Westmoreland County Receives Human Services Block Grant

Funding will provide flexibility and more local control

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(Greensburg, PA)-- Governor Tom Corbett announced today that Westmoreland County has been selected as one of 10 counties joining the 20 currently in the Human Services Development Block Grant Program statewide. The Block Grant will provide flexibility within the included program areas to better assure the provision of crucial services to constituents, and improve efficiency and administrative functions.

The block grant combines seven line items: Mental Health Community Based Funded Services, Behavioral Health Services Initiative (MH & D/A), Intellectual Disabilities Community Based Funds, Child Welfare Special Grants, Act 152 Funds, Homeless Assistance Program Funds and Human Services Development Funds. The combined dollars of the seven categorical line items are $15,714,206.

Department of Human Services (DHS) Director Dirk Matson states that the program will "enhance county efforts to preserve human services programming for as many clients as possible and maintain an important locally driven focus on human services planning and delivery".

Matson stated at the August 29th Block Grant public meeting at the County Courthouse that the intent of DHS is not to move any funds among the seven categorical in the first year of the Block Grant unless it is clear that it not be at the expense of consumers/client services.

In addition to Westmoreland, these counties were selected to receive the Block Grant this in this round: Blair, Cambria, Lackawanna, McKean, Montgomery, Northampton, Potter, Schuylkill, Washington and Westmoreland.

For more information about Westmoreland County Human Services Block Grant, please call DHS at 724-830-3111.

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Success stories from counties already participating in the program are available at **www.dpw.state.pa.us**. Type "2013 Block Grant Success Stories" into the search function.