | $20,015 | $16,318 |
| Conservation & development | $18,348 | $12,800 | $13,615 |
| Interest on long-term debt | $25,249 | $25,091 | $24,943 |
| Total Expenses | $446,805 | $457,249 | $511,305 |

*(expressed 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 for 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 ACFR for complete details.
https://chesco.org/1689/CAFR-Annual-Report-Summary
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
ccclerk@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.

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

Row Officers

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

Margaret Reif
Controller
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controllerdept@chesco.org

Christina VandePol, MD
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Working for You - Elected Officials

Deb Ryan
District Attorney
610-344-6801

The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the County. The core functions of the Office of the District Attorney 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.

Debbie Bookman
Prothonotary
610-344-6300
dbookman@chesco.org

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.

Chris Pielli, Esq.
Recorder of Deeds
610-344-6330
rodinfo@chesco.org

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.

Michele Vaughn
Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court
610-344-6335
rwills@chesco.org

The Office of the Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans’ Court provides estate administration, marriage licenses, 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.

Fredda L. Maddox
Sheriff
610-344-6850
fmaddox@chesco.org

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.

Patricia Maisano
Treasurer
610-344-6370
treasurerdept@chesco.org

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.
Quick Facts....

Population

Chester County’s 2020 population per the census was 534,515. This is an increase of 1.8% from 2019 and an increase of 5.7% from ten years prior. The median age of County residents in 2019 was 40.5 years old, was slightly higher than in 2018. The most substantial increase again in 2019, was in the 65 and over population with a 3.4% growth.

Housing

The average Chester County household size is stable at approximately 2.6 people. In 2019, 95.1% of all housing units in Chester County were occupied, of which 74.3% were owner occupied. The median monthly rent in 2019 in the County increased to $1,393. This is higher than the Commonwealth median of $951 and the national median of $1,097. The average value of owner occupied housing increased to $379,300 with 74.3% of owners occupying their home, and 68.2% of owners having a mortgage.

Increasing from prior years, 61.7% of the housing in Chester County are single-family homes with 73.9% of all types of housing units having three or more bed-rooms.

Chester County preserves its history with 25.1% of our homes built before 1959.

Education

Education continues to be a priority for Chester County residents.

- There are 11 charter school and 14 public school districts in Chester County.
- Chester County is home to eight universities and colleges (see page 18).
- 50.8% of County adult residents have a Bachelor’s or higher degrees, which is much higher than the national average of 30.6%.

Data and statistics presented in this publication is the most current available at time of printing.
Business and Transportation

A first class county demands a first class transit system. Being a world leader in the cultivated mushroom industry, a leader in agricultural, and a transportation hub for many manufacturers and distributors, Chester County’s roads and transportation options are vital to attracting and retaining businesses.

Multimodal transportation networks provide options for all travel modes - vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and freight - and are essential to maintaining communities that support public health and provide accessible transportation options for all.

Chester County’s transportation system continues to evolve for the County to attract new residents, workers, and businesses and to foster strong, sustainable economic development.

Income

In 2019, 85.5% of employed County civilian residents were employed in private industry. 8.6% were governmental workers, and 5.7% were self-employed.

77.3% of County residents drove alone to their employment. This is above the national average of 75.9% and the Pennsylvania average of 75.2%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Ave Income</th>
<th>$75K or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester Cty</td>
<td>$102,106</td>
<td>62.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>$63,463</td>
<td>42.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>$65,712</td>
<td>44.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment and Health Insurance Coverage

In 2019, Chester County continued its low unemployment rate trend with an average rate of 4.1 percent.

Along with low unemployment comes a high number of residents that are covered by health insurance. Increasing in 2019, 95.2% of Chester County residents had health insurance coverage, with the majority covered under private health insurance.

See page 13 for information on medical, dental, and prescription discount cards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Insured 5 year prior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester Cty</td>
<td>95.2% 92.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>94.2% 91.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>90.8% 88.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Guide to County Services

We encourage you to visit our website [www.chesco.org](http://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 .................................................................. 911
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

Call if you can, 911
Text if you can’t.

511PA is Pennsylvania’s official travel information service. Call (511 or 1-877-511-7366), visit [www.511PA.com](http://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 2020, human services, including the geriatric center, made up 45.1% 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.
The NACo Health Discount Card helps individuals and families gain access to medical discounts from local providers. Residents can get more information or same day savings on medical discounts once they enroll at https://www.nacohealth.org or by calling Member Services toll-free at 1-877-573-2395.

The Dental Discount Card Program helps county residents in need of dental services who may be uninsured or underinsured. The program offers immediate access to dental providers with no waiting periods or forms to fill out. Residents may save on average between 15%-50% on most dental procedures from a national network of more than 114,000 general dentists and specialists. For more information, or to enroll, call 1-877-573-2395.

The Chester County Prescription Drug Discount Card can be used by Chester County residents to help cope with the high price of prescription drugs for themselves and their pets. This program offers average savings of 22% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. There is no cost to Chester County taxpayers for this program. For more information visit https://www.caremark.com or call toll free 1-877-321-2652.

For more information please go to https://www.chesco.org/1822/Prescription-Discount-Program or http://www.nacorx.org/

TeenTalk—Teens Helping Teens

Chester County teens have a new tool for mental health and wellness. The National Institute of Mental Health notes that young people may be more vulnerable to stress and developing mental health conditions, such as anxiety or depression. Teen Talk and Text lines, peer and professional support for 12 to 18 year-olds, are effective tools in supporting youth across the country. The line will operate Monday to Friday 3-7 pm, which are the peak hours for family and other conflicts. Individuals who call after hours will receive an automated message and will be directed to the Valley Creek Crisis Intervention Center in Exton for immediate support when needed.

Young people are encouraged to reach out with a phone call or text message when they are feeling overwhelmed, stressed, sad, isolated or confused. All calls are confidential and callers may be anonymous.

The call line is 855-852-TEEN (8336) and the text line is 484-362-9515. Visit AccessServices.org for more information.
Over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phone, giving dispatchers very little information about you other than a phone number and general information regarding your location.

With the mobile app - Smart911 - you can provide first responders the critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency, including your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.

Smart911 is a national service so your profile is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide.

You can also choose to sign up for notifications regarding weather, traffic and other emergencies including gas leaks, missing persons or other incidents that may impact you safety.

With Smart911, at-risk individuals can sign up and share their needs requirements with emergency managers, helping them to better prepare for and identify residents in need of assistance during a disaster.

Thousands of communities across the country rely on Smart911 to better protect at-risk residents. Don’t get left behind and sign up for Smart911’s access and functional needs registry.

Sign up today at https://www.smart911.com/

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 year.

In the five years that the Color 5K has taken place, more than $110,000 has been raised to fund efforts in hospital emergency rooms that have supported the COPE (Community Outreach and Prevention Education) Program. Cooperatively developed, this program addresses all aspects of substance abuse addiction. It provides one-to-one support for overdose survivors and their families and friends; provides overdose prevention information and outreach to first responders, hospital staff, family members and friends; and importantly, provides 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. Please see that previous link for the changes in the 2021 run due to COVID.
In 2020 the strength and resiliency of our residents and our workers was tested. We recognize all the hard-working professionals who stayed the course and worked through historical times. Nurses, doctors, firefighters, paramedics, mail carriers, grocery store clerks, convenience store clerks, garbage men, and so many more worked through the shut down and kept Chester County going. Here are some highlights from Chester County that helped to keep our citizen safe.

Public Health Strategy During COVID-19
At the Chester County Health Department, we remain focused on public health practices that best monitor and respond to COVID-19. These practices help to contain outbreaks, minimize community spread of coronavirus, and break the cycle of transmission. We continue to conduct investigations of everyone who has a confirmed-positive COVID-19 test. We have expanded our contact tracing to more quickly and thoroughly notify everyone who is in close contact with those who have tested positive for COVID-19. And we are increasing access to diagnostic swab testing for anyone who is high risk for COVID as well as for anyone who may be asymptomatic. Bringing these three things together is the best public health strategy to help us better understand the presence of COVID-19 and monitor any surge in cases in Chester County.

No cost testing is available throughout the County and is open to all residents and individuals who work in Chester County. County sponsored locations, times and registration can be found on the Health Department website.

Visitors to County Buildings/Facilities
The County is committed to ensuring the health and safety of our visitors and employees. If you are feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms, we kindly ask you cancel your visit and make future arrangements to visit the county location.

In accordance with public health prevention strategies, regardless of vaccination status masks are recommended for all employees and visitors in County-owned facilities when County transmission levels are "Substantial" or "High" as defined by the CDC. When not in Substantial or High transmission levels, masks are not required for fully vaccinated individuals, and are encouraged for individuals not fully vaccinated.

The following facilities are exceptions and require masks at ALL times for ALL individuals: Pocopson Home, Prison, Youth Center, Health Department.

The County continues to maintain COVID-19 safety protocols, specifically COVID-19 health screening which must be completed by all visitors and employees upon entry of a County building/facility. While social distancing of six feet is no longer required, we encourage you to maintain a comfortable distance from others when possible and as space allows.

Many people were unable to work and were isolated because of the shut down. Chester County has many resources available to help citizen with physical and emotion support.
First Responder/Front Line Worker Resources
The needs of the first responder and front line professionals is different, special resources are available to help with their unique needs.


Chester County Emergency Rent & Utility Assistance Program
The Emergency Utility and Rental Assistance program serves Chester County residents and can only be accessed by dialing 2-1-1 and selecting the prompt for "Housing Crisis."

Funding will serve individuals and families that are obligated to pay rent and meet certain criteria.

https://www.chesco.org/4905/Rent-Assistance

COVID Prevention Resources for Education and Child Care
Tools for school district leaders, teachers, parent leaders, and school supporters. Please also consult with the PA Department of Human Services. Chester County Health Department will continue to monitor all COVID-19 activity and we will offer our soundest public health advice in supporting facilities with the procedures and assistance needed to report, monitor and mitigate COVID-19, as is done with all infectious disease outbreaks.

https://www.chesco.org/4397/Coronavirus--Resources-for-Schools

On-going Chester County COVID-19 Monitoring Report
The data provided in the link below are used to monitor COVID-19 in Chester County. Data is updated once a week. All data, including historical data, is updated each time this report is published as additional data becomes available through reporting and case investigations. Hence, data is considered provisional.

https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19

Coronavirus COVID-19: Resources for Community Organizations
This guide has been developed to support organizations who wish to screen individuals in-person, or over-the-phone, for COVID-19 risk prior to providing services.

https://www.chesco.org/4399/COVID-19-Resources-for-Community-Organiz

Chester County COVID-19 Dashboard
Chester County COVID-19 Dashboard is Chester County’s comprehensive source for COVID information. The website, newsletter and social media, COVID-19 data. Maps, and so much more.

https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19
Chester County is...

Who Owned Your Property in 1777?
One of the defining moments in Chester County’s long history occurred on September 11, 1777 along the Brandywine Creek in the southern part of the county. General George Washington’s Continental Army stood between the rebel capital of Philadelphia and General William Howe’s advancing British Army.

Chester County Archives and Records Services has released a new interactive tool that helps you discover who lived on your property in September 1777.

The 1777 Chester County Property Atlas is an interactive map that allows researchers to easily see who owned properties in 1777, and if those owners or occupants reported any losses caused by British troops during the Philadelphia Campaign of the Revolutionary War.

Township maps currently included at this point are Birmingham, Caln, East Bradford, East Brandywine, East Caln, East Goshen, East Marlborough, East Nottingham, Elk, Franklin and London Britain, Kennett, Lower Oxford, New Garden, New London, Newlin, Pennsbury, Pocopson, Thornbury, Upper Oxford, West Bradford, West Brandywine, West Goshen, West Whiteland and Westtown. Archives and Records is continuing to add new information and fill in the locations no currently included. Even if your township or Borough isn’t included yet, it is still a captivating look at Chester County history.

Open Space Preservation
Chester County’s Open Space Preservation Program, administered by the Department of Parks + Preservation, uses funds allocated by the Commissioners to help keep farmers on the land, to provide safe and accessible places for children and families to play, and to protect the woods and wildlife that make Chester County special.

In 2020, Chester County preserved 18 farms totaling 613 acres, and, in partnership with several other organizations, completed an 11-year conservation effort to preserve the 978-acre Strawbridge property on the County’s southern border. Not only do green fields, preserved farms, and community parks and trails contribute to an increased quality of life in the county, they also generate economic value for the County by creating jobs and attracting people to the community.

The amount of land permanently preserved throughout Chester County increased to 144,246 acres, or 29.7% of the County.
Higher Education
Chester County has a long history with education dating back to 1837 and is currently home to 8 colleges and universities.

- **Cheyney University**
  - Established February 1837
  - Approximately 618 Students
  - The oldest African-American institution of higher learning in the US.

- **Delaware County Community College**
  - Established March 1, 1967
  - Approximately 13,248 Students
  - 4 of 7 Campuses in Chester County - Downingtown, Exton, Phoenixville, West Grove

- **Immaculata University**
  - Established 1920
  - Approximately 2,462 Students
  - It was the first Catholic college for women in the Philadelphia area

- **Lincoln University**
  - Established April 29, 1854
  - Approximately 2,241 Students
  - Founded as a school for the education of African Americans.

- **Penn State Great Valley Campus**
  - Established 1963
  - Approximately 2,950 Students
  - The first permanent college campus in the United States located within a corporate business park.

- **University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine’s New Bolton Center**
  - Established 1964 (Penn Vet 1884)
  - Approximately 5,300 patients per year
  - World-renowned for its large animal hospital and research centers.

- **University of Valley Forge**
  - Established 1939
  - Approximately 1,130 Students
  - Formerly Valley Forge Christian College began as a summer Bible School

- **West Chester University**
  - Established 1871
  - Approximately 17,669 Students
  - Frederick Douglass gave his very last public lecture at WCU

Know Your Numbers
Chester County continues to earn national awards for both its financial reporting and budgeting: 40 years for the Controller prepared audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and 31 years for the Finance prepared, Commissioner approved, Annual Budget. Please visit the County’s website at [https://chesco.org/](https://chesco.org/) to view or download these documents.
Waste, Fraud, & Abuse Hotline
Report waste, fraud, and mismanagement of our county tax dollars

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!

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.

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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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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

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.