

Butler County Human Services
2025-2026 Block Grant Plan
Public Hearing #1
Date: May 8, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Butler Monarch Place, 100 Brugh Avenue, Butler, PA 16001

In conjunction with the Butler Collaborative for Families, a public hearing for the Butler County Human Services Block Grant Plan was held on May 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Monarch Place, 100 Brugh Avenue, Butler, PA 16001. Thirty-nine (39) people attended.

Presenters:

Ms. Amanda Feltenberger, Human Services Director

Ms. Allyson Rose, Director of Integrated Services

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Ms. Rose welcomed everyone, thanked them for attending the meeting, and led introductions.

Ms. Feltenberger gave an overview of the Human Services Block Grant. The Block Grant pilot project was initiated in Fiscal Year 2012-2013. Butler County applied and was accepted in the pilot. The Block Grant was expanded in 2013-2014 to ten additional counties and is now open to any county that is interested in joining. The Block Grant accounts for 21% of our base budget.

Ms. Feltenberger reviewed the chart of Block Grant vs. non-Block Grant funds per program.

Ms. Feltenberger reviewed the chart comparing allocations and actual expenditures.

Ms. Rose explained the mission of Butler County Human Services; to plan, implement, and monitor a service system that focuses on safety first, as well as personal growth and quality of life for our target populations. The target population includes older adults, people who are homeless, children and their families experiencing abuse and neglect, people with substance abuse disorders, people with mental illness, and people with developmental delays.

Ms. Feltenberger gave an overview of the point-in-time Participant Surveys that were conducted starting in the Fall of 2018. This year 16 agencies participated, and 393 surveys were completed. The 2025 survey will be conducted late May/early June.

Ms. Feltenberger invited everyone to break into discussion groups, providing each group with an assigned category. Each group was asked to choose the top 2-3 needs in the category given, identifying possible action steps to address the need(s) as a community. Examples given were action steps, possible partners, funding needed, barriers we might face, etc.

The following categories were discussed:

- Social Connectedness- Be aware of what/where the services are. Engage in conversation-survey families of school-aged children to see how they want to receive resources (hard copy vs. digital backpack). Barriers include: Ensure communication for those who need it.

- Mental Health- Having more mental health access in the rural areas and partnering with churches/agencies to take turns providing services. Barriers include: high turnover rate/salary/burnout. Long wait times to get mental health services.
- Other-Cultural/Diversity, access to language/translation assistance. Barriers include: Stigma and fear of judgement, equal access, recruitment and retention of people that can hold that position.
- Housing and Homelessness- Funding for utilities, better landlords with better units, offering a matching grant, financial education.
- Children/Youth/School- Accessible and affordable childcare, support staffing, no educational advocacy locally, need for more childcare facilities.
- Food- Affordable and healthy food options, access to food (transportation), programs are losing funding, stigma surrounding free or low-cost food programs, understanding food safety and food preparation.
- Employment- Benefits training, building budgets, career counseling for adults (experiencing job loss), make a stronger connection with and provide interviewing skills for neurodivergent and/or disabled individuals.
- Substance Abuse Services- Providing services and housing for parents in treatment which allows their children to accompany them, offer harm reduction support groups. Barriers include: licensing.
- Transportation- Employment funded transportation: partner with bigger companies that are hiring (create a contract to transport individuals).
- Financial Assistance/Sustainability/Insurance Issues- Gainful employment, financial literacy, advocate for income guidelines, educational seminars throughout county. Barriers include: Transportation and willingness to communicate.

Ms. Feltenberger explained our office continues to plan all year-long for the Block Grant. She asked attendees to contact our office anytime to let us know of any needs. She provided the following contact information:

Additional comments can be mailed to:
 Butler County Human Services
 P.O. Box 1208
 Butler PA 16003
 Or email ARose@co.butler.pa.us

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 p.m.

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