IT'S NOT A PILOT --- IT'S THE WHOLE AIRPLANE!

The Governor’s Office has drafted an amendment to the Public Welfare Code that is called a Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program. The Governor’s new proposal is the same old proposal, except that the old proposal is phased in over five years instead of four, and is limited to 20 counties instead of 67. Instead of combining the funding for the seven programs at the state level, as the Governor originally proposed, the new/old proposal authorizes DPW to allocate funding from the original seven separate appropriations to counties, and then allowing counties to combine these funds into a block grant.

This new proposal is NOT a pilot program because:

- It is a permanent program.

- There is no evaluation of this radically new approach to delivering county-managed human services at the end of a test period, before permanent legislation is adopted.

All of our concerns with the Governor's block grant proposal remain:

- This proposal does a lot more than just allow counties to "move money around" among existing county-managed human services. It continues to authorize counties to use funds now used, for example, to provide services today to thousands of Pennsylvanians suffering from mental illness to create new programs to serve populations not covered by the programs included in the block grant, including low-income adults and seniors.

- This proposal will hurt people with disabilities because it allows block grant funds to be used for child welfare expenditures incurred by counties in excess of their state and federal allocations. Since the child welfare program is essentially an entitlement program, much-needed funds that pay for services for people with disabilities, which make up 90% of the funds being put into the block grant, will inevitably be transferred to cover excess child welfare costs, in order to avoid the use of county property tax dollars in such cases.

- This proposal puts CHIPPS funding for mental health services at risk of being transferred to other programs in violation of commitments made to communities across the Commonwealth by Governors and legislators over the past forty years.
- This proposal **abandons fifty years of state effort** to develop regulations that guarantee patient protections, define programs, and require best practices. Counties would be free to spend block grants on anything they wished, without regard to any standards set by the state.

- This proposal contains **no financial standards to hold counties accountable** for their expenditures of over half a billion state dollars.

- This proposal allows DPW to **change the way these funds are allocated** among counties, with no prior review by the Legislature or stakeholders.

- This proposal requires every recipient to exhaust every possible private source of funding before they can be eligible to receive services. **This requirement is unworkable.**

Attached is a copy of a three-year Human Services Block Grant Pilot Proposal developed by Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, Chairman of the House Human Services Committee.
Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program

Recommendations for Language for Public Welfare Code

6.24.12

1. **Designation of Participating Counties** --- Within sixty days of the passage of this act, the Secretary of Public Welfare, in consultation with the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program Advisory Committee, the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, may designate up to one county from a county of each of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth classes to participate in the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program. At least one of the participating entities shall be a mental health and intellectual disability joinder.

2. **Establishment of Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program Advisory Committee** — Within thirty days of the passage of this act, the Secretary of Welfare, in consultation with the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, shall appoint and establish a Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program Advisory Committee to (a) advise the Department of Public Welfare on the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program, and (b) assist the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee in the design of the evaluation required by this Act and in the development of the report required by this Act. The Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program Advisory Committee shall include:

   a. A representative of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, upon consultation with that organization;
   b. A member recommended by the Chair of the House Human Services Committee and the Chair of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee;
   c. A representative of each county/joinder participating in the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program, upon consultation with participating counties;
   d. A representative of organizations providing mental health services upon consultation with the Behavioral Health Coalition;
   e. A representative of organizations providing services to people with intellectual disabilities, upon consultation with the Intellectual Disabilities and Autism Coalition;
   f. A representative of organizations providing drug and alcohol services, upon consultation with the Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania;
g. A representative of organizations providing child welfare services, upon consultation with the Pennsylvania Coalition of Children, Youth and Family Services;

h. A representative of organizations providing homeless assistance services, upon consultation with the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania;

i. A consumer or representative of consumers served by each of the six services included in the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program, upon consultation with the Disabilities Rights Network of Pennsylvania and the Mental Health Association of Pennsylvania; and a representative of the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations – Alliance.

j. Officials of the Department of Public Welfare, as determined by the Secretary

k. Officials of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, as determined by the Secretary.

3. Funding Flexibility -- Beginning on January 1, 2013, counties with pilot program plans designated in accordance with this section and approved by the Secretary of Public Welfare, the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee shall have the authority to transfer:

(a) up to ten percent (10%) of the specific annual funding allocations received from the Department of Public Welfare for community mental health services, behavioral health services initiative, community intellectual disability base services, homeless assistance services, child welfare prevention services, and the Human Services Development Fund for FY2012-2013 and

(b) up to twenty percent (20%) of the specific annual funding allocations received from the Department of Public Welfare for FY2013-2014 for each of the following county-managed human services to any other of these services: community mental health services, behavioral health services initiative, community intellectual disability base services, homeless assistance services, child welfare prevention services, and the Human Services Development Fund,

(c) except that:

1. None of the funds transferred in accordance with these provisions may be utilized to
offset county funding for child welfare services spent in excess of county match requirements for child welfare services;

2. None of the funds allocated to participating counties for CHIPP (Community Hospital Integrated Projects Programs) and SIPP (State Integrated Projects Programs) may be transferred to fund any other human service.

4. Program Evaluation --- The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee shall undertake a detailed evaluation of the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program for FY2012-2013 and FY2013-2014, and submit a report to the General Assembly, including the House Human Services Committee and the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee no later than November 1, 2014. The Human Services Development Fund Block Grant Advisory Committee shall assist in the design of the evaluation and the development of the report. The report shall include at least the following:

   a. A detailed description of the reallocations and savings achieved by each county/joinder participating in the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program, and if appropriate, recommendations for statewide implementation of such savings;

   b. A detailed report of the measurable outcomes achieved by each participating county/joinder as a result of the services provided in the Human Services Block Grant Pilot Program;

   c. Any additional costs incurred or expected to be incurred by local, county, or state entities in related public services as a result of changes in human services provided by participating counties/joinders, including municipal, county, and state prisons and correctional facilities, other law enforcement and public safety agencies and programs, private and state psychiatric and/or drug and alcohol addiction treatment facilities and programs, state institutions for people with intellectual disabilities, public or private medical providers, or public or private nursing facilities or long term care facilities.