



Chester County Library System

# County of Chester Pennsylvania

## Annual Report Summary For the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Prepared by the Office of the Controller  
**Margaret Reif, Controller**



# COUNTY OF CHESTER OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

313 WEST MARKET STREET, SUITE 6302, P.O. BOX 2748, WEST CHESTER, PA 19380-0991  
TELEPHONE: (610) 344-6155 FAX: (610) 344-6750

MARGARET REIF  
CONTROLLER



To the residents of Chester County:

I am pleased to present to the citizens of Chester County our fourteenth Annual Report Summary for the Fiscal Year ended 2018. The information contained in this Summary is a condensed overview of the County of Chester's audited 2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and presents select information about the County's revenues, spending, and demographics in an informal, easy to understand format.

The Office of the Controller has prepared the Annual Report Summary to help taxpayers understand the financial position of County government and how their tax dollars are being spent. It remains as important as ever for taxpayers to have a clear understanding of the financial pressures facing government. Transparency remains our highest priority.

Please explore this and other resources (such as those on <https://www.chesco.org/>), and contact your elected officials to express your views on the direction of our nation, state and county.

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 180 page document on the County's website at <https://www.chesco.org/206/Controller> under "Reports & Forms" "CAFR & Annual Report Summary".

I hope that you find this report informative. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (610) 344-6155 or [controllerdept@chesco.org](mailto:controllerdept@chesco.org).

Sincerely,

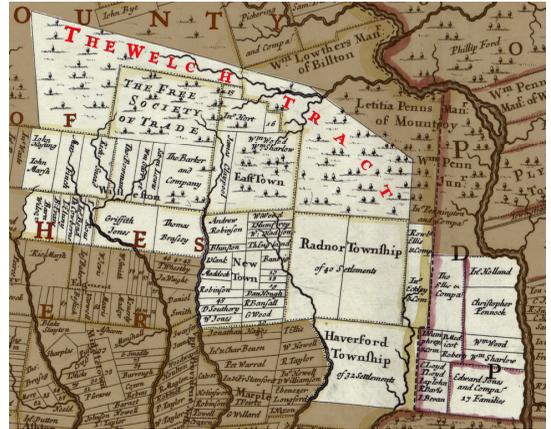
*Margaret Reif*

Margaret Reif  
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.

In the late 17th century, there was significant Welsh emigration to Pennsylvania. In approximately 1684, William Penn granted 40,000 acres to a group of Welsh Quakers to be constituted as a separate county. The Welsh Tract's boundaries were established in 1687, but by the 1690s the land had already been partitioned among different counties, despite appeals from the Welsh settlers, and the Tract never gained self-government. Today the area is now part of Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware counties. Many towns in the area still bear Welsh names: such as Tredyffrin, Uwchlan, and Berwyn.



In 1784 the original county seat, the City of Chester, was moved to a more centralized location known as the village of Turk's Head, and in 1788, was renamed "West Chester". Chester County originally included what is now Delaware County, parts of Lancaster County and Berks County.

Today, Chester County has 73 political subdivisions, consisting of one third-class city (Coatesville), 15 boroughs and 57 townships. Our County covers 782 square miles which includes about 219 square miles of preserved open space as well as some of the most productive agricultural land found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Today our approximate population is 522,046. Our employment base continues to grow (as it has for the last thirty-plus years) as suburban development continues, industry and agriculture thrive, and high technology businesses grow along its Route 202 corridor.



Chester County also continues to benefit from being one of the highest-ranked median income regions as well as having many of the best public school systems found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Photo credits: Chester County Planning Commission (pg 17, 18), Chester County Commissioner's Office (pg 14), Elaine Deutsch (pg cover, 15, 17), Tacie Himelright (pg 16)

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# *The County's Financial Position*

Chester County's financial position remains very strong and is able to maintain sufficient net financial resources to protect against shortfalls.

The County's AAA/Aaa debt ratings were reaffirmed in March 2018, for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, from the three rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Fitch Ratings, and Moody Investors Services, Inc. Chester County is one of 48 counties in the United States, and the only county in Pennsylvania (as of February 2018), to have AAA/Aaa bond ratings from all three major rating agencies. The 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 maintain an unrestricted fund balance, in the General Fund, of not less than two months 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.

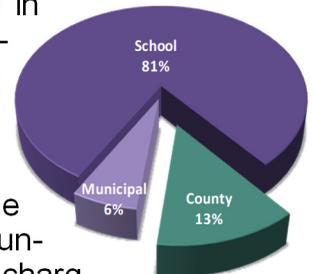
In 2018, the County had \$17.3 million in the working capital reserve, which represents 10 percent of the 2019 expenditure budget. The General Fund's unassigned fund balance is \$24.9 million, and assigned fund balance is \$25.3 million totaling to \$50.2 million, which represents approximately 33.8 percent or 4.5 months of General Fund expenditures.

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.

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## *Your Real Estate Dollars*

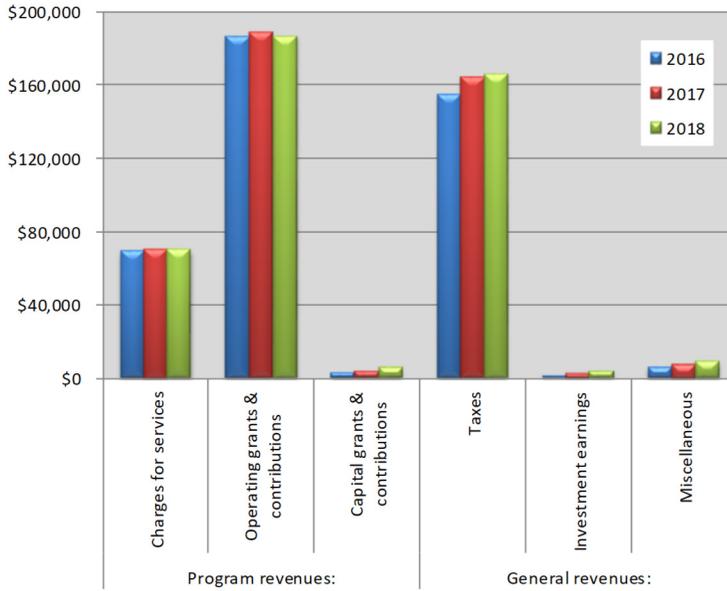
In 2018, on average, Chester County residents paid \$3,327.78 in taxes per \$100,000 of their home's assessed value. Of that assessment, only 13.1%, or \$436.90, were County taxes. The pie chart to the right illustrates how your local real estate taxes are typically used.



County real estate taxes funded 37.6% or \$165.6 million of the County's activities for 2018. 62.4% or \$275.0 million of the County's spending was funded by Commonwealth and federal grants, charges for services, and interest from investments.

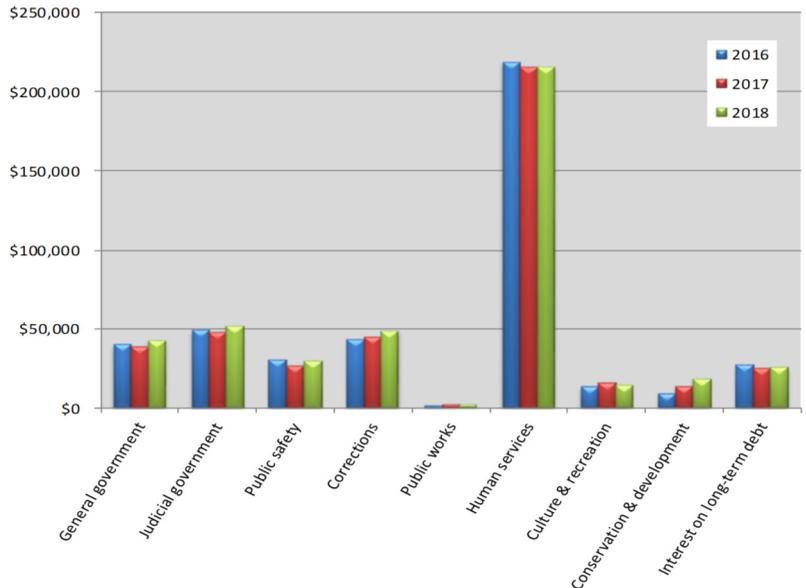
## Trends of Revenue by Activity

(expressed in thousands)



## Trends of Expenses by Activity

(expressed in thousands)



# Financial Position

The net position figure represents the amount that the County owns versus the amount owed.

The accounting policies of the County of Chester conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governments.

(expressed in thousands)	2016	2017	2018
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash	\$ 179,310	\$ 147,861	\$ 171,829
Investments	1,119	1,170	1,177
Accounts receivable	32,401	36,688	29,339
Capital assets	412,229	425,064	424,619
Other assets	3,085	2,815	2,803
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>628,144</u>	<u>613,598</u>	<u>629,767</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>			
Def. outflows of resources	<u>51,090</u>	<u>27,370</u>	<u>58,376</u>
<b>Total deferred outflows</b>	<u>51,090</u>	<u>27,370</u>	<u>58,376</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts payable	29,417	31,488	29,227
Other liabilities	7,763	3,909	3,378
Long-term liabilities	<u>703,254</u>	<u>645,118</u>	<u>712,994</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>740,434</u>	<u>680,515</u>	<u>745,599</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>			
Def. inflows of resources	<u>879</u>	<u>14,232</u>	<u>3,476</u>
<b>Total deferred inflows</b>	<u>879</u>	<u>14,232</u>	<u>3,476</u>
<b>Net Position*</b>	<u>\$ (62,079)</u>	<u>\$ (53,779)</u>	<u>\$ (60,932)</u>

\* 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.

# Financial Summary

**Dollars In:** Revenue includes all amounts of money received by a government from external sources during its fiscal year, net of refunds and other correcting transactions, other than issuance of debt, sale of investments, and agency or private trust transactions.

Dollars In ...*	2016	2017	2018
Program revenues:			
Charges for services	\$ 69,599	\$ 70,705	\$ 70,088
Operating grants and contributions	186,503	188,748	186,225
Capital grants and contributions	3,128	3,790	5,688
General Revenues:			
Taxes	155,069	164,204	165,551
Investment earnings	1,344	2,428	3,784
Miscellaneous	5,997	7,817	9,258
Total Revenues	<u>\$421,640</u>	<u>\$437,692</u>	<u>\$440,594</u>

Dollars Out ...*	2016	2017	2018
General government	\$ 39,966	\$ 38,707	\$ 42,358
Judicial government	48,866	47,858	51,280
Public safety	29,975	26,400	29,557
Corrections	42,595	44,807	48,353
Public works	1,642	2,039	1,891
Human services	218,348	214,934	215,420
Culture & recreation	13,107	15,768	14,348
Conservation & development	9,091	13,815	18,349
Interest on long-term debt	26,951	25,066	25,249
Total Expenses	<u>\$430,541</u>	<u>\$429,394</u>	<u>\$446,805</u>

\*(expressed in thousands)

**Dollars Out:** Expenditure includes all amounts of money paid out by a government during its fiscal year - net of recoveries and other correcting transactions - other than for retirement of debt, purchase of investment securities, extension of loans, and agency or private trust transactions.

Please see our full CAFR for complete details.  
<https://chesco.org/1689/CAFR-Annual-Report-Summary>

**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, Coroner, 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 95 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.

# Working for You - Elected Officials

## Board of Commissioners

**Michelle Kichline**



Chairman  
610-344-6100  
mkichline@chesco.org

**Kathi Cozzone**



Vice Chairman  
610-344-6100  
kcozzone@chesco.org

**Terence Farrell**



610-344-6100  
tfarrell@chesco.org

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## Row Officers



**Yolanda Van de Krol**  
Clerk of Courts

610-344-6135  
ccclerk@chesco.org

The Office of the Clerk of Courts manages all paperwork for all criminal cases in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. The Clerk's office also assesses fines, costs and restitution and collects the fees in conjunction with the Adult Probation and Parole Departments. The Clerk of Courts staffs all criminal, juvenile and dependency hearings held in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas.



**Margaret Reif**  
Controller

610-344-6155  
controllerdept@chesco.org

The Office of the Controller supervises the fiscal affairs of Chester County. The Controller maintains accounting records, processes accounts payable, manages payroll and retirement disbursements, and is responsible for the internal audit function. The Controller also prepares the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.



**Christina VandePol, MD**  
Coroner

610-344-6165  
coronerooffice@chesco.org

The Office of the Coroner is an independent agency serving the citizens by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. They determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent, and provide notification to the legal next of kin.

# *Working for You - Elected Officials*



**Thomas P. Hogan**  
District Attorney

610-344-6801

The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the County. The core functions of the Office of the District Attorney is to investigate, prosecute, and prevent crimes. It is the District Attorney's duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America.



**Matt Holliday**  
Prothonotary

610-344-6300  
mholliday@chesco.org

The Office of the Prothonotary acts as the chief clerk and record keeper for the civil and family divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. Work is generated from the court and through filings such as divorces, name changes, custody cases, Protection from Abuse orders, mental health hearings, medical malpractice cases, judgments & liens, as well as passport applications.



**Rick Loughery**  
Recorder of Deeds

610-344-6330  
rodinfo@chesco.org

The Office of the Recorder of Deeds is an important interface between taxpayers, real estate professionals and County government, and is responsible for the public repository of real estate records, military discharges, commissions and official documents.



**Terri Clark**  
Register of Wills/Clerk of  
the Orphans' Court

610-344-6335  
rwill@chesco.org

The Office of the Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans' Court provides estate administration, marriage licenses, adoption, and guardianship filing services to individuals and the courts. The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over the probate of wills, granting of letters and is the agent for the collection of state inheritance tax.



**Carolyn B. Welsh**  
Sheriff

610-344-6850  
cwelsh@chesco.org

The Office of the Sheriff provides security services, efficient notification of civil actions, Protection from Abuse orders, gun permits, background investigation services to the public as well as Sheriff sales. It also provides transportation and custody services for adult and juvenile prisoners.



**Patricia Maisano**  
Treasurer

610-344-6370  
treasurerdept@chesco.org

The Office of the Treasurer serves to receive, record and deposit County funds resulting from payment of taxes, payment due on the sale of various state and county licenses, funds collected in the performance of public services, other state-related revenues, and payment of judgments and fines. The Treasurer's Office issues licenses for hunting, fishing, pistol permits, and dog ownership.

# Quick Facts....

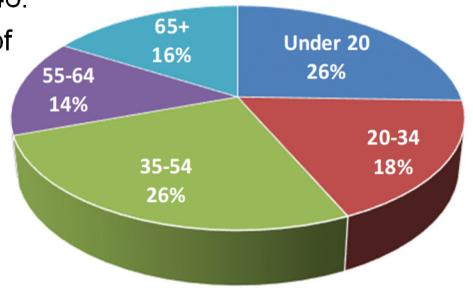
## Population

Chester County's 2018 estimated population was 522,046.

This is an increase of 0.5% from 2017 and an increase of 4.4% from ten years prior.

The median age of County residents in 2018 was 40.4 years old, was slightly higher than in 2017.

The most substantial increase, again in 2018, was in the 65 and over population.



## Housing

The average Chester County household size is approximately 2.7 people. In 2017, 94.6% of all housing units in Chester County were occupied, of which 75.4% were owner occupied.

The median monthly rent in the County increased in 2017 to \$1,256. This is higher than the Commonwealth median of \$885 and the national median of \$982.

The average value of owner occupied housing increased to

\$355,000 with 75.4% of owners occupying their home, and 70.7% of owners having a mortgage.

62.1% of the housing in Chester County are single-family homes with 74.3% of all types of housing units having three or more bedrooms.

Chester County preserves its history with 26.5% of our homes built before 1959.

Occupied Housing	
Chester Cty	94.6%
PA	88.0%
USA	87.4%

Year Built	
2000 or later	39,653
1980-1999	63,024
1960-1979	44,587
1959 or earlier	52,973

## Education

Education continues to be a priority for Chester County residents.

- There are 14 public school districts in Chester County.
- Chester County is home to eight universities and colleges (see page 18).
- 69.9% of County adult residents have a Bachelor's or higher degrees, which is much higher than the national average of 60.2%.

	High School Graduate	Bachelors or Higher
Chester Cty	91.1%	69.9%
Pennsylvania	81.6%	55.4%
United States	91.0%	60.2%

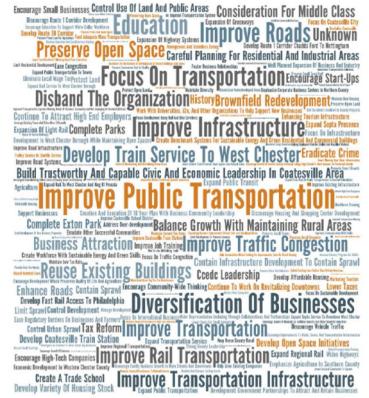
Data and statistics presented in this publication is the most current available at time of printing.

# Business and Transportation

A first class county demands a first class transit system. Being a world leader in the cultivated mushroom industry, a leader in agricultural, and a transportation hub for many manufacturers and distributors, Chester County's roads and transportation options are vital to attracting and retaining businesses.

Multimodal transportation networks provide options for all travel modes - vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and freight - and are essential to maintaining communities that support public health, provide accessible transportation options for all.

Chester County's transportation system continues to evolve for the County to attract new residents, workers, and businesses and to foster strong, sustainable economic development.



## Income

In 2017, 86.0% of County civilian residents were employed in private industry. 8.0% were governmental workers, and 5.8% were self-employed.

79.2% of County residents drove alone to their employment. This is above the national average of 76.4% and the Pennsylvania average of 76.2%.

	Ave Income	\$75K or more
<b>Chester Cty</b>	\$ 96,656	61.7%
<b>PA</b>	\$ 59,195	39.2%
<b>USA</b>	\$ 60,336	40.3%

## Employment and Health Insurance Coverage

In 2018, Chester County continued its low unemployment rate trend with an average rate of 3.1 percent.

Along with low unemployment comes a high number of residents that are covered by health insurance. In 2017, 94.5% of Chester County residents had health insurance coverage, with the majority covered under private health insurance.

See page 13 for information on medical, dental, and prescription discount cards.

	Insured	5 year prior
<b>Chester Cty</b>	94.5%	92.6%
<b>PA</b>	94.5%	90.3%
<b>US</b>	91.3%	85.5%

## Did You Know?

Chester County is a third-class county. This means that the County's population during the last census of 2010 was between 225,000 and 500,000 residents. Given the fact that we are now over the 500,000 citizen threshold, it is likely that we will be reclassified after the 2020 census.

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

# Guide to County Services

We encourage you to visit our website [www.chesco.org](http://www.chesco.org) for additional resources.

Agriculture Development Council.....	610-344-6285
Community & Economic Development .....	610-344-6900
Conservation District.....	610-925-4920
County General Operator.....	610-344-6000 / 1-800-682-1100
Domestic Relations .....	610-344-6215
Election/Voter Service .....	610-344-6410
Jury Service Center .....	610-344-6174
Parks & Recreation .....	610-344-6415
Veterans' Affairs .....	610-344-6375
Human Services .....	610-344-6640
Aging Services .....	610-344-6350
Elder Abuse .....	800-564-7000
Pocopson Nursing Home .....	610-793-1212
Child Abuse Report Line .....	610-344-5800 / 800-932-0313
Children, Youth & Families .....	610-344-5800
Crime Victim Center.....	610-692-7420
Drug and Alcohol .....	610-344-6620
Mental Health / Intellectual & Develop. Disabilities .....	610-344-6265
Domestic Violence 24 Hour Hotline .....	888-711-6270
Drug/Alcohol Crisis .....	911
Mental Health 24 Hour Crisis Hotline .....	1-877-918-2100 / 610-280-3270
Rape Crisis Center .....	610-692-7420
Suicide Prevention Lifeline.....	800-273-8255
Poison Control .....	800-772-7112

## **Pennsylvania State Hotlines**

Suspected Welfare Fraud .....	800-932-0582
Elder Abuse Unit.....	866-623-2137
Consumer Protection .....	800-441-2555

Call if you can,

**911**

Text if you can't.

511PA is Pennsylvania's official travel information service. Call (511 or 1-877-511-7366), visit [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com), or use the 511PA mobile app for reliable, current traffic and weather information, as well as links to other transportation services.



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## *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 2018, human services, including the geriatric center, made up 48.2% of the County 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.

***Children, Youth & Family (CYF):*** The mission of CYF 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.

***Department of Community Development (DCD):*** The Chester County Department of Community Development provides housing, neighborhood improvement, workforce development, and social services to citizens so that they have the opportunity to successfully live and work in a safe, stable, and desirable community.

***Drug & Alcohol:*** Drug & Alcohol provides 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.

***Geriatric Center:*** Pocopson Home is Chester County's short and long term healthcare facility. The Home offers both short and long term medical and nursing services, placing emphasis on rehabilitation for the purpose of returning residents to their homes and community environment.

***Health Department:*** The Chester County Health Department provides personal and environmental health services to residents and visitors so that they may grow, live and work in healthy and safe communities.

***Human Services:*** Department of Human Services protects vulnerable children and adults, promoting independence and well-being for the visitors and citizens of Chester County so that they may lead stable, safe, and fulfilling lives.

***Managed Behavioral Health Care (MBHC):*** 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 (MH/IDD):*** Every Chester County citizen experiencing mental illness or developmental disabilities may access services and natural supports that foster recovery and integration into a greater community where they are valued and enjoy fulfilling lives.

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 Health Program

The NACo *Health Discount Card* helps individuals and families gain access to medical discounts from local providers. Residents can get more information or same day savings on medical discounts once they enroll at <https://www.nacohealth.org> or by calling Member Services toll-free at 1-877-573-2395.

 Dental Program

The *Dental Discount Card* Program helps county residents in need of dental services who may be uninsured or underinsured. The program offers immediate access to dental providers with no waiting periods or forms to fill out. Residents may save on average between 15%-50% on most dental procedures from a national network of more than 114,000 general dentists and specialists. For more information, or to enroll, call 1-877-573-2395.

 Prescription Program

The Chester County *Prescription Drug Discount Card* can be used by Chester County residents to help cope with the high price of prescription drugs for themselves and their pets. This program offers average savings of 22% off the retail price of commonly prescribed drugs. There is no cost to Chester County taxpayers for this program. For more information visit <https://www.caremark.com> or call toll free 1-877-321-2652.

For more information please go to <https://www.chesco.org/1822/Prescription-Discount-Program> or <http://www.nacorx.org/>



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## 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.

Chester County has been ranked as the healthiest county in Pennsylvania, according to the study published in 2018 by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The study looked at a number of factors, length and quality of life, health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment.

Source: County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin

County Health  
Rankings & Roadmaps  
Building a Culture of Health, County by County

# Chester County Takes 4 Billion Steps Towards Healthier Living



At the January 2019 Sunshine Meeting public work session, the Chester County Commissioners received an update announcing a milestone in the WalkWorks ChesCo! challenge. Since the launch of WalkWorks in April 2017, Chester County residents have registered more than four billion steps in the WalkWorks ChesCo! program. <https://chesco.org/walkworks>

WalkWorks ChesCo! is a program that promotes, educates and empowers county residents to adopt a healthier lifestyle one step at a time by creating more places for walking, supporting and promoting walking groups, coordinating walking challenges – and importantly – creating the website that allows everyone to track and tally their steps. What began as the County’s response to the national Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge, has now grown into a program that engages County residents of all ages and that has been replicated by communities in other states.



## Fighting the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic

The Chester County Commissioners, District Attorney, the Department of Drug & Alcohol Services, and the Health Department host its annual Color 5K run through the streets of West Chester every year

In the three years that the Color 5K has taken place, more than \$110,000 has been raised to fund efforts in hospital emergency rooms that have supported the COPE (Community Outreach and Prevention Education) Program. Cooperatively developed, this program addresses all aspects of substance abuse addiction. It provides one-to-one support for overdose survivors and their families and friends; provides overdose prevention information and outreach to first responders, hospital staff, family members and friends; and importantly, provides expedited admission into detox and a review of all treatment options for overdose survivors who agree to treatment.



For more information on the annual Color 5K Run, please visit our website at <https://chesco.org/color5k>.

# Chester County Library ...

Chester County Library System is more than books. Do you want to start a business, but don't know how? Our library system has resources that can direct you.

Do you want to start or join a book club? Do you need an idea for a new book to read? Just check out the library's website for clubs, reading & discussion ideas, or the resources on how to start a book club of your own.



## **Activities & Events:**

Many different events and activities that take place in Chester County Libraries every week. With 18 different libraries spread across the county, it is easy to find something fun near you.

- Events for younger children include storytelling sessions, Crafty Fridays, and book bingo.
- Events for young adults include historical lectures, clubs, and different teen programs that incorporate a wide range of activities, including summer events to keep kids active all summer long.
- Events for adults include book clubs, writing workshops, English conversation groups, genealogy workshops, bridge, and yoga.
- Events for all ages include film screenings and trivia nights.
- Museum Passes are available for a variety of museums, parks, theaters, and zoos. All you have to do is reserve your tickets at the Library or online through <https://chescolibraries.org/using-library/museum-passes>

All events can be found on the Chester County Library system's calendar of events.

## **Education & Business:**

The Chester County Library offers a variety of educational opportunities for all ages.

- The Business Center has a range of services and resources to help those in need of top-notch, authoritative information.
- Looking for a job? The Library offers guidance and help with resumes and interviewing.
- Need a room for a meeting? The Library's have rooms and the equipment you need to hold successful meetings.
- Get one-on-one computer help, learn a Microsoft program, or learn to use your eReader.



- Aprende inglés básico en un ambiente divertido y solidario (Learn basic English in a fun and supportive environment).

## **Books & Movies & Research:**

Books and other reading materials are the backbone of any library.

- Did you know you can have books and movies transferred from branch to branch?
- Do you want to use your iPhone or Android to read? You can check out an eBook to read on a variety of electronic devices.
- The Chester County Library System also gives its residents access to many different research databases that have magazines, pictures and more. If our Libraries don't have what you need, Pennsylvania Online World of Electronic Resources (POWER Library) most likely will.
- The Reference Staff is available to help. If you would like one-on-one time with a librarian to begin a research project, search our catalog, learn more about downloading eBooks, or have other information needs, consider signing up for a Book a Librarian appointment.



What are you waiting for? Come and check out our Library system. All you need is a library card.

### **Using the Library**

[Reserving Meeting Rooms](#)

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See pgs 17 & 18 for more info

[Chester County Library & District Center](#),  
450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton

[Atglen Public Library](#), 413 Valley Avenue,  
Atglen

[Avon Grove Public Library](#), 117 Rose Hill  
Avenue, West Grove

[Chester Springs Library](#), 1685-A Art School  
Road, Chester Springs

[Coatesville Library](#), 501 East Lincoln High-  
way, Coatesville

[Downingtown Library](#), 330 East Lancaster  
Avenue, Downingtown

[Easttown Library](#), 720 First Avenue,  
Berwyn

[Henrietta Hankin Library](#), 215 Windgate  
Drive, Chester Springs

[Honey Brook Library](#), 687 Compass Road,  
Honey Brook

[Kennett Library](#), 216 East State Street,  
Kennett Square

[Malvern Library](#), 1 East First Avenue, Mal-  
vern

[Oxford Library](#), 48 Second Street, Oxford

[Paoli Library](#), 18 Darby Road, Paoli

[Parquesburg Library](#), 105 West Street,  
Parquesburg

[Phoenixville Library](#), 183 Second Avenue,  
Phoenixville

[Spring City Library](#), 245 Broad Street,  
Spring City

[Tredyffrin Library](#), 582 Upper Gulph Road,  
Strafford-Wayne

[West Chester Library](#), 415 North Church  
Street, West Chester

# Chester County is...

## History is Here

From the American Revolution to the Civil War, Chester County was an important location. Today, you can learn about many aspects of American history through our various parks and Heritage sites.

- Brandywine Battlefield/Sandy Hollow Heritage Park
- Birmingham Hill - Brandywine Battlefield Trail
- Hopewell Furnace
- Barns-Brinton House
- Valley Forge National Park
- Many more

Don't forget to stop and read the historical markers along your journey.



## Technology at the Library

**Roku Lending:** The Library is now able to give our patrons access to streaming video through Roku devices. The Roku Express + will provide access to stream over 200 movies through Vudu, and watch popular TV shows and movies on Netflix and Acorn TV without needing to purchase a subscription.



**Mobile Hotspots:** The Library is partnering with T-Mobile to offer mobile hotspots to our customers for \$2.00 per day. The Library hotspot program allows library cardholders to access unlimited, high-speed Internet service anywhere a T-Mobile signal can be received.

**Digital Media Lab and Makerspace:** Services include 3D Printing, 3D Scanning, Podcasting, Digital video converters which you can use to convert your VHS to DVDs, video editing software, and so much more. Check online for a full list of services (some services require a fee and/or a reservation).

**Computer Workshops:** The John W. Jacobs Technology Center offers computer training classes for Microsoft Office and other technology related classes.

You can find all of our computer workshops and services at <http://chescolibraries.org/using-library>.

## Top 10 Chester County Employers

Vanguard Group .....	11,500
Main Line Hospitals .....	3,000
PA System of Higher Education .....	2,664
County of Chester .....	2,589
QVC, Inc. ....	2,500
Giant Food Stores, LLC .....	2,391
Chester County Hospital .....	2,368
The Devereux Foundation .....	2,057
Chester County Intermediate Unit .....	1,791
Downingtown School District .....	1,600

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

## Open Space Preservation

Since 1989, Chester County has created and funded one of the most comprehensive and sustained efforts in the Country to preserve the most productive non-irrigated agricultural soils in the world, provide adequate local and County park and recreation opportunities, preserve significant natural areas, and encourage the revitalization of developed areas.

In 2018, the County preserved 22 farms comprising 1,573 acres. The County partnered with five different land trusts, preserving 1,339 acres of land representing the diverse nature of Chester County's special places – including two important Battle of the Brandywine sites.



The number of acres preserved throughout Chester County increased to 139,997 acres or 28.8% of the County.

## ***The Library is here for you***

There is so much more to the Chester County Library system than just books. Below are just some of the services available.

**Mail Order Delivery (MOD):** This service provides a way for Chester County residents, who are experiencing serious health or aging challenges, to receive library materials through the mail.

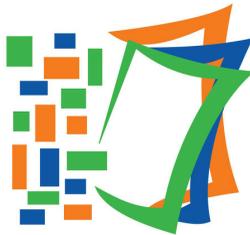
**Programs:** The library provides events for information and intellectual pursuits for both youth and adults, along with a broad range of recreational activities.

**Adult Programs:** Adult programs include -

- *Discover History & Culture* (historical presentations and genealogy workshops),
- *Programs for Mind & Body* (yoga class, therapy dogs, discover new healthy recipes, cooking classes, and wellness information from certified specialists),
- *Information You Can Use* (from tax preparation, to buying a new home, to Medicare 101),
- *XYZ Connect* (a social group for the next generations).

**Youth Programs:** Youth programs include -

- *Summer Reading Clubs* (encouraging participants to explore new topics and complete a variety of activities),
- *Story Times* (developmentally-appropriate programs featuring stories and activities),
- *Monthly Events During the School Year*,
- Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is a group of teens who want to become more involved in our library.



Please go to

<https://www.ccls.org/>

or <https://chescolibraries.org/> or call 610-280-2600 to find out more about what is available.

# ...a Great Place to be.



In the heart of historic West Chester, PA, the Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) preserves and shares the remarkable story of the area's past. Explore over 300 years of history through rare documents, photographs, and newspapers in our research library, seven galleries filled with engaging exhibitions, and special school and public programs year round. From George Washington and the Battle of Brandywine to the Underground Railroad, Civil War, and Civil Rights, CCHS holds keys to the past for you to discover.



## ***Higher Education***

Chester County is home to 8 colleges and universities including Lincoln University, the United States' first degree-granting historically black university.

- Delaware County Community College
- West Chester University
- Immaculata University
- Cheyney University
- Lincoln University
- University of Valley Forge (formerly Valley Forge Christian College)
- Penn State Great Valley Campus
- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine's New Bolton Center



## ***Know Your Numbers***

Chester County continues to earn national awards for both its financial reporting and budgeting: 37 years for the Controller prepared audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and 28 years for the Finance prepared, Commissioner approved, Annual Budget. Please visit the County's website at <https://chesco.org/> to view or download these documents.

# Waste, Fraud, & Abuse Hotline

Report waste, fraud, and mismanagement of our county tax dollars



610-344-5912

[ControllerInfo@chesco.org](mailto:ControllerInfo@chesco.org)

## WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REPORT:

- ✓ Suspected theft or misuse of County property or cash
- ✓ False reporting of hours worked
- ✓ Submission of illegitimate vendor invoices
- ✓ Falsification or misrepresentation of expense reimbursements
- ✓ Mismanagement of tax dollars
- ✓ Spending in excess of what is reasonable and necessary
- ✓ Violations of the County's purchasing policy
- ✓ Other suspected fraud or abuse
- ✓ Fraudulent reporting of medical, disability or workers' compensation claims

## ***YOU CAN HELP SAVE MONEY TOO!***

We would love to hear **your ideas** to improve efficiency and **save the County money!**



- 
- Fraud investigations are opened **within 24 hours** of receiving fraud tips.
  - Status reports can be provided regarding your tip. Just provide your full name with your submission.
  - You can submit fraud tips **anonymously** either by voice mail, e-mail or regular mail.
  - If you choose to remain anonymous, be assured that your complaint will receive the **same attention** as all tips we receive.
  - As we have no way of tracing the source of anonymous tips, status reports can't be provided on tips submitted anonymously.
  - Fraud & Abuse Hotline extends only to Chester County government resources and activities.
  - Any type of fraudulent activity involving private business or governmental agencies not related to Chester County should be reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.



**Include as much detailed information as possible in your tip.  
Vague allegations may not be able to be substantiated.**

## FRAUD & ABUSE HOTLINE CONTACT INFORMATION:

*Contact us via E-mail:*

[ControllerInfo@chesco.org](mailto:ControllerInfo@chesco.org)  
or [http://chesco.org/FormCenter/  
Controller-13/Waste-Fraud--Abuse-  
Form-65](http://chesco.org/FormCenter/Controller-13/Waste-Fraud--Abuse-Form-65) for our online form.



*Mail your tip to:*

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



*Telephone:*

610-344-5912

Please leave a detailed message.

***YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***