



Allegheny County
Department of
Human Services

DHS Provider Briefing

July 22, 2021

*The briefing will be recorded and posted on [Allegheny County Analytics](#).



Agenda

- Current and Upcoming Opportunities
- Policy Updates
- Brief Overview of the Needs Based Plan and Budget
- Back to School Update and Panel
- Q&A
- Resources

Opportunities

Youth Essay Contest

- The Pittsburgh Chapter of NOBLE (National Organization of Black Law Enforcement) invites all Allegheny County youth aged 14-18 to submit an essay answering the question “What will it take to bring peace to the streets?”
- Cash Prizes: 1st Prize \$500.00 - 2nd Prize \$250.00 - 3rd Prize \$100.00
- To qualify essays must be submitted with the [registration form](#) and emailed to the NOBLE email address at noble@noblepittsburgh.org by Friday, August 20, 2021 at 5:00p.m.
- Essays will be judged by a Team of Community Volunteers & NOBLE members. Prizes will be awarded Friday, August 27, 2021

Local Innovations in Vaccine Equity Grant

- The Wolf Administration and United Way of Pennsylvania launched the Local Innovations in Vaccine Equity in Pennsylvania project (LIVE PA) to administer \$4 million in mini-grants to local organizations
- Provides a \$10 per shot reimbursement for partner agencies that offer shots to populations with barriers to vaccination
- Eligible Zip Codes: 15219, 15208, 15282, 15264, 15104 (Braddock) 15134 (McKeesport)
- Apply for the grant at <https://www.uwp.org/programs/live-grant/>

Pennie COVID Enrollment Period

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (American Rescue Plan or ARP) greatly increases the amount of financial assistance Pennsylvanians will be eligible for in 2021 and 2022 to lower the cost of health coverage through Pennie.
- Enrollment period runs until **August 15th**
- Anyone can shop for coverage. Just select “2021 COVID-19 Enrollment Period” as the Qualifying Life Event.
- Visit <https://pennie.com/learn/covid19/> to use the Savings Calculator or enroll.

Policy Updates - Local

- Pittsburgh City Council on Tuesday voted 8-1 to allocate the entire \$335 million in American Rescue Plan funds over the next four years, devoting the majority to keeping hundreds of city jobs and making up for revenue decline during the pandemic. Allocations of note include:
 - \$21 million for OwnPGH to promote affordable home ownership.
 - \$2.5 million to fund a Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot.
 - \$10 million to expand the City's Office of Community Health & Safety - Allegheny Health Network crisis co-responder model to all six police zones 24/7.
 - \$20 million total through URA to create a fund to protect existing affordable housing, a fund to support land trusts, and to launch the reconstructed Land Bank.

Policy Updates – State

- The PA General Assembly is on summer recess until late September.

Active Solicitations

RFP for a Provider of Functional Family Therapy through Child Welfare: An Evidence-Based Intervention

- Details on next slide





[Link to DHS Solicitations](#)

Prevention Services in CYF

- Why are we issuing this RFP?
 - DHS is engaging in an effort to redesign its Prevention Services.
 - In a recent concept paper, shared our vision for the future of child welfare Prevention Services.
 - Focus areas of the concept paper included:
 - Offering the right services to families
 - Ensuring those services are delivered in a manner consistent with families' cultural, geographic and linguistic needs.
 - Investing in supports for providers to allow quality implementation of prevention programs known to make a difference for families.

Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare

Functional Family Therapy Child Welfare (FFT-CW) selected as first model in new prevention framework

 TARGET POPULATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth (age 0-17) and families in child welfare settings	 LENGTH OF PROGRAM <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly sessions for 5-7 months
 FOCUS OF TREATMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child/Adolescent: criminal behaviors and acting-out; fighting; drug and alcohol use; depression and anxiety; and preventing outplacement (foster care, residential, acute hospitalization)• Parent/Caregiver: abusive or neglectful parenting behaviors; violent behaviors; drug or alcohol use; criminal involvement	 OUTCOMES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prevent youth or family member outplacement• Decrease need for social services• Reduce/eliminate domestic violence, child abuse, harsh discipline/punishment, and family conflict

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FFT-CW involves the family and other support systems during the individual's treatment. All sessions involve key family members. The involvement of external support and family support networks is very important for maintaining long-term behavioral changes.

What We Are Looking For

- Deliver FFT-CW services in fidelity to its EBP model
- Serve high-need families with children aged birth through 17 from racially, ethnically, religiously, and culturally diverse communities and populations
- Recruit, hire and retain staff who reflect the population served

FFT-CW RFP Amendment

- DHS is seeking a provider for only the **High-Risk** Track of Functional Family Therapy through Child Welfare (FFT-CW).
 - The RFP misstated that DHS was seeking both the High-Risk and the Low-Risk Tracks.
- The RFP information session originally scheduled for Thursday, July 22 was canceled
 - It will be rescheduled and the proposal deadline for the RFP will be extended.
- Comments or questions, email DHSProposals@alleghenycounty.us.

Needs Based Plan and Budget for Children and Families

DHS Planning

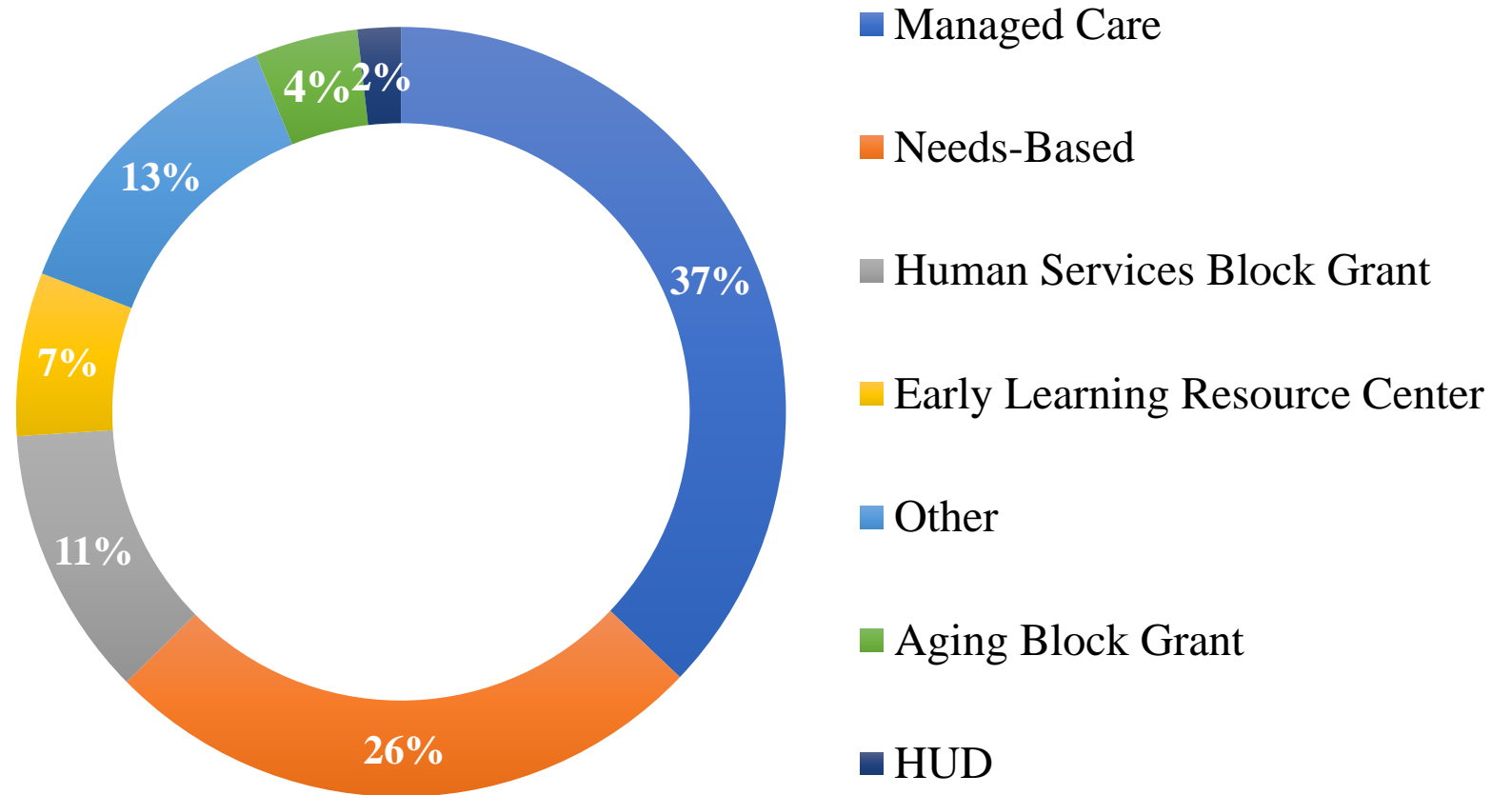
- Under development: County Human Services Plan & Needs-Based Plan and Budget
- County Human Services Plan public hearings were last week
 - Slides and recordings [here](#) under “Block Grant planning”
- Needs Based Plan and Budget public hearing upcoming
 - August 9th at 1pm
 - Link to join will be posted [here](#)

Why the Needs Based Plan & Budget matters

- Supports programs and services for children and families across the continuum
 - Family Centers
 - Out of School Time programs
 - Eviction prevention and housing supports
 - Kinship Care and other out-of-home placements
- Is the only non-discretionary funding stream where we have opportunity for meaningful year-over-year growth

DHS funding & where Needs Based fits in

- \$1B budget
- 100+ awards
- But just three make up 80% of our budget
 - Managed Care
 - **Needs-Based funding**
 - Human Services Block Grant



Preview of priorities

- Helping the hardest hit families recover from the pandemic's social and economic impacts.
- Making sure families can access services that prevent child maltreatment and promote well-being without becoming involved in the child welfare system first.
- Improving outcomes for children and youth who experience home removal.
- Addressing racial inequities in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

How to give input

- [Neighborland](#)
- DHS-ideas@alleghenycounty.us
- Attend the public hearing on August 9th!

Connecting families with the 2021

Child Tax Credit



What is different about the Child Tax Credit for 2021?



- ***The amount has increased***

- Taxpayers could receive up to \$3600 per child 0-5 years old, and up to \$3000 per child 6-17 years old

- ***Half of the credit will be issued as advance monthly payments***

- Between July-December, the IRS will issue the advance portion as monthly payments: up to \$300 per child under age 6, and up to \$250 per child age 6-17. Eligibility will be based on a taxpayer's 2020 return (or 2019, if they did not file 2020). *The taxpayer must file a 2021 tax return to claim the other half of the credit.*

- ***The credit is fully refundable***

- A family can receive the full amount, regardless of tax liability

What is different about the Child Tax Credit for 2021?

- ***There is no minimum income requirement***
 - Even if a family has zero income, they can still claim their dependents to receive CTC
- ***The age limit for a qualifying child has increased***
 - Any child under age 18 is eligible for CTC
- ***The IRS is offering an online non-filer's form to enroll and a CTC portal to update information***
 - For individuals who qualify for CTC but are not required to file a tax return, the IRS is offering an online [non-filer's tool](#) for them to submit information
 - To update existing information or opt out of advance payments, the IRS has created a [CTC update portal](#)

Unique situations

- Unhoused groups
 - Can use shelter or other provider address on non-filer form or tax return
 - Best to set use bank account for direct deposit
- Foster and kinship care
 - Child must live with taxpayer for more than 6 months of 2021
 - Foster child must be placed by government agency
 - Grandparent or aunt/uncle could qualify without official placement
 - Was the child claimed by someone else in 2020?

Immigrants

- The child must have a SSN, the parent(s) could have an ITIN or SSN
- Taxpayer must have ITIN before April 15, 2022 to be eligible for CTC
- To apply for an ITIN
 - Must have valid passport
 - File with 2020 tax return – report income
 - Process
 - JH completes ITIN application and tax return
 - Taxpayer takes documents to local IRS office for certification
 - IRS processes ITIN application (8-12 weeks) then tax return (8-12 weeks)

How can a family receive advance CTC?

- Already filed a 2019 or 2020 tax return?
The payments will start automatically. You don't need to do anything.
- Had earned income in 2020, but haven't filed a tax return yet?
Free virtual help filing your return at [GetYourRefund.org/cwf](https://www.getyourrefund.org/cwf)
In person help available at Just Harvest by appointment
- No earned income in 2020 or not required to file?
Use the IRS Non-filer's portal [IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021](https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021)

What You Need

- Full name
- Current mailing address
- Email address
- Date of birth
- Valid Social Security numbers (or other taxpayer IDs) for you and your dependents
- Bank account number, type and routing number, if you have one
- Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN) you received from the IRS earlier this year, if you have one

[Use the Non-filer Sign-up Tool](#) 

Help available from Just Harvest

- Answer complex questions from providers and taxpayers
- CTC clinics
 - In person tax help for filing returns, non-filers forms or submitting updates
 - July 31st and August 12 9-3
 - Schedule appointments at justharvest.org/CTC
- ITIN education and clinics coming next

How you can help

- Answer questions from clients
- Help set up bank accounts for direct deposit
- Help set up email address for submitting returns or updates
- Help with Update Portal
 - [Detailed instructions for update portal](#)
- Help with non-filers form
 - [Detailed instructions for completing non-filers form](#)

More questions?



- JustHarvest.org/CTC for FAQs, updates and appointment scheduling
- For providers: Elaina Mitchell – 412-431-8960x212
elainam@justharvest.org
- For clients: 412-431-8960, choose tax help option
taxhelp@justharvest.org

P-EBT for school-age kids

- Any child enrolled in the free or reduced-price meals program who received any virtual instruction this year due to the pandemic is eligible for P-EBT
- All eligible children should have received a P-EBT card or benefits on their EBT card
- The 3rd P-EBT payment to this age group has started going out and should be distributed by mid-August
- Everyone who received at least one school-age P-EBT payment for this year will get P-EBT for the summer months as well, which will likely be distributed in the fall.
- If your child wasn't enrolled in free or reduced-price meals but you think your family might meet the income requirements, you should apply now so you can get summer P-EBT

P-EBT for kids 0-5

- P-EBT for children age 0-5 is given to children who are getting SNAP, or got SNAP since October 1. Funds are put onto a family's SNAP EBT card. The first two payment for this school-year have already gone out.
- It's not too late to get your child enrolled on SNAP to get Summer P-EBT, which will likely be distributed in the fall. Call 412-431-8960 to help applying for SNAP.

More details at justharvest.org/pebt-faq or send an email to anns@justharvest.org

Note: Receiving P-EBT or SNAP does not affect immigration status!

Back to School Update



Number of children (ages 5 to 19) in Allegheny County: 194,294

U.S. Census Bureau (2019). *American Community Survey 1-year estimates.*

Allegheny County Department of Human Services

DHS services involved children in 2020-2021 school year

	Total	Elementary <i>(ages 5-10)</i>	Middle <i>(ages 11-13)</i>	High <i>(ages 14-18)</i>
CYF	4802	2086	1053	1663
Behavioral Health	13279	4289	3251	5739
Housing/Homelessness	1206	609	245	352
All services	17284	6271	4071	6906

*As of July 15, 2021

Out of School Time

- Number of children served by Out of School Time providers (20-21 school year): **1,323**
- Average monthly attendance at Community Learning Hubs (Sept 2020-March 2021): **1,292**



In-person instruction enrollment

In May 2021,

- 65% of white students
- 48% of Black students
- 50% of Latino students
- 38% of Asian students

in schools serving fourth graders chose to enroll in in-person instruction.



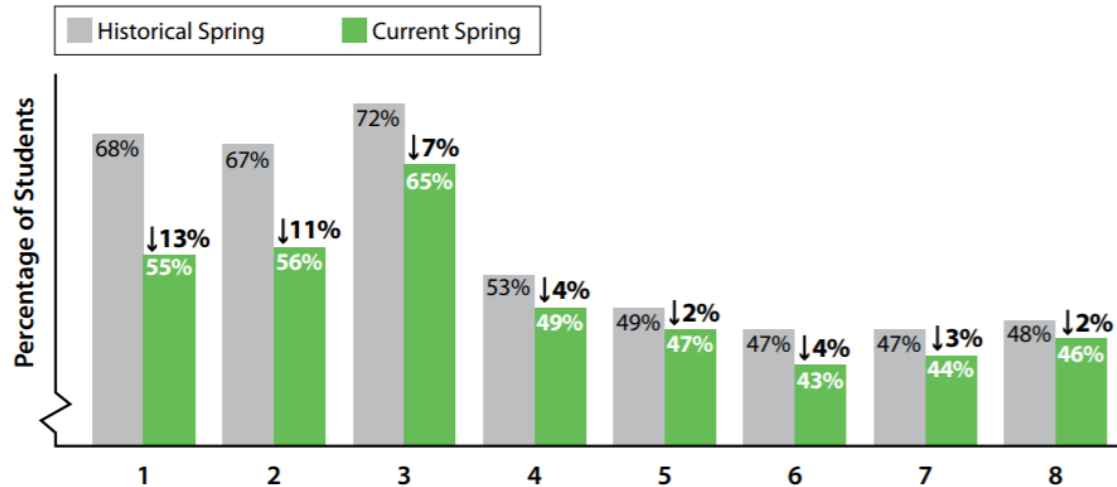
Mental health

- In early 2021, nearly 70% of elementary school principals said they could not meet their student's mental health needs with the staff they have. ¹
- Black children accounted for 20% of those who had lost a parent to COVID-19 through early 2021, despite making up only 14% of all children in the United States. ²
- Parents of children receiving virtual instruction were more likely than were parents of children receiving in-person instruction to report that their children experienced worsened mental or emotional health (24.9% versus 15.9%). ³

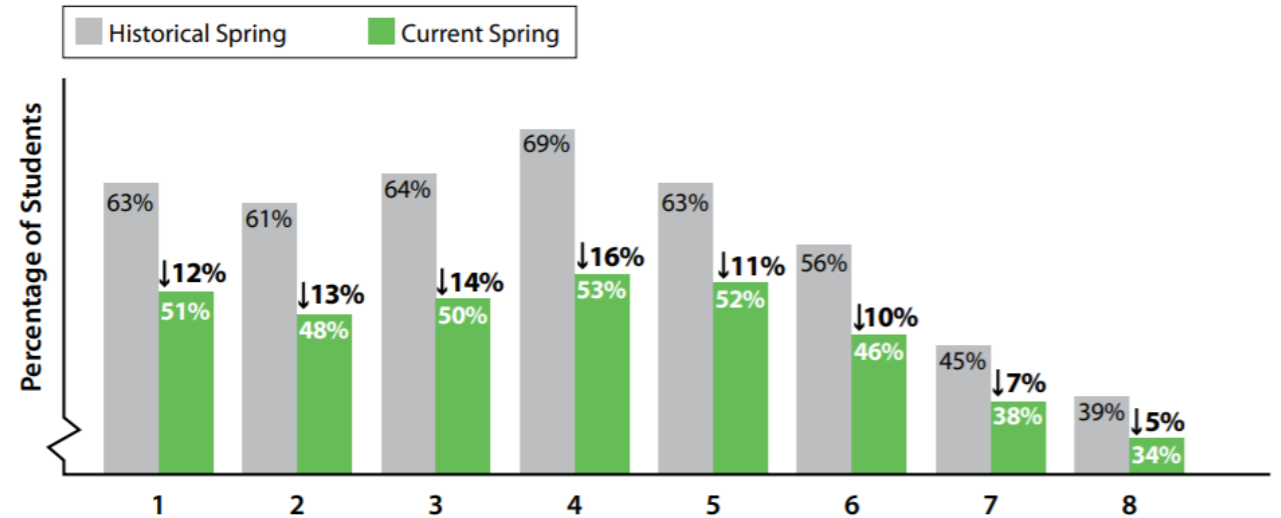
1. <https://www.naesp.org/news/naesp-releases-results-of-midyear-national-principal-survey-on-covid-19-in-schools/>
2. Rachel Kidman et al., Estimates and Projections of COVID-19 and Parental Death in the US, JAMA PEDIATRICS (Apr. 5, 2021), <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/fullarticle/2778229/>.
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/pdfs/mm7011a1-H.pdf>

Reading and Math Gaps (grades 1-8)

Graph 1.1: On Grade Level, Reading



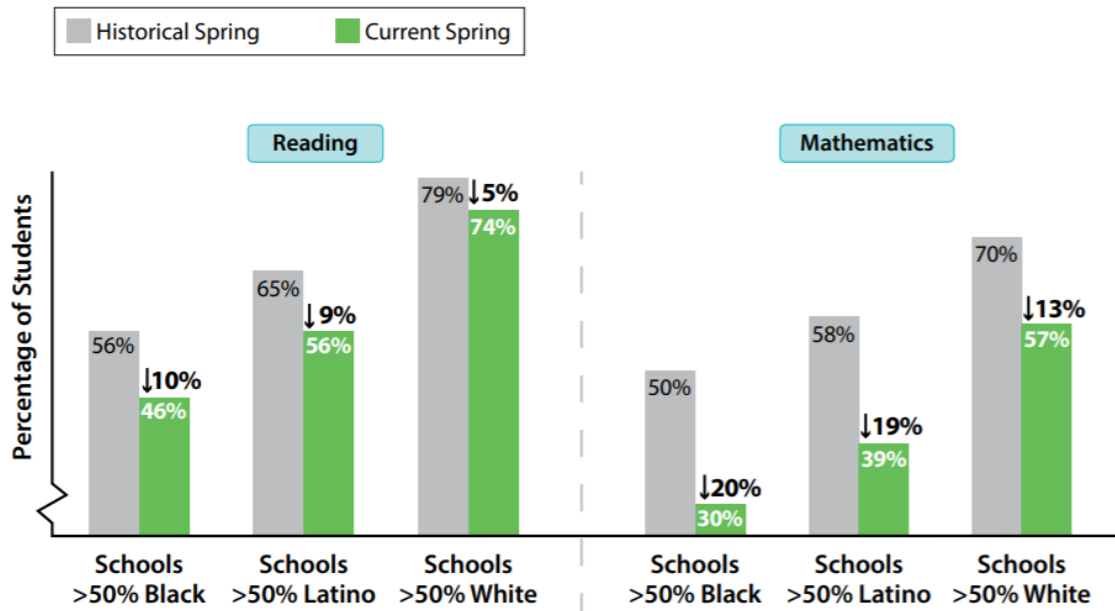
Graph 1.3: On Grade Level, Mathematics



- Largest amount of unfinished learning is in early elementary grades
- Needs in mathematics are generally greater than in reading

Disparity in grade-level readiness by race

Graph 2.1: On Grade Level by Demographic Group:
Grade 3, Reading and Mathematics



- Schools serving primarily Black and Latino students saw a larger decreases in the percentage of students ready for grade-level work relative to schools serving primarily White students

Back-to-School Panel

- Dawn Golden, Director of Pupil Personnel, Woodland Hills School District
- Dr. Rod Necchai, Asst. Supt, Student Support Services, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- Suzanne Hull, School-Based Liaison, Office of Behavioral Health, DHS
- Dr. Paula McCommons, SAP provider, Western Behavioral Health
- Jim Phillips, SAP provider, TCV Community Services
- Bob Jones, Executive Director, Brothers and Sisters Emerging
- Leah O'Reily, Director of Programming, Human Services Center
- Dr. Wendy Etheridge Smith, Director of Early Learning and Community Supports, AIU
- Samantha Murphy, Resource Services Manager/Education Liaison, DHS

What's needed for a smooth enrollment process



- Proof of age (birth certificate, prior school records or medical records with birth date included)
- Proof of residency (lease, deed, utility bill, driver's license)
- Proof of immunizations (from the doctor, from prior school records)
- Signed Act 26 statement (statement about student's history of school expulsion, Provided by the school and can be completed by person enrolling the child)



How to Enroll in Early Childhood Education

Early Head Start, Head Start and Pre-K Counts programs offer Language Development, Math, Science and Social Skills.

- Allegheny County residents call: (412) 394-4594
- City of Pittsburgh residents call: (412) 529-4291 option 2

DHS-Involved Populations: Students experiencing Homelessness

Homeless definition: Young people lacking a fixed, regular, nighttime residence

How you can help/Things to know

1. ALWAYS be sure to connect with the school district homeless liaison! <https://directory.center-school.org/homeless/liaison>
2. Help families let the school know their situation
3. Schools are required to reduce barriers to education
4. Consistent school experience increases school outcomes! Based on a school stability premise, families can:
 - a. Remain in the school you know including school sponsored transportation if needed
 - b. Get the support you need
 - c. Enroll in a new school immediately (lack of documentation does not prevent enrollment)

DHS-Involved Populations: Students in Foster Care

Foster Care definition: 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents or guardians and for whom the child welfare agency has placement and care responsibility

How you can help/Things to know

1. ALWAYS be sure to connect with the school district foster care liaison! <https://directory.center-school.org/fostercare/leacontact/search>
2. When a young person moves their residence while in foster care, a Best Interest Decision must be held
3. The Education Stability Team at CYF leads this work: EdStability@alleghenycounty.us
4. Consistent school experience increases school outcomes! Based on a school stability premise, families can:
 - a. Remain in the school they know including transportation arranged by schools and CYF
 - b. Get the support you need



Attendance Matters

- Positive school attendance means.....
 - Higher reading levels
 - Positive transition to middle and high school
 - higher graduation rates
- School attendance concerns are often symptom of a larger problem.....
 - Service providers try to find out the root cause of what's happening that's getting in the way of getting to school
 - Then we try to link to something that might help.
 - Sometimes absences are happening because of a larger system problem.
- Chronic Absence
 - Missing school for ANY reason – excused, unexcused, court, funeral, suspension
 - 10% of the school year
 - 18 days in an entire school year
 - 2-3 days per month

How to Access Additional Support



School-Based Mental Health Supports:

- Families can always contact their school principal, counselor, social worker, or teacher to express a concern about a child or to request an assessment for clinical services

Out-of-School Time Programming:

- Allegheny County Child Care finder tool will be updated with afterschool programming this fall
(<https://find.alleghenychildcare.org/>)

Key Contacts

- Provider questions for Allegheny County Health Department
 - DHS-COVID19Planning@alleghenycounty.us
 - Use the subject field to indicate if your qq is about CYF, Aging, BH, CYF, ID, Community Services, or DHS operations (e.g., contracting, payment)
 - <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>
- Key DHS staff
 - Payment inquiries: Dan Evancho Dan.Evancho@alleghenycounty.us
 - Contract inquiries: Kathy Heinz Kathy.Heinz@alleghenycounty.us
Laura Brigido Laura.Brigido@alleghenycounty.us
- United Way 2-1-1
 - For basic needs assistance or general COVID-19 inquiries call the 24/7 COVID-19 Hotline at 1-888-856-2774. Language services available.

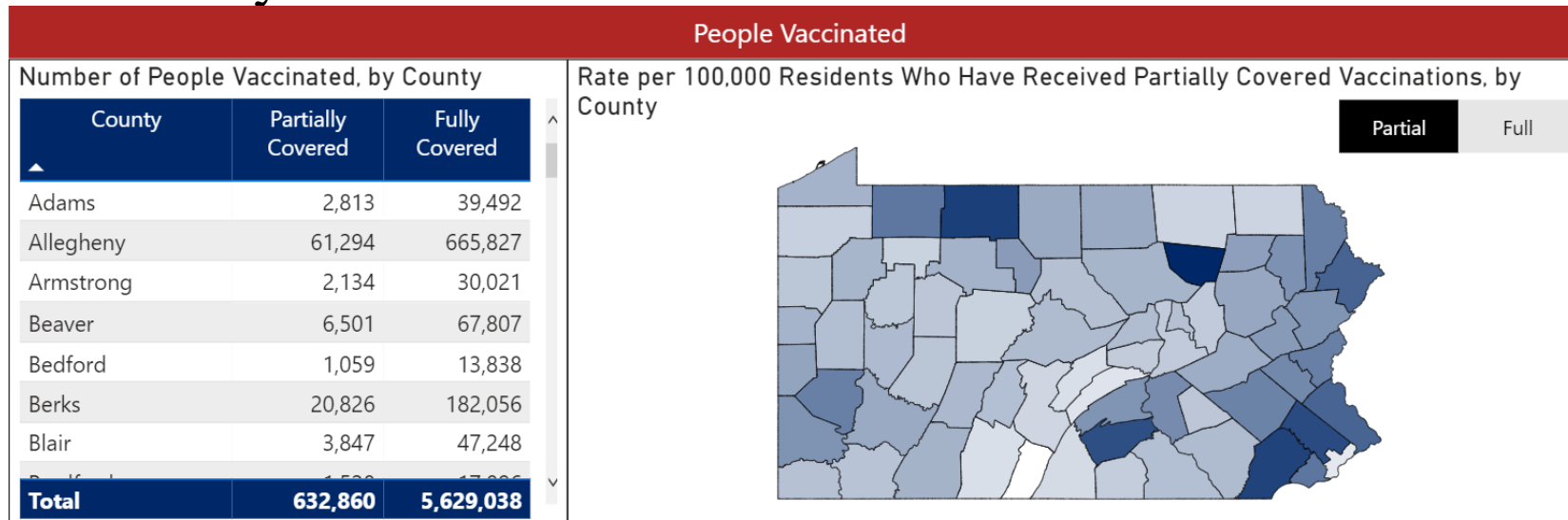


Appendix

Allegheny County Vaccination

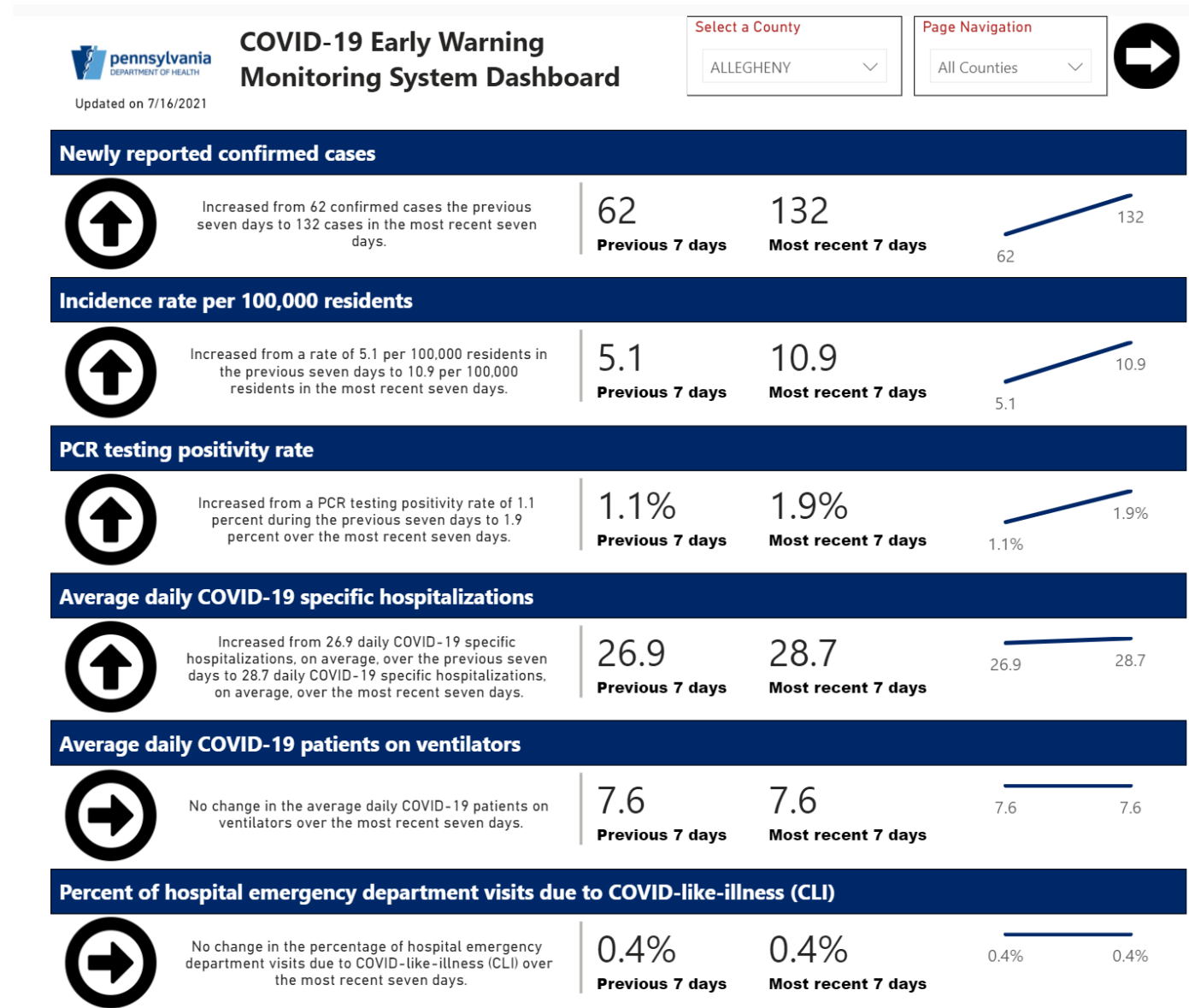
Through 7/21/2021:

- 61,294 are partially vaccinated and 665,827 are fully vaccinated
 - 66.4% of residents have received at least one dose
 - 60.8% are fully vaccinated <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/Dashboard.aspx>



PA State Metrics

Compares week of July 9th –July 15th to previous week (July 2nd –July 8th)



	% change from last week to this week
Newly reported cases	+113%
Incidence rate per 100,000	+114%
Positivity rate	+58%
Ave. daily hospitalizations	+7%
Ave. daily patients on ventilators	0%
% ED visits due to CLI	0%

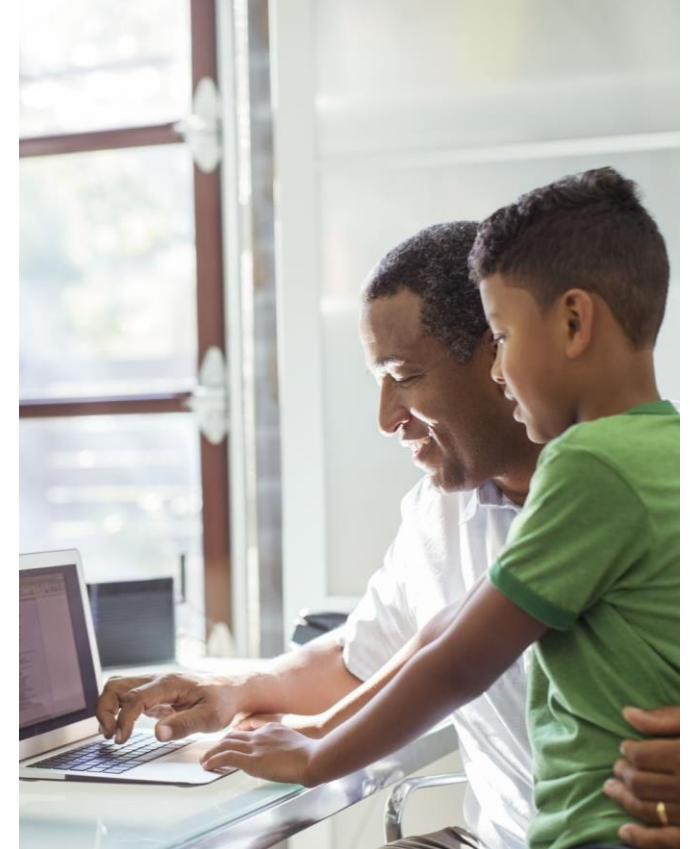
PA state's early warning system dashboard

(<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Monitoring-Dashboard.aspx>).

Device Requests



- DHS has Distributed 3,449 laptops to date
- DHS has Distributed 1,414 hotspots to date
- DHS continues to receive requests for devices
 - [Device Request Form](#)
- We have headsets in stock! If you need a headset, please email us.
 - dhs-covid19supplies@alleghenycounty.us



Ice Cream Fundae Outreach Events

- Pressley Ridge is hosting four outreach events:
 - Penn Hills, 7/17, 2:30-4:30pm at CYF Parking lot
 - McKees Rocks, 7/17, 11am-1pm
 - Hill District, 8/14, 11am-1pm
 - North Side 8/14, 2pm-4pm



The flyer features a blue sky background with a green hill at the bottom. A maroon ice cream truck is driving on the right, with a large scoop of ice cream coming out of its dispenser. The truck has 'Graeter's ICE CREAM' written on its side. To the left of the truck, the words 'Ice Cream Fundae' are written in a playful, bubbly font. Above this, 'PRESSLEY RIDGE' is written in a smaller font. The date and time 'July 17, 2021 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.' are listed. Below that, the location 'Allegheny Co. Office of Children, Youth & Families 10700 Frankstown Road • Penn Hills, PA 15235' is provided. A large, stylized graphic on the right says 'COMMUNITY TREAT TOUR'. At the bottom, there is a blue banner with the word 'visit' in a yellow font and the website 'PressleyRidge.org/IceCream' in white. A small disclaimer at the bottom right reads '*Limited quantities available. First come, first served.'.

Ice Cream Fundae

PRESSLEY RIDGE

July 17, 2021
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Allegheny Co. Office of Children, Youth & Families
10700 Frankstown Road • Penn Hills, PA 15235

COMMUNITY TREAT TOUR

Come enjoy a free scoop of Graeter's Ice Cream*, a magician, music and other family-friendly fun!

*Limited quantities available. First come, first served.

visit [PressleyRidge.org/IceCream](https://www.PressleyRidge.org/IceCream)