

County Responses During the Budget Impasse

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Payments to Providers Suspended/Delayed

County/Department	Action Taken/To Be Taken
Allegheny County	County has not paid agencies for services delivered after July 1, but is paying subsidized adoptions and SPLCs. As of Nov. 12, estimated that the county has paid out only \$10 million of the \$35 million it owes providers.
Armstrong County Children, Youth & Family Services	Agency sent letter in mid-September to service providers indicating that the ability to continue the timely paying of invoices will end with the August 2015 invoices. Services delivered during September and after will remain unpaid until state funds are available for FY 2015-2016.
Berks County	County will not pay any contractor for services provided after July 1 whose funding is affected by the impasse.
Blair County Children, Youth and Families	Prior to Oct. 1 department estimated being able to continue to provide services less than 30 days.
Butler County	Have asked providers to use their reserves and lines of credit. If there are issues they are to notify their respective program director immediately and the county will look at each agency case by case as to the necessity of their services and the options available.
Cambria County	As of mid-December, county has \$8 million in unpaid bills to vendors.
Chester County	County had been paying all of the state's costs, but for November and December is

	cutting some state program reimbursements in half and others entirely.
Clearfield County	Has paid the county's portion to CYS providers but owe the state's portion; foster parents have been paid in full.
Crawford County Human Services	If impasse continued into September, county will be reducing payments to providers.
Cumberland County	Human Services departments will withhold payment for services by those providers most able to absorb withholding of payment based on discussions with providers for as long as state funding is suspended.
Delaware County	Child Advocacy Center that opened in April in potential danger of losing funding to cover operational costs. Had suspended payments to the majority of their providers, but were trying to pay those providers that rely on county funds through human services contracts. However, providers, including providers for the County Office of Services for the Aging) will not be paid for services rendered after Dec. 1.
Elk County Children and Youth Services	Has not been able to make payments to contractors since July 1 (paying foster parents).
Erie County	Invoices normally paid within 30 days of receipt will now be held for 45 days when possible.
Fayette County Children and Youth Services	Able to fund service through September, but in previous impasse stopped paying contracted placement and in-home service providers in order to meet payroll
Forest County	Forest County has suspended payments to all placement providers and MST providers for any services provided after July 1, 2015. Letters were previously mailed to all providers. County is limiting purchases and payments are being delayed as long as possible with verbal explanations to suppliers/providers.
Fulton County	Has asked vendors to hold off on submitting bills.
Juniata County Human Services	Agency sent letter in mid-September to service providers indicating that the ability to continue the timely paying of invoices will end with the July 2015 invoices. Services

	delivered during July and after will remain unpaid until state funds are available for FY 2015-2016.
Lackawanna County	Will face challenges paying service providers if delays in state payments last more than two months.
Lancaster County	Payments to outside vendors working with the county children and youth agency have been suspended since July 1 until the state budget is approved. As of Dec. 9, county is owed \$16 million for expenses incurred since July 1, plus about \$9 million to reimburse vendors.
Lawrence County	Currently not paying any MH/DS vendors until there is a state budget. The remaining funds are only being used to pay operational costs, and that amount is now under \$50,000. County instituted a 30-day waiting period for all vendor invoice payments.
Luzerne County	County is delaying payment to all providers except county foster and adoptive parents, and will consider “hardship” appeals from providers on a case by case basis. As of late November, counties owes \$4.5 million to outside vendors (some in human services) for bills owed before Sept. 30, and at least \$200,000 to vendors for payments due after Sept. 30.
McKean County/ McKean County Human Services	Have suspended payments to corporate/large HS providers.
Mercer County	Stopped payment to behavioral health providers.
Mifflin County Human Services	Agency sent letter in mid-September to service providers indicating that the ability to continue the timely paying of invoices will end with the July 2015 invoices. Services delivered during July and after will remain unpaid until state funds are available for FY 2015-2016.
Montgomery County	As of Nov. 5, county has stopped funding human services normally covered by the state.
Monroe County	Providers cannot be paid.
Montour County	As of Oct. 1, Montour County has suspended all payments to providers.
Philadelphia	The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services

	(DBHIDS) has notified their provider network that FY 2016 first quarter payments will be delayed due to the state budget impasse. Payments will be issued as quickly as possible pending the finalization of the state budget. DBHIDS will continue to communicate and collaborate with providers experiencing cash flow challenges.
Schuylkill County	County owes service providers \$6,369,575 as of Oct. 31.
Snyder County	County has held payments to vendors, impacting their cash flow and employees. At end of November, indicated it may have to withhold payments to foster parents.
Somerset County and Somerset County Children and Youth	As of Oct. 1 has suspended all payments to contracted providers, including juvenile probation and children and youth; will also do so Jan. 1 with aging since the county is currently covering payroll.
Warren County	Has held off paying vendors.
Washington County	Area Agency on Aging could face crunch time in October if the state remains without a budget.
Wayne County Human Services	Invoices of larger vendors to be paid at 50-60 percent, small vendors to be paid 85-95 percent.
Westmoreland County	Human service providers have not been since the summer, and three senior citizen centers have been closed.
York County Human Services	Will not be able to fund providers and have already made those notifications; if providers are not able to continue services, residents will be impacted.

Service Delivery Reductions

County/Department	Action Taken/To Be Taken
Armstrong County	Many human services areas will eventually run out of money; in previous impasse, several county-funded programs had to be closed
Berks County Council on Chemical Abuse	Will be forced to cease operations in mid-December if a state budget isn't enacted. Department receives a lot of federal funding

	but that isn't being paid out without a state budget.
Blair County Children, Youth and Families	County CYF has decreased psychological evaluations for clients, and is only doing court ordered evaluations at this time, and has stopped providing funding for housing through block grant funds.
Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission	Will not curtail services until county has reached maximum of reserves; if necessary will begin by decreasing or eliminating non-essential Prevention Programs. If impasse continues through September, will have to eliminate or significantly modify assessment and intervention.
Crawford County Human Services	If impasse continues into September county will look at curtailing non-essential programs.
Cumberland County	Still paying all providers but the human services directors have met with the county fiscal director. With a conservative estimated reduction of \$3 million in cash flow per month, Nov. 1 is the date of concern when the county will need to have adjusted provider payments to zero and only pay for the most critical needs. Another planning meeting will be held in October to begin detailing plans of what can be cut or decreased to help sustain cash flow.
Cumberland-Perry Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities	Given the current budget impasse, unable to respond to current system needs. This is leading to heightened needs and individuals are presenting with greater (and more costly) needs. If impasse continues, will need to make determinations about cutting service to an already overextended system.
Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission	Cannot provide services to other state agencies, such as going into jails to do assessments on a regular basis, some community services, and testing for children and youth services, because of the lack of funding.
Huntingdon County Children's Services	County utilizes agency to prevent the placement of youth; without those services, youth will be placed to ensure safety.
Jefferson County	Plans to cut services in Children and Youth, probation and other small providers will not be paid.

Juniata County Human Services	Support for Homeless Assistance Program is no longer available. Support for emergency housing/shelter can no longer be provided; persons requesting assistance to avoid eviction and/or shut off notices may become homeless as a result of funding unavailability.
Lackawanna County	Area Agency on Aging has created a waiting list for new in-home services for low-income senior citizens.
Lancaster County	Cash flow will begin to be impacted if the impasse continues into October and November; the county may consider curtailing non-mandated services or borrowing funds only as a last resort.
Luzerne County	The impact of delayed C&Y special grants is having a detrimental effect on children receiving Independent Living funds, as the county is unable to help with housing and educational benefits, resulting in two youth at eviction notices. The county has reached out to some charities to assist, but that will eventually run dry as well.
Mercer County Area Agency on Aging	Closed its four senior centers Nov. 2, but is maintaining social work, transportation and protective services through use of cash reserves and a line of credit.
Mifflin County Human Services	Support for Homeless Assistance Program is no longer available. Support for emergency housing/shelter can no longer be provided; persons requesting assistance to avoid eviction and/or shut off notices may become homeless as a result of funding unavailability. Support to food pantries funded by State Food Purchase Program is available only because Central PA Food Bank is extending credit. Services would be cut completely if the food bank refused credit.
Monroe County	Aging, C&Y and MCTA may have to cut services.
Montour County Human Services	Support for housing/rental assistance is no longer available. Support for emergency housing/shelter can no longer be provided and food supplies will last only through the end of September.
Philadelphia	The Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services

	(DBHIDS) is hopeful service disruptions will not occur unless the impasse extends beyond September.
Potter County	Non-mandated services will be curtailed; haven't determined which at this time.
Warren County	Area Agency on Aging has cut hours and services.
Wayne County	If no budget by Dec. 1, county will close senior centers, eliminate meals to senior citizens and restrict county transportation. Other more drastic measures may occur if that deadline passes. Waiting lists now exist in human services where they had not previously.
York County Area Agency on Aging	Agency has delayed some in-home services to 20 people, who are now on a wait list
York County Human Services	Rental assistance programs will not be able to continue.

Staffing Reductions

County/Department	Action Taken/To Be Taken
Blair County Drug and Alcohol	Not filling vacant positions at this time. Currently utilizing reserves and has access to line of credit but if impasse is prolonged, will have to look to layoffs.
Cambria County	County has a hiring freeze in place.
Chester County	Will need to consider reduced staffing levels, staff hours if impasse continues into September.
Crawford County Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission	By the end of August will take volunteers to work without pay (perhaps 2 employees realistically), a reduction in salary to 75% and will have to reevaluate every two weeks. Will have to layoff non-essential personnel.
Cumberland County	Hiring freeze for any new and/or existing positions that become vacant as of Oct. 13.
Erie County	No new employees to be hired unless critical to county operations; unpaid furloughs could be put in place for some of the county's 1,200 employees if the impasse does not end soon.
Forest County	Forest County CYS has been approved to fill a vacant caseworker position, this will be delayed until budget impasse is resolved.

Fulton County	Has had to furlough employees with the Area Agency on Aging; by Dec. 1 may be asking AAA employees to work without pay to be collected later.
Indiana County Human Services	If impasse continues beyond the end of September/first quarter, staff layoffs are likely inevitable and services will be suspended.
Jefferson County	Imposed a hiring freeze until further notice
Lancaster County	Imposed a hiring freeze for non-critical positions on August 26.
Lawrence County	Instituted a hiring freeze for all state-funded departments/agencies.
Luzerne County	Division heads are compiling lists of what departments and positions are essential in case furloughs are needed.
Potter County	If impasse continues into September will be forced to look at layoffs; will be able to cover payroll through the first week of September but will not be able to do so beyond

Borrowing/Funding Shifts

County/Department	Action Taken/To Be Taken
Adams County	Short-term loans to strategic non-profit organizations are possible. County has lost \$15,000 to \$20,000 to pull reserve funds to invest.
Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Counties Drug and Alcohol Commission	Utilizing reserves through August and September.
Berks County	By September, county will need to start taking money from reserves to replace state funding; this would also impact the county's investments and if the impasse lasts for four months, county would not receive \$31 million
Blair County Drug and Alcohol	Utilizing reserves and has access to a line of credit that county will tap into if impasse continues.
Bradford/Sullivan/Susquehanna Area Agency on Aging	For the first time ever the cash reserves have been exhausted and the agency is utilizing a line of credit. The AAA will be responsible for paying back the interest.
Bucks County	Utilizing reserves, but coming into low cash flow season and reserves are getting low. Human Services department has spent

	between \$6 million and \$7 million monthly to fund services usually paid for through the state's general fund. County is now withholding fees it collects on behalf of the state. County estimates costs the county has incurred at the end of November of approximately \$20,000, which will soon grow to be a higher number.
Butler County	County will continue funding the county staff and essential services with general funds for as long as they can. Approved RFP on Oct. 21 for short-term financing to assist human service providers; about 13 or 14 contractors have asked for assistance as of Dec. 8.
Cambria County	In October, county commissioners unanimously approved an ordinance to allow the county to take out a \$11.6 million loan.; as of Dec. 1, \$1.6 million has gone toward unpaid bills and another \$7.1 million is reserved for the county's tax anticipation note due by the end of the year.
Cameron and Elk Behavioral Health Services	Opened a line of credit through a local bank to fund the agency through Dec. 31 or until a budget is passed; more than \$6,000 in interest is likely to accumulate if the account is needed that long.
Carbon County	Drawing down on fund balance to lend money to various departments to provide human services (aging, drug and alcohol, children and youth). Impasse has cost the county approximately \$500,000 as of the end of November with drawing down of \$1 million from the fund balance.
Carbon, Monroe, Pike Counties Drug and Alcohol Commission	Utilizing reserves and plan to access a line of credit if the impasse goes into September.
Centre County	County needs about \$1.68 million a month to continue operating and because of funding in reserve, the County should be able to fund programs through November or December.
Chester County	County has spent roughly \$30 million from reserves to provide services. As of Dec. 3, will stop paying fees collected by county row offices to the state
Clarion County	Covering human services costs with general fund dollars for now

Clearfield County	Estimated \$400,000 in costs due to impasse at end of November.
Columbia County	Accessing line of credit, and will have to pay interest back at amounts estimated between \$5,000 to \$20,000 depending on how long the impasse goes on.
Columbia/Montour Counties Aging Office	Will be accessing a line of credit to provide services through 1/1/2016. With an interest cost on the line of credit at 3.5%, this will cost the agency \$30,000.
Crawford County	County has taken out a \$5 million line of credit to cover essential services, such as CYS (paying service providers and foster parents) and drug and alcohol; has already used more than \$500,000 of line of credit by end of November. The fee for the line of credit was \$3,500, plus interest costs.
Crawford County Human Services	Have incurred interest costs from a line of credit, by Dec. 31 the interest owed from the county will be \$20,146, which will have a huge impact on the county.
Cumberland County	County is eligible to refinance a bond early in 2016; if the state does not have a budget, this would have a negative impact because the county may miss the opportunity to refinance. If impasse continues through January, will need to take out a Tax Anticipation Note to continue services. Noted cost of issuance for tax anticipation notes if needed (about \$25,000).
Delaware County	County has been spending \$2.1 million per month out of its general fund to cover critical (but not all) human services programs, and \$1 million to cover services for the aging. About \$7 million per month is not coming from the state for human services, and another \$1 million for aging services (total as of Nov. 25 \$40 million for human services and \$5 million for aging); juvenile probation is also not receiving state funds. Looking at options such as tapping into Human Services Reinvestment Fund comprised of money from HealthChoices. Reviewing the possibility of withholding county collections of state taxes and fees.

Dauphin County	Has been paying \$2.2 million a month from its general fund to mental health services providers, for a total of \$6.6 million during the course of the impasse. In total as of the end of December, county has used more than \$28 million from its fund balance.
Elk County	County took out an \$880,000 line of credit for mental health and intellectual disabilities.
Elk and Cameron Counties' Mental Health and Mental Retardation	Commissioners have agreed to guarantee a \$750,000 loan through a revenue anticipation note
Erie County	County has decided not to borrow for now, but county funds will get them through mid-to late January
Forest County	Forest County has kept CYS "afloat" with advances but this is becoming more and more of a concern/burden and will not be sufficient for much longer. County approved a \$400,000 tax anticipation note on Dec. 17 to help pay for county expenses.
Franklin County	County is spending \$1.9 million each month from local taxes to shore up human service programs usually funded with state money (about \$10 million total at end of November). County reserves will dry up before the end of the year and the county might consider borrowing for 2016 through a tax anticipation note after that (has not used a TAN for at least 20 years). County's 2016 budget also includes a property tax increase to help pay for human services during the next state budget impasse.
Fulton County	County has a \$2 million line of credit, and is funding MH/ID, homeless assistance and is part of a joinder. Has taken steps to start the process to get a tax anticipation note in 2016. Estimated costs of impasse at end of November at about \$8,000.
Greene County	County took out a \$4 million tax anticipation note on Dec. 17 to fund county's human services programs during the impasse; \$3 million to refund the county's general fund for money already loaned to human services, and \$1 million to allow department to continue to operate. Had been using impact fee funds as a stop gap measure.

Huntingdon County	Had to approach judge for approval of \$1.75 million unfunded loan; estimated costs of interest at \$10,000 to \$20,000 per month.
Indiana County Children and Youth Services	Utilizing reserves
Juniata County	Voted Dec. 15 to send advance payment to Juniata Valley Behavioral and Development Services to cover county's FY2016 quarterly contributions due to impasse.
Lackawanna County	Had been utilizing reserves to cover human services programs at about \$4.3 million a month. As of Dec. 3, preparing to borrow an additional \$3 million to avoid service disruptions; would be used to help library system continue operating and ensure county can continue to provide human services programs.
Lancaster County	Has authorized borrowing of up to \$35 million that it can begin drawing on in January. One \$32.9 million loan will cost \$27,500 in bank fees plus thousands in interest (monthly interest payment would approach \$31,000 if it had to draw down the entire amount)
Lawrence County	County prepared for budget impasse when planning 2015 budget, but of the \$102 million budgeted, more than 70 percent (\$73 million) is state pass-through funds. Concerns that county will be unable to make payroll if impasse lasts past Thanksgiving; as of Nov. 11, county has used \$1.7 of general fund revenues to pay for necessary state-funded expenses for C&Y. County has taken a larger tax anticipation note than usual for 2016 because of the lack of a state budget and the county's need to expend resources on hand to get through 2015.
Lehigh County	Able to weather funding delays by fronting payments and getting reimbursed, but situation will change in September.
Luzerne County	County voted to borrow \$20 million on Nov. 24 to fund government for the rest of 2015 (debt service payments, vendor payments, payroll) with only \$4 million left in general fund; has been approved by county judge. County's credit rating has also been downgraded.

McKean County	County tapped its \$4.4 million in reserves to fund payroll and other services normally paid by the state. At end of November, in process of acquiring a \$10 million line of credit. Estimating costs of impasse at \$250,000 to \$400,000 in interest and late payment costs.
Mercer County	County has fronted nearly \$4.5 million for programs and services, particularly children and youth and the behavioral health commission. Behavioral health agency is considering borrowing \$6 million in January to keep services going.
Monroe County	County is using money from its general fund, and has doubled a line of credit from \$500,000 to \$1 million for MH/DS.
Montour County	County seeking interest quotes for a tax anticipation note for 2016 for \$1.2 million; normally the county seeks \$800,000 in anticipation of real estate tax revenues that do not come in until March or April, but is seeking the higher amount in case the impasse continues. Estimated costs incurred from impasse at \$5,000 to \$10,000.
Montgomery County	As of early November, county has spent more than \$30 million from reserves to continue to provider services. Has indicated that it will not have cash on hand after January 4, and county has voted to authorize a tax anticipation loan if needed, up to \$75 million.
Northampton County	County has authorized borrowing of up to \$50 million as of Nov. 5; while county has enough unrestricted funds to pay bills until January, this would drain county's accounts and county would incur fees, so it may be cheaper to start borrowing Dec. 1 and instead pay interest of two percent.
Northumberland County	Has taken out a short-term (one year) loan on which it expects to incur interest and fees.
Schuylkill County	Approved budget resolution Nov. 4 borrowing \$168,000 from its general fund to fund Office of Senior Services through November. County used \$620,000 from general fund in October for Children and Youth and Senior Services operations. In December, approved short-term loans of \$665,000 to Children and Youth and

	\$160,000 to the Office of Senior Services; county has extended \$1,613,000 in loans in total to its agencies over past three months.
Snyder County	Estimating costs of \$10,000 at end of November from impasse; possibly another \$15,000 to \$20,000 to pay for a tax anticipation note the county would not have otherwise needed.
Somerset County	Covering human services costs with general fund dollars for now; may need to take a county line of credit if the impasse stretches too far into 2016
Union County	May look into a tax anticipation note in January 2016.
Venango County	The county is able to fund its programs for now and will revisit in late October to readjust as necessary.
Washington County Behavioral Health and Developmental Services	Asked county to approve a stopgap measure as it ran out of funding; Southwest Behavioral Health Management has been able to provide a \$200,000 grant. County has used \$3 million (\$1 million from general fund, \$2 million from oil and gas royalties) to pay human services bills. State Dept. of Aging owes county \$625,000 as of Dec. 17, and another \$125,000 will be due at the end of the year.
Wayne County	Delays in grants (IP, STOP, DOC reimbursement, DA, etc.) has cost county \$450,000. Payroll/benefits costs for human services departments normally reimbursed through Dec. 31 are costing \$750,000. Delays in lieu of maintenance for buildings, vehicles and general support through Dec. 31 will run about \$300,000. Total general fund expenditures \$1.5 million.
Westmoreland County	Has been paying providers by borrowing from the county's general fund. May have to borrow as much as \$10 million early in 2016 should the impasse continue.
York County	Agreed to petition courts in mid-December for an extension to pay off the \$20 million line of credit it opened in October (had drawn down about \$8.8 million as of mid-December). Fees from line of credit about \$10,000, not including interest.

Internal Program Restrictions

County/Department	Action Taken/To Be Taken
Armstrong Area Agency on Aging	Staff training and conferences will be severely limited until a budget is passed
Berks County	Departments that are affected will be requested to curtail non-essential purchasing.
Cambria County	Travel and training costs are approved only for mandated training or travel.
Cameron County	Starting to hold back more and more outside bills to be able to make payroll.
Clarion County	Has delayed non-essential purchases
Crawford County	Asking vendors to hold off on payments at no interest charge on unpaid balances.
Cumberland County	Restriction of non-essential travel reimbursable, stopping all non-emergency overtime, immediate suspension of any new capital expenses and immediate suspension of spending of grant funds
Erie County	Non-essential travel has been suspended and purchases not essential to immediate operations are halted. All employees encouraged to take energy-saving measures wherever possible.
Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission	Cut out as much spending as possible, only permitting staff training or travel as required by law or licensing.
Franklin County	All non-essential human services vacancies (non-direct care such as administrative) are frozen as are all non-critical purchases.
Greene County Human Services	Travel restrictions except for essential services to stay in legal compliance and/or for safety and protection of clients.
Lawrence County	Restricted all non-essential travel, and limited discretionary spending. All spending must be approved.
Luzerne County	Unnecessary travel is restricted.
Mifflin County Human Services	Some computer repairs are not being made which will likely lead to greater expense in the future.
Monroe County	Have to put off infrastructure projects and repairs to buildings and sidewalks, which are safety issues for residents and employees.

	Cannot hire and fill positions, and mandated trainings are being cancelled.
Montour County	Cut discretionary spending, hiring freeze in place and has stopped paying non-payroll obligations to the state
Snyder County	Has held all purchase orders.
Wayne County	Delayed capital projects and vendor payments.
York County Human Services	Have limited purchasing to bare essentials for all programs.