ALLEGHENY COUNTY CONTROLLER

CHELSA WAGNER

EFFICIENCY. TRANSPARENCY. INNOVATION. ACCOUNTABILITY.

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to present to you this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2015. This report is intended to provide an easily understandable distillation of the information in Allegheny County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and to provide an interesting and informative overview of the County's financial status and operations.

In other recent developments, my office has taken a major step forward in government transparency with the launch of County Contracts Online and our OpenGov platform, which puts up-to-date County financial information and other data at our citizens' fingertips. These resources can be accessed via my Web site, www.alleghenycontroller.com.

I also remain dedicated to hearing and responding to the concerns of the citizens of Allegheny County, and urge those with concerns about waste, fraud or abuse in County government to contact my Taxpayer Hotline at 412-350-4300.

As a fellow elected official, I hope you will find this report a valuable piece of my efforts to make our County government more accessible to all of our citizens.

Kindest regards,

Chelsa Wagner
Allegheny County Controller

CHELSA WAGNER
CONTROLLER

ALLEGHENY COUNTY POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVERSITY

www. AlleghenyController .com

Allegheny County is the second most populous county in Pennsylvania with approximately 1,230,000 citizens residing in 130 municipalities, of which the City of Pittsburgh is the most populous and the County seat. The County is governed by an elected Chief Executive, a 15-member County Council and an appointed Manager. The elected Controller, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Treasurer carry out the duties assigned to them by state law and the County Charter.

View more reports and audits from Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner online!

» www.AlleghenyController.com

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Rich Fitzgerald
County Executive

Chelsa Wagner
County Controller

Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.
District Attorney

William P. Mullen
Sheriff

John K. Weinstein
County Treasurer

Cover photos courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh

County Council

President, Council At-Large:
John DeFazio

Vice President, Council District 7
Nicholas Futules

Council At-Large: Samuel DeMarco, III
Council District 1: Thomas Baker
Council District 2: Cindy Kirk
Council District 3: Edward Kress
Council District 4: Michael J. Finnerty
Council District 5: Sue Means
Council District 6: John F. Palmiere
Council District 8: Dr. Charles Martoni
Council District 9: Robert J. Macey
Council District 10: DeWitt Walton
Council District 11: Paul Klein
Council District 12: James R. Ellenbogen
Council District 13: Denise Ranalli Russell

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CONTROLLER

WHAT DOES A CONTROLLER DO?

The Controller is the fiscal watchdog of County government, monitoring its accounts and expenditures through the Accounting, Auditing, and Management Systems functions of the office.

The Controller serves ex officio as a member of the Allegheny County Retirement Board, Investment Board, Jail Oversight Board, and Juvenile Detention Board of Advisors.

Dear Taxpayers,

I am pleased to present to you this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the year ended December 31, 2015. This report is intended to provide an easily understandable distillation of the information in Allegheny County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and to provide an interesting and informative overview of the County's financial status and operations.

I am incredibly honored to have been chosen by the citizens of Allegheny County to continue my service as their Controller for a second term. Checks and balances and critical analysis of financial decisions are essential in government, and I am eager to build upon and strengthen the important work that was done during my first four years in office.

My first term ended on an auspicious note, with the Court decision affirming my office's ability to conduct performance audits of County departments. We have embarked on our first audits in connection with this decision, which I am certain will add to the considerable savings and efficiencies that my office has already been able to bring to light.

In other recent developments, my office has taken a major step forward in government transparency with the launch of County Contracts Online and our OpenGov platform, which puts up-to-date County financial information and other data at our citizens' fingertips. These resources can be accessed via my Web site, www.alleghenycontroller.com

I also remain dedicated to hearing and responding to the concerns of the average citizens of Allegheny County, and urge those with concerns about waste, fraud or abuse in County government to contact my Taxpayer Hotline at 412-350-4300.

I hope you will find this report a valuable contribution to my efforts to make our County government more accessible to all of our citizens.

Chelsa Wagner
Allegheny County Controller

At the close of 2015, Allegheny County's unemployment rate stood at 3.8 percent, a reduction of .7 percent over the course of the year, and below the statewide rate of 4.1 percent. (Pa. Dept. of Labor & Industry)

The largest industries are Health Care (127,474), Retail (72,000), Professional Services (60,878), Education (60,394), and Food Service (58,865). (Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry)

The median home value in Allegheny County rose by 4.6 percent over the course of 2015 to $129,300, the largest increase among Pennsylvania counties during this year, according to Zillow.com.

The average rental home costs $1,164 per month, below the national average of $1,380. (Zillow.com)

In 2015, Pittsburgh was named the #1 Food City by Zagat. The Allegheny County Department of Health licensed more than 150 new food establishments during 2015.

Pittsburgh and Allegheny County hosted 496 meetings and conventions in 2015 which attracted 298,628 attendees, contributing $184.4 million in direct spending to the local economy. The number of available hotel rooms in Allegheny County grew by 4.2 percent in 2015, while occupancy remained even (67.3 percent) despite the increase in supply. (VisitPittsburgh.com)

CONTROLLER'S OFFICE YEAR IN REVIEW

2015

$2.5 million

Hertz Corporation agreed to pay more than $2.5 million identified by the Controller's Office as being owed to the County in connection with vehicle rentals at Pittsburgh International Airport. In 2012, Controller Wagner expanded concession contract audits with the car rental companies to include payment of the County's $2 per day car rental tax. Funds acquired through the car rental tax are required by law to support public transit, with the funds recovered in this settlement amounting to the cost of running two PAT bus routes for an entire year.

$882,023 unpaid

The Controller's Office identified $882,023 in unpaid taxes, penalties and interest stemming from Hotel/Motel tax compliance audits referred by the County Treasurer, who collects the tax. The 24 reviews conducted in 2015 identified an average amount owed of $36,750. By far the largest unpaid amount identified as being owed was $337,458 in back taxes, penalties and interest dating to 2011 by an Airport-area motel.

$508,316 owed

A Taxpayer Alert from the Controller's Office revealed that property owners receiving federal Section 8 rental subsidies owed a minimum of $508,316 in County, municipal and school property taxes, making them ineligible for these subsides. The review also found that many Section 8 rental properties receive the Homestead Exemption on property taxes despite rental properties being ineligible.

$58,000 identified

The County recovered nearly $58,000 identified by the Controller's Office in duplicate fees paid to state constables for court services, initiating improvements to training, policies and procedures to prevent duplicate payments in the future.

$805,737 combined

An audit identified conclusive examples of misuse and fraud leading to the arrest of an employee of First Vehicle Services, the maintenance provider for County vehicles, who stole approximately $13,000 by using a County employee's fuel card; recovery of $42,737 for improper use of a County vehicle; and identifying a failure to seek at least $750,000 in reimbursement for liquid fuels taxes from the state.

HIGHLIGHTS

2015

FUND BALANCE IS STRONG

The 2015 General Fund Balance is $69 million, of which $41 million is unassigned. The unassigned fund balance represents 5.7 percent of the County's 2015 General Fund revenues. Rating agencies recommend an unassigned fund balance of at least 5 percent of General Fund revenues.

TAX REVENUE UP

Tax revenue increased in 2015, indicating more robust economic activity. Property tax revenue rose by $5.7 million, although half of this amount is being reserved as an estimate for refunds to be paid for appeals still in progress. Sales tax revenue increased $1.5 million, or a 3 percent increase, which has occurred in 4 of the past 5 years.

OTHER TAX PROCEEDS INCREASE

Alcoholic Beverage and Rental Vehicle tax revenues, dedicated by law to public transportation, increased by $5 million in 2015. Hotel Tax proceeds, which fund promotion of tourism, were up $2.7 million.

IMPROVEMENTS WARRANT RATING BOOST

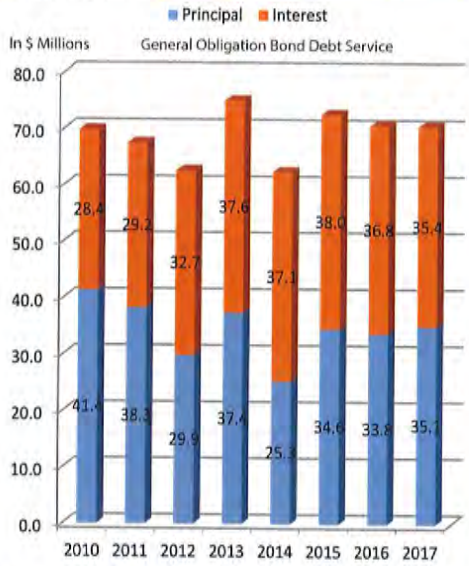
Outside analysts have recognized the positive fiscal strides made by the County, as it has been awarded an investment rating of AA- by S&P Global Ratings. Many factors contribute to this rating including the County's strong economic base, as well as renewed efforts to control expenditures and identify additional regularly recurring revenue streams.

SURVEY SHOWS BETTER HEALTH

According to the annual County Health Rankings by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Allegheny County improved from 40th to 34th out of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania. The measurement of the health of the community includes physical activity, substance abuse, obesity, smoking, access to healthy foods, the quality of air and water as well as social factors such as unemployment and poverty. The improvement in the County's ranking was driven largely by a decrease in premature death, and was based on 2010-2012 state data.

CHALLENGES

2015



State Impasse Requires Flexibility

Pennsylvania's state budget impasse represented a major challenge to the County in 2015, as state reimbursements are the primary funding source for the County's largest expenditure, Human Services programs. Payments were severely curtailed for a number of months and the County was forced to transfer more than $11.4 million from Capital funds to cover Human Services payroll and essential payments for services such as foster care. Additionally, nearly 400 provider agencies were not paid during the impasse.

Debt Levels Down, But Payments Costly

The County ended 2015 with its lowest General Obligation Bond debt since 2011, though debt payments remain a drain on County resources, amounting to about $700 for every County resident. Debt service payments increased more than $10 million over 2014.

Air Pollution is Lingering Issue

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designates at least part of Allegheny County as in non-attainment for three of six criteria pollutants: ozone, fine particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. In 2013, Pittsburgh ranked below a dozen other benchmark metropolitan areas in both ozone and fine particulate matter measurements, according to the EPA.

One-Time Budget Fixes Risky

One time fixes that may not be available in future years have once again been used to bolster the fund balance. In 2015, these included an $8 million credit from Highmark and the use of $4 million in Hotel Tax funds for expenditures incurred in the County Parks. The continued use of one-time sources is an unsustainable budgeting practice that risks returning the County to deficient fund balance levels.

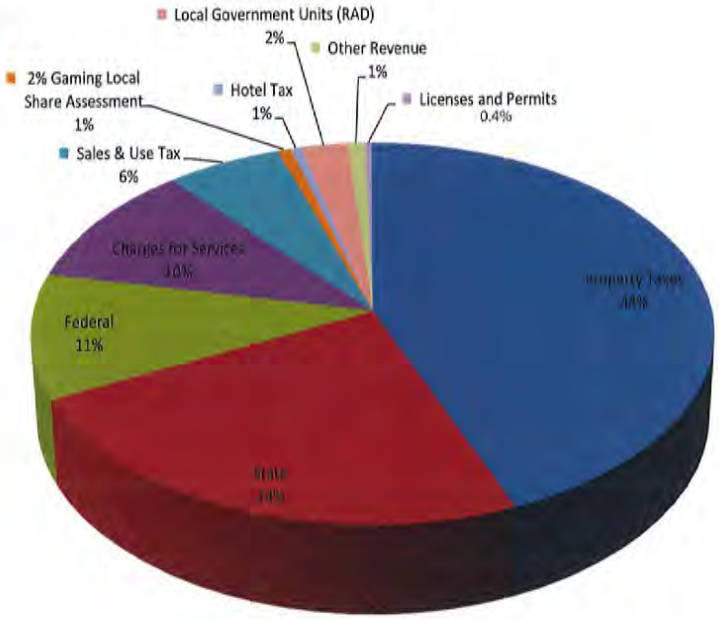
Market Declines Thwart Increased Contributions to Pension Fund

A healthy pension has a funded ratio of at least 80 percent. Despite increased contributions in each of the last two years, the County's funded ratio is only 56.6 percent. This represents a decline from last year due to decreased investment returns.

Year	Contribution Rate	Funded Status	Total Assets
2015	9.0%	56.6%	$824 million
2014	8.5%	60.3%	$839 million
2013	8.0%	59.5%	$828 million
2012	8.0%	55.4%	$761 million
2011	7.0%	58.7%	$687 million

REVENUE

2015



2015 General & Debt Service Fund Revenue

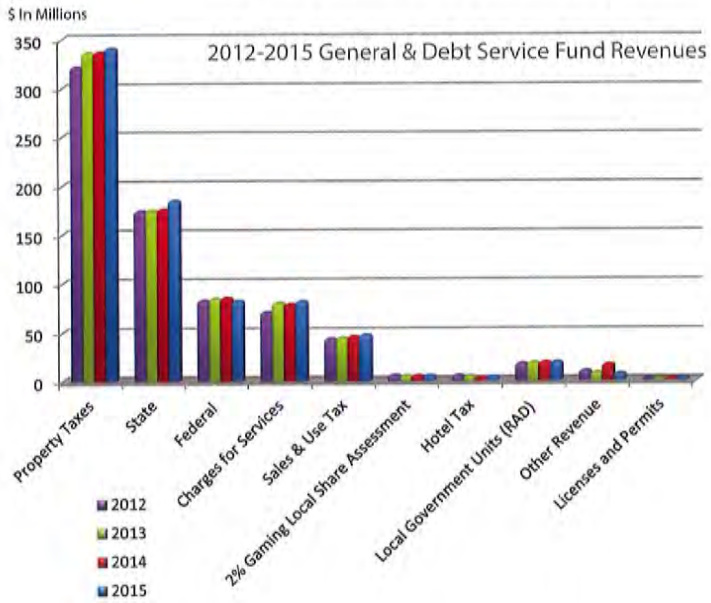
The County's General and Debt Service Fund accounts for the vast majority of County revenues and expenditures.

Total revenue increased about $8 million in 2015 over the prior year to approximately $778.6 million.

The primary source of the increase was an additional $9 million in State funding, primarily for Children, Youth and Family Services programs.

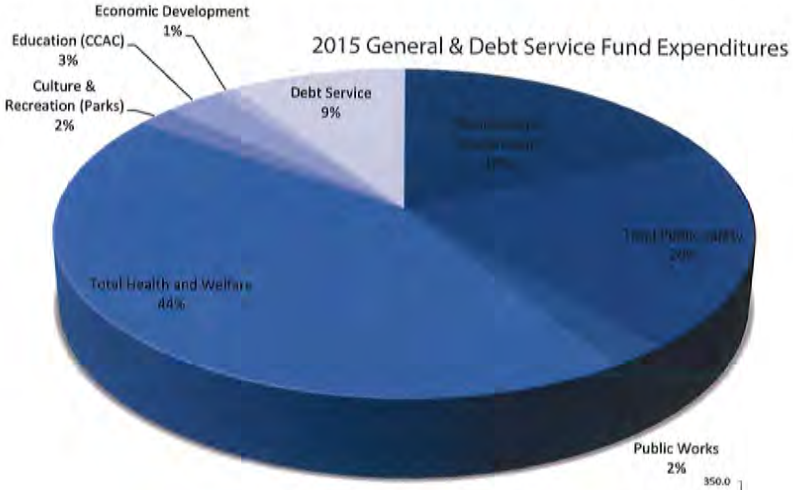
Property Tax revenue increased by $5.7 million, holding steady at 44 percent of total revenue. However, $2.5 million has been set aside for pending appeals.

These increases prevented a decline in revenue despite one-time infusions in 2014 of $5 million from the sale of a Health Department building and a $2.5 million bonus payment for Marcellus Shale leases in Deer Lakes Park.

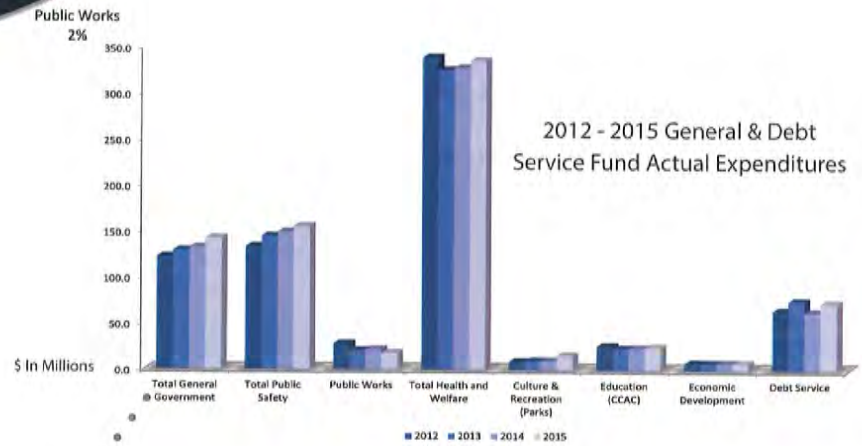


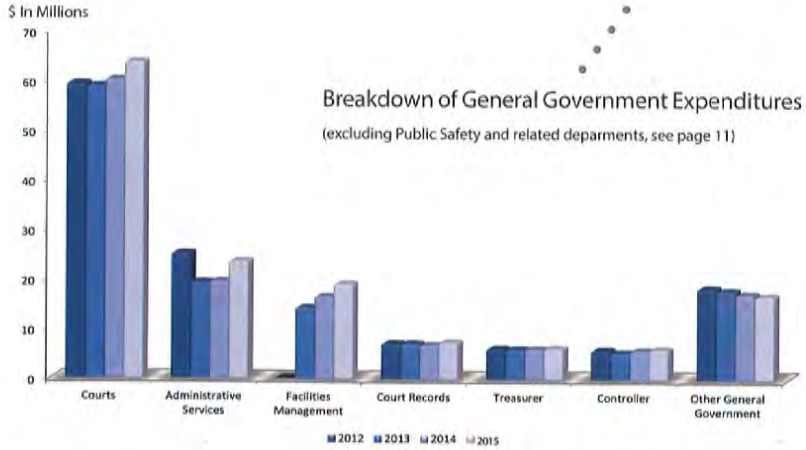
EXPENDITURES

2015



Expenditures increased $34 million in 2015 over the prior year, to a total of $769.9 million. Debt Service was $10 million higher, with other increases occurring in improving the condition of County facilities, efforts to market the County's parks, as well as technological enhancements.





Breakdown of General Government Expenditures

(excluding Public Safety and related deparments, see page 11)

HEALTH & WELFARE

2015

County government provides an array of services that many residents rely on daily. The Department of Human Services delivers a coordinated system of social services. Its four divisions are as follows:

Children, Youth and Family Services Division

Provides services for abused and dependent children and their families through counseling, emergency shelters, foster homes, group homes and institutions. In 2015, 7,563 children and 7,743 parents received services.

Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability/ Drug and Alcohol Division

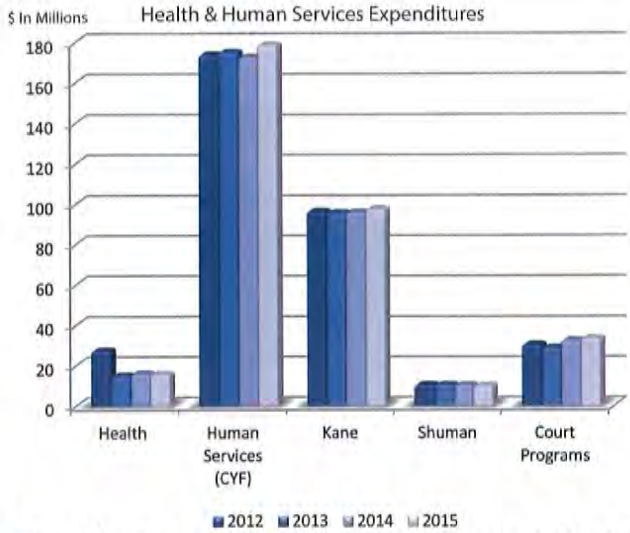
Administers an integrated, community-based service delivery system that provides treatment, counseling and housing to County residents with mental disabilities or drug and alcohol addiction.

Aging Division

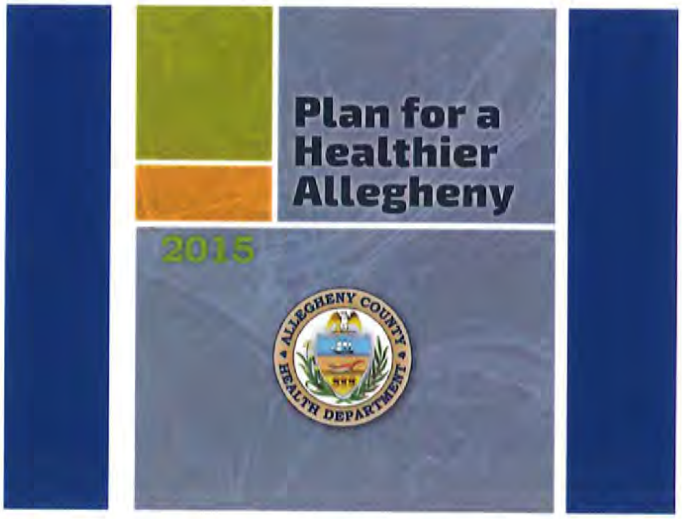
Functions as the local Area Agency on Aging. Provides a coordinated system of social services to the elderly of Allegheny County, including senior citizens' centers, housing assistance, legal assistance and the Meals on Wheels program.

Community Services Division

Provides a coordinated system of employment and training services for unemployed and disadvantaged County residents. Administers programs providing direct and indirect services to individuals and citizen groups through two principal programs – Community Action and Head Start.



- The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) protects and improves public health through a variety of programs, including pollution monitoring, food poisoning prevention, rodent control, water testing, dental clinics, solid waste management, recycling, health education, and maternal and infant care.
- The Kane Regional Health Centers offer skilled nursing, long-term care and rehabilitation to the chronically ill and elderly who have limited financial resources through four facilities with a total of 1,124 licensed beds.
- Court Programs provide alternative sentencing programs for adults and juveniles, including placement facilities and home detention, while the Shuman Detention Center provides secure, temporary shelter to delinquent youths awaiting final case disposition.



In September, the Allegheny County Health Department was awarded a $150,000, two-year grant from the Jefferson Foundation to launch the Live Well Allegheny Mon Valley Initiative. The funding will aid the ACHD and its partners to increase the number of people in the Mon Valley with access to smoke-free and tobacco-free environments, access to healthy food and beverage options, and access to physical activity opportunities.

The ACHD has joined several local collaborating agencies in a new Allegheny County initiative, AIDS Free Pittsburgh (AFP). The mission is to reduce the rate of new HIV infections by 75 percent and achieve an AIDS-free county, meaning no new AIDS cases, by the year 2020. To learn more about AIDS Free Pittsburgh and how you can benefit from its services call 412-560-0490 or visit AFP's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AIDSFreePittsburgh

In August, the ACHD was chosen as one of the first four sites in the country to participate in a new initiative--Bridging for Health: Improving Community Health Through Innovations in Financing--supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). RWJF is one of the country's leading non-profit organizations supporting research and programs throughout the nation which are working to build a Culture of Health. The two ACHD initiatives highlighted by the selection committee were its Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, a multi-sector community health improvement plan released earlier this year, and the Public Health Improvement Fund. The Fund was created by a number of local foundations committed to investing in Health Department infrastructure.

(source: Allegheny County Department of Health)

Healthy Together – a coalition consisting of the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Health Department, Allies for Children and the Consumer Health Coalition—is committed to enrolling all Pittsburgh children and teens in quality, no- to low-cost healthcare programs, like Medicaid and CHIP.

For more information, visit www.GetEnrolledPGH.com or call 2-1-1 to ask for help with the enrollment process.

For those who speak Spanish, call 412-456-1877 x 205

PUBLIC SAFETY

2015

County government is charged with providing services that ensure the safety of all residents. In Allegheny County, the Emergency Services Department controls emergency management services throughout the County and responds to natural or man-made disasters. It also assists municipalities with training of firefighters, oversees the countywide 911 network, and investigates all fires of suspicious origin. The Police Bureau provides security at all County facilities, offers assistance to municipal police departments and housing authorities, and trains local police and security guards. The Allegheny County Jail detains and supervises persons awaiting trial accused of violation of probation or parole, or serving given sentences.

The County is responsible for providing services that include:

District Attorney

Responsible for the prosecution of all Allegheny County criminal cases.

Public Defender

Provides legal counsel for indigent defendants and for respondents.

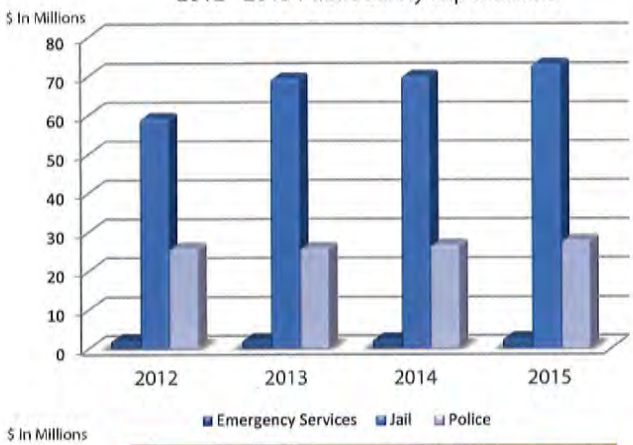
Medical Examiner

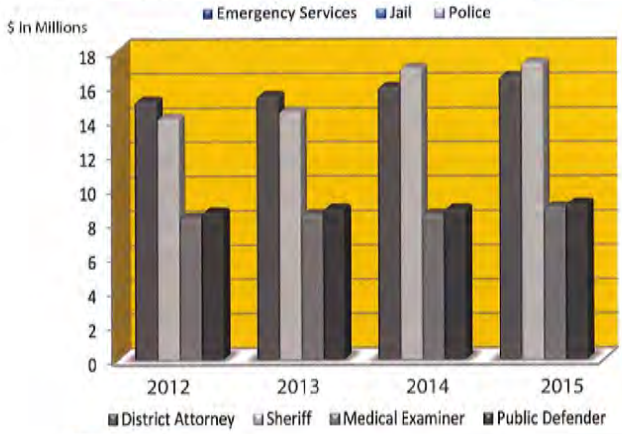
Investigates the circumstance, cause and manner of sudden and unexpected, medically unattended deaths; provides laboratory services, technical assistance and consultation to police departments, municipal officials, and County agencies.

Sheriff

Chief law enforcement officer of the Courts; serves all writs and injunctions issued by the Courts; provides transportation of prisoners to and from the Court and place of confinement.

2012 - 2015 Public Safety Expenditures





In September, the Allegheny County Office of the Medical Examiner received a grant award of $254,000 as part of the 2015 Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Elimination Grant Program. The program, announced by Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr., provided approximately $38 million in grants to 32 jurisdictions in 20 states. The two-year awards will help test an estimated 56,475 rape kits, generating DNA evidence that can help solve cases across the country.

AUTHORITIES & CCAC

2015

Allegheny County has nine associated authorities governed by appointed board members and carrying out specific functions assigned by law. The largest of these include:

Frick Fine Arts Building, University of Pittsburgh. Photo Courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh.

Top Ten Institutions of Higher Learning Enrollment	
University of Pittsburgh	28,769
CCAC	18,913
Carnegie Mellon	12,569
Duquesne University	9,956
Robert Morris University	5,181
Point Park University	3,827
Chatham University	2,300
Carlow University	1,897
LaRoche College	1,707
Penn State-Allegheny	635

Allegheny County Airport Authority

The Allegheny County Airport Authority operates Pittsburgh International Airport and the Allegheny County Airport. For more information, see Transportation & Infrastructure. (Pages 15 - 16)

Port Authority of Allegheny County

The Port Authority of Allegheny County operates public transportation service throughout Allegheny County. For more information, see Transportation & Infrastructure. (Pages 15 - 16)

ALCOSAN

The Allegheny County Sanitation Authority (ALCOSAN) manages wastewater from communities in Allegheny County.

ALCOSAN is engaged in implementing a "Wet Weather Plan" mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to significantly mitigate overflows of raw sewage into local waterways. Within the immediate time period of this project, sewage rates are expected to double, with an estimated increase of 60 percent over the next four years. ALCOSAN raised rates 17 percent in 2015 and will do so by 11 percent in 2016, 2017 and 2018. By 2017, the average ALCOSAN customer will pay $417.51 per year, up from $260.92 in 2013. Last March, a committee of the ALCOSAN Board of Directors was appointed to develop a program to provide financial assistance to customers.

Allegheny County government provides a local sponsorship match to the Community College of Allegheny County to offer affordable and accessible higher education. The County's contribution represents approximately one-third of the college's operating budget, the other two-thirds coming from State government and student tuition.

PARKS & RECREATION

2015

Boyce Park

1,096 acres; located in Monroeville, & Plum; offers downhill skiing, tubing, wave pool, & skate park

Deer Lakes Park

1,180 acres; located in Frazer & West Deer; offers fishing, an observatory, a spray park, & a disc golf course

Harrison Hills Park

500 acres; located in Harrison; offers a Scenic overlook and environmental learning center

Hartwood Acres Park

629 acres; located in Hampton & Indiana; offers an historic mansion, concert series, & cross-country skiing

North Park

3,075 acres; located in Hampton, McCandless, & Pine; offers a golf course, kayaking, ice rink, pool, & dek hockey

Round Hill Park

1,101acres; located in Elizabeth Township; offers an exhibition farm & spray park

Settlers Cabin Park

1,610 acres; located in Collier, N. Fayette, & Robinson; offers a wave pool, dive pool, tennis, & dek hockey

South Park

2,013 acres; located in Bethel Park & South Park; offers concert series, golf course, wave pool, skate park, dek hockey, ice rink, & nature center

White Oak Park

810 acres; located in White Oak; offers Wedding garden, bocce, volleyball, & horseshoes

Allegheny County operates nine regional parks across the County offering a wide variety of activities and amenities. For more information on all of the Parks, visit

www.alleghenycounty.us/parks

The Parks Department held its first annual "SnowFest" at Boyce Park in January 2015.

In March 2015, the Parks Department announced the launch of a new parks program registration Web site, where for the first time, County park users can register for programs online and pay registration fees at the same time. In December, online booking began for shelters and facilities in all nine county parks. The Parks Department encourages users to visit:

www.AlleghenyCounty.us/ParkRentals

The **Allegheny Regional Asset District** supports and finances regional assets in the areas of libraries, parks and recreation, cultural, sports and civic facilities, and programs using one-half of the proceeds from the 1 percent Allegheny County Sales and Use Tax. Contractual Assets, which are funded every year, include the Allegheny County Library Association, the Allegheny County Parks, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, City of McKeesport Regional Park, the City of Pittsburgh Regional Parks, the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, and The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. Other grants are approved on an annual basis. Total grants in 2015 were more than $96 million. The Top 14 Annual Grants in 2015 were:

Port Authority of Allegheny County	$3,000,000	Boyce/Mayview Regional Park	$331,000
Pittsburgh Symphony Society	$1,350,000	Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera	$270,000
Pittsburgh Cultural Trust	$1,300,000	Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall	$245,000
Historical Society of Western PA	$845,000	Pittsburgh Filmmakers/Center for the Arts	$241,700
WQED Multimedia	$500,000	Pittsburgh Opera	$210,000
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh	$396,000	Pittsburgh Botanic Garden	$175,000
Manchester Craftsmen's Guild	$350,000	Pittsburgh Ballet Theater	$170,000

DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, RADical Days celebrates the assets receiving support with free admission, musical and dance performances and family activities offered by arts and culture organizations, parks and recreation, and sports and regional attractions that are funded by RAD. For more information, visit radworkshere.org.

Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium. Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall. Photos courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh

TRANSPORTATION &

2015

Allegheny County provides local matching funds for the Port Authority of Allegheny County from the 7 percent drink tax and $2 per day car rental tax. These revenues are accounted for in the Transportation Fund.

The Port Authority served more than 214,000 riders on an average weekday during fiscal year 2015 on its fleet of more than 700 buses, more than 80 light rail vehicles, and two inclines. Total rides totaled almost 64 million.

Port Authority also sponsors ACCESS, a door-to-door, advance reservation, shared-ride transportation program that primarily serves seniors and persons with disabilities.

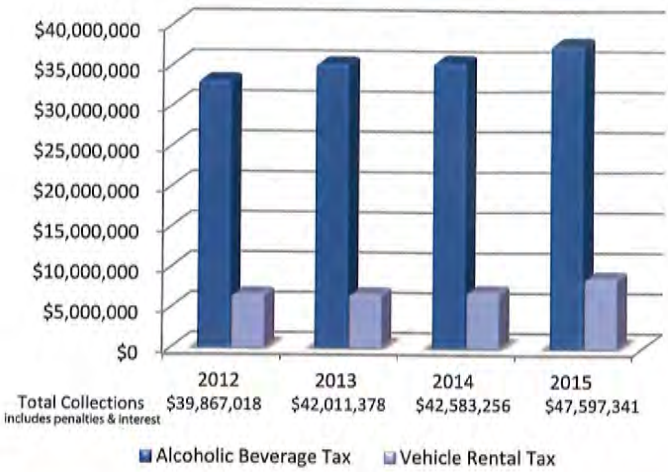


Photo courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh

In October 2015, County Council approved a $5 per vehicle fee on all vehicles registered in the County beginning in 2016. The fee, authorized by the state's 2013 transportation funding law, is expected to generate approximately $4 million annually. The fee will be collected as part of the state's vehicle registration fee, and then remitted to the County for road and bridge maintenance. The County maintains approximately 800 miles of roadway and 520 bridges.

The intermodal East Liberty Transit Center on the Martin Luther King Jr. East Busway at the connection of Shadyside and East Liberty is at the center of the East Liberty Transit Revitalization Investment District -- or TRID -- which is the first implementation of such a district in the state.

The transit center project -- which required nearly 20 funding sources to complete and built upon six acres of disused public and private land -- includes a reconstructed transit station, 3,000 square feet of mixed commercial space, 360 units of market-rate housing, a 554-space shared-use parking facility, a new street connection, a new pedestrian bridge, a 120-space bike garage, lighting, streetscape improvements, landscaping and plaza facilities that connect Penn Avenue transit users to the MLK Jr. East Busway facilities.

An artist rendering of the East Liberty Transit Center Project

INFRASTRUCTURE

2015

In March, the Port Authority's Board of Directors approved a new agreement with the Stadium Authority of the City of Pittsburgh that will provide funding to support free rides at the North Side Station for five years.

The agreement ensures the North Side Station remains within the Authority's light rail Free Fare Zone, which currently extends from First Avenue Station in Downtown to Allegheny Station on the North Shore. The cost is shared between the Stadium Authority and ALCO Parking Corporation. The new agreement will provide annual payments that start at $205,000 in the first year and increase by $15,000 each year of the agreement.

The 2015 Make My Trip Count Survey, funded by the Pittsburgh Foundation and sponsored by a dozen partnering organizations, illustrates the travel patterns of more than 20,700 commuters in the Pittsburgh region. The survey showed that 46.7 percent of respondents drive alone on their daily commute, while 25.7 percent ride a bus, 5.4 percent ride the 'T', 5.3 percent carpool, 4.3 percent walk, and 4.2 percent ride a bike.

When combining bus and 'T' riders, more commuters to Downtown Pittsburgh (41 percent) use transit than drive alone (38.3 percent).

Did You Know? The American Public Transportation Association's Transit Savings Report determined that a Pittsburgh-area commuter can save $754 per month by using public transit. This amounts to more than $9,000 over the course of a year.

The $14.5 million Carrie Furnace Flyover Bridge was completed in December. The bridge connects the Rankin Bridge to the 168-acre brownfield along the Monongahela River by passing over three railway tracks and includes significant railroad crossing safety improvements. The completion of the flyover bridge marks a significant milestone in the site work and reclamation of the former steel yard.

Photo courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh

New 2015 non-stop destinations

Allegiant Air	Ft. Myers-Punta Gorda, Fla., Jacksonville, Fla., Myrtle Beach, S.C., Orlando-Sanford, Fla., St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla.
Delta Airlines	Cancun, Mexico
OneJet	Indianapolis, Milwaukee
Porter Airlines	Toronto
Southwest Airlines	Dallas, St. Louis
Sun Air Express	Hagerstown, Md
Vacation Express	Cancun, Mexico, Freeport, Bahamas, Punta Cana, D.R.

Pittsburgh International Airport ended 2015 with total passenger traffic up 1.6 percent over 2014, and total passengers above the 8 million mark for the first time since 2012. As of February 2016, the Airport serves 54 airports non-stop, including 15 new non-stop destinations added during 2015.

In 2015, Pittsburgh International Airport became among the first airports in the country to provide ride-hailing via smartphone application. The Airport Authority signed agreements with Uber and Lyft to provide pickups from the Airport.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2015

The Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County (RAAC) received more than $3.4 million in gaming funds from the Commonwealth Financing Authority in 2015 for community and economic development initiatives throughout the County.

The funds originate from the Pennsylvania Gaming Economic Development and Tourism Fund (GEDTF), which funds community and economic development projects through revenues generated from all casinos. The GEDTF Program provides grants for single-year and multi-year projects that promote development including economic, infrastructure and community improvements, job training, public safety, and public interest. The 14 projects include:

Established in 1950, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County assists in the generation, stimulation and management of economic growth. The Authority also reviews and makes submissions on behalf of County projects to GEDTF.

Stemnion, Inc. (City of Pittsburgh)

$500,000 to expand its facilities to include a commercial scale, biological manufacturing facility from which it will launch its first clinical project; the funding will assist in activities related to the schematic designs of the facility. When complete, the project will create 496 new full-time jobs.

Woodlands Foundation, Inc. (Marshall Township)

$200,000 to provide for a multi-purpose building on the campus that is technologically current and would accommodate program and administrative staff under the same roof, provide additional residential housing, as well as conference and meeting space.

Municipality of Bethel Park

$465,000 to support three projects proposed for Bethel Park community parks to enhance the quality of life including (1) a sports court in Millennium Park; (2) a "pickleball" court in Simmons Park; and, (3) playground equipment at Village Green Park.

Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (City of Pittsburgh)

$50,000 to construct three new dance studios including a performance space with dressing rooms, storage space, offices and a gallery/reception area. The expansion will allow the Theatre to expand their programming and enrollment.

Pittsburgh Symphony, Inc. (City of Pittsburgh)

$360,000 to assist in a multi-year renovation to its facility, Heinz Hall; specifically, funding will be used for accessibility and energy efficiency projects. Twenty-seven temporary construction jobs will be created by this project.

Innovu, LLC (City of Pittsburgh)

$155,000 to expand a cloud-based software solution for employers to better control their healthcare costs, while improving the health outcomes of their employee base.

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (City of Pittsburgh)

$100,000 to reconstruct a historic fountain from 1868 and restore approximately 7.5 acres of the surrounding promenade in Allegheny Commons, listed in the National Register of Historical Places.

Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

In September, construction began on the Falconhurst development, an $11.5 million historic restoration and affordable housing initiative in the Hamnett Place neighborhood in Wilkinsburg. The project by Landmarks Development Corporation, a real estate development subsidiary of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, will bring to market 33 units of high-quality, affordable housing to the National Register-listed historic Hamnett Place neighborhood by the end of 2016.

Photo courtesy of Newbury Market

In December, ground was broken for the Gateway Shops, the first retail building of the Newbury Market project. Newbury is a new mixed-use community development in South Fayette Township which includes about 300 acres near the Bridgeville interchange of Interstate 79. The developer is EQA Landmark Communities/Newbury Development Associates, LP. When complete, Newbury Market will include 1.2 million square feet of retail, restaurant, hospitality and office space on 88 acres. Plans include two office buildings, a Courtyard by Marriott hotel, a dozen large retail stores, 15 smaller shops and more than 10 restaurants.

ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITIES:

Enrollment in the County's **Side Yard and Blighted Structure Program** is open to municipalities throughout Allegheny County and currently includes 54 communities. The program provides an opportunity for individuals, businesses, non-profits or government entities to apply for vacant lots and structures at a discounted price to the applicant. Funding for the program is provided through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, County general funds, and applicant payments towards acquisition costs. For additional information or to request an application, please contact 412-350-1090 or visit the Allegheny Vacant Property Recovery Program at

www.alleghenycounty.us/economic/residents/vacproprecov.aspx

Allegheny Together is a program designed to support business development in traditional pedestrian-based business districts throughout the County. The focused, five-year approach led by Allegheny County Economic Development aims to build the capacity of community groups in these neighborhoods with the support of a professional staff of architects, real estate experts, community planners, community development specialists and project managers. Town Center Associates and Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, primary consultants to the program, both have a wealth of experience and successful track records in commercial revitalization activities.

www.towncenter.info/downtown/allegheny

Allegheny Grows is a program of Allegheny County Economic Development that encourages community and workforce development through urban farming and gardening. Through partnerships with Grow Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny Grows is a 2-year program that provides education, planning resources, materials and technical assistance for existing and newly developing community vegetable gardens in low-to-moderate income communities throughout Allegheny County (not including the City of Pittsburgh). 412-350-5594

(Source: Allegheny County Department of Economic Development)

EMBRACING A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

2015

The Allegheny County Department of Human Services has funded the creation of Immigrant Services and Connections (ISAC), a six-agency partnership connecting immigrants with a range of community services. Led by Jewish Family & Children's Service of Pittsburgh, ISAC served more than 1,700 immigrants and refugees during its first year. To learn more, visit www.jfcspgh.org.

Allegheny County is also a proud participant in Vibrant Pittsburgh. Created in 2010, the organization's mission is to embrace inclusion, to ensure the Pittsburgh region's growth by attracting, retaining and elevating a diversity of talent, and to promote the region nationally and internationally as a diverse, welcoming region of opportunities. Partnering with Vibrant Pittsburgh and dozens of other Pittsburgh-area business and community organizations, the County has helped publicize a survey that is designed to gain a better understanding of how our community views and experiences diversity in the workplace and community.

For more information visit www.vibrantpittsburgh.org

Allegheny County's Minority, Women and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise department (MWDBE) is designed to build the capacity of MWDBE certified businesses, monitor contracts to ensure compliance with Allegheny County goals, and provide outreach and technical assistance to the business community.

The program's objective is to ensure that all MBEs, WBEs and DBEs are given the maximum opportunity to obtain and perform on contracts. Allegheny County expects all bidders and proposers to demonstrate a good faith effort to include MBEs, WBEs and DBEs when bidding on county contracts. Allegheny County MWBDE provides contract compliance and oversight, technical assistance, and acts as a certifying participant for the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program (PA UCP). There is no fee for applying for certification as an MWDBE with the county. Certification counseling sessions are provided by the Allegheny County MWDBE Department to assist you in obtaining certification. For more information, visit

www.alleghenycounty.us/mwdbe

Photo courtesy of the Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh

More Resources for Diverse Communities:

The Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (PMAHCC) is the principal regional advocate for the Hispanic business community's civic and economic interests and provides regional business opportunities for economic development. www.pmahcc.org

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is a full service organization that continuously provides access and opportunity to over 500 African American business owners and professionals. www.aaccwp.com

The Delta Foundation of Pittsburgh produces events and supports projects that help make the Pittsburgh region a vibrant and exciting city that is attractive to the LGBT community. These include Pittsburgh Pride, (PITTSBURGH)RED on World AIDS Day, a Memorial Day Picnic, various advocacy and fundraising events, and its newest project, Equality Partners of Western Pennsylvania. www.pittsburghpride.org

The Latin American Cultural Union (LACU) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating and preserving the culture and Latin American traditions in southwestern Pennsylvania by unifying the Latin American community in Southwestern Pennsylvania in a manner that helps its members to preserve and promote their cultural values and Latino identity, and helping Southwestern Pennsylvania to overcome cultural barriers by improving the communication and understanding between the Latin American community and other communities in the area. www.lacunet.org.

The Gay and Lesbian Community Center (GLCC) provides gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals, their families and supporters in Western Pennsylvania with resources and opportunities to promote visibility, understanding, and equality within the LGBT communities and the community at large. www.glccpgh.org

The Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization established in 1984 for the purpose of addressing fair housing issues in the Greater Pittsburgh area and assisting those who have been victims of housing discrimination. FHP's mission is to eliminate housing discrimination and to promote fair housing in the Greater Pittsburgh area through collaborative undertakings in education, monitoring and research, legislative reform, testing and enforcement, and community involvement.

www.pittsburghfairhousing.org

The Women and Girls Foundation promotes social change by addressing fundamental social inequalities and raising the awareness of these inequities to the media, voters, legislators and corporate and non-profit decision-makers. By serving as an independent and clear voice, the foundation strives to bring together women and men in our region to work together to find solutions to create sustained equity for all of its citizens. www.wgfpa.org

For more information and resources, please visit

www. VibrantPittsburgh.org

ELECTIONS

2016

Important Dates for 2016

October 11

Last day to Register to Vote before the November Election

November 1

Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot

November 4

Last day for Board of Elections to receive absentee ballots

November 8

General Election

Pennsylvania residents can now register to vote online at www.votespa.com

County residents may verify their registration, look up their polling place and view a sample ballot online at http://apps.county.allegheny.pa.us/VoteDistricts/

As of February 2016, Allegheny County had 857,823 registered voters: 508,531 Democrats, 234,696 Republicans, and 114,569 Unaffiliated or Other.

Did You Know?

Allegheny County employs more than 7,100 residents as polling place workers at 1,319 locations each election day!

County Contracts Online

An initiative of Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner, provides online access to all contracts entered into by Allegheny County, an unprecedented level of transparency of County spending.

OpenGov Allegheny

Another new Controller's Office initiative, provides up-to-date access to County financial information and other data through a user-friendly online platform, bringing open government to its citizens' fingertips.

These resources can be accessed at www.AlleghenyController.com

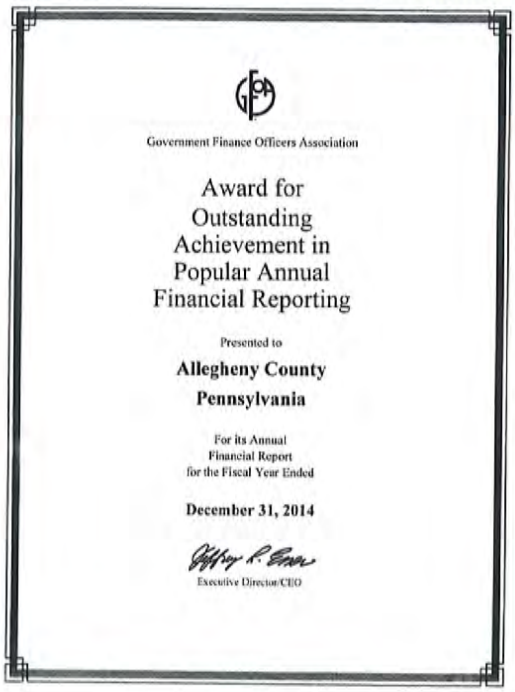
Follow Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner

Facebook.com/AlleghenyController

Twitter.com/ac_controller

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Although this report is largely based on Allegheny County's 2015 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, this report is not prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Only the financial data for the general government is included in this report and, therefore, all of the County's discretely presented component units are excluded. Additionally, information is presented in a summarized manner and certain financial statements and note disclosures required by GAAP are omitted. A copy of this PAFR as well as the County's audited 2015 CAFR, which is prepared in accordance with GAAP, is located at ALLEGHENYCONTROLLER.COM.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for
Outstanding
Achievement in
Popular Annual
Financial Reporting

Presented to

Allegheny County
Pennsylvania

For its Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

December 31, 2014

Executive Director/CEO

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Allegheny County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the Year Ended December 31, 2014. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

This Award is valid for one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and it will be submitted to GFOA.

Bob Lentz, an employee in the Allegheny County Controller's Office since 1975 and Assistant Deputy Controller for Accounting since 1991, was honored with the Frank J. Lucchino Distinguished Service Award in December 2015. Among numerous other accomplishments, Bob's work is integral to the development of the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and this report each year.

Back cover photo courtesy of Visit Pittsburgh

RESOURCES

For more information

The County has launched an information portal, providing quick access to public information, data and forms in one place. The portal includes information from departments in the Executive Branch along with the Treasurer, Sheriff, District Attorney and Courts. The portal can be found at InfoPortal.AlleghenyCounty.us. The one-stop shop provides new information, as well as quick access to real estate information, department data, forms and other materials that are already available through the County's Web site. New features include reports and data from the Medical Examiner's Office and sales data from Real Estate. Additionally, there are quick links to commonly used information in the county including job listings, real estate and court records, restaurant inspection reports, elections information, budgets, maps and forms.

For Seniors

The Area Agency on Aging assists Allegheny County residents 60 years of age and older to live safe, healthy and, when possible, independent lives.

412-350-5460

For Veterans

The Department of Veterans' Services ensures that Allegheny County Veterans and/or widows and dependents receive those entitlements and benefits authorized by Federal, State and Local regulations.

412-621-4357

For those in need

PA 2-1-1 Southwest is a free resource and information hub that connects people with community, health and disaster services in 11 counties through a free, 24/7 confidential phone service and Web site.

SEE FRAUD, WASTE OR ABUSE? REPORT IT
412-350-4300

CHELSA WAGNER
CONTROLLER

www. AlleghenyController .com