Counties provide responsible program planning, fiscal management, and monitoring of mental health, intellectual disability and developmental services. Counties are committed to providing in-patient as well as a variety of community options for individuals with intellectual disabilities and mental illness, which include employment options, individualized care approaches and resources for families. These services are designed to keep people in their home communities with their natural support systems. Counties also provide early intervention services to children from birth to age three to ameliorate developmental delays. In addition to these services, counties manage federal Medicaid funding through the HealthChoices Behavioral Health program, which assists patients and their families in accessing the care they need at a more affordable price.
**Counties** provide drug and alcohol programs to their residents, which are managed by the Single County Authorities (SCAs). SCAs receive state and federal funding through the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to plan, coordinate, manage and implement the delivery of drug and alcohol prevention, intervention, and treatment services at the local level. The Department of Human Services also allocates funds to SCAs for treatment and care coordination. SCAs actively work with schools and law enforcement to provide community-based initiatives and education, detoxification programs, outpatient services, residential programs, halfway houses, and case management services. In light of the recent opioid and overdose epidemic, SCAs are facing unprecedented demands for services and have been actively involved in working with community leaders and stakeholders to assess local needs and develop strategies that will have a positive impact in reversing the number of overdose deaths.

Counties also manage federal Medicaid funds to provide mental health and substance abuse services through the HealthChoices Behavioral Health program. Because of their role in this capacity, in 2017 counties will mark 20 years of successfully controlling program costs while designing programs that meet local needs and reduce the demand for costlier services.

**Counties** own 21 of the more than 700 nursing facilities in the commonwealth. These nursing facilities provide both short and long term care services to their residents including: skilled nursing care, sub-acute care, respite care, hospice, and rehabilitative and restorative therapies, and other amenities that are necessary for residents’ quality of life. County homes play a critical role in providing these services, acting as safety net facilities for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid upon admission. Eighty to ninety percent of county home residents utilize Medicaid to pay for their care, but in recent years these costs have exceeded what Medicaid provides. In an effort to reduce costs, increase the quality of life for residents, and ensure availability of assistance to all individuals, facilities have invested in therapy services to improve overall health of the resident, and allow the resident to return to their home, or to another lower-level care setting.

**Counties** provide juvenile detention and alternative services to youth offenders within their counties. County juvenile detention centers are administered by either human services directors or a board of directors, and focus on the behavioral health, academic, and competency development needs of justice-involved youth while at the same time assuring that individual and community safety risks are minimized. Detention centers and alternative programs provide supervision, security, education, and assessments that determine any psychological or behavioral needs that youth offenders may have. Juvenile detention services are reserved as a last resort to assure public and child safety. Alternative programs range from in-home child and family based services to non-secure residential programs that are designed to address balanced and restorative justice goals (community protection, victim restoration and competency development).

County human services programs assist our citizens, often regardless of income, recognizing that any family can be impacted by drug abuse, mental illness, intellectual disabilities and child abuse and neglect.