

# PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY

# HUMAN SERVICES ARE

From housing needs to substance abuse services to Pennsylvania county human services and mental health are a diverse collection of resources provided by counties to ensure the health and well-being of their residents. These critical services help to maintain a better quality of life for all individuals across the commonwealth. CCAP's five human services affiliates represent and support the county staff working every day to assure Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens and their families have the protection and care they need.

## MENTAL HEALTH/ INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



Counties provide responsible program planning, fiscal management and monitoring of mental health, intellectual disability and autism services, designed to keep people in their home communities with their natural support systems.

- Provide facility and community-based service options for individuals with intellectual disabilities, autism and mental illness, including employment options, individualized care approaches and resources for families
- Provide early intervention services to children from birth to age three to reduce and aid developmental delays
- Provide programs and services designed to keep people in their home communities with their natural support systems
- Assist individuals and their families in accessing the care they need through the Behavioral HealthChoices program

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## DRUG & ALCOHOL PROGRAMS



County drug and alcohol programs, often referred to as Single County Authorities (SCAs), are responsible for ensuring that a full continuum of prevention, intervention and treatment services are available. SCAs receive state and federal funding from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Department of Human Services and work collaboratively with county partners to manage federal Medicaid funds that provide mental health and substance abuse services through the Behavioral HealthChoices program.

- Work collaboratively with other statewide partners like the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to obtain additional funding for programs to address specific needs in each community
- Work with hospitals, physicians and community health partners to increase pathways to access appropriate treatment and recovery support services
- 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
- Provide programs and services designed to support life-long recovery

2017 marked 20 years of successfully controlling program costs while designing programs through the Behavioral HealthChoices program that meet local needs and reduce the demand for costlier services.

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## HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



Pennsylvania Association of County  
Human Services Administrators  
An Affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

Counties provide a wide range of human services to their residents, including adult services, aging services, children and youth services, drug and alcohol services, mental health and intellectual disabilities, and other necessary assistance programs such as food programs, homelessness assistance and transportation assistance.

- Improve efficiency and timeliness of delivery
- Coordinate care
- Reduce taxpayer cost by applying for grants, such as the Human Services Block Grant
- Collaborate and network with other human service administrators to address concerns regarding different commonwealth human services initiatives
- Educate and support counties in efforts to integrate services for clients with comprehensive approach that addresses needs across human services program areas

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## CHILDREN AND YOUTH SERVICES



Counties provide support, rehabilitative services and/or child placement services to children and their families that prioritize the safety of children in all situations.

- Investigate reports of suspected child abuse under state and federal laws
- Coordinate the necessary educational, medical and social programs for children and their families
- Help families develop and improve skills that will enable children to stay safely in their own homes and communities

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## NURSING HOMES & LONG-TERM CARE



Counties own 19 of the more than 700 nursing facilities in the commonwealth which 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.

- Operate county-owned nursing homes, which play a critical role as safety net facilities for individuals who are eligible for Medicaid upon admission
- Invest in therapy services to improve the overall health of the residents, and allow residents to return to their homes, or to another lower-level care setting

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**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.**



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