



**ALLEGHENY COUNTY**  
**SARA INNAMORATO, COUNTY EXECUTIVE**  
**2025 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

---

The proposed 2025 Allegheny County budget is County Executive Sara Innamorato's downpayment on an Allegheny County that works for all of us. It improves core services, invests in hard working employees, protects our most vulnerable neighbors, and in a new platform for economic growth that will build a stronger tax base and help spur population growth over the coming years. Allegheny County is facing challenging economic conditions and has been for years. The Department of Budget & Finance is projecting an \$81,000,000 deficit for 2024 and a \$148,000,000 deficit in 2025. County Executive Sara Innamorato took action and presented a fiscally responsible budget that addresses these structural issues and sets a new course for Allegheny County.

---

**There are four main drivers of the County's current financial challenges:**

- Nearly \$600,000,000 in COVID-era federal relief is ending, including the CARES Act and ARP Act
  - The total assessed value of properties in the county has declined for the first time in many years, due to commercial appeals
  - Inflation and supply chain challenges have increased operational and capital costs across the board
  - No new revenue adjustments for the County since 2011
- 

**The proposed 2025 budget funds core services including:**

- Answering over one million 9-1-1 calls per year
- Staffing our nine County parks and four County pools, which had record attendance this summer
- Maintaining more than 400 miles of roads and 500 bridges
- Responding to over 15,000 allegations of child abuse and neglect, and allegations of elder abuse
- Caring for some of our most vulnerable neighbors, including through the four Kane Community Living Centers, the Department of Human Services, and the Health Department

- Handling more than 10,000 cases annually at the Public Defender's office
- Administering elections two times a year, every year, for the more than 900,000 registered voters in the County
- Issuing 2,261 passports and 6,639 marriage licenses

---

**The proposed 2025 budget doubles down on critical post pandemic needs and lays the foundation for the economic growth that is needed to ensure we are no longer one of the slowest regions in the country to recover.**

## CORE COMMITMENTS

- **No Layoffs, No Hiring Freeze, & No Service Cuts:** Our employees are our most valuable asset and deserve stability at work. With 6,000 employees at a median salary of \$55k, layoffs or pausing hiring would have a significant downstream impact on our communities and the County's ability to serve a region that is still recovering.
- **Refill the Rainy Day Fund & Find Efficiencies:** Replenishing the rainy day fund by replacing the \$33,000,000 required to balance the 2024 budget must be a priority. Additionally, investing in a class and compensation study and bringing contracted employees in house will save on overhead and increase pension fund ratios. These actions will put us on solid financial footing and keep borrowing costs low by meeting GFOA standards and answering concerns from ratings agencies.
- **Support Vulnerable Homeowners:** Increasing the Homestead Exemption to \$21,000 will provide tax support for vulnerable and hardworking homeowners. With this investment, the proposed millage increase will be as low as \$4/month (\$50k assessed value) with the median homeowner paying \$15/month (\$110k assessed value, median assessed value).
- **Honor Wage Commitments to Employees:** Fund the previously announced minimum wage increase to reach the goal of \$22 per hour by 2027 (\$45,000 annual salary).

---

## HEALTH & WELFARE

- **Children, Youth, & Families:** Each dollar of local revenue provided to DHS enables them to draw down approximately \$4 dollars in state funds for Allegheny County's children and families. This year's proposed budget is the first in several years that fully funds DHS so it can draw down all available state funding for distribution throughout Allegheny County communities. This means approximately \$41,000,000 more to support Allegheny County

families. And the County isn't doing it alone – a new partnership with the City of Pittsburgh is helping to ensure that we maximize all local dollars to leverage support for children and families.

- **Supporting Parents:** Supporting key interventions to prevent child maltreatment and support thousands of parents to new babies.
- **Family Support Centers:** Funding 22 family support centers and \$14,000,000 in out of school time programs for school-aged children and adolescents.
- **Childcare & Early Learning:** \$13,000,000 for the Allegheny Child Care Matters (ACCM) pilot in to ensure that the approximately 300 currently enrolled children continue to receive services and allow an additional 350 children to be served, while prioritizing children of early care and education (ECE) and Out-of-School Time (OST) professionals to increase the number of staff in working in programs. This investment augments \$95,000,000 for the Early Learning Resource Center which connects low- and moderate-income families to high quality child care through access to subsidies.
- **Diversion:** Expanding critical diversion services throughout the County for both juveniles and adults, to reduce arrests and incarceration, while improving police and community relations.
- **Gun Violence:** \$10,000,000 for evidence-based and grassroots-level interventions to address gun violence in five high-impact communities in Allegheny County.
- **Housing for Children:** Supporting housing solutions for families with children, ensuring that no families with children EVER need to stay on the street in our County.
- **Older Adults:** \$116,000,000 for operations, improvements, and equipment at Kane Regional Centers. \$45,000,000 for Area Agency on Aging supports like Senior Centers, in-home services, and home delivered meals.
- **Veterans:** \$1,000,000 to aiding and assisting all County veterans and their families with obtaining local, state, and federal benefits.
- **Homelessness:** An 'All of County' approach, coupled with increases in State funding and critical private investments, resulting in additional shelter beds, over 1500 rapid and permanent supportive housing beds, and economic development investments leading to greater flow through the shelter system by bringing on additional affordable housing units in the first 100 days of '500 in 500'.
- **Responding to Opioid Use Crisis:** Leveraging \$28,000,000 in opioid litigation funds and working across County government to invest in solutions to prevent, treat, and reduce harms associated with opioid epidemic.

- **Behavioral Health:** \$585,000,000 for the Behavioral HealthChoices Program, which is Medicaid Managed Care for mental health and substance use treatment. Through the Behavioral HealthChoices program, DHS is responsible for ensuring high-quality care, effective coordination, and timely access to appropriate mental health and drug and alcohol services.
- **Child Protection & Family Preservation:** \$340,000,000 for child protection, as well as prevention and family preservation.
- **Continuum of Care:** \$27,000,000 for the HUD Continuum of Care Program, which provides permanent housing and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Substance Use:** \$20,000,000 for substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.
- **Human Services Block Grant:** \$128,000,000 supports mental health services; \$13,000,000 supports homelessness services, such as eviction prevention, rental assistance, and emergency shelter; and \$10,000,000 supports people with developmental disabilities.
- **Jail Healthcare & Modernization:** \$117,000,000 for operating and capital funding aimed at enhancing support for incarcerated individuals. Key investments focus on strengthening jail healthcare staffing, to deliver comprehensive and proactive care, alongside infrastructure improvements to facilitate these quality enhancements.
- **Health Department:** \$23,000,000 in operating funding, \$115,000,00 in grants, and 200 employees to protect, promote, and preserve the health and wellbeing of all Allegheny County residents.

---

## HOUSING, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- **Home Ownership:** \$2,000,000 to increase affordable home ownership for households earning 80% of Area Median Income or less, creating over two dozen new affordable homes with partner organizations.
- **First-Time Home Buyers:** Allegheny County's Residential Finance Authority will recapitalize a First Time Home Buyer Program with \$2,000,000, to support at least 40 low- to moderate-income individuals with closing costs and down payment assistance.
- **Home Repair:** \$2,000,000 to the Allegheny Home Improvement Loan Program, to more than double the existing program and reach 60+ homeowners.
- **Rent Stabilization & Lawyer of the Day:** \$14,000,000 to continue the rent support program, stop evictions, and help families stay in their homes.
- **Landlord Repair Program Pilot:** \$500,000 to provide financing to property owners and landlords, to preserve or expand up to 40 naturally occurring affordable units.

- **Rental Housing:** \$3,500,000 to enable the creation of 150 units of affordable rental housing, through Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) multi-family and smaller-scale affordable rental housing projects.
- **Downtown & Major Projects:** Supports ongoing consideration of tax credits through the newly formed Downtown LERTA, and the existing LERTA, TIF, and TRID programs. Job creation, affordable housing, and sustainability continue to be drivers of competitive applications.
- **Community Development and Infrastructure Improvement:** \$13,200,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funding to provide financial tools to support low- to moderate-income communities and individuals within Allegheny County in addressing blight, aging infrastructure, affordable housing challenges, and economic hardships.
- **Site Development & Land Recycling:** \$500,000 to launch a revolving loan and grant fund to support pre-development and site planning for municipalities, community organizations, and developers, to bring underutilized land into active reuse. The County will also invest \$25,000 to develop a feasibility study for a County-wide Land Bank system.
- **Mainstreet Revitalization:** \$300,000 for technical assistance and planning, and another \$500,000 to offer grants to communities, for façade improvement programs, events and marketing, and public realm projects. This will expand on the Allegheny Together Main Street Program which supports three communities annually.
- **Small Businesses Loans & Grants:** \$675,000 to support 10-15 businesses with direct financing, and to support entrepreneurs and entrepreneurial support organizations with technical assistance and programming.
- **Business Attraction:** \$2,000,000 in the Target Sector Growth fund to retain and attract businesses growing in key sectors that include clean energy, technology, robotics and AI, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences, and to create thousands of new jobs in Allegheny County. Expanded partnerships with workforce development partners will help ensure training programs exist to connect local residents with new employment opportunities in growth sectors.
- **Lead Abatement:** Support for an \$8,000,000 Lead-Safe Homes Program federal HUD grant application, to expand capacity and double the number of homes we are reaching with the program. This builds on the multi-year HUD grant that Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh were awarded in 2018, which has abated lead from over 250 homes.
- **Brownfield & Trail Development:** \$9,000,000 to continue the rehab of the historic Carrie Furnace Hot Metal Bridge, acquire 3.4M miles of railway for the Panhandle Trail, and support development of the Brilliant Line multimodal pathway.

- **Housing Decarbonization:** \$1,000,000 to match federal funding to decarbonize and make needed improvements to public housing units, while supporting workforce development opportunities for union clean energy jobs in our region.
  - **Business Diversity & Enforcement:** \$1,100,000 into the Equity & Inclusion department to ensure everyone is benefitting from County contracts.
  - **Worker Protection:** \$250,000 to support the creation of new positions to enforce Paid Sick Leave and other programs which are critical to protecting workers.
  - **Comprehensive & Climate Action Planning:** \$3,100,000 to fund the first County-wide Comprehensive Plan in over a decade, the County's first ever Climate Action Plan, and a full assessment of how the County can improve economic development, attract new residents, and grow.
- 

## EDUCATION, WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, & YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

- **Community College:** \$36,000,000 to support 22,000 students in 130 different degrees, certificates, diplomas, and transfer for program options across six career paths.
  - **Youth Employment:** \$2,200,000 to increase access to good paying summer jobs for youth across Allegheny County, through the Learn & Earn Summer Youth Employment program.
  - **Cutting Edge Apprenticeship Training:** \$500,000 to scale PIT2Work, an innovative 5-week construction training program with union trades, that provides trainees with the skills they need to immediately enter an apprenticeship program or a full-time job.
- 

## PUBLIC SAFETY & PUBLIC DEFENSE

- **Public Defense:** Over \$1,000,000 to create 15 new positions to better defend clients by providing skilled, aggressive, and passionate advocacy. This is a critical investment towards building equity within our criminal justice system, by working to ensure we protect the rights guaranteed to all members of our community.
  - **Police:** \$1,000,000 to increase the promotion, preservation, and delivery of security and safety throughout Allegheny County.
  - **Public Safety System Overhaul:** \$12,200,000 to continue the Ultra High Frequency (UHF) transition and provide new radios. The system will be used by 350 public-safety agencies in Allegheny County, including 911, police departments and sheriff's offices, fire/rescue departments, and emergency medical services (EMS) agencies.
  - **Reducing Recidivism:** \$5,000,000 in support for reentry programs demonstrated to reduce recidivism, including expansion of treatment for people suffering from Opioid Use Disorder, and scaling investment in Cognitive-Based Therapy.
-

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Pittsburgh Regional Transit:** \$43,000,000 to draw down \$291,000,000 in State funding and meet our commitment to provide high quality regional transit.
  - **AlleghenyGO:** \$1,500,000 to continue to fund half-fare transit for low-income residents. Since its launch in June of 2024, over 5,000 individuals have enrolled in the program.
  - **Public Works:** \$50,000,000 for new roads, bridges, heavy equipment, and fleet replacement.
- 

## CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM

- **Parks:** \$11,000,000 to pools, shelters, facilities, equipment, and environmental improvements across all nine County parks.
  - **Convention Center:** \$11,000,000 in discretionary funding to support a hub of tourism for the region.
  - **Major Events & Tourism:** \$3,000,000 in funding, restricted by the State for tourism, to support the NFL Draft. The Department of Budget & Finance estimates that the NFL Draft will bring in roughly \$4M in direct tax revenue to the County.
- 

## ELECTION & INFORMATION SECURITY

- **Elections:** \$11,700,000 to continue to provide safe, secure, and accessible voting for all citizens of Allegheny County.
- **Information Technology & Security:** \$23,000,000 to modernize technology, reduce risk of cybersecurity threats, provide for election security, and oversee all technological innovation for Allegheny County.

*Source: 2025 Draft Comprehensive Fiscal Plan, Allegheny County*