



DELAWARE COUNTY  
FISCAL YEAR 2025/2026  
HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT  
SUMMARY

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025**

### **HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PROCESS**

#### **Public Hearing Notice**

Delaware County Human Services has scheduled two hybrid Public Hearings to gain input from the community and stakeholders regarding the plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

- Tuesday July 15, 2025, at 6pm
- Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, at 6:00 pm

The July 15<sup>th</sup> event will be held at Welcome House. The July 23<sup>rd</sup> event will be held in Media in the County Council Meeting Room and can be will also be live streamed. Comments may be emailed to HS\_BlockGrant@co.delaware.pa.us until the conclusion of the second hearing.

Notification of the Public Hearings will be published in the Delaware County Daily Times per the requirements in the Sunshine Act. Additionally, advisory councils, providers, stakeholders, and committees will be notified of the hearings via email and the notice will be on the Human Services Website and Delaware County Website.

#### **Planning Process**

Delaware County Human Services collaborates with the internal and external stakeholders in the development of the Block Grant Plan and on an ongoing basis to ensure the mental health needs of our community are being met in an equitable, fair, and inclusive manner. Human Services Administrators currently meet on a regular basis to discuss pertinent issues within the Department. Program and Fiscal leads for the categoricals within the Human Services Block Grant routinely meet throughout the year to discuss current year needs, utilization of retained earnings, and planning for the upcoming fiscal year.

The Human Services Block Grant Plan is distributed to the Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board, Drug and Alcohol Planning Council, and Children and Youth Citizens Advisory Council prior to submission for feedback and comments. Furthermore, the plan summary is posted on the Human Services Website and distributed to an array of providers, County partners, and stakeholders. The full plan is available for review once completed.

Throughout the year, Human Services leaders assess the community and needs of our residents to best strategize for continued programming.

#### **Human Services Overview**

Delaware County Department of Human Services was established in 1976 under the Home Rule Charter as an umbrella department responsible for the administration and delivery of coordinated human services. The Department of Human Services is comprised of the following program offices Mental Health-including Healthchoice's, Data Statistics and Quality Improvement, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Drug and Alcohol, Early Intervention, Administration-including fiscal, contracting, information technology, and information systems and Court and Community Connections, Adult and Family Services-including Medical Assistance Transportation Program, and Children and Youth Services.

In conjunction with internal collaboration between the various categoricals within the Department, Human Services has developed partnerships with an array of County and Court Offices, including the County Office of Services for the Aging, Office of Housing and Community Development, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Workforce Development, Adult Probation and Parole, Juvenile Probation, and Juvenile Detention Services. Beginning in 2022, Human Services became a department under the Chief of Human

Services and Community Supports. This change in the overall structure of services to residents in Delaware County allows for a more seamless collaboration between departments.

The Human Services Block Grant has been paramount in implementing a cross-system approach to serving the County's most vulnerable citizens. By allowing flexibility with funding, Delaware County has enhanced our holistic approach to address the needs of our residents.

### **Human Services Block Grant – Looking Back**

Delaware County Human Services has been a Block Grant County since its inception with Act 80 of 2012. Structured with a Human Services Model, Delaware County was in an optimal position to transition to a Block Grant County. Although there have been countless benefits to Delaware County with the Human Services Block Grant's ability to move funds, three categoricals are most prominent: Drug and Alcohol, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and Homeless Services.

The flexibility of the funding has allowed our County to provide more comprehensive services to our residents. When the Block Grant was established, Delaware County frequently had substance use needs which exceeded the available funding, resulting, at times, in some residents being unable to access treatment. Not only has Human Services been able to maintain consistent substance use programming with the Block Grant, but we have also expanded our provider network, increased funded length of stays, and incorporated multiple recovery houses and Medication Assisted Treatment Programming in our funded services.

More recently, Delaware County has been able to provide services to the intellectual and developmental disability population due to the ability to transfer the monies to the categorical with the most pressing needs. Although the allotted Medicaid Waiver slots has increased there has also been a steadily growing need. Delaware County would have struggled to provide services in this regard if not for the flexibility of the Human Services Block Grant.

Delaware County utilized the Human Services Development Fund to support an array of programming for residents close to or experiencing homelessness. The drastic cuts of this funding stream over several years limited the available resources to assist this population. Human Services has been able to continue programming as a result of the ability to move funding between categorical allocations.

In addition to the benefit of transferring funding between programs within the fiscal year, Delaware County Human Services has been able to create initiatives and meet future needs through the permissible retained earnings. Programs, such as homeless case management, mental health on-site crisis, rental assistance, and homeless shelters have benefited.

### **HUMAN SERVICES ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024/2025**

Delaware County Department of Human Services engaged in an assessment and review of all available Crisis Services during Fiscal Year 24/25. Additionally, we created a strategic plan to help guide us in meeting the needs and filling gaps in Crisis Services. Unfortunately, also during the 24/25 fiscal year, Delaware County was dealt a particularly difficult blow to services with the closure of our largest provider of physical and mental health services, Prospect Crozer. This provider has been decreasing available services over the last 3 years, including the closure of two of the four hospitals, and in January of 2025 filed for bankruptcy. They closed all services in May of 2025 including the two remaining hospitals in its network. This closure included our Crisis Walk in center, along with several other service to individuals with mental health needs. We are fortunate in Delaware County that our other providers of Mental Health services have stepped up and, in many cases, expanded their capacity to meet the need. Some providers hired staff and who were providing case management, or outpatient services, who could then continue to work with the same caseload, providing some consistency and stability to a number

of individuals involved. Delaware County has provided support to emergency rooms to provide crisis supports; however, the two remaining emergency rooms have been challenged with the increase in the physical health needs. We have also increased the availability of mobile crisis services to assist with meeting the need. Delaware County continues to work closely with providers and is anticipating choosing a provider for Crisis Stabilization/Walk in services withing the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025/2026.

There continued to be a spotlight on racial disparities, increased focus on Criminal Justice Reform and drastically increasing human services' needs; the effect of all being significantly felt in Delaware County. The Delaware County Community continued to work on licensing and contracting with new providers to increase choice and diversify funds to a variety of providers. County has continued to work to diversify the service providers available to residents to avoid loss of service, anticipating the potential loss as Prospect Crozer eliminated services.

Delaware County has spent time thoroughly examining the array of services and enhancing our provider network. Furthermore, the experience solidified the resiliency of the County and underscored the commitment of not only our County Government, but the providers and community at large.

Delaware County Department of Human Services has made numerous other accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2024/2025, the most significant of which are highlighted below:

### **Human Services Administration**

- Established a Management Exit Conference process
- Designed and launched an internal DHS auditing framework to enhance system compliance and operational integrity.
- Expanded the Drug & Alcohol Quality Management Program by integrating provider technical assistance and advancing data analysis capabilities.
- Revamped the Healthy Kids/Healthy Schools Initiative in collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, rebranding it as ConnectED for broader community engagement.
- Relocated to a new office, optimizing efficiency and service delivery.
- Extended outreach hours at select libraries and County Health Department vaccine clinics, ensuring residents have immediate access to Human Services programs and support.
- Strengthened workforce stability by increasing staff retention and successfully filling key vacancies.
- Expanded outreach locations to County Offices, libraries, and community providers, enhancing accessibility to Human Services programs.

### **Adult and Family Services**

- The established PA-502 Homeless Services Coalition Training Committee has established a training schedule for six to nine training events for our providers and community partners. Training topics include accession Drug and Alcohol treatment, Mental Health treatment and services and Veteran Services; Domestic Violence services, Victim's Assistance Center resources, Trafficking community education, Motivational Interviewing, Educational Rights of Homeless Children and Employment Services. All community partners are welcome to attend.
- The additional funding secured for Rent Assistance assisted 312 households.
- Our Housing Navigator has assisted 50 homeless households locate affordable housing.

- Through a new HUD grant, a HMIS Data Technician was added to our staff to assist in the review of HMIS data and ensure compliance with HUD requirements, as well as provide training to new and existing staff to improve data quality and ultimately increase funding.
- Adult and Family Service staff provided case management to shelter staff until a provider could be under contract.
- Secured additional funding through Home For Good to provide pack and play units, diapers and wipes, rent, furniture and transportation assistance, incentives for landlords outside the traditional rental hot spots and funding for essential documents.

### **Drug and Alcohol Services**

- Expanded and enhanced coordination and outreach with the Certified Recovery Specialist Warm Hand-off Program to increase access to services and supports for individuals presenting to Delaware County hospitals with substance use disorders. Enhanced coordination amongst the teams when Prospect Medical Holdings closed two hospital locations.
- With coordination and oversight from the Single County Authority, funding from the PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and facilitation by MVP Recovery, established and implemented a Drug and Alcohol Crisis Stabilization center/program which became fully functional in FY 2024-2025. The Program, STAR (Stabilization, Triage, and Referral), aims to centralize a pathway to treatment and resources while removing all barriers and operating 24/7.
- Expanded monitoring efforts and oversight of providers and services by adding new and enhanced monitoring tools, updating the Single County Authority oversight and monitoring policy, and updating Single County Authority metrics tools. Through direct supervision provided by the Data, Statistics, and Quality Administrator, the Single County Authority onboarded a new Data Program Analyst who is responsible for reviewing, collecting, analyzing, overseeing, and sharing drug and alcohol data and reporting such as outcomes, metrics, and various other data collection methods.
- Developed a targeted case management referral form, required to be completed at all anchor provider level of care assessments, to ensure that individuals seeking treatment services are also offered intensive case management to offer an opportunity to work on goals surrounding non-treatment related needed and social determinants of health.
- Developed a harm reduction policy guiding providers to adopt and apply practices that use person-centered, evidence-based public health strategies to assist people who use substances in minimizing the negative consequences associated with substance use through Outreach Activities, Interim Services, Overdose prevention education, STD/STI education, and Resource and navigation Lists.
- Coordinated and funded three social wellness events through partnership with our contracted recovery house providers to enhance avenues to sober activities and events to further foster and promote a recovery lifestyle. The events included softball tournament community day, a family fun night holiday movie, treats, and crafts treats, and lastly, the office hosted an 8-week yoga class course.
- Funded transportation services within all contracted outpatient providers to remove barriers to accessing treatment and recovery support services.
- The Delaware County Department of Human Services, Office of Drug and Alcohol, in partnership with the Delaware County Recovery Committee, hosted the First Annual Delaware County Recovery month event: Delco Hope - Recovering Together 2024. Held at Delaware County Community College, the event celebrated the strength and courage of individuals in recovery while offering support to families and friends in the recovery community. Over 250 attendees joined in for a day of connection, learning, and hope.
- Continued efforts for the Prevention Needs and Resource Assessment in which includes a virtual survey, small group youth conversations, and adult small group conversations that will cover topics such as

gambling, marijuana use, and alcohol use and will help to better serve our community with alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention efforts.

- Provided technical assistance and support to contracted recovery house providers to increase coordination of care and enhance professionalism across these services to meet Single County Authority standards and procedures. This was achieved by the SCA coordinated recovery house manager training, facilitated by the Pennsylvania Recovery Organization - Achieving Community Together (PROACT) Regional Recovery Hub 1 & 4. A total of 22 recovery house owners, house leads, and recovery house staff attended the mandatory training.

### **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services**

- Continue to work with the cross-system collaborative team to support individuals who were involved in multiple systems and successfully provide services that met the ongoing needs of the individuals we support.
- Identified and provided support and services for 2025 graduates, RTF, and EPSDT age-outs transitioning from the Education System to Adult Services.
- Supported medically complex children within a hospital setting opportunities to be supported in the community, utilizing family facilitators and Coordinators.
- We have increased the number of individuals with disabilities working competitively in the community.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to connect with community partners in order to engage in meaningful day activities, supported and competitive employment, and community participant support.
- Independent Monitoring for Quality review of individuals with disabilities reported no immediate health and safety/priority concerns.
- Hosted a community provider fair to provide individuals and families with the opportunity to meet and connect with provider agencies for services.
- Successfully enrolling 10 participants in the housing voucher pilot program during the 24/25 fiscal year.

### **Mental Health Services**

#### **Children's Mental Health FY 24/25 Accomplishments**

- Trained 141 county staff, partners, and residents in Trauma
- Trained 12 county staff and partners in Cultural and Linguistic Competency
- Trained 10 caregivers and 12 teen parents in Trauma
- System of Care Grant funded Delco Contact – Family Peer Navigator program served 52 families
- Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Board has reconvened and is recruiting new members
- Supported Youth Mental Health Train the Trainer training for Upper Darby School District, Marple Newtown School District, and YMCA staff
- Provided Mental Health training to 60 Delaware County School Guidance Counselors and Social Workers
- Strengthened partnerships with 4 Residential Treatment providers to provide youth and families with more effective discharge planning
- 20 youths assisted in accessing psychiatric residential treatment services
- Supported the opening of the Elwyn Transitional Age Residential Treatment program.

#### **Adult Mental Health FY 24/25 Accomplishments**

- Adult Mental Health First Aid - Two staff were certified in March 2025 to teach the skills needed to recognize and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use challenges, as well as how to provide someone with initial support until they relate to appropriate professional help. Staff will continue to provide training for Delaware County mental health providers as well as the shelter system. We will continue to provide this training course as needed to educate provider staff and when identified as a corrective action
- Two members of the adult mental health team were appointed as 3-year term members of the Commonwealth's Mental Health Planning Council (MHPC) Adult and Older Adult Committee via the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS.) These are two of several committees that come together to form the MHPC whose purpose is to advise on a broad behavioral mandate to include — but not be limited to — mental health, substance abuse, behavioral health disorders, and cross-system disability.
- Two Adult Mental Health and one Delaware County CIT Trained Officer attended the CIT International Conference in Indianapolis
- An accelerated one-day course in CIT for First Responders was facilitated in September 2024
- Additionally, a 40-hour course for CIT for Delco Police Officers was facilitated in May 2025
- Attended and successfully completed the Criminal Justice Advisory Board/CJAB conference at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA
- Mental Health Forensic team members also participated in the Pennsylvania Judicial Summit on Behavioral Health
- Coordinated 9 monthly ZOOM agenda development meetings, as well as 9 DELCO Community Support Program (CSP) hybrid community meetings, designed/updated multiple program graphics and created marketing materials, websites, Facebook Page Management, and coordinated multiple community outreach events. These efforts also include coordination/oversight of holiday celebrations/talent shows, Mental Health Awareness Month, Fall Family Festival Keynote and Speaker/Vendor Table Operator
- The Mental Health Office's Certified Peer Specialist facilitated 45+ Alternative Perceptions in-person support group meetings, as well as created and supported Alternative Perceptions marketing and graphic design development, which will continue throughout 2025/26-year
- Community Residential Services staff successfully transitioned 16 residents from a LTSR which closed in May 2025
- Community Residential Services staff facilitated a graduation ceremony for individuals who successfully graduated to a less restrictive level of residential services while moving forward in their recovery
- Contracted with additional out of County acute inpatient providers to provide treatment for individuals in need of inpatient care
- Worked with our community physical and behavioral health providers to enhance their crisis response services due to the closure of our site-based walk-in crisis center.
- During the International Mental Health Awareness month of May, the Delaware County- Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health had a purpose to highlight the importance of open discussions about mental health and to raise awareness about the impact mental health has on individuals. Each week, we listed various events on a calendar relating to the 2025 international theme "Turn Awareness into Action"! to make meaningful changes in our community. In addition,

the Mental Health Awareness Month Steering Committee was a collaboration between Delaware County- Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, families and community partners to feature activities that provide resources to members of all ages, including under served communities. We constructed a series of events based on topics we highlighted during the Month of May such as the following:

- Mental Health Education
- Mental Health Service and Supports
- Dealing with Trauma
- Social Opportunities/Connections
- Selfcare
- Mental Health Stories/Sharing

### **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026/2026**

As Delaware County Human Services looks towards Fiscal Year 2025/2026, there are many exciting programs and partnerships being formed within the County, is the development of the Human Services and Community Support Department. Additionally, Human Services will fully partner with the relatively new Delaware County Health Department to ensure a comprehensive and holistic approach to services is developed. Human Services will continue to collaborate with the County Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department and incorporate the Racial Equity Statement into all aspects of our department. To improve accessibility to all categorical services within our department, consideration is being given to restructuring the office to allow representation across the County.

Delaware County Human Services has additional initiatives and goals for the upcoming Fiscal Year, the most salient of which are as follows:

#### **Human Services Administration**

- Finalize the transition from Civil Service.
- Further extend outreach to key community partners such as the YMCA and local food pantries to maximize impact.
- Develop a community-focused DHS Impact Report that highlights past accomplishments and future objectives.
- Enhance program monitoring and performance metrics for external contracted agencies, ensuring accountability and effectiveness.
- Explore new partnerships with stakeholders to drive innovation in affordable housing and behavioral health solutions

#### **Adult and Family Services**

- Establish standardized training requirements for all Continuum of Care and contracted providers.
- Establish standardized shelter expectations for enrollment, case management practice and length of stay.
- Continue to engage and secure persons with lived experience and expertise.
- Create a monthly Homeless Services Coalition overview training to help acclimate all new staff to homeless services in Delaware County.

#### **Drug and Alcohol Services**



- Release a Request for Proposal for Recovery House services to remain in line with county policy for issuing RFP's for services, in addition to offering the opportunity to contract with newly licensed recovery house providers. The RFP will focus on resident safety, providing quality and efficient services to residents, and meeting county and state licensing regulations and standards for providing recovery house services.
- The Single County Authority, through coordination and partnership with the Delaware County Recovery Community Committee, will plan and host the second annual recovery event in September 2025. The event is held in honor of National Recovery Month to celebrate and recognize individuals living in recovery.
- Utilize the Prevention Needs and Resource Assessment data, collected in Fiscal Year 2425, regarding behavior, attitudes and knowledge concerning alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, mental health, and violence, to focus on as priorities for our youth in the County and continue to inform the strategic drug and alcohol prevention plan.
- Onboard two case management specialists to increase the oversight of the authorization process and provider network.
- The Delaware County Single County Authority will outreach to their partnering Single County Authority's and their Behavioral Health-Managed Care Organizations to gather all contracted Certified Recovery Specialist providers and encourage to reinstate the Regional Warm Hand Off Certified Recovery Specialist quarterly meeting. Partnering Counties include, but are not limited to, Montgomery County, Bucks County, Philadelphia County, Berks County, and Chester County, Delaware being the initial lead County. This could mitigate the barrier that we face by being unable to assist with clients from outside of Delaware County and vice versa.
- Continue to maintain the operations of the STAR program (Stabilization, Triage, and Referral) as a county resource, especially with closure of Crozer Hospital. Continue to advocate for and research various funding options to continue to ensure funding of the programming, as well as continue to provide oversight of the services and coordination efforts with the provider, managed care, and county and state partners regarding the services.
- Expand Warm Handoff opportunities through collaboration with the new Delaware County Overdose Response Team (DCORT) program (EMS ride along service) delivered by Main Line Health. An additional expansion plan within the County's warm hand off services are linking to primary care offices and other non-traditional milieu where those with substance use may present.

### **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services**

- Share and provide opportunities for individuals to live in the community utilizing Life Sharing and Supported Living.
- To enhance opportunities for family facilitators and coordinators to support teams in supporting children with medically complex needs in order to have a meaningful life while living in the community.
- Increase cross-system collaboration in order to support individuals with disabilities to have their needs identified and met, as a part of the transition process, and when significant life changes occur.
- Provide education to families and providers in implementing the multi-year growth strategies plan in order to increase capacity for individuals needing waiver supports.
- Continue to Support individuals to have an Everyday Life by utilizing the tools from the Lifecourse and address behavioral support needs by enhancing the Dual Diagnosed Treatment Team.

- To increase enrollment of participants in the Housing Voucher Program through the Office of Development Programs while addressing housing needs for individuals identified from support coordination agencies that are on the emergency PUNS list, forensic needs, moving from ICFs, or homelessness prevention, or opportunities to live independently in the community.
- Strengthen partnerships, communication, and provider networks to address systemic barriers.
- To review and enhance the intake unit and quality management unit to ensure timely program enrollment for services, and all incidents of health and safety are investigated timely.

### **Mental Health Services**

- Continue to provide trauma training to ensure all employees at the Delaware County Department of Human Services have basic trauma training.
- Strengthen partnerships with remaining residential treatment, local inpatient, and partial hospitalization programs regarding warm hand offs and discharge planning
- Formalize the members and goals for Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Board
- Update the training for all Emergency Behavioral Health volunteer team members and register all members in the Commonwealth's database
- Develop at least one walk in crisis unit, along with a licensed county telephone crisis line to integrate with the SAMHSA toolkit's requirements of "Someone to talk to, someone to come to you, and a place to go"
- Successfully site and open a new Long Term Structured Residence Program to provide services for Delaware County residents who need a maximum level of residential support and services while living in the community
- Finalize successful transition of our Merion Trace Community Residential Rehabilitation program into their new location
- Certified staff will provide six Mental Health First Aid training courses
- Appointed staff will continue to serve on the Commonwealth's Mental Health Planning Council's Advisory Boards
- Facilitate a second one day accelerated CIT course for First Responders in FY 25/26
- Open a Long-Term Structured Forensic Residence
- Explore the possibility of re-opening transitional housing for women in Delco
- MH Program staff are working with Chester County Outreach Workers from the Veterans Administration, working from Montgomery County focused on training Veteran-CIT trained officers to use their military and social service expertise to support other Veterans in crisis over the 2025/26-year. Training will be provided in the Fall of 2025.