

**PERRY COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN**

2024-2025

August 30, 2024

Perry County Commissioners:

**R. Franklin Campbell, Chair
Brenda L. Watson, Vice-Chair
William G. Lyons, Secretary**

For any questions regarding this plan, please contact:
Robin Tolan, Cumberland-Perry MH Human Services Program Manager
(717) 240-6320
ratolan@cumberlandcountypa.gov

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

Table of Contents

Appendix A: Assurance of Compliance 3

Appendix B: County Human Services Plan 4

I. County Planning Process 4

II. Public Hearing Notices, Minutes, & Testimonies 9

III. Cross Collaboration of Services 17

IV. Human Services Narrative 19

A. Cumberland-Perry (C-P) Mental (MH) Services 19

B. Cumberland-Perry Drug & Alcohol Services 19

C. Cumberland-Perry (C-P) Intellectual & Developmental Disability (IDD) Services 19

D. Perry County Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) 20

E. Perry County Human Services Development Fund (HSDF) 26

Appendix C: Budget 29

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

APPENDIX A Fiscal Year 2024-2025

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES PLAN

ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

- A. The County assures that services will be managed and delivered in accordance with the County Human Services Plan submitted herewith.
- B. The County assures, in compliance with Act 153 of 2016, that the County Human Services Plan submitted herewith has been developed based upon the County officials' determination of County need, formulated after an opportunity for public comment in the County.
- C. The County assures that it and its providers will maintain the eligibility records and other records necessary to support the expenditure reports submitted to the Department of Human Services.
- D. The County hereby expressly, and as a condition precedent to the receipt of state and federal funds, assures that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955, as amended; and 16 PA Code, Chapter 49 (relating to contract compliance):
 1. The County does not and will not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, origin, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability in providing services or employment, or in its relationship with other providers; or in providing access to services and employment for individuals with disabilities.
 2. The County will comply with all regulations promulgated to enforce the statutory provisions against discrimination.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

APPENDIX B

INTRODUCTION

This Human Services Block Grant (HSBG) plan is submitted on behalf of the Perry County Board of Commissioners and represents input from the Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH.IDD), Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission (C-P D&A), Perry Human Services, Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank, and the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #49. The plan was developed in collaboration with these agencies and the Perry County Family Services Partnership Board.

Perry County is a joinder with Cumberland County for the Mental Health, Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services and the Drug and Alcohol Commission. In December 1967, a joint Mental Health & Mental Retardation program was established with the Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties in compliance with the Mental Health & Mental Retardation Act of 1966. The agency now known as Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH.IDD) operates as a department of Cumberland County government and serves residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties in need of those treatment services and rehabilitative supports. Initially, the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission was a part of the MH.IDD program, and in 1980, became a separate agency, continuing with the county joinder arrangement. For these services, coordinated planning is ongoing between the two counties with service providers, individuals, family members, other County Human Services, and Commissioners evaluating current services, need areas, and how best to meet the needs of the residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties. We are committed to ensuring this successful joinder arrangement maintains as it has provided opportunities for residents from both counties that would not have been afforded otherwise. As per the plan directive, narratives and information related to those joinder services are found in the Cumberland County (CC) Human Services Block Grant Plan.

PART I: COUNTY PLANNING PROCESS

Describe the county planning and leadership team and the process utilized to develop the plan for the expenditure of human services funds by answering each question below.

- 1. Please identify the critical stakeholder groups, including individuals and their families, consumer groups, providers of human services, and partners from other systems, involved in the county's human services system.*

The Perry County Family Service Partnership Board serves as the focal point for Plan development in Perry County. Established in 1995 under the direction of the Perry County Commissioners in response to the Family Service System Reform (FSSR) initiative, the Partnership Board is a collaboration of family service customers, local government, schools, human service agencies, public health and local community representatives. The Partnership Board believes that our county will be an environment that enhances the well-being of all members of the community. The mission of the Partnership Board is to assist and empower communities to invest in solutions to meet their own needs. Various Community and Human Service agencies and County Commissioners participate in monthly meetings to share information and discuss needs, solutions and outcomes. Board meeting participants include representatives from:

- Adoption services
- Aging services
- Area Churches
- Child & Family services
- Child care services
- Community Ministry services
- Community Partnership agencies
- Commuter & Transportation services
- Council of the Arts
- County Commissioners
- County School Districts
- Domestic Violence services
- Early Education services
- Early Intervention services
- Employment & Vocational services
- Food Bank Ministries
- Home health agencies
- Hospice agencies
- Housing & Homelessness services
- Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities services
- Law Enforcement
- Legal services
- Literacy council
- Long Term Care services
- Mental Health services
- Parenting Networks
- Physical & Behavioral Health Managed Care Organizations
- Physical Health Disabilities services
- Probation office
- Public libraries
- Social services
- State Representatives' office
- State Senators' office
- Substance Use Disorder services
- Veterans services
- Wellness services

Stakeholder input occurs from all of the agencies, organizations, and services mentioned. Most participants are also community members who strive to improve their local communities.

The Perry Health Coalition involves many of the previously mentioned stakeholders and has several initiatives to address community needs in Perry County. Access to primary care, dental and mental health providers in order to improve health outcomes for those living in the county is the primary need according to the community residents. The Perry County Health Coalition's work moving forward will continue to focus on these areas.

Stakeholder input also occurs through the monthly Cumberland & Perry Mental Health Community Support Program (CSP) meetings as well as Cumberland & Perry Child & Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP). Please see the Cumberland County (CC) plan for more information on the planning processes for our joinder services. Many program committees include stakeholders as well to ensure consumer voice and participation in the planning process.

Perry County Plan of Safe Care (POSC) is required by federal and state law under Act 54 and has taken the place of the Perry County Integrated Children's meeting. POSC consists of a cross-system committee who meet to provide support for infants that are born affected by substance use or withdraw symptoms that result from prenatal drug exposure or Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD). The plan is to improve the safety, early childhood development and well-being of the infant and their caregivers. The plans are individualized and multigenerational with the intention of connecting the infant and family to multidisciplinary resources and supports. The Perry County Plan of Safe Care Team partners to ensure that infants born affected by substances and their caregivers receive needed treatment which begins with early identification through appropriate screening and assessments.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

The multidisciplinary teams (MDT) consist of staff from:

- Children & Youth
- Early Intervention
- Drug and Alcohol
- Mental Health
- Nurse Family Partnership
- Maternal Assistance Program – Penn State Health Holy Spirit
- PA State Health Nurse
- Tri-County Community Action

Additional stakeholders are regularly involved in the overall human service planning process as a function of ongoing collaboration. Service needs and system enhancements with regard to human service planning are discussed at the following regular meetings, many of which involve individuals, family members, and various community service agencies:

- Perry County Family Partnership Board meetings
- Perry County Health Coalition and Behavioral Health Task Force
- Perry County LINK to Aging & Disability Resources meetings
- Cumberland-Perry Housing Initiative (CPHI) meetings
- Perry Housing Task Force meetings
- Cumberland & Perry Counties' CASSP Core Teams
- Perry County Plan of Safe Care meetings
- Cumberland-Perry Community Support Program (CSP) meetings
- NAMI PA-Cumberland-Perry Counties' meetings
- Cumberland & Perry MH Provider and Base Service Unit (BSU) meetings
- Behavioral Health Managed Care committee meetings including Quality Improvement/Utilization Management (QI/UM), Clinical, Reinvestment Planning and Consumer & Family Focus Committee (CFFC) with our behavioral health partners - Capital Area Behavioral Health Collaborative (CABHC) & PerformCare
- Regional Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) Collaborative meeting
- CIT Steering Committee meetings
- Cumberland & Perry MH.IDD Advisory Board meetings
- Student Assistance Program Education Council Meetings

Information for the Human Services Plan is gathered continuously throughout the year via these collaborative and joint planning processes.

2. Please describe how these stakeholders were provided with an opportunity for participation in the planning process, including information on outreach and engagement efforts.

Information is discussed and gathered through the numerous committees and community meetings previously mentioned throughout the year. Many of these meetings are open forums. Individuals with lived experience, family members, and providers are strongly encouraged to participate through notifications via

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

newsletters, emails, listservs, and social media. Many program committees include stakeholders as well to ensure voice and participation by those with lived experience in the planning process. Utilization of virtual platforms such as ZOOM and TEAMS have allowed for expanded access and participation for many stakeholders. Public Hearings were also held and Legal Notices issued to make others aware of these opportunities to give input into the planning process. In addition, notifications and documents are posted on various county websites to support wide dissemination of information.

3. *Please list the advisory boards that were involved in the planning process.*

As previously stated, the Perry County Family Service Partnership Board serves in an advisory capacity to numerous participating human service and community agencies within Perry County. The chief role of this collaborative board is to identify community needs and discuss strategies to address those needs as well as serve as a clearinghouse for information and as a collaborative entity for future program planning.

In addition, two of the human service departments impacted by this block grant (MH.IDD and D&A) hold regularly scheduled community advisory board committee meetings that are open to the public.

County Commissioner representatives from both counties participate on the Cumberland-Perry MH.IDD Advisory Board. This Advisory Board is comprised of individuals from the community who represent various professional disciplines including religion, social work, education, aging, employment, and medical field including a physician, a nurse, and a neuropsychologist. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is also represented on this advisory board as is a family member of an IDD consumer and a consumer in mental health recovery. Representatives are identified from both counties and are appointed by the Board of Commissioners of their respective county. Various stakeholders including individuals, family members, and providers also attend and participate in the monthly advisory committee meetings which provide consumer voice and participation in the planning process.

The Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties select volunteers representing various community and geographic interests to serve on the Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board. There are eight board representatives from Cumberland County and seven representatives from Perry County. The Drug and Alcohol Commission Community Advisory Board meets every other month. All of these meetings are open to the public. The responsibility of this group of 15 appointed members is to plan and oversee the delivery of public-funded drug and alcohol services in the counties, which includes coordination and collaboration with other county-managed human services.

The Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank has a board of directors which meets regularly to provide oversight of and input to the program. The Food Bank is a stand-alone non-profit organization.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

4. *Please describe how the county intends to use funds to provide services to its residents in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs. (The response must specifically address providing services in the least restrictive setting.)*

The County intends to use allocated funds to provide services to its residents in the least restrictive settings appropriate to individuals' needs. A major value that cuts across all the County-managed human services is an emphasis on building a broad range of community-based treatment and support services that reduce the need for and reliance upon more restrictive (and costly) residential, inpatient, and institutional programs.

For more than two decades, a guiding principle in our local human service planning has been to develop networks of care that will allow County residents to access appropriate services while retaining as much self-sufficiency as possible in the community. This approach applies to the recipients of all the human services described in this and the CC plan: individuals and families with mental health needs, citizens with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, persons in recovery from a substance use disorder, youth (including juvenile offenders), individuals who are homeless, older citizens, and individuals with physical disabilities. Specific examples of this programmatic philosophy can be found within each human service area in this and the CC plan. Each program has an array of services available to residents and various processes to determine the most appropriate level of care to meet the individuals' and families' needs.

Our priority is to continue providing community based services that meet those needs. Each program and/or service develops its own budget and determines expenditures based on the allocation of funds and needs of each program and those accessing services. Each department/service reviews available data to determine the budget and anticipated expenditure of the state allocated funds.

5. *Please list any substantial programmatic and/or funding changes being made as a result of last year's outcomes.*

The priority for funding is to sustain the current infrastructure of community-based services as much as possible. However, if our financial allocations cannot meet the needs of the community, we would determine where budgetary and programmatic cuts would be necessary.

As stated in the CC plan, the MH program finished FY23-34 with a projected deficit of \$1.9 million. This deficit is after receiving \$1.2 million in funds from HealthChoices reinvestment funds to help offset expenses in the costs of services delivered. The additional \$20 million in funds for mental health services from the Governor's approved state budget in FY 23-24 resulted in a total of \$352,000 for Cumberland and Perry counties. Program cuts have been discussed for the last several planning cycles, due to lack of adequate financial resources to cover the increased costs of providing services. The obvious concern is how cuts will negatively impact the individuals served, their families, and other parts of the human services system. The priority for funding is to sustain the current infrastructure of community-based services as much as possible. County staff, providers, and stakeholders continue to have discussions on measures to take to decrease costs while maintaining needed services, despite the lack of any substantial budget increases.

In collaboration, Dauphin County's MH office and Cumberland & Perry counties' MH Office applied for and received a start-up and operational grant for an Emergency Behavioral Healthcare Walk-in Center and Mobile Crisis Service that will align with the federal standards and best practices for these services. Scheduled to

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

open in November of 2024, Connections Health Solutions will expand our current Crisis Intervention services by providing crisis walk in services, urgent behavioral health care, expanded mobile crisis, and up to 23 hours of stabilization time to best support individuals in our region. These services are clearly needed, however sustainable funding is also needed as well as the need for finalized crisis regulations.

In late 2023, Cumberland & Perry counties' MH Office was notified that we had a successful proposal to develop a Regional Long Term Structured Residence (LTSR) with neighboring Franklin & Fulton Counties' MH Program. Funds for this project will be ongoing, yet unless Cost of Living allowances (COLA) become part of the allocation structure, it is worrisome that the new Regional LTSR will also be jeopardized by the lack of adequate funds to sustain it. Staff are working closely with our colleagues in Franklin & Fulton Counties to develop this needed shared program.

DRAFT

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

PART II: PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Two (2) public hearings are required for counties participating in the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG).

1. *Proof of publication* – Legal Notices were placed in several local newspapers in Cumberland and Perry Counties as well as on the Cumberland and Perry County websites to alert county residents of the Public Hearings for the Human Services Plans. As our counties are a joinder for some services, the public hearing notices were made known to residents of both counties including advertisement in the News Sun, Perry County Times, and Duncannon Record. The HSBG plan was presented for public hearing and discussion on August 12, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Cumberland-Perry Community Support Program (CSP) Public Hearing at 253 Penrose Place, Carlisle, in person and via ZOOM; and at the Perry County Commissioners' Meeting on August 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM at the Commissioners' Hearing Room in New Bloomfield, in person and via Web-Ex. Notification of the public hearings was also distributed via email and listservs, and posted on county websites.
 - a. *Please attach a copy of the actual newspaper advertisement(s) for the public hearing(s).* See below for the public hearing notices - an actual newspaper copy of the advertisement as printed was not provided despite our request to do so. Only electronic copies were provided as displayed below.
 - b. *When was the ad published?* For the August 12, 2024 hearing, the ads were published on August , 2024.
 - c. *When was the second ad published?* For the August 19, 2024 hearing, the ads were published on August, 2024.

As Cumberland and Perry Counties are a joinder for Mental Health, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, and Drug & Alcohol Services, an additional hearing was held on August 21, 2024 during the Cumberland County Commissioners' Meeting. Information pertaining to that hearing and public testimony is found in the Cumberland County (CC) Human Service Block Grant plan.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

8/12/2024 Public Hearing Proof of Publication

DRAFT

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

8/19/24 Public Hearing Proof of Publication

DRAFT

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

- 2. Please submit a summary and/or sign-in sheet of each public hearing*

DRAFT

DRAFT

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

PART III: CROSS-COLLABORATION OF SERVICES

For each of the following, please provide a description of how the county administers services collaboratively across categoricals and client populations. In addition, please explain how the county intends to leverage funds to link residents to existing opportunities and/or to generate new opportunities; and provide any updates to the county's collaborative efforts and any new efforts planned for the coming year.

Cross-collaboration is clearly evident within Perry County service providers, especially those receiving funds from the Human Services Block Grant (HSBG). The Perry County Family Service Partnership Board is a clear example of the regular collaboration of many agencies in addressing numerous community needs. A list of collaborative partners is found in Part I. Additional Employment and Housing Collaboration is found in the Cumberland County (CC) HSBG Plan for the joinder services.

1. Employment:

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank works collaboratively around employment opportunities by posting job openings in Perry and Cumberland Counties, offering Literacy Council information which provides GED and training opportunities, and hosting job recruiters.

Perry Human Services connects service recipients with the Perry County Literacy Council, Join Hands Ministry and Tri-County Community Action for assistance in vocational pursuits.

The Perry County Disabled American Veterans office works closely with Join Hands Ministry, New Bloomfield VFW, Eagle House, Perry County Housing Partnership, County Veterans Service Officers (VSO) and Rabbit Transit to access employment opportunities.

Relevant information around employment opportunities and collaborations within the Mental Health or Intellectual Disabilities Programs is also available in Part III of the Cumberland County (CC) plan as those services are a joinder with Perry County.

2. Housing:

Perry Human Services (PHS) provides the Homeless Assistance program (HAP) and collaborates regularly with Perry Housing Partnership, Rental Assistance, Join Hands Ministry and Tri-County Community Action to support individuals with housing needs.

HAP case manager collaborates with a variety of other agencies to coordinate numerous other services for the HAP clients. These agencies are utilized as needed:

- Bread of Life Outreach - BOLO
- Domestic Violence Services for C/P Counties
- Join Hands – Collaborative Ministry
- Local landlords
- Local motel managers (Emergency Shelter lodging)
- Perry County Assistance Office
- Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank
- Perry County Office of Aging

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

- Perry County Rental Assistance Office
- Perry Housing Partnership
- Perry Link to Aging & Disability Resources
- Redevelopment and Housing Authority of Cumberland County
- Social Security Office
- YWCA – Linda House

Perry County has a community collaborative board, Perry County Family Services Partnership Board. Through monthly meetings (1st Thursday), this board serves as the vehicle for coordinated planning and networking as the County continues to streamline and integrate services. PHS Executive Director is a member of the Perry County Family Services Partnership Board.

With regards to housing, Perry Human Services is the only provider for HAP services in the county.

Regarding Emergency Shelter, Perry Human Services is the initial financial provider for limited emergency shelter money. When those funds are depleted, PHS works with local assistance office, Join Hands and local churches for additional funds.

Subsidized housing or Rental Assistance continues to have a waiting period of a year or more before the client becomes eligible for this program. For our low-income clients who do not receive subsidies, we continually see a shortage of affordable housing.

With limited permanent emergency shelter facility in the county, providing emergency shelter for individuals or families is extremely difficult. Covering costs of a couple nights at a local motel really does not solve the problem. Many people calling for emergency shelter have no resources, including transportation and money, and no action plan for what happens next. Putting them in a motel which has no access to any resources or case management is a major concern. The need for an emergency shelter in Perry County remains a serious issue.

Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank works collaboratively making referrals for housing to Perry Housing Partnership, Rental Assistance, and the Homeless Assistance Program at Perry Human Services.

Disabled American Veterans has strong connections with the Perry County Housing Partnership, Perry County Food Bank, Join Hands, New Bloomfield VFW, Eagle House, County VSO, and Rabbit Transit to support individuals with their housing needs.

Tri County Community Action (TCCA) provides family development and parenting education through the Perry County Family Center. TCCA also provides OnTrack and Operation HELP utility assistance through PPL, and works closely with the Perry County Food Bank, Perry County Children & Youth Agency, Join Hands Ministry, County Rental Assistance, Senior Services, and Early Education Centers to support individuals and families in gaining and maintaining self-sufficiency, housing, school-readiness, and employment.

Additional information regarding housing collaborations within the joinder services is available in this section of the CC plan as well as the Supportive Housing chart in the Mental Health section of the CC plan.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

PART IV: HUMAN SERVICES NARRATIVE

CUMBERLAND PERRY MENTAL HEALTH & INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM

In December 1967, a joint Mental Health & Mental Retardation program was established with the Boards of County Commissioners of Cumberland and Perry Counties in compliance with the Mental Health & Mental Retardation Act of 1966. The agency now known as Cumberland-Perry Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Program (C-P MH.IDD) operates as a department of Cumberland County government and serves residents of Cumberland and Perry Counties in need of those treatment services and rehabilitative supports. The county joinder agreement remains in effect today.

As a joinder with Cumberland County, please refer to the Cumberland County plan for information in these sections as the Perry County Commissioners are in agreement with the information presented for these joint services in the Cumberland County (CC) MH and IDD plans.

SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES

The Cumberland-Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission (the Commission) has lead responsibility for planning and administering a continuum of substance use disorder prevention, intervention, and treatment services for Cumberland and Perry County residents. As a result of a longstanding joinder agreement between the Boards of County Commissioners in Cumberland County and Perry County, the Commission operates as a department of Cumberland County government and as one part of a broad system of county human services. The Commission serves as the Single County Authority (SCA) for Cumberland and Perry Counties in fulfillment of state contracts and regulations.

As a joinder with Cumberland County, please refer to the Cumberland County (CC) plan for information in this section as the Perry County Commissioners are in agreement with the information presented for these joint services in the Cumberland County Substance Use Disorder plan.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) assists individuals and families in achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency by stabilizing basic needs for housing through coordination of rental assistance. The emphasis is on prevention and intervention of homelessness.

The goal of HAP is stabilization of housing. HAP assists individuals to:

- maintain an individual in his or her own residence, or,
- in cases where eviction is imminent, assist with transition to alternate housing;
- move people into more stable, affordable housing;
- expedite the movement of people out of shelters and into existing housing.

HAP includes the coordination of supplemental rental assistance and security deposits for eligible clients in Perry County. Perry Human Services (PHS) collaborates with numerous community service agencies in Perry County and the tri-county area. These agencies include emergency shelters, Children and Youth organizations, the County Human Services Office, Social Security Administration, County Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disability (MH/IDD) programs, Join Hands and other social service agencies offering other supportive services. Since clients are referred by agencies and landlords to Perry Human Services, it is important to maintain ongoing communication within this network.

Requests for housing assistance are made to Perry Human Services to avoid duplication in services and to provide more comprehensive planning. Perry Human Services continues to work closely with local agencies to provide a centralized process for emergency assistance to Perry County residents.

The HAP program assists Perry County residents who are experiencing housing problems to assess their current resources and potential for development. For our HAP program, PHS defines "resident" as an individual or family who has been living in the county for a minimum of six months. Assistance to prevent homelessness includes a service plan to develop stability in housing. The plan, goals, support services and client action steps are all developed with the client. The outcome is for client to achieve housing stabilization.

Verification of need occurs at the intake process. Client income eligibility will be at or below 200% of the poverty guidelines. The maximum amount a client may receive within a 24-month period is \$1000 for adult households or \$1500 for families with children. Client financial participation is encouraged, and each client will be individually assessed as to his/her ability to assist with the financial obligations towards security deposit or rent. Any assistance from a public source to assist the client with rent or security deposit will be included. HAP funds will only be used for rent or security deposits. Checks will be disbursed directly to the landlord upon application approval. Repeat clients will be reviewed on an individual basis by the case manager and Executive Director. Approval for partial or maximum assistance will then be at the discretion of the Executive Director. Section 8 and subsidized housing clients may be served if they complete and meet the application requirements and have approval by the Executive Director. The intake process includes documentation that shows the landlord's willingness to continue to rent to the client while the HAP application is being processed.

Client Intake Procedures

Clients are interviewed to determine:

- Nature of the problem

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

- On-going sources of income
- Additional current resources
- Rental history
- Other problems/needs having a relationship to achieving housing stability
- Family composition

A plan is developed to:

- Address immediate housing needs through landlord negotiation, legal remedies, financial resources development or assistance;
- Address long-range housing needs through budget counseling, referrals to appropriate community resources;
- Address client responsibility for self-sufficiency.

Target Populations include:

- (a) The homeless as well as individuals in shelters.
- (b) Clients leaving bridge housing programs.
- (c) Individuals notified of potential homelessness (eviction and code violations)
- (d) Drug and Alcohol clients leaving 90 day treatment programs
- (e) Victims of natural disasters such as fires, floods or storms.

These populations could include persons within the first six months of entry-level employment; individuals on limited low income; veteran's pension recipients; persons receiving public assistance and social security (disability); persons being served by MH/IDD programs.

Eligible clients are individuals or families who:

- (a) Have been housed in a local shelter or bridge-housing program;
- (b) Are financially needy (having incomes at or below 200% of the poverty guidelines) and who are homeless or near homeless:

- Homeless must be residing in:

- group shelter
- domestic violence safe home
- motel paid for with public funds
- mental health, drug or alcohol facility
- jails
- living in condemned building
- living in inadequate housing where conditions are life-threatening (examples-lack of plumbing, heat or utilities, dangerous structural defects)

Homeless clients may also include those families facing foster care placement of their children solely because of lack of housing. This includes the need for housing to allow reunification with children who are in foster care placement. Homeless designation also includes people living with relatives who must be out in a limited time because their presence violates the relative's lease.

- Near homeless

- individuals or families facing eviction
 - families facing foster-care placement of children because of lack of adequate housing or threat of eviction
- (c) Show promise of being able to afford their housing of choice after termination of the Homeless Assistance payment and associated services;
 - (d) Have an agreement with a landlord to rent to them;

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

(e) Need assistance in relocation efforts after a disaster.

Clients may receive financial assistance until the maximum cap is reached. However, clients may remain in the program for as long as they continue to participate in the case management plan and attempt to resolve the identified issues that led to the housing problem. This continued support helps strengthen the effort to stabilize the long-term environment of the client.

Each client (post crisis) will be contacted at six months following discharge to assess additional needs and review support services. Tracking of clients occurs by telephone to client or client's landlord. The majority of supportive services will be provided through the service planning/case management service currently available through Perry Human Services. Any additional support services will be contacted on an as needed basis.

(f) Finding permanent, affordable housing for clients within Perry County continues to be a difficult process. Because of limited housing resources in Perry County, finding housing for an individual has required a concerted effort between the client and the caseworker. Perry Human Services has compiled a listing of landlords. Through this listing and other resources (i.e., newspapers) the caseworker assists the client as he/she looks for housing.

Bridge Housing: Not provided with HAP or HSDF Block Grant Funds. Bridge (Transitional) Housing in Perry County is provided by Perry Housing Partnership which utilizes other funding sources for its transitional housing.

Case Management:

- *Please describe the case management services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families at risk or experiencing homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

Case Management is provided by Perry Human Services (PHS) to clients seeking help who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Beginning with the intake process, case management provides a series of coordinated activities to assist individuals and families to prevent the reoccurrence of homelessness. The level and extent of case management varies with each client and continues through discharge. Case management also includes follow-up with clients who have been discharged. The case manager attempts a two-month follow-up with clients who completed an intake but were not eligible for a rental assistance grant. For clients receiving a rental assistance grant, the case manager contacts the client's landlord or client for a six-month follow-up to assess whether the individual/family continues housing stabilization.

PHS Case Manager works with the clients on budgeting. This can occur through individual budgeting sessions or through a group budgeting class. All clients requesting financial help with rent or security deposit are required to attend either individual or group budgeting sessions before being approved for a housing grant. This service has been very beneficial for our clients in providing instruction on financial management, including use of credit cards and budgeting skills.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of case management services? Please provide a brief summary of case management services results*

As of June 2024, for 2023-2024 fiscal year, 26 intakes have been completed using case management and 22 rental assistance grants have been awarded.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

A two-month follow-up phone contact was made by a housing case manager to 18 intakes. For those 18 clients, all reported having stable housing, whether that means living with family/friends or in their own place. 10 reported owing back rent, 5 were living with friends or family.

- *Please describe any proposed changes to case management services for FY 24-25.*

For this year we believe there will be an increase in case management service hours. Our agency experienced some changes in case management staffing this past fiscal year. Because of the changes, many calls were missed and/or fell through the cracks. We are on the road to expanding our case management services, by incorporating budgeting classes. Clients may be required to attend said budgeting classes to receive services. With review of the FY 23-24 stats, we anticipate that the need for payee services will continue to require additional case management hours throughout the 24-25 fiscal year.

Rental Assistance:

- *Please describe the rental assistance services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families experiencing or at risk for homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

Rental Assistance provides payment for rents and/or security deposits to prevent and/or end homelessness or near homelessness for individuals/families who qualify for grants.

Perry Human Services defines "resident" as an individual or family who has been living in the county for a minimum of six months. The length of time a client will remain in the program will depend on immediate needs and client participation in the development and follow-through of a case plan to resolve identified issues leading to housing problems. The plan, goals, support services and client action steps are developed with the client. The outcome is for client to achieve housing stabilization.

Requests for rental assistance are made to Perry Human Services to avoid duplication of services and to provide more comprehensive planning. PHS case manager works closely with local agencies to centralize the process for emergency shelter and housing assistance to Perry County residents.

Community service agencies that the PHS case manager collaborates with for clients includes but is not limited to Perry County Assistance Office, Rental Assistance Office, Perry Housing Partnership, Social Security Administration, County Mental Health/Intellectual Developmental Disabilities programs, Join Hands Ministries, and other social service agencies offering supportive services. Since clients are referred by agencies and landlords to Perry Human Services, it is important to maintain ongoing communication within this network.

As previously discussed in the Case Management section, rental assistance clients are required to participate in budgeting sessions to receive a rental assistance grant. Case manager also conducts a two-month follow-up contact for rental assistance clients not receiving a grant and a six-month follow-up for clients who receive a grant.

Verification of need occurs at the intake process. Client income eligibility will be at or below 200% of the poverty guidelines. The maximum amount a client may receive will be \$1000 for adult households or \$1500 for families with children within a 24-month period. Client financial participation is encouraged, and each

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

client will be individually assessed as to his/her ability to assist with the financial obligations towards security deposit or rent. Any assistance from a public source to assist the client with rent or security deposit will be included. Rental Assistance funds will only be used for rent or security deposits. Checks will be disbursed directly to the landlord upon application approval. Repeat clients will be addressed and reviewed on an individual basis by the case manager and Executive Director. Approval for partial or maximum assistance will then be at the discretion of the Executive Director. Section 8 and subsidized housing clients may be served if they complete and meet the application requirements and have approval by the Executive Director. The intake process includes verification of eviction and documentation that shows the landlord's willingness to continue to rent to the client while the HAP application is being processed.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of rental assistance services? Please provide a brief summary of rental assistance services results.*

As of June 2024 for 2023-2024 fiscal year, 26 intakes have been completed using case management and 22 rental assistance grants have been awarded.

- *Please describe any proposed changes to rental assistance services for FY 24-25.*

Plan is to expand services to offer budgeting classes to clients that are seeking rental assistance.

Emergency Shelter:

- *Please describe the emergency shelter services offered. Include achievements and improvements in services to families at risk or experiencing homelessness, as well as unmet needs and gaps.*

This service assists individuals and families who are homeless and in immediate need of emergency housing. Perry County does not have a permanent emergency shelter. The Emergency Shelter Program (ESP) allows Perry Human Services to cover the cost of a room at a local motel for homeless individuals and families for a limited amount of nights.

Because HAP funds have been reduced significantly over the past several years, ESP funds have also been reduced significantly and are very limited. All clients requesting emergency shelter are screened as to their immediate need and whether other emergency living arrangements are available. Emergency Shelter is limited to no more than seven consecutive days unless exception request approved by DHS.

Individuals with income are expected to pay as much of the cost as possible. Those who are without resources are assisted in acquiring increased financial stability. PHS may work with these individuals with the long-range goal of permanent housing and a stable environment. Emergency shelter clients may be referred to the Perry Housing Partnership for Transitional Housing and/or other shelters outside the county.

- *How does the county evaluate the efficacy of emergency shelter services? Please provide a brief summary of emergency shelter services results.*

For 2023-2024, as of June 2024, 0 emergency screenings were completed, via phone or telehealth, and 0 nights of shelter were given.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

- *Please describe any proposed changes to emergency shelter services for FY 24-25.*

There are no changes proposed for 2024-2025.

- *If emergency shelter services are not offered, please provide an explanation of why services are not offered.*

Perry Human Services was unable to find a suitable location that was willing to contract to provide shelter services.

Innovative Supportive Housing Services: No Other Housing Supports are provided through HAP or HSDF Block Grant funds.

There is limited Transitional Housing available which is provided through Perry Housing Partnership, but these services are not funded via HAP or HSDF Block Grant Funds.

Homeless Management Information Systems:

- *Please describe the current status of the county's implementation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Does every Homeless Assistance provider enter data into HMIS?*

Perry Human Services (PHS) HAP case manager has been trained in HMIS, but the agency is not currently using HMIS as part of its data collection. PHS continues to utilize this agency's own data collection system.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

HUMAN SERVICES AND SUPPORTS/HUMAN SERVICES DEVELOPMENT FUND

For each of these categories (Adult Services, Aging Services, Children and Youth Services, Generic Services and Specialized Services), please use the fields and dropdowns to describe how the county intends to utilize HSDF funds on allowable expenditures.

ADULT SERVICES:

Program Name: **Perry Human Services (PHS) Adult Services Case Management**

Description of Services: PHS Adult Services Program utilizes HSDF funds for Case Management for the homeless assistance program that assists individuals/families in achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency by stabilizing basic needs for housing through coordination of rental assistance. Case Management assists individuals in identifying areas of need and then developing and implementing service plans to meet those needs. Service planning and case management services are a series of coordinated staff activities. These services are designed to determine with client input what services are needed and to coordinate the provision of these services. Case Management can include a wide range of activities. An initial step always includes a thorough exploration of the service needs of the individual and discussions with the client of the available and acceptable service options. Once the extent of need is determined, a service plan is prepared in cooperation with and in agreement with the client. What follows is the involvement of the case manager to assure the prompt arrangement of services using those providers acceptable to the client, and then continue to network with all providers serving the client. This often requires personal advocacy for the client to ensure the satisfactory delivery of service and monitoring the continuity and continued appropriateness of the services. As with all PHS services a follow-up is conducted whenever possible to ensure client satisfaction and to offer additional services as needed.

Service Category: Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

Program Name: **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Transportation Program serving Perry County Veterans 18 – 59**

Description of Services: HSDF provides funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing transportation for adult Veterans in need of free Transportation to their medical, mental, and dental appointments throughout Perry County, PA. as well as free transportation for adult Veterans to pick up needed food (50-lbs) from Perry County's Military Food Share program, at the New Bloomfield VFW, the last Thursday of every month. Additionally, we make stops to and from these appointments to allow our adult Veterans to go to bank, grocery stores, etc. to meet their basic needs, not met through other sources.

Service Category: Transportation (Passenger) – Activities which enable individuals to travel to and from community facilities to receive social and medical service, or otherwise promote independent living. The service is provided only if there are no other appropriate resources.

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

Program Name: **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Veterans in Need (VIN) Program 18- 59**

Description of Services: Request HSDF funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing financial assistance to adult Veterans and their families not able to utilize other services available. Each client is screened based on their income versus expenses and screened to determine eligibility. We use a VIN application form submitted through Perry County Veteran Service Officer with all bills attached. We have at least 4 VIN committee members review and approve or disapprove request. We then pay bills directly to billing agency and not to individuals. Financial emergencies and hardships we pay as related to financial emergencies due to sudden unemployment without compensation, accidents, car repairs, unable to pay utilities, out of oil in winter and no funds, out of food, house burnt down, etc. We refer them to other Perry County agencies such as Food Bank, social services, housing partnership, Join Hands, American Legions or Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc. We exhaust other avenues and then we review request for assistance. We do not use funding for hardships resulting from unfavorable actions such as substance abuse, DUI, court costs, etc.

We partner with several Perry County agencies such as Perry County Housing Partnership, the Eagle House, Office of Aging, Food Bank, Social Services, Counseling, Join Hands, American Legions, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.

Service Category: Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

AGING SERVICES:

Program Name: **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Transportation Program serving Perry County Veterans 60+**

Description of Services: HSDF provides funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing transportation, including the majority of disabled Senior Veterans, in need of free Transportation to their medical, mental, and dental appointments throughout state of PA. As well as free transportation for Veterans, which are primarily disabled, home-bound Senior Veterans, to have food (50-lbs) from Perry County's Military Food Share program, on the last Thursday of every month delivered to their homes. We also make stops to and from their appointments to allow our Senior Veterans to go to bank, grocery stores, etc. to meet their basic needs, not met through other sources.

Service Category: Transportation (Passenger) - Activities which enable individuals to travel to and from community facilities to receive social and medical service, or otherwise promote independent living.

Program Name: **Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 49 Veterans in Need (VIN) Program 60+**

Description of Services: Request HSDF funding through DAV Chapter 49 for providing financial assistance to Senior Veterans and their families not able to utilize other services available. Each client is screened based on their income vice expenses and screened to determine eligibility. We use a VIN application form submitted through Perry County Veteran Service Officer with all bills attached. We have a Chair, Terri Lynn, with at

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

least 4 VIN committee members review and approve or disapprove request. We then pay bills directly to billing agency and not to individuals. Financial emergencies and hardships we pay as related to financial emergencies due to sudden unemployment without compensation, accidents, car repairs, unable to pay utilities, out of oil in winter, out of food, etc. (We also refer them to other Perry County agencies if we cannot assist or to supplement what we can give.) We exhaust other avenues and then we review request for assistance. We have trained other Veteran Organizations to start their own Veterans in Need program.

Service Category: Service Planning/Case Management – a series of coordinative staff activities to determine with the client what services are needed and to coordinate their timely provision by the provider and other resources in the community.

SPECIALIZED SERVICES:

HSDf funds are utilized to provide specialized services through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank and Perry Human Services.

Program Name: Neighbor Helping Neighbor Food Bank

Description of Services: We are dedicated to provide supplemental food services for seniors, children, individuals, and families within the County who are food insecure. Located at 300 A South Carlisle St, New Bloomfield 17068, this emergency food pantry offers to help supplement the food budget of qualified Perry County households. Our mission remains unchanged. The HSDf grant is essential in helping us meet the food needs of our community.

Program Name: Representative Payee Service

Description of Services: Provided by Perry Human Services Adult Service Program, this Representative Payee Service is provided to individuals who cannot effectively manage their own financial obligations. Reasons for this need may include mental and physical disadvantages as well as lack of skill and education. Perry Human Services addresses this need through case management. This includes developing a workable budget and budget counseling, agency networking to provide all available services, applications for financial assistance where needed and establishing and managing bank accounts. The service provides accountability to the Social Security Administration and the Perry County Board of Assistance for the use of these monies. Case Management includes re-determination to ensure revenues and services continue without interruption. Types of clients receiving Representative Payee Services include adults with IDD living independently and those individuals unable to financially manage their households resulting in a debtor situation. Many of our Representative Payee clients have been with PHS for many years and been able to maintain living in the community with this support.

Program Name: Join Hands Ministry, Inc's Financial Literacy Program

Description of Services: Join Hands Ministry, Inc. is a collaborative community outreach program providing direction, intervention and support to persons facing a variety of daily living challenges in Perry County. Financial Management workshops are available and necessary to support good financial decision-making. Our financial literacy program provides education and support to individuals on budgeting, savings, debt

PERRY COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BLOCK GRANT PLAN 2024-2025

management, and financial planning. This will also include case management to the individuals participating in the financial workshops.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION:

HSDf is not utilized for interagency coordination in our county.

DRAFT

DRAFT