

Cumberland County
Policy Measures to Manage the Impact
Of the Ongoing Impasse on the State Budget
On County Services and Finances
October 12, 2015

In light of the fact that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania remains without an approved state budget for 2015-6, and that prospects for short term resolution of the impasse currently appear dim, and the impact that the suspension of state funds has upon the current and anticipated operations and finances of the Cumberland County government, including the provision of services to County residents, which the County seeks to maintain at the highest level possible for as long as the impasse lasts: the Board of Commissioners will implement the following policies:

1. Human Services Department Heads will withhold payment - in full or in part - for services rendered by those providers most able to absorb withholding of payment per the estimation of the Department Heads, based on discussions with all providers, for as long as state funding is suspended. It is the County's intention to continue providing services through said providers during this period and reimburse said providers for all payables incurred for services rendered during this period once state funding resumes; or as other funds might become available prior to that time. This will include providers of services to Cumberland County and via the joinder agreement between Cumberland and Perry Counties.
2. A hiring freeze for any new and/or existing positions that become vacant as of October 13, 2015 that entail the use of the County's General Fund dollars. Department Heads may request an exception to the Board of Commissioners based on the position's role in providing critical services directly to County residents. In all cases, the Commissioners reserve the right to determine if and whether filling any specific vacancy is essential. Vacancies or new positions funded with non-General Fund revenues not impacted by the budget impasse, or required by statute, or as terms of receiving existing grants would be eligible for exception.
3. Restriction on non-essential travel reimbursable through the County's General Fund. Essential travel is defined as travel needed to directly deliver services to County residents, such as a case manager visiting a client's home, transporting of prisoners. The County will withhold payment for any non-essential travel (conferences, meetings, etc.) for as long as the budget impasse persists. County employees may undertake travel for non-essential reasons if paid for with departmental or other non-General fund sources. County employees may undertake travel to approved non-essential events if they agree to forego reimbursement until such time as this restriction is lifted.
4. Cease all non-emergency overtime for County staff that has not been previously approved by the Chief Clerk. All requests for presently anticipated overtime – emergency and non-emergency – must be submitted for prior approval by Department Heads to the Chief Clerk.
5. Immediate suspension of any new capital expenses not approved prior to October 13, 2015.
6. Immediate suspension of spending of grant funds prior to grant funding being received by the County unless said funds are specifically designated for salaries of County employees funded through the grant as required by statute or condition of receiving the grant.

Said policies will go into effect following the close of business today, October 12, 2015; and remain in effect until such time as the Board of Commissioners may terminate or alter the conditions presented above. The County's financial situation will continue to be closely monitored on an ongoing basis. Depending on the duration of the State budget impasse and the County's overall financial situation, additional measures may be taken as required to maintain services and safeguard the financial position of the County.