



# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2016**

## **Montco Resumes Payments to Human Services Vendors Now That State Funds Are Flowing**

**Norristown, PA (January 15, 2016)** – Montgomery County disbursed over \$19 million today, including all payables associated with the state budget impasse. The funds from the State were received over several days from January 8-11, and the County was able to process all of the invoices in less than a week. For the first four months of the impasse, the County self-funded all of the human services normally reimbursed by the State, which equaled more than \$25 million. The County continued to self-fund in the absence of State reimbursements for human services staffing costs in November and December, totaling more than \$6 million. In total, the County absorbed more than \$32 million of costs due to the state budget impasse.

“We thank the providers who stepped up and struggled to continue to provide critical services to our constituents throughout a very difficult and uncertain financial situation caused by the lack of a state budget,” said Josh Shapiro, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

Despite the absence of State supported payments, providers continued to deliver services including:

- Senior Centers remained open and hours were not reduced;
- Meals on Wheels continued to be delivered;
- In-home care was provided by home health aides to low-income seniors;
- Home health devices, such as personal emergency response systems, medication dispensing, and respiratory equipment continued to be delivered and serviced;
- Home modifications and assistive devices to low-income seniors, such as needed hand rails and stair glides continued to be installed;
- Emergency shelter, placement, and foster care services for abused and neglected children;
- Child placement prevention services, including truancy diversion and home stability services;

- Parenting home visitation and parenting classes for parents with young children at risk of abuse or neglect;
- Family visitation services for children in County custody;
- Intensive family reunification services to quickly reunite children in placement with their families;
- Services to stabilize families with truant and ungovernable youth to accomplish educational success.

In order to continue these services, providers took on significant burdens. In some instances, providers borrowed funds from banks and will incur interest costs. Some providers had to refuse new, paying clients in order to continue to provide services to low-income clients. Where possible, board members actively donated or recruited additional donations to agencies. In some cases, agency staff went unpaid during this time to allow services to continue for the County's most vulnerable populations.

“Providers and their boards went above and beyond during the state budget impasse and we salute them for their commitment to providing services,” said Dr. Valerie Arkoosh, Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.