

**Budget Impasse:  
Impact on Drug and Alcohol and  
Tobacco Prevention and Cessation  
Services in Westmoreland County**

The current state budget impasse may cause a tremendous impact on drug and alcohol treatment services currently available to Westmoreland County residents who have no health insurance and the working poor. The crisis will also impact drug and alcohol prevention services, as well as tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

If the budget impasse continues, the following repercussions will affect all residents of this county:

- ➡ 450 Westmoreland drug and alcohol clients could be denied treatment, subsequently putting their lives at significant risk.
- ➡ Many treatment facilities that currently provide services will be forced to close.
- ➡ Westmoreland County residents who have finally come to seek help and receive treatment will be unable to access appropriate drug and alcohol treatment resulting in their conditions worsening, ending up in hospital emergency rooms or dying.
- ➡ Many drug and alcohol clients will be involved in criminal activity, resulting in higher rates of incarceration.
- ➡ Drug and alcohol prevention education for youth and community members will be significantly decreased.
- ➡ Tobacco prevention and cessation services will be eliminated.
- ➡ The impact of this budget impasse will ultimately result in greater costs to our health care and criminal justice systems.