



Talking Points

- The state budget is to be approved by June 30 of each year. It is now January 13 – 6 ½ months past due! On February 9, the Governor is slated to propose the 2017 budget to the General Assembly! Although there have been times when budget approval went past June 30, **this is the longest delay in our history.**
- Organizations that rely on state funding (and/or the state's pass-through of federal funds) are worried that this will become the norm.
- **Many nonprofit organizations count on this funding to provide services to vulnerable children, seniors, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, hard-working but low-income families, and so many more.** The lives of a wide range of our family members and neighbors and family members hang in the balance while the Governor and the General Assembly fail to reach common ground. Across the Montgomery and Bucks Counties, thousands of residents access services.
- **We appreciate the work of the Governor and the General Assembly to pass a partial budget on December 29** (some members of the legislature are referring to the budget as 75% passed), but by then many health and human services agencies were forced to take emergency measures. Some have had to secure loans to continue services. School districts have found it necessary to borrow money to keep public schools open. The interest on these loans must be found somewhere. **There is no reimbursement coming from the government for interest payments on borrowing necessitated by the budget impasse.** It's clear who will have to cover those costs for school districts – we taxpayers! Some funding has begun to flow again, but the damage is already done.
- **Besides the crucial, compassionate care these organizations provide, there is an economic side to this as well.** The nonprofit sector nationally is larger than the construction sector! This means that what happens to the nonprofit world impacts the entire economy. In Montgomery County alone, for example, 40,000 people are employed by nonprofits. Loss of funding for this extended period has led to layoffs, and more will be inevitable if our governmental leaders cannot commit to coming together in a timely fashion going forward. This drives unemployment up.
- Many bright, young professionals are already asking themselves why they should devote their careers to this sector that often pays less and demands more from its staff members than the for-profit sector. The budget impasse heaps more anxiety on them.
- **What hurts nonprofits and its employees hurts our local economy as well.** According to a survey of our members in the Greater North Penn Region only, their annual payrolls totaled \$100 million and the agencies' purchasing in the community totaled over \$100 million. Impair the nonprofit sector, and impair countless businesses – small and large – in our communities.
- **Contact the Governor and your legislators** to find out why these smart, caring leaders haven't come together to protect our communities' most vulnerable people. Urge them to do so now. To find out who your state senator and representative are, visit <http://www.bucksmontcollab.org/advocacy/contact-your-legislator>.
- **We need our state officials to resolve their differences, finalize the *entire* state budget, and commit to timely passage of the *next* budget by June 30.** Lives depend upon it.