Chester County, Pennsylvania
Annual Report Summary
December 31, 2012
Prepared by the Office of the Controller
Valentino F. DiGiorgio III, Esq. Controller
To the residents of Chester County:

I am pleased and excited to present to the citizens of Chester County our eighth, and my final, Annual Report Summary for the Fiscal Year ended 2012. The information contained in this Summary is a condensed and simplified overview of the County of Chester’s audited 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and presents selected basic information about the County’s revenues, spending, and demographics in an informal, easy to understand format.

This Annual Report Summary is unaudited and excludes many material disclosures, financial statements, schedules and notes to the financial statements found in the County’s CAFR. Readers desiring more detailed financial information can obtain the full 162 page document on the County’s website at www.chesco.org under “Controller” “Comprehensive Annual Financial Report”.

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve you as Controller of our great County Government. During my two terms as Controller, we have seen many exciting changes in County government and weathered a terrible financial crisis. We earned our AAA bond rating during these years (a rating that was just confirmed), thanks to the great work of our County Commissioners. We also had to maintain our services to the citizens of Chester County as real estate tax revenues declined after the financial calamity of 2008. This took a great deal of work by our County department heads and some sacrifice by our county employees, who suffered no or minimal raises over the past 5 years and who worked harder to deliver services more efficiently with fewer staff.

I want to thank the County Commissioners with whom I have worked over the past 8 years for their dedication and leadership. I also want to thank the outstanding and hard working staff in my office. It has been my honor to serve with you during these past years. But most of all, I want to thank you, the residents of Chester County, for allowing me to serve you and our county government.

Please explore online resources (such as those on www.chesco.org) and contact your elected officials to express your views on the direction of our nation, state and county.

Sincerely,

Valentino F. DiGiorgio III
Controller, County of Chester
Welcome to Chester County!

The County of Chester, one of Pennsylvania’s original three counties, was named by William Penn in 1682. It is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, in the scenic Brandywine Valley approximately 30 miles west of Philadelphia. Chester County originally included what is now Delaware County, parts of Lancaster County and Berks County.

In 1784 the county seat was relocated from its then location, the City of Chester, to a more centralized location, the town of Turk’s Head. In 1788 the name of the town was changed from Turk’s Head to its current name – West Chester. The first courthouse was completed in 1786. In 1847 a new courthouse, designed by Thomas N. Walter, was constructed to handle the increasing population. In 1992 the County consolidated and expanded its human services capacity with the opening of the Government Services Center. Chester County expanded its judicial capacity with the 2008 completion of the Justice Center and its administrative capacity with the 2011 completion of the West Market Street building.

The County was an important stop along the underground railroad. Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) established routes within the County headed north from Maryland and Delaware.

The County has 73 political subdivisions, consisting of one third-class city (Coatesville), 15 boroughs, and 57 townships. The County has a population of approximately 506,575 and covers 782 square miles, including some of the most productive agricultural land in Pennsylvania.

The median income of the County’s households is the highest in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Chester County is one of the leading counties in home ownership as well. According to the 2010 census, Chester County has the most educated population in Pennsylvania.

Population and employment has dramatically grown in Chester County during the past thirty years as suburban development continues to spread westward and as businesses grow along the Route 1 and 202 corridors.

Did You Know?
There are only three Chester Counties in all of the United States. Including our own county in Pennsylvania, there is one in South Carolina and one in Tennessee.
Who we are...

People

Chester County’s 2012 population estimate was 506,575. This is an increase of .5% from 2011 and an increase of 10.8% from ten years prior.

- 27.1% are under 20
- 17.1% are 20-34
- 29.0% are 35-54
- 13.0% are 55-64
- 13.8% are over 65

The median age of County residents increased in 2012 to 39.9 years old, with the largest increase in the 55 and over population.

Education

Chester County citizens continue to be well educated. There are 14 public school districts in Chester County providing elementary and secondary education, as well as many private, parochial, and charter schools. Chester County also is proud to be the home to seven universities and colleges. The 2011 estimate of the people over the age of 25, 92.6% have graduated high school with 67.6% going on for additional education. This is higher than the national average of 85.9% with 57.5% going on for additional education. 46.6% of County residents have a Bachelor’s or higher degrees which is significantly higher than the national average of 28.5%.

Housing

The average Chester County household size was unchanged in 2012 at 2.7 people. The average family size of 3.2 people. In 2012, 95% of all housing units in Chester County were occupied. The median monthly rent, encompassing all types of rental units, in the County was unchanged from 2011 at $1,119. This is higher than the Commonwealth median of $786 and the national median of $871. The average value of owner occupied housing in the County was $321,500 with 73% of owners having a mortgage. 61.1% of the housing in Chester County are single family homes. 62.9% of the housing was built after 1970 with 72.9% of housing units have 3 or more bedrooms.
Business and Transportation

Chester County continues to be a world leader in the cultivated mushroom industry as well as being the Commonwealth leader in the value of agricultural crops. Chester County is also a transportation hub for many manufacturers and distributors.

Pennsylvania’s Keystone Corridor is a 105 mile rail corridor with 12 stations, servicing 1.3 million passengers in 2012. Chester County works very closely with SEPTA, PennDOT, Amtrak, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and municipalities on improving Chester County’s train stations.

Income

Chester County’s 2011 average household income, of $79,160 for all industries, is well above the National average of $50,502. Chester County is a very affluent county with 52.2% of its households making $75,000 or above, as compared with the national average of 32.5%.

Employment

In 2012, Chester County continued to enjoy a lower unemployment rate than either the Commonwealth or the nation. Historically, Chester County has been in the top five counties for employment rates in Pennsylvania. Along with low unemployment comes a high number of residents that are covered with health insurance. 91.5% of Chester County residents have health insurance coverage with the majority covered under private health insurance.

Health

Where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors – ranging from individual health behaviors, education and jobs, to quality of health care, to the environment. Knowing how healthy the community is can help leaders focus on projects and initiatives to better serve the community. Please see the chart on page 13 for a comparison of Chester County rankings to the surrounding four counties.

- Health Behaviors (tobacco use, diet/exercise, alcohol use) - ranked 1st in all Pennsylvania counties
- Clinical Care (access to care, quality of care) - ranked 6th
- Social & Economic Factors (employment, safety, income, education, family/social support) - ranked 1st
- Morbidity (birth outcomes, health-related quality of life) - ranked 4th

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, PA Department of Labor, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
Form of Government

Chester County is organized under the commission form of government. A three person board of commissioners is elected every four years on an at-large basis. The board conducts its business at regularly scheduled public meetings. Information on these meetings, including times, locations, agendas, and minutes, can be found on our website at www.chesco.org.

The Board of Commissioners are joined by two additional elected officials in conducting the County’s financial affairs. The County Controller supervises the fiscal affairs of the County and is the principal accountant and auditor. The Treasurer serves primarily to receive, record and deposit most County funds. The remaining administrative, quasi-judicial, and judicial elected officials in the County are Coroner, Clerk of Courts, District Attorney, Judge (15), Jury Commissioner (2), Prothonotary, Recorder of Deeds, Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, and Sheriff.

Human Services Provided

The human services provided by the County are, in large part, funded by grants received from the Commonwealth and federal government. In 2012, human services made up 51% of the County expenditures. Please see page 6 for a graph on the County’s human service expenditures.

Department of Aging: The primary goals of the department are to develop, coordinate and support comprehensive community based services which assist persons age 60 and older to remain independent and self sufficient in the community.

Child Care Information Services: CCIS has been designated as the hub for child care information in Chester County. CCIS manages the subsidized child day care program, provides resource and referral services, and can help families find a childcare provider that best meets their needs.

Children, Youth & Family: The mission of the Department of Children, Youth and Families is to utilize high-quality, comprehensive social services that strengthen the family’s ability to provide for the safety and well-being of each child.

Drug & Alcohol: To provide effective, high quality alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services for the citizens of Chester County in order to prevent the onset of substance abuse and addiction wherever possible and, where it does exist, to mitigate its effects on individuals, families, and communities.

Managed Behavioral Health Care: MBHC provides services to all eligible County residents in a coordinated and collaborative manner. To best meet our residents’ needs, the department ensures that decisions are made on a sound planning basis; measures are put in place to maintain high quality services; and the statutes and regulations are followed consistently by and between the different services comprising the human services system.

Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities: Every Chester County citizen experiencing mental illness or developmental disability may access services and natural supports that foster recovery and integration into a greater community where they are valued and enjoy fulfilling lives.
Did You Know?

Chester County remains a 3rd Class county. This means the County’s population is between 225,000 and 500,000 residents as of the 2010 Census. The County population was estimated at 506,575 residents in 2012.

In 2012, human services made up 51% of Chester County’s total expenditures. The following graph illustrates the percentage breakdown of the County’s human services.

- Mngd Behavioral Health Care 31%
- CYF Fund 15%
- MH/IDD Fund 14%
- Geriatric Center 13%
- Community Development 9%
- Subsidized Child Day Care 7%
- Health Department 5%
- Office of Aging Fund 3%
- Drug and Alcohol Fund 2%
- Human Services Fund 1%

Services Provided

General Government – Services provided by the County for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole, including the administrative departments such as the Office of the Controller, Commissioners, Treasurer, and Recorder of Deeds.

Judicial Government – Services provided by the County to the courts including the Court of Common Pleas and the following row offices: District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, Prothonotary, and Sheriff.

Public Safety – Services provided by the County for the safety and security of the public including emergency management, the 911 communications system, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services.

Corrections – Services used to support the prison, Adult and Juvenile Probation and other correctional programs.

Public Works – Services for maintaining and rehabilitating the 97 County owned bridges.

Human Services – Services with the purpose of promoting the general health and well being of the community as a whole, including public health, the human services funds, and the Pocopson Home, a long-term nursing facility.

Culture & Recreation – Services to provide County residents opportunities and facilities for cultural and recreational programs including libraries and parks.

Conservation & Development – Programs provided by the County to achieve a satisfactory living environment for the community as a whole including: planning, water resources, agricultural development, and soil conservation.
Your Real Estate Dollars

In 2011, on average, Chester County residents paid $2,912.04 in taxes per $100,000 of their home’s assessed value. Of that assessment, only 13%, or $396.50, were County taxes. The chart to the right illustrates how your local real estate taxes are used.

County real estate taxes funded 39% or $143.4 million of the County’s activities for 2012. 63% or $248.7 million of the County’s spending is funded by Commonwealth and federal grants, charges for services, and interest from investments. The illustration below shows how each dollar of your County real estate tax bill is spent.

The General Fund

The General Fund is the County’s primary operating fund. It accounts for the general operating activities of the County, except for those accounted for in another fund. The general tax revenues of the County as well as other resources received and not designated for a special purpose are accounted for in the General Fund. The General Fund of the County is made up of 37 departments.

This graph shows, on average, how much a resident in Chester County pays for each of the top 12 General Fund department’s services, net of revenue earned by that department. Please see our chart on page 16 for how we compare to the surrounding counties.
Financial Position

The Financial Position Statement, known in accounting terms as the "Statement of Net Position", is designed to provide a picture of the County's financial position as of the end of the year. The net position figure represents the amount that the County owns versus the amount owed.

(Expressed in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$138,735</td>
<td>$144,469</td>
<td>$156,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>940</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>1,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>31,364</td>
<td>32,985</td>
<td>34,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
<td>349,969</td>
<td>348,748</td>
<td>357,713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>7,117</td>
<td>7,089</td>
<td>4,614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>528,125</td>
<td>534,516</td>
<td>555,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>30,875</td>
<td>32,277</td>
<td>27,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Def. inflows of resources</td>
<td>22,064</td>
<td>26,893</td>
<td>20,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other liabilities</td>
<td>3,322</td>
<td>3,462</td>
<td>3,897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term liabilities</td>
<td>521,121</td>
<td>524,076</td>
<td>559,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td>577,382</td>
<td>586,708</td>
<td>611,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Position</strong>*</td>
<td>$(49,257)</td>
<td>$(52,192)</td>
<td>$(56,721)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Negative net position is due to the cumulative effect of debt used to finance capital assets titled to others. Grants were provided to land conservancies for open space and to municipalities for park development and community development projects, such as Streetscape improvements and water and sewer infrastructure.

Assets:
- **Cash** is the amount of funds held by the County in checking, savings, and cash on demand certificates with original maturity terms of less than 90 days.
- **Investments** are funds not needed within 90 days and are invested to earn interest in accordance with the County’s investment policy.
- **Receivables** represent the amounts owed to the County and are expected to be collected within the next twelve months.
- **Capital assets** includes land, land improvements, buildings, building improvements, machinery and equipment, infrastructure, agricultural easements and construction-in-process.

Liabilities:
- **Accounts payable** represents amounts owed to vendors and employees where the expected payment is to be made within twelve months.
- **Deferred inflows of resources** is monies received by the County for a service yet to be rendered. As the service is rendered, this balance will be reduced and recognized as revenue.
- **Long-term liabilities** are the balance owed by the County for compensated absences, health care, workers’ compensation, and long-term debt.

**Did You Know?**

In July of 2012, the County received a Prescription Discount Card Outstanding Performance Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo), for its implementation and promotion of the prescription discount service available to all Chester County citizens. The County’s award was based on the greatest increase (30 percent) in the number of prescriptions filled by Chester County residents. From 2009 to 2012, more than $415,000 in costs were saved by residents who used the free prescription discount card.
**Dollars In...**

**Revenues Taken In**

(Expressed in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Program Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>$62,914</td>
<td>$62,668</td>
<td>$62,184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grants &amp; contrib.</td>
<td>177,460</td>
<td>177,613</td>
<td>169,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital grants &amp; contrib.</td>
<td>6,753</td>
<td>3,365</td>
<td>11,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General Revenues:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>144,447</td>
<td>144,013</td>
<td>143,414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment earnings</td>
<td>1,342</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,532</td>
<td>5,787</td>
<td>3,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$395,448</td>
<td>$394,671</td>
<td>$392,094</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Trends of Revenue by Activity**

(Expressed in thousands)

**Major Initiatives**

The following highlights some of the County’s current projects.

**Economic Development Partners Initiative (EDPI):** With funding support from the Chester County Commissioners, the Chester County Economic Development Council has introduced an initiative with the purpose of igniting a generation of new corporate investment, tax ratables and the creation of new, permanent full-time jobs. The EDPI is focusing on strategic communities and locations within Chester County, operating with municipalities, “grass roots” planning and action groups, local job-ready workforces and matching public-private capital investment.

**Transportation:** Transportation plays a major role in maintaining economic vitality in Chester County. The County supports transportation projects throughout the county. The Commissioners and staff of the Planning Commission work closely with PennDOT and SEPTA to obtain funding for important projects including: Coatesville’s Amtrak Train Station, Parkesburg and Downingtown Train Stations, US 202 Section 300 reconstruction and widening, and PA Turnpike Slip Ramps at PA Route 29.
Major Initiatives

The following highlights some of the County’s current projects.

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure: Purchase next generation technology to replace existing desktops. Rather than deploying new desktops every 3 years on lease, DCIS will purchase thin clients or similar lightweight devices (which could last 7+ years) and run the desktops on servers in the data center.

Exton Library: Modify the vestibule area by extending the entry way. This will provide more separation between the two sets of automatic doors, giving one set of doors a chance to close while the other set is opening. Replace light fixtures over the stacks with 48-inch dome lighting. Replace carpet in certain areas of the 1st and 2nd floors.

Trails: Construction of a quarter mile trail extension and a new commuter trailhead facility at the Chester Valley Trail. Developing of one additional mile of publicly accessible trail per year. Completion of Chester Valley Trail - Phase I & III and beginning Phase II.

Open Space: The mission of the Open Space Preservation Department is to administer funds and preserve land for public benefit, operate in a manner that maximizes transparency, and provide technical assistance and information services.
How Strong is the County's Financial Position?

Chester County’s financial position remains very strong. The county maintains sufficient net financial resources to protect against shortfalls.

The County’s AAA/Aaa debt ratings were reaffirmed in 2012 from the three rating agencies: Standard & Poor’s, Fitch Ratings, and Moody Investors Services, Inc. Chester County is one of only 24 (of 3,140) counties in the United States to have AAA/Aaa bond ratings from all three major rating agencies. AAA/Aaa rating has and will continue to result in lower debt service on County debt - saving taxpayers money.

The County’s fund balance policy establishes the objective to strive to maintain an unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund of not less than two months (2/12) of the subsequent year’s budgeted expenditures. Included in the unrestricted fund balance will be a Working Capital Reserve. Ten percent of subsequent year’s General Fund budgeted expenditures will be assigned as Working Capital.

In 2012, the County had $15.7 million in the working capital reserve, which represents 10 percent of the 2013 Expenditures budget. The County’s General Fund 2012 year end unrestricted fund balance of $38.7 million represents approximately 29.1 percent of General Fund revenues and more than 3.5 months of expenditures and transfers to other County funds.

Because of the County’s strong financial position, it is able to issue general obligation notes and bonds to help fund the County’s Capital Improvement and Open Space Projects at the lowest rates of interest available to county government.
General Obligation Debt

General obligation bonds and notes are long-term instruments which are repaid from the County’s general revenue sources.

Under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Local Government Unit Debt Act, the borrowing capacity or legal limit for non-electoral debt is three hundred percent of the borrowing base. Three hundred percent of the borrowing base as of December 31, 2012 is $1.3 billion. Total debt outstanding as of December 31, 2012 was $518 million, leaving $770.4 million debt capacity remaining.

On August 30, 2012, the County issued General Obligation Bonds, Series of 2012 in the amount of $37,180,000. Proceeds from the issue were used to fund the County’s capital program.

For more detailed information on the County’s long-term liabilities, please see our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2012.

The County’s Future Debt Payments

Shown below are the annual debt principal payments for the next five years and thereafter in five-year increments on long-term debt outstanding as of December 31, 2012 for the County as a whole.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Payment*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$10,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$14,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$16,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$17,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$20,735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2022</td>
<td>$119,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023-2027</td>
<td>$146,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2028-2032</td>
<td>$159,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2033</td>
<td>$13,065</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*expressed in thousands

Know Your Numbers

Chester County continues to earn national awards for both its financial reporting and budgeting - 31 years for the Controller prepared audited comprehensive annual financial statements and 19 years for the Finance prepared, Commissioner approved, annual budget. Please visit the County’s website at www.chesco.org to view or download these documents.

Did You Know?

In September 2012, Chester County was selected by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare as one of 20 counties in the state to participate in the Human Services Block Grant program. The new program was implemented to provide counties with flexibility to fund their human services programs in a way that best serves their communities through seven funding sources: Mental Health Community Programs, Intellectual Disabilities Community Base, County Child Welfare Special Grants, Homeless Assistance Program, Act 152, Behavioral Health Sciences Initiative and Human Services Development Fund.
How does Chester County Compare?

The following graphs and charts compare Chester County with our four Pennsylvania neighbors; Lancaster, Berks, Montgomery and Delaware Counties. By using per resident comparisons, Chester County is easily matched up to our neighbors. Chester County compares favorably to its neighbors in Population Density, Real Estate Taxes, and various other indicators.

Health Outcomes/Health Factors

Where we live matters to our health. People who live in communities with ample park and recreation space are more likely to exercise, which reduces heart disease risk. People who live in communities with smoke-free laws are less likely to smoke or to be exposed to second-hand smoke, which reduces lung cancer risk.

Programs and policies guide health factors, which in turn affect health outcomes. In this model, health outcomes are measures that describe the current health status of a county. These health outcomes are influenced by a set of health factors. These health factors and their outcomes may also be affected by community-based programs and policies designed to alter their distribution in the community. Counties can improve health outcomes by addressing all health factors with effective, evidence-based programs and policies.

Chester County has been ranked, for the second year in a row, as the second healthiest county in Pennsylvania, according to a study published in 2012 by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The study placed Chester County at the top in a number of categories, including health outcomes (blue on the graph to the right) and health factors (red on the graph to the right). The study looked at a number of factors, including the length and quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors and the physical environment.

Source: County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin
How does Chester County Compare?

This graph shows population density (the number of people per square mile), as of July 1, 2012, of Chester County as compared with neighboring counties. As Chester County experiences continued development, it is important to implement strategies that will continue to protect our natural resources, create jobs, and provide healthy lifestyle choices for all county residents. Chester County strives to keep our population density in existing developed areas through our Open Space preservation plan and Landscapes2 thus reducing sprawl, urban decay, traffic congestion, and environmental deterioration. Please see our Major Initiatives on page 9.

The unemployment rate is calculated as a percentage by dividing the number of unemployed individuals by all individuals currently in the labor force. Despite continuing national economic problems, Chester County’s unemployment rate was well below that of the nation, the Commonwealth and even neighboring counties. The County enjoyed the second lowest unemployment rate in Pennsylvania with Bradford County having the lowest, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The County’s unemployment rate decreased slightly following the trend of the national, Commonwealth and neighboring counties also having a decrease in the number of unemployed.

**Population Density per Square Mile**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Population Density per Square Mile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 Co. Average</td>
<td>1,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berks</td>
<td>483</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>1,674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>3,052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

**2012 Average Unemployment Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Unemployment Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Berks</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics*
How does Chester County Compare?

One of many challenges continuing to face the County is the reduction of Commonwealth funding for human service programs. The Commonwealth provides most of the funding to the County for these mandated services. In the 2011-2012 fiscal year, the Commonwealth continued the reduction of funding for human services and judicial funding. Chester County Real Estate Taxes as a higher percentage of total revenues. Despite the continued decreases in funding by the Commonwealth, Chester County Real Estate Tax rates did not increase.

It is said that a measure of a civilization is how it cares for its most disabled and disadvantaged and how well it protects its citizens. Along with caring comes the good effective management of funds and resources to get the programs to those that need them the most. Compared with its neighbors, Chester County spends slightly above the median, leveraging important Federal and State grants to provide healthy communities and also to protect and serve.

Compared with its neighbors, Chester County spends slightly above the median leveraging important Federal and State grants to provide healthy communities and also to protect and serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Human Service &amp; Public Safety Expenditures per Resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berks</td>
<td>$34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>$305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>$341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$333</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Listed County’s CAFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Human Service &amp; Public Safety Expenditures per Resident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berks</td>
<td>$62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>$51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>$24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>$22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Listed County’s CAFR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Real Estate Taxes as a Percent of Total Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Berks</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>33.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Listed County’s CAFR
How does Chester County Compare?

The General Fund is the County’s primary operating fund. With the exception of expenses accounted for in other funds, the General Fund accounts for the general operating activities of the County. The General Fund accounts for the general tax revenues of the County as well as the receipt of other funding sources not designated for a special purpose. Chester County compares favorably to its neighbors in this area. Please see page 7 for more information on Chester County’s General Fund, including a per capita chart of the top 12 General Fund department’s services, net of revenue earned by that department. To see the full breakdown of the General Fund expenditures please see our full CAFR.

The General Fund has several types of expenditures including, but not limited to Judicial Government and General Government. The chart below highlights Chester County’s Judicial and General Government spending in the General Fund as compared to our neighbors. General government includes Commissioners, Controller, Treasurer, Voter Services, and others. Judicial Government includes the District Attorney, Court Administration, District Justice Administration, Sheriff, and others. To see a full list of the General Fund departments please see our full CAFR.
Chester County Culture & Arts

FESTIVALS & ACTIVITIES
Restaurant Festival
Kennett Square’s Mushroom Festival
Devon Horse Show
Kimberton Fair
Plantation Field International Horse Trials and Fair
Goshen Country Fair

PARKS AND TRAILS
French Creek State Park
Brandywine Battlefield
Marsh Creek State Park
Hopewell Furnace
Chester Valley Trail

MUSEUMS & ARTS
Brandywine River Museum
Chester County Historical Society
American Helicopter Museum
Longwood Gardens
People’s Light & Theatre Company
Esherick Wharton Museum
Chester County
Business & Education

LARGEST EMPLOYERS
Vanguard Group
QVC, Inc.
Siemens Medical Solutions USA, Inc
County of Chester
Giant Food Stores LLC
Main Line Hospitals
Chester County Hospital
PA State System of Higher Education
The Devereux Foundation
Chester County Intermediate Unit

LARGEST TAXPAYERS
Liberty Property Ltd. Partnership
Hankin Group
Exton Square, Inc.
Horatio Realty Trust
Chesterbrook Partners

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
Delaware County Community College
West Chester University
Immaculata University
Cheyney University
Lincoln University
Valley Forge Christian College
The School of Graduate Professional Studies – Penn State Great Valley
Fraud Hotline

Did you know that Chester County has a fraud hotline? To confidentially report suspected waste, fraud and abuse in Chester County government:

- **On the internet** – go to the Controller’s webpage at [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) and click on the [Waste, Fraud & Abuse Hotline](http://www.chesco.org) link.
- **E-mail** the Controller at [ControllerInfo@chesco.org](mailto:ControllerInfo@chesco.org)
- **Call** the Controller’s Hotline at 610-344-5912
- **Mail** your information to:

  Fraud Hotline
  Office of the Controller
  313 West Market Street, Suite 6302
  PO Box 2748
  West Chester, PA 19380-0091