

2024-25

Governor Shapiro's Commonwealth Budget



Department of Human Services Budget Briefing

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Governor Josh Shapiro's 2024-25 Commonwealth Budget

- **Investing in Children, Students, and Educators**
- **A New Blueprint for Higher Education**
- **Making Pennsylvania a Leader in Economic Development, Job Creation, and Innovation**
- **Ensuring Pennsylvanians Have Access to Mental Health Resources**
- **Cutting Everyday Costs for Pennsylvanians**
- **Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable Pennsylvanians**
- **Combatting Gun Violence and Ensuring Access to Effective Emergency Services**
- **Protecting Pennsylvania's Environment**
- **Ensuring all Pennsylvanians Have the Freedom to Chart Their Own Course & The Opportunity to Succeed**
- **Getting Stuff Done – Government Service that Works**



Human Services Spending **OVERVIEW**



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Pennsylvanians Served by DHS

 3.5 Million Directly Served Through Public Assistance Programs

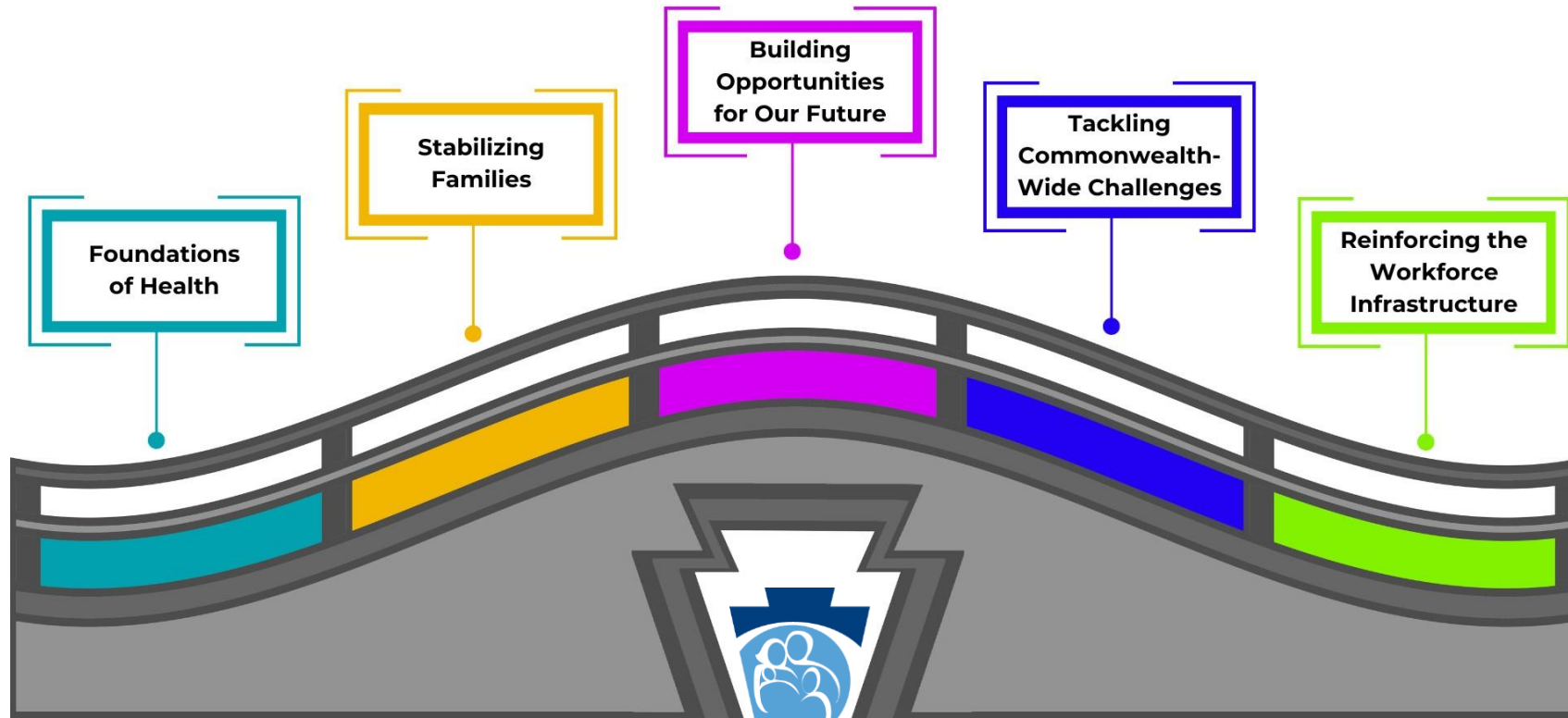
 9+ Million People Reached Through Provider Licensing, Protective Services, and Other Supports



2024-25 Budget Initiatives

Bridges to Success

Supporting a Thriving Pennsylvania



Foundations of Health

- **ODP Multi-Year Growth Strategy**

- The Shapiro Administration is beginning a multi-year strategy to expand access to home and community-based services and effectively end the emergency waiting list for adults with intellectual disabilities and autism.
 - **Shifting to management by budget rather than slots; and**
 - **Adding waiver program capacity to Community Living and Consolidated Waivers.**
 - **Immediately releasing additional waiver capacity – additional 1,250 Community Living and 400 Consolidated**
 - **Increasing waiver capacity for 2024-25 – additional 1,250 Community Living and 250 Consolidated**
 - **Increasing rates beginning July 1, 2024 - \$483M total investment (\$217M state funds)**

- **One-Time Supplemental Payments**

- ODP will issue one-time supplement payments to support staffing recruitment and retention to enable them to serve additional individuals.
 - **Payment to providers anticipated in May/June 2024 - \$109M (\$51M state funds)**

- **Sign Language Interpretation in ODP Waiver Programs**

- **Improves access to sign language services for ODP programs -- \$2.1M (\$934,000 state fund)**



Foundations of Health

- **Increasing Rates for Family Planning Services**

- DHS contracts with family planning providers to offer health screenings, STI testing, cancer screenings, pregnancy counseling, and other supports for men and women for lower income people who don't qualify for Medicaid.
 - **Increasing rates to support this work -- \$4.4M (\$1.4M in state funds)**

- **Increasing the Minimum SNAP Benefit**

- Health and nutrition are closely linked, and seniors and people with disabilities are more likely to experience chronic health conditions that are worsened by poor nutrition.
 - **Increasing the minimum benefit for seniors and people with disabilities to \$35 per month -- \$17M in state funds will benefit more than 106,000 people**

- **Establishing a Summer EBT – or SunBucks – Program in PA**

- Pennsylvania has opted in for the federal SunBucks program, which extends a SNAP-like cash benefit for students who receive free and reduced-price school meals during the summer when school is closed.
 - **Establishing Summer EBT in PA to help 600,000-900,000 purchase food during the summer -- \$3M in state funds**



Stabilizing Families

- **Supporting Access to Child Care for Working Families by Increasing Reimbursement Rates**
 - Child Care Works providers help make affordable care accessible to working families and should be compensated in line with federal best practices to serve their communities.
 - **Increasing Child Care Works base reimbursement rates to the 75th percentile of private pay -- \$62.5M (\$96,000 in state funds)**
- **Increasing the Minimum Wage**
 - Pennsylvania's minimum wage has not moved since 2009 – unlike each of our neighboring states.
 - Nearly 85 percent of workers who would benefit from a minimum wage increase are age 20-65.
 - A stagnant minimum wage holds people in poverty and disproportionately impacts women and people of color.
 - **The 2024-25 Budget supports a \$15 an hour minimum wage already passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.**



Building Opportunities for Our Future

- **Increasing Capacity in Youth Development Centers**
 - Pennsylvania has a need for more secure treatment placements due to reductions in private provider availability and increasing commitments to secure treatment units operated by DHS.
 - Since 2022, DHS has established new state-run units in Northeastern and Western Pennsylvania and expanded contracted partnerships with private providers to meet local needs and increase access to high quality treatment.
 - We are preparing to open a new facility by repurposing vacant space in Montgomery County. The Southeast Youth Development Center is set to open in Summer 2024. DHS is also seeking to expand staff at Loysville Youth Development center to increase capacity at this facility.
 - **Establishing a new facility at Southeast Youth Development and expanding capacity at Loysville Youth Development Center -- \$18.1M in state funds**



Tackling Commonwealth-Wide Challenges

- **Building the Investment in County Mental Health Base Funds**
 - Last year, Pennsylvania made its first investment in county mental health base funding since 2008, with a commitment to build to \$60M in subsequent budget years.
 - **Increasing our investment to \$40M total -- \$20M in state funds**
- **Expanding Crisis Services Around Pennsylvania**
 - Crisis response teams help ensure that when someone calls 988, there will be someone to respond and somewhere to go. With the rate of calls to 988, it is expected that demand for in-person follow up will more than triple over the next five years.
 - **Investing in Pennsylvania's crisis response systems to establish and expand crisis response – \$5M in state funds**
- **Supporting 988 Call Centers**
 - Pennsylvania's 12 call centers offer frontline support for people experiencing or helping someone with a mental health crisis. We need to be sure they are trained and ready to take these calls.
 - **Investing in our 988 workforce to help call centers meet local needs -- \$10M in state funds**



Tackling Commonwealth-Wide Challenges

- **Increasing Access to Care in Forensic Treatment Units**
 - Currently there are limited options for community-based treatment for individuals initially placed at a state hospital because they are involved in the justice system.
 - **Supporting access to behavioral health care for people able to step down from state hospital treatment or by investing in county initiatives -- \$5.75M in state funds**
- **Supporting Transitions from Institutional Care to Community Placements**
 - Individuals placed in civil units in state hospitals for long periods of time may also have trouble finding appropriate community-based placements, which would allow them to live in a less restrictive setting.
 - **Supporting people being served in the community through Community Hospital Integration Project Programs -- \$1.6M in state funds, with a per-person increase to \$160,000**



Tackling Commonwealth-Wide Challenges

- **Increasing Support for Pennsylvanians Through the Homeless Assistance Program**
 - The temporary Emergency Rental Assistance Program expanded opportunities for more flexible eviction prevention supports. We must learn from this program to strengthen our Homeless Assistance Programs around Pennsylvania.
 - **Supporting greater availability of eviction prevention, rental assistance, and other housing supports -- \$10M in state funds**
- **Expanding Legal Services and Support Through Eviction Proceedings**
 - Increasing support for legal aid work around Pennsylvania, with a focus toward eviction prevention -- \$6.84M in state funds, with \$5M dedicated to legal representation in eviction proceedings.
- **Investing in Services for Domestic Violence Survivors**
 - Domestic violence programs around Pennsylvania are a refuge for people who are experiencing and who have survived domestic violence. If there is an unmet need, adults and children risk returning to unsafe environments or being homeless.
 - **Investing more in domestic violence programs will support emergency response, advocacy, and prevention programs -- \$5M in state funds**



Reinforcing the Workforce Infrastructure

- **Supporting the Direct Care Workforce**

- The 2024-25 Budget directs DHS' Office of Long-Term Living to study rates paid to providers for personal assistance services – essential work performed by the directed care workforce every day.
- The need for a skilled, dedicated direct care workforce is growing, and this study will help chart a path forward.

- **Increasing Quality of DHS Services**

- DHS is committed to identifying opportunities to streamline our work and build efficiencies wherever possible, but we must also invest greater support where necessary to meet our responsibility to Pennsylvanians.
 - **Adding 10 positions to our agency complement -- \$617,000 in state funds**



Thank you for joining us!

Bridges to Success

Supporting a Thriving Pennsylvania

