



2006

BUDGET IN BRIEF

Thank you for your interest in the county's 2006 budget. Any opportunity to further enhance the lines of communication with our constituents is always appreciated.

Enclosed is information that we feel will enhance your level of awareness and understanding of county finances, programs and goals.

Mission Statement

Chester County government is committed to providing high quality service balanced with the ongoing need to be efficient and cost effective in our operations.

While it is important that we recognize that we already have a strong, effective organization, this recognition is to be used as the basis for continuing to strive for excellence and not to become complacent.

Chester County's mission demands the attention and commitment of each employee in every department of the County. Chester County government will continually look for ways to become more efficient and still maintain our reputation for providing quality services. In addition, it is our responsibility to evaluate objectively and consider alternatives for how we perform our jobs. Employees are empowered, and strongly encouraged, to seek out ways to streamline operations, to be catalysts for change and improvement, and to take action where needed.

Values and Guiding Principals

Mission-Driven

Each county department and agency shall make clear its mission and ensure that all members of the agency understand and are committed to that mission. The success of a department or agency shall be measured and assessed in terms of its mission.

Service-Oriented

Each county department and agency shall clearly define who its customers are, determine what those customers require and determine how to serve them so that those requirements are met.

Efficiency

Each county department and agency shall, regardless of its funding sources, be continually looking for ways to streamline, reduce costs and become more efficient.

Empowerment

Each county department and agency shall empower its employees and enhance their teamwork and flexibility in implementing its mission.

Technology

Each county department and agency shall explore and utilize, where possible, emerging technology and information systems in its operations.

The ultimate goal is to improve the County's mission as a part of everyday operations within our obligation to serve the citizens of Chester County.



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

COMMISSIONERS:
Carol Aichele
Andrew E. Dinniman
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
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On November 1, 2005, the Board of Commissioners posted the county's budget for 2006. On November 17, the Board held a public hearing to receive input on the budget. On November 22nd, the Commissioners approved and adopted the 2006 consolidated budget of \$541,641,211. The consolidated budget consists of \$415,451,600 for operations and \$126,189,611 for the Capital Investment Program.

This document is designed to provide a brief, non-technical explanation of the county's operating budget. If you would like more detailed information, please call the Finance Department at (610) 344-6190 for a copy of the adopted budget. The budget is also available for viewing at the Chester County Library and on the county's website www.chesco.org.

Regular meetings of the Chester County Board of Commissioners are open to the public. Meetings are generally held every Thursday at 10:00 am in the Commissioner's Boardroom on the fifth floor of the Chester County Courthouse, 2 North High Street, West Chester. The meetings are advertised in the legal notices' section of the Daily Local News and are listed on-line through the county's website at www.chesco.org.

Operating Budget by Function



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

\$ 35,682,769

Services provided by the county for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole, including the administrative departments, the office of the Controller and the Recorder of Deeds.



JUDICIAL

\$ 39,828,588

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, Prothonotary and Sheriff.



PUBLIC SAFETY

\$ 14,999,661

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

\$ 32,327,858

Expenditures used to support the prison, adult probation services and juvenile probation services.



PUBLIC WORKS

\$ 1,239,991

Expenditures for maintaining and rehabilitating the 97 county owned bridges.



HUMAN SERVICES

\$ 218,044,626

Expenditures with the purpose of promoting the general health and well-being of the community as a whole, including Public Health, the Human Service funds and Pocopson Home, a long-term nursing facility.



CULTURE & RECREATION

\$ 14,406,178

Expenditures to provide county residents opportunities and facilities for cultural and recreational programs including libraries and parks & recreation.



CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

\$ 5,268,889

Functions 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.

DEBT SERVICE

\$ 27,179,299

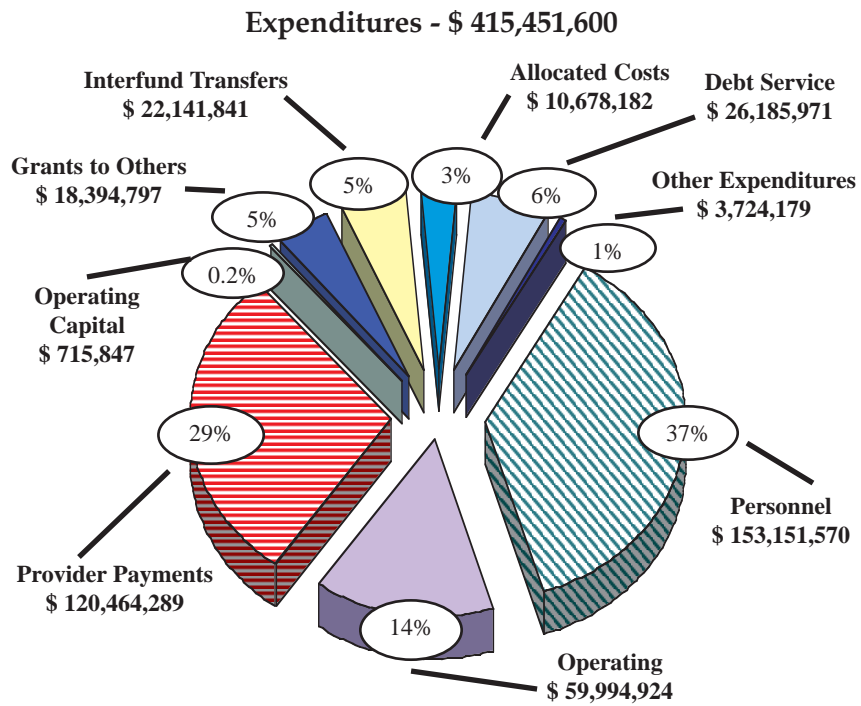
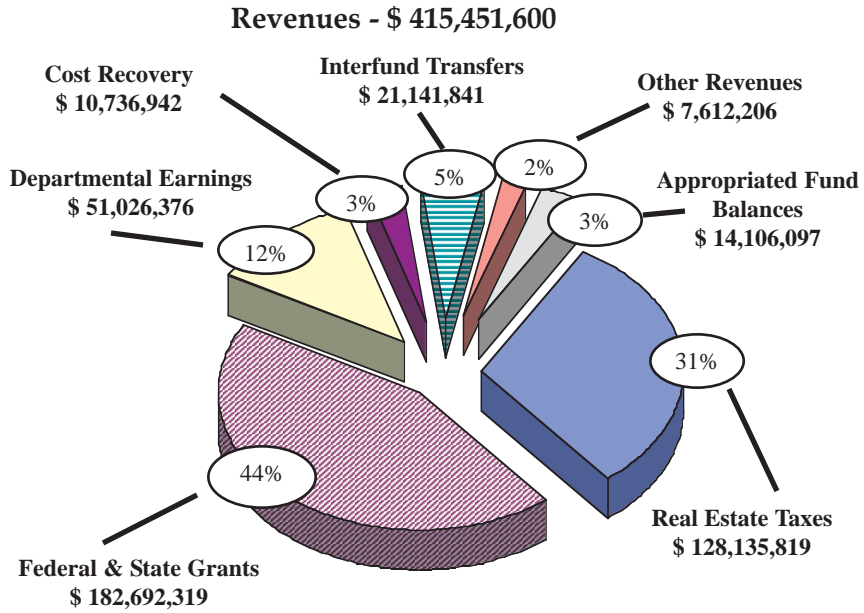
Payment of principal and interest obligations resulting from the issuance of bonds and notes.

MISCELLANEOUS

\$ 26,473,741

Non-departmental general governmental expenditures and appropriations and transfers to other funds.

2006 Operating Budget Revenues & Expenditures



Expenditures by Function

	<u>Expenditures</u>
<i>General Government</i>	
Commissioners	\$ 1,073,895
Finance	804,209
Human Resources	1,041,514
Contracts and Purchasing	833,941
General Services	836,395
Telecommunication	698,794
Public Information	99,618
Voter Services	1,598,368
Assessment	2,203,201
Tax Claim	662,950
Treasurer	761,185
Controller	1,844,893
Solicitor	469,327
Public Defender	3,073,324
Recorder of Deeds	1,811,826
Facilities Management	5,748,793
Computing & Information Services	11,428,382
Archives & Record Services	390,226
Veterans Affairs	301,928
Total General Government	\$ 35,682,769
<i>Judicial</i>	
Courts Administration	\$ 5,904,475
Court Reporters	1,590,056
District Justices	7,385,787
Law Library	356,148
Clerk of Courts	1,169,368
Constables	1,675,000
Coroner	609,718
District Attorney	8,174,296
Prothonotary	1,245,705
Register of Wills	789,574
Sheriff	4,246,359
Bail Agency	899,237
Domestic Relations Fund	5,782,865
Total Judicial	\$ 39,828,588
<i>Public Safety</i>	
Emergency Services	\$ 2,275,740
Public Safety Communications Fund	12,723,921
Total Public Safety	\$ 14,999,661

Expenditures by Function

	<u>Expenditures</u>
<i>Corrections</i>	
Prison	\$ 22,790,980
Adult Probation	5,658,895
Juvenile Probation	3,877,983
Total Corrections	<u>\$ 32,327,858</u>
<i>Public Works</i>	
Bridge Program	\$ 1,239,991
Total Public Works	<u>\$ 1,239,991</u>
<i>Human Services</i>	
Public Health	\$ 11,861,030
Community Development	24,432,736
Human Services Fund	4,089,220
MH/MR Fund	62,328,643
Managed Behavioral Health Care Fund	41,615,266
Office of Aging Fund	5,526,258
Drug and Alcohol Fund	5,171,143
Children Youth & Families Fund	31,126,888
Subsidized Child Day Care Fund	6,541,875
Pocopson Home	25,351,567
Total Human Services	<u>\$ 218,044,626</u>
<i>Culture & Recreation</i>	
Library Fund	\$ 7,899,430
Parks and Recreation	6,506,748
Total Culture & Recreation	<u>\$ 14,406,178</u>
<i>Conservation & Development</i>	
Planning	\$ 3,088,753
Water Resources	458,388
Open Space Preservation	578,241
Soil Conservation	1,143,507
Total Conservation & Development	<u>\$ 5,268,889</u>
<i>Debt Service</i>	\$ 27,179,299
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$ 26,473,741
2006 Operating Budget	\$ 415,451,600

Capital Investment Program

The Capital Investment Program (CIP) is funded by two major sources. The county funds projects for the acquisition and/or construction of assets with an extended useful life through the issuance of general obligation notes and bonds. These funds are budgeted in the Capital Improvement Fund. The county maintains a Capital Reserve Fund for pay-as-you-go projects. Also, from time to time, grant funding may be available to support the program.

The Capital Investment Program is a multi-year plan which, though approved for a five-year period, is reviewed and updated annually. The development of the CIP allows the county to develop a long-range plan of funding requirements and debt repayments closely linked to project disbursements.

The County Code, Section 512, permits annual appropriations from the General Fund of up to 10% of the General Fund budget to the Capital Reserve Fund for pay-as-you-go projects. For 2006, \$1.0 million has been budgeted as a transfer from the General Fund.

The 2006 CIP budget totals \$126.2 million..

REVENUES	2006 Budget
Interest & Other	\$ 1,364,375
Bond Proceeds	70,000,000
Federal & State Grants	3,556,011
Transfer From General Fund	1,000,000
Carry Forward	50,269,225
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	\$ 126,189,611
 EXPENDITURES	
Open Space	\$ 32,362,866
County Parks	2,240,084
Infrastructure	4,925,700
Facilities	63,368,605
Technology	9,524,820
Public Safety	2,676,241
Contingency	11,091,295
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	\$ 126,189,611

Capital Projects

Open Space - Provides annual funds for Municipal Park and Conservancy Grants, acquisition of land to be used for county parks, agricultural easement purchases, and urban revitalization.

County Parks - Provides annual funds for the development of and improvements to county park sites.

Infrastructure - Provides annual funds for projects such as repairs to existing flood-control dams.

Facilities - Provides funds for long-term building projects including: renovation and expansion of the Prison and the Wastewater Treatment Facility, construction of a new Justice Center and a Youth Center and other facility improvements.

Technology - Provides funding for improvements to existing technical infrastructure, upgrades to the Geographic Information System (GIS), the courts management system, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability (HIPAA) compliance.

Public Safety - Provides funds for capital projects including the continued enhancement of the 911 communication system and other public safety projects.

Did you know?

The number of annual visits to the Chester County Library system continues to increase from 1.2 million in 2000 to 1.8 million (est.) in 2006. This represents a 50% increase.

- Chester County ranks 1st among the third class counties in collections per case of child support. There are approximately 14,000 active cases. Collections are projected to be \$57.5 million in 2006, which represents an increase of 97% since 1996.
- Collections of Court ordered state and county fines, supervision fees, restitution and other miscellaneous revenues have steadily increased over the last several years by 55% from \$3.6 million in 2001 to \$5.6 million in 2006.
- Since 1996 the Prison population has increased 57% to 875 prompting the development of the facility expansion project.
- In June of 2003, Moody's Investor Service upgraded the rating of the County's general obligation bonds to **Aa1**. Their agent cited solid financial operations, sound fiscal policy, a sound economic base and an above average debt position as factors in the discussion. This is the highest rating of any 3rd class county in the Commonwealth and the second highest of all counties in the state.