

The County Commissioners Association Of Pennsylvania  
The Voice Of Pennsylvania's Counties

# 2009 Human Services Budget

## Human Services Development Fund

**E**ach year, more than two million Pennsylvanians and their families turn to counties to meet their human service needs. With the current economic downturn, counties are facing increasing requests to assist their residents with the most basic safety needs such as food, shelter and utilities. Requests for help in meeting basic safety needs are rising along with special needs, such as veterans returning home with physical and mental challenges, families needing services that promote self-sufficiency, and increasing jail populations in need of substance abuse and mental health treatment. It is critical that funding be available to address the most basic and vital human needs.

The Human Service Development Fund (HSDF) is the only funding stream available to counties that touches all aspects of human services and provides flexible funding to deal with the needs of their residents. Counties use these dollars to address the basic needs of diverse populations including physically challenged individuals, pregnant teenagers, homeless families, children with parents in prison, seniors and persons in need of

transportation to dialysis. HSDF also is the only funding source that provides for the coordination of services and supports information and referral services in a county.

In 2002, the state budget reduced HSDF by \$7.5 million. From 2002 to 2007, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) funds supplemented the HSDF. With the phase out of IGT, counties have been forced to make even tougher decisions regarding services - choices that are increasingly more challenging as the economic downturn causes large numbers of individuals to lose wages, housing and the ability to provide for their families.

HSDF is crucial for counties to be able to address the very basic life-sustaining needs of their residents.

**For more information on HSDF, contact Kristin Woellmer at (717) 232-7554 x 3132 or [kwoellmer@pacounties.org](mailto:kwoellmer@pacounties.org).**



Serving Counties Since 1886

17 North Front Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101-1624 (717) 232-7554

[www.pacounties.org](http://www.pacounties.org)