



Human Services Block Grant Update for Counties with Private or Independent Single County Authorities (June 6, 2012)

The Governor's proposed fiscal year 2012-13 budget proposes to fundamentally transform the relationship between the state and county governments for the delivery of certain critical human services programs. Through discussions between the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) and the Department of Public Welfare (DPW), substantial progress has been made on many of the elements that will be impacted by the implementation of the block grant, including the relationships with private and independent single county authorities (SCAs).

Counties will receive a single payment for the block grant allocation with the expectation that each county with an arrangement with a private or independent SCAs will pass through the appropriate portion to that entity. During the transition to the block grant, it is the expectation of DPW that these SCA arrangements will continue to be honored by each involved county until such time as new or revised agreements are reached.

DPW has committed to make every effort to have block grant allocation letters to counties within 30 days following the passage of the Commonwealth budget. To assist in the transition to the block grant, DPW will detail the following information in the allocation letters that will be sent to all sixty-seven counties: FY 2011-12 categorical allocations as of April 1, 2012, the total block grant allocation, the required spending amounts in each categorical area and the required match percentage.

DPW is attempting to streamline the financial reporting and planning requirements associated with the services contained in the block grant. It is the intent to have SCAs continue to report on funding streams outside of the block grant, as they do currently. For the funding streams being consolidated into the block grant, the SCAs will have categorical reporting requirements to the counties they serve. SCAs will need to report to counties on the categories of services they provide. SCA plans will satisfy DPW requirements for the block grant services provided by the SCA for each county served by that entity.

The block grant will create flexibility and promote local decision making by permitting counties to prioritize funds to where they are needed most. County commissioners and councilmembers will be required to present their spending plans for the block grant funds at advertised public meetings. Stakeholder input has been and will continue to be a vital aspect of the creation and implementation of the block grant. SCA administrators are encouraged to begin having discussions on cash flow and related issues with the county commissioners and councilmembers they serve. CCAP and DPW share a mutual goal that successful private and independent SCA arrangements can continue to provide vital services to counties.