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Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

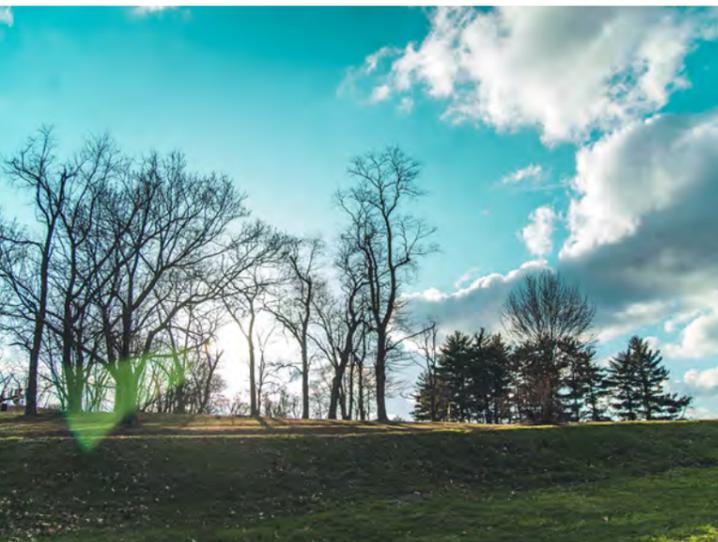
for year ended December 31, 2020



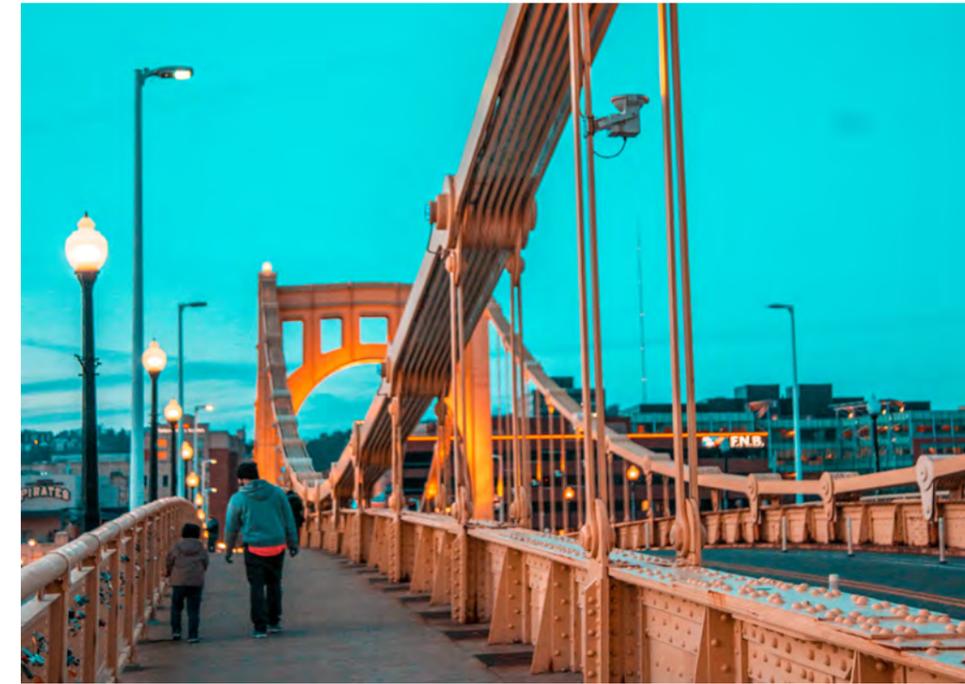
Presented by  
Chelsa Wagner,  
Allegheny County Controller

# Contents

- 05 Welcome
- 07 County Government
- 08 About this report
- 09 County Facts



- 11 Finances in brief
- 13 Revenue
- 15 Expenditures
- 17 CARES Act



- 18 Health & Welfare
- 19 Associated agencies
- 21 Parks & recreation
- 22 Transportation
- 23 Public safety
- 24 Resources

## **Controller Highlights**

Look for “Controller Highlights” throughout this report highlighting actions and initiatives of importance to our residents by the Controller’s office over the past decade.

# A Message from the Controller

## To the citizens of Allegheny County

I am pleased that this report comes to you amid a return to hopefulness and normalcy as the COVID-19 pandemic finally subsides. While we welcome the ability to look toward the future with renewed optimism, we cannot lose sight of the continued challenges many of our neighbors and communities will face as a result of hardship and loss during the pandemic, and the ability and obligation of our government to do its part to address these.

We are fortunate that our County's finances have largely weathered the storm of the pandemic, thanks in large part to a robust unassigned fund balance which I advocated for from my first days in office, when the County's rainy day fund was essentially empty. I thank and congratulate the administration and County Council for their own roles in a decade of fiscal stability and growth.

Real challenges, however, remain for our finances. Chief among these is our underfunded pension system, which is obligated to pay far more in benefits than its proceeds from current employees. While reforms to benefit calculations for which I advocated last decade will improve the outlook somewhat in coming years, we must pursue further remedial measures such as reducing reliance on overtime and on the outsourcing of jobs formerly done by government employees, bringing more contributing employees into the system.

An unprecedented infusion of federal pandemic aid can be transformational for our County, and we must ensure it is utilized transparently and impactfully. Our essential workers—far too many of whom continue to struggle with access to affordable housing, health care, and reliable transportation—must benefit. I commend efforts by a coalition of advocates to ensure aid funds are utilized by the County and Port Authority to reduce inequities in public transit and increase access to employment centers from underserved communities. While a measure to provide paid sick leave to nearly all workers in the County continues to progress, unnecessary hurdles to enacting these protections have been a disservice to essential workers.

Finally, we must confront conditions in our County Jail and criminal justice system more broadly. Efforts to release medically vulnerable incarcerated people during the pandemic had fiscal as well as humanitarian benefits, and should be continued. My office, in partnership with County Council, continues to pursue reforms to court fines and fees that can burden families for decades. The

quality of basic services in the Jail, the use of certain disciplinary measures, and continuing issues with health care access and quality must be subjected to close and serious examination. And the Jail Oversight Board, on which I serve and which has statutory authority for the welfare of those in the Jail, must be given the access and authority it needs to ensure transparency and influence over policies and procedures.

I hope this report will prove valuable in helping our citizens better understand the roles and functions of their County government, and where it stands at the close of the tumultuous year of 2020. As this is the 10th annual report produced by my office during my tenure as Controller, we have also highlighted some notable actions and initiatives of the office that I believe have been particularly impactful for our residents.

Thank you as always for the opportunity to serve you.

Kindest regards,




# View this report with interactive charts at

[AlleghenyController.com/2020PAFR](https://AlleghenyController.com/2020PAFR)

# Allegheny County

## Elected Officials

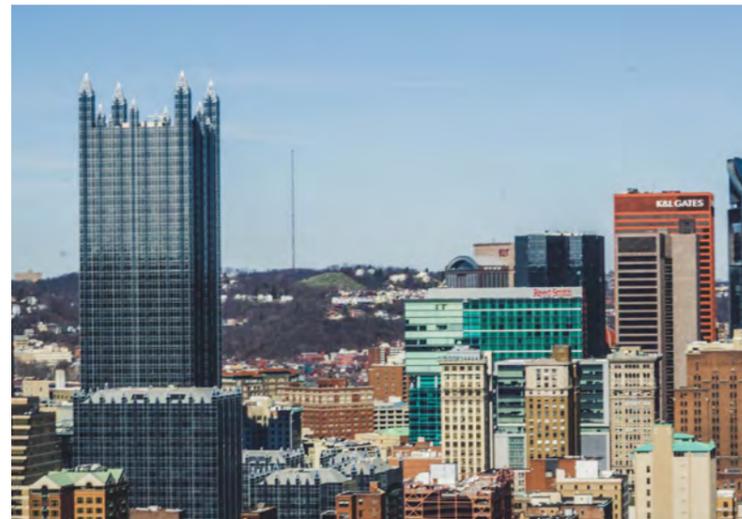
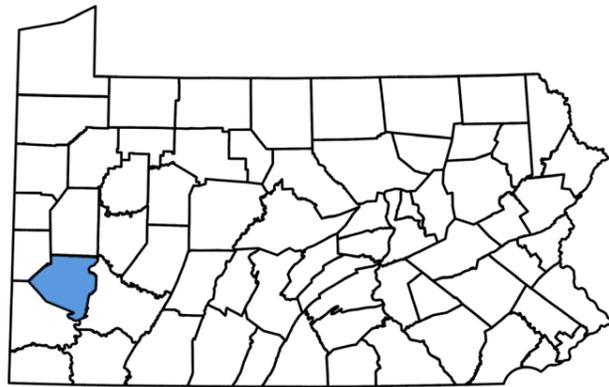
**County Executive**  
Rich Fitzgerald

**County Controller**  
Chelsa Wagner

**District Attorney**  
Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.

**Sheriff**  
William P. Mullen

**County Treasurer**  
John K. Weinstein



## County Council

**Council At-Large**  
Samuel DeMarco III  
Bethany Hallam

**Council District 1**  
Thomas Baker

**Council District 2**  
Cindy Kirk

**Council District 3**  
Anita Prizio

**Council District 4**  
Patrick Catena (President)

**Council District 5**  
Tom Duerr

**Council District 6**  
John F. Palmiere

**Council District 7**  
Nicholas Futules

**Council District 8**  
Paul Zavarella

**Council District 9**  
Robert J. Macey

**Council District 10**  
DeWitt Walton

**Council District 11**  
Paul Klein

**Council District 12**  
Robert Palmosina

**Council District 13**  
Olivia "Liv" Bennett

## About this Report

Although this report is largely based on Allegheny County's 2020 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 2020 CAFR, which is prepared in accordance with GAAP, is located on [www.AlleghenyController.com](http://www.AlleghenyController.com).

"The Government Finance Office Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Allegheny County Pennsylvania for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. 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.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.



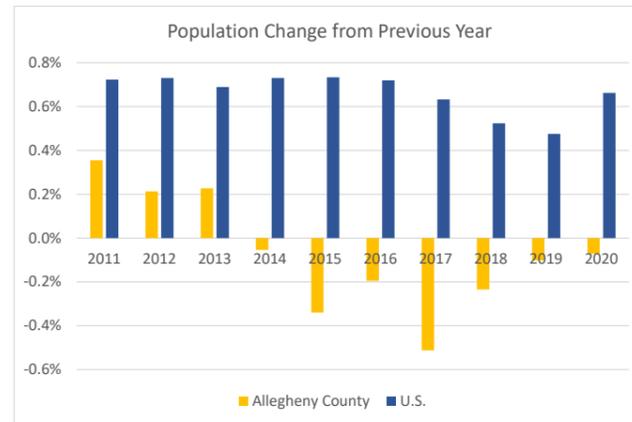
Allegheny County has a population of 1,216,000 people, according to the most recent (2019) Census estimate. While the U.S. population has grown by about 0.6% since 2014, the population of Allegheny County has declined slightly in each of the past five years, a trend that likely continued in 2020.

Most of the reason for the decline in population is an older age demographic that results in more births than deaths each year. In 2019, 19.3% of Allegheny County's population was over the age of 65; nationally only 16.5% of the population was in that age bracket. At the other end of the age scale, 18.6% of Allegheny County residents were under 18 in 2019, well below the national average of 22.3%.

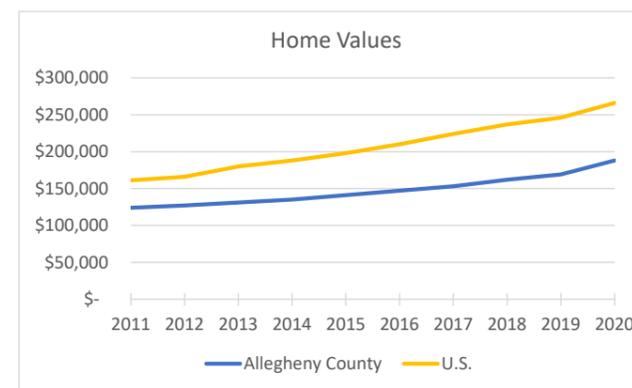
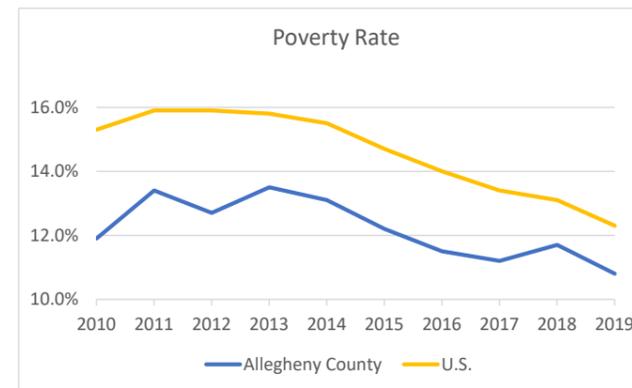
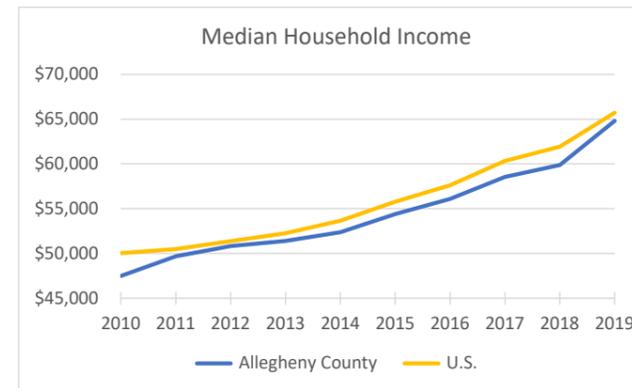
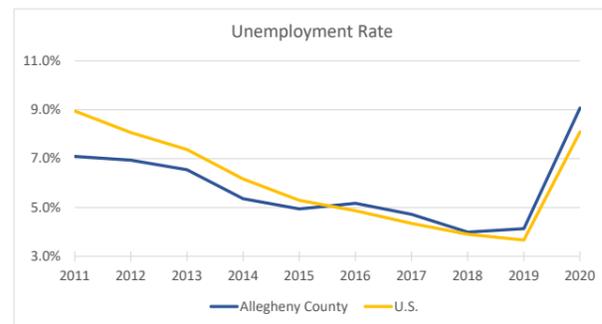
Allegheny County's economy entered 2020 in strong shape: GDP grew faster in 2019 than nearly all other large counties in the region, and unemployment remained at its lowest level since 1970. Job growth was positive for the third year in a row, and our poverty rate remained lower than the national average. In 2018, real per capita income grew faster in the Pittsburgh area than in all but one of the country's 40 largest metro areas, and in 2019 the region was again in the top ten.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has taken the lives of nearly 1,800 Allegheny County residents so far, also brought economic growth grinding to a halt in 2020. The annualized unemployment rate for Allegheny County was 9.1%, more than double what it was in 2019 (4.1%). By November and December of 2020, however, the County's unemployment rate was down to 6.3%, slightly lower than the U.S. as a whole.

The GDP of the Pittsburgh metropolitan area was \$145.5 billion in 2019, making it the 25th largest regional economy in the U.S. Allegheny County's share was \$93 billion, or about \$76,500 per capita. The GDP of Allegheny County grew by 1.8% from 2018 to 2019, slightly below the 2.2% estimated growth for the country as a whole. Regional figures for 2020 are not yet available, but Allegheny County's GDP trajectory likely followed the state's; Pennsylvania's GDP was down 4.4% overall in 2020, but by Q4 it was only down 2.3% compared to Q4 of 2019.



Population Age	2010	2019	Change from 2010-2019
Allegheny County Under 18	19.7%	18.6%	-1.1%
U.S. Under 18	24.0%	22.2%	-1.8%
Allegheny County Working Age (15-64)	67.2%	65.1%	-2.1%
U.S. Working Age (15-64)	67.1%	65.1%	-2.0%
Allegheny County Over 65	16.8%	19.4%	2.6%
U.S. Over 65	13.1%	16.5%	3.4%



The median household income in Allegheny County was \$61,043 according to the most recent five-year census estimate (2015-19), slightly less than the median of \$62,843 across the entire U.S. The poverty rate for Allegheny County was 10.8% in 2019, the lowest it had been since 2003. However, income and poverty rate averages obscure inequality across the municipalities of Allegheny County. For example, Braddock had the lowest average household income of the County's municipalities at \$21,972, while at the other end of the spectrum, municipalities like Sewickley Heights and Fox Chapel had average household incomes over \$200,000. In Fox Chapel the poverty rate was just over 1%; in Duquesne, the poverty rate was nearly 40%. There are also huge racial gaps, with a 24.4% poverty rate for African Americans versus 8.2% for white residents in 2019.

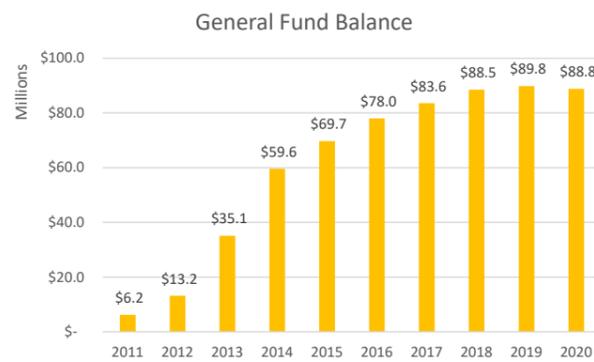
At the end of 2020, the median home value in Allegheny County was \$188,000, compared to \$266,000 nationally. For the second year in a row, housing prices in Allegheny County grew more quickly than the U.S. average: in 2020, housing prices increased by almost 11.2% here; nationally housing prices grew by just 7.5% in the U.S. as a whole. The rate of increase was also much steeper than in 2019, when prices increased by about 5% here and 3.8% nationally. Allegheny County has a rate of home ownership close to the U.S. average: 64.3% here compared to 64.0% nationally.

## Controller Highlight 2019

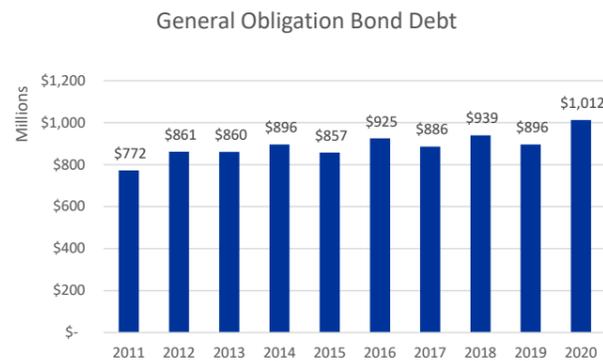
Rather than soliciting public bids for most large purchases, Allegheny County relies on alternative purchasing methods not subject to transparency measures and which don't guarantee the best prices—a practice known as "piggybacking"—an audit by County Controller Chelsa Wagner found. "Piggybacking" also largely prevents measures to ensure the inclusion of Minority, Women and Disadvantaged (MWDDBE) businesses in purchasing. A 2018 audit by Wagner found that when factoring in contracts not subject to competitive bidding, County spending directed to MWDDBEs represented only 2.5 percent of eligible expenditures for 2017, far short of the County's 15 percent goal.

Financial experts and rating agencies recommend governments should maintain a fund balance of at least 5.0% of operating revenues. While the General Fund's unassigned portion of the fund balance decreased in 2020 by \$1.9 million, the balance of \$50.6 million remains over the 5.0% target, representing 6.8% of General Fund revenue. The County's General Fund Balance more than doubled in calendar year 2012 and almost doubled again in calendar year 2013, correlating with a 2012 increase in the property tax millage. In recent years, growth of the General Fund Balance has slowed and declined overall in 2020 by \$1 million. However, if one combines the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund, a growth of \$9.6 million occurred in 2020.

Bond ratings serve as a key indicator of a government's creditworthiness and provide governments with the fiscal flexibility to borrow funds to build and rehabilitate essential infrastructure. Rating agencies have recognized the fiscal improvements of the County over the last decade. The County investment rating remained steady at "Aa3" with a stable outlook by Moody's Rating Services. Additionally, Standard and Poor's rating of "AA-" with a stable outlook remained the same.



The County ended 2020 with a General Obligation Bond Debt of \$1.012 billion, an increase of \$116 million over 2019. Debt levels represent about \$832 for every County resident as compared to \$737 as of December 2019. Per capita debt levels are the highest they have been for more than a decade. While a refinancing that occurred in 2020 resulted in \$11.9 million in savings and will result in savings of \$13.9 million in 2021, debt service payments that had been \$71 million annually will increase to \$73 million by 2023. Managing debt levels continues to be a challenge. The County has a plethora of roads and bridges within its jurisdiction in need of repair and improvement. Additionally, unanticipated problems caused by extreme weather events also demand funding, such as recent projects to remediate and prevent landslides. The County will need to continue to balance these immediate needs with prudent concerns of not burdening future residents and taxpayers with unsustainable levels of debt.

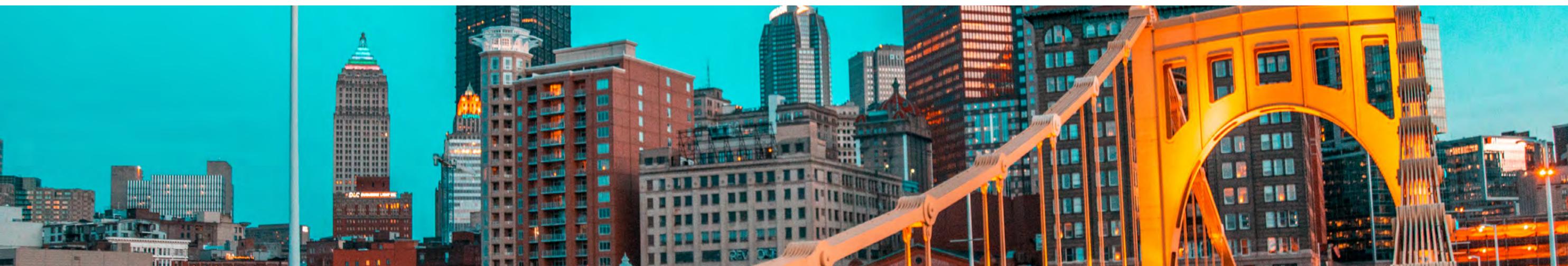


A chronic concern for the County is an underfunded pension liability. Typically, a "healthy" pension fund has a funded ratio of at least 80%. Despite increasing the contribution rate in five of the last nine years to 10% in 2020, the County's pension fund stood at 36.13% funded status in 2020, down from 42.75% in 2019, with a net pension liability of \$1.7 billion, up from \$1.2 billion in 2019. Two main factors contributed to the drop in the funded status. First, in a declining interest rate environment, the discount rate changed from 5.22% to 3.8%. Second, benefit payments to retirees increased by more than \$7 million in the last two years to an annual amount of \$116 million, as compared to contributions of \$82 million in 2020. Measures have been taken to curb the steep increase of benefits into the future. In December 2013, at the County's insistence, the Commonwealth passed Act 125 amending the pension structure. These changes will eventually reduce the County's actuarial liability and could save an estimated \$340 million. However, such steps are a mere tourniquet over a more systemic funding issue as retirees continue to enjoy longer lifespans and the County hires fewer full-time workers to contribute to pension obligations.

	Contribution Rate	Funded Status	Total Assets (in millions)
2020	10.0%	36.1%	\$1,004.9
2019	10.0%	42.8%	\$970.8
2018	9.5%	40.6%	\$879.1
2017	9.0%	46.4%	\$944.3
2016	9.0%	43.4%	\$861.7
2015	9.0%	56.6%	\$824.1
2014	8.5%	60.3%	\$839.4
2013	8%	59.5%	\$827.7
2012	8%	55.4%	\$761.4
2011	7%	58.7%	\$687.4

### Controller Highlight 2018

Allegheny County must tighten standards for firms designing and carrying out Department of Public Works projects to prevent construction cost overruns which added up to more than \$6 million across a dozen projects examined by auditors. An additional 10 percent cost due to change orders on a construction project is considered industry standard, according to Department of Public Works management. But overruns on the dozen projects examined averaged almost double this benchmark. The added costs on these projects alone exceeded the annual proceeds of the County's recently instituted \$5 vehicle registration fee, which is dedicated to road and bridge projects, Controller Wagner said.

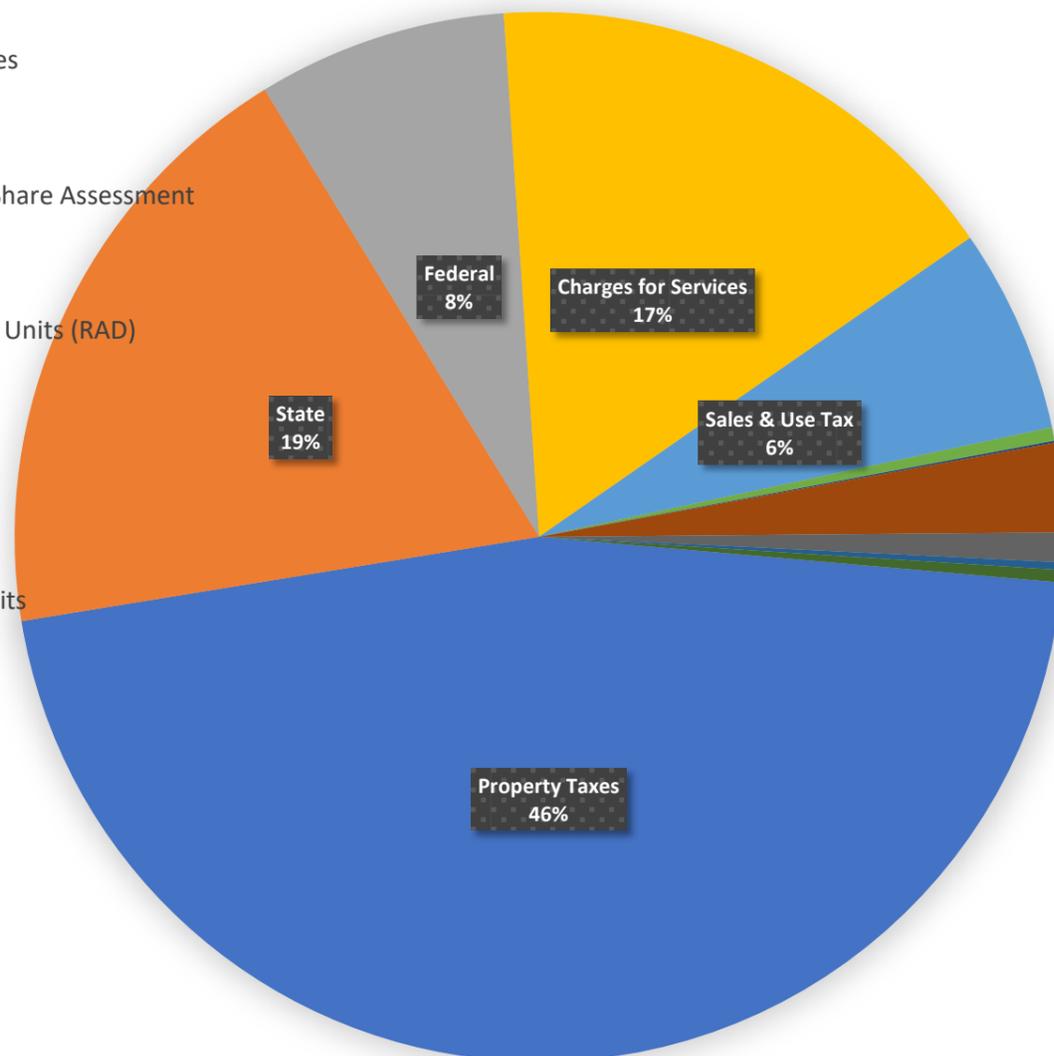


# Revenue

The two General Fund and Debt Service revenue streams hit hardest during the COVID 19 pandemic were State revenue and Charges for Services and Facilities. State revenue declines were directly attributable to fewer services provided in the County's Department of Human Services due to the pandemic.

Charges for Services and Facilities decreased by \$20 million largely due to a decline of more than 10% of the average daily residents at the County's four Kane Community Living Centers.

- Property Taxes
- State
- Federal
- Charges for Services
- Sales & Use Tax
- 2% Gaming Local Share Assessment
- Hotel Tax
- Local Government Units (RAD)
- Other Revenue
- Sale of Real Estate
- Interest
- Licenses and Permits



	2020	2019	2011	Variance from 2019	Variance from 2011
Property Taxes	\$375.0	\$371.0	\$272.4	\$4.0	\$102.6
State	\$153.2	\$165.1	\$175.5	(\$11.9)	(\$22.3)
Federal	\$62.6	\$56.3	\$84.4	\$6.3	(\$21.8)
Charges for Services	\$133.8	\$155.0	\$66.3	(\$21.2)	\$67.5
Sales & Use Tax	\$51.3	\$52.0	\$42.3	(\$0.7)	\$9.0
2% Gaming Local Share Assessment	\$3.4	\$6.0	\$5.5	(\$2.6)	(\$2.1)
Hotel Tax	\$0.5	\$5.3	\$6.0	(\$4.8)	(\$5.5)
Local Government Units (RAD)	\$22.3	\$22.0	\$17.5	\$0.3	\$4.8
Other Revenue	\$7.4	\$11.0	\$12.3	(\$3.6)	(\$4.9)
Interest	\$1.9	\$5.7	\$0.1	(\$3.8)	\$1.8
Licenses and Permits	\$3.1	\$3.1	\$2.0	0	\$1.1
Non-profit contribution in lieu of taxes	0	0	\$1.5	0	(\$1.5)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$814.5</b>	<b>\$852.5</b>	<b>\$685.9</b>	<b>(\$38.0)</b>	<b>\$128.6</b>

in millions

**Controller Highlight 2015**

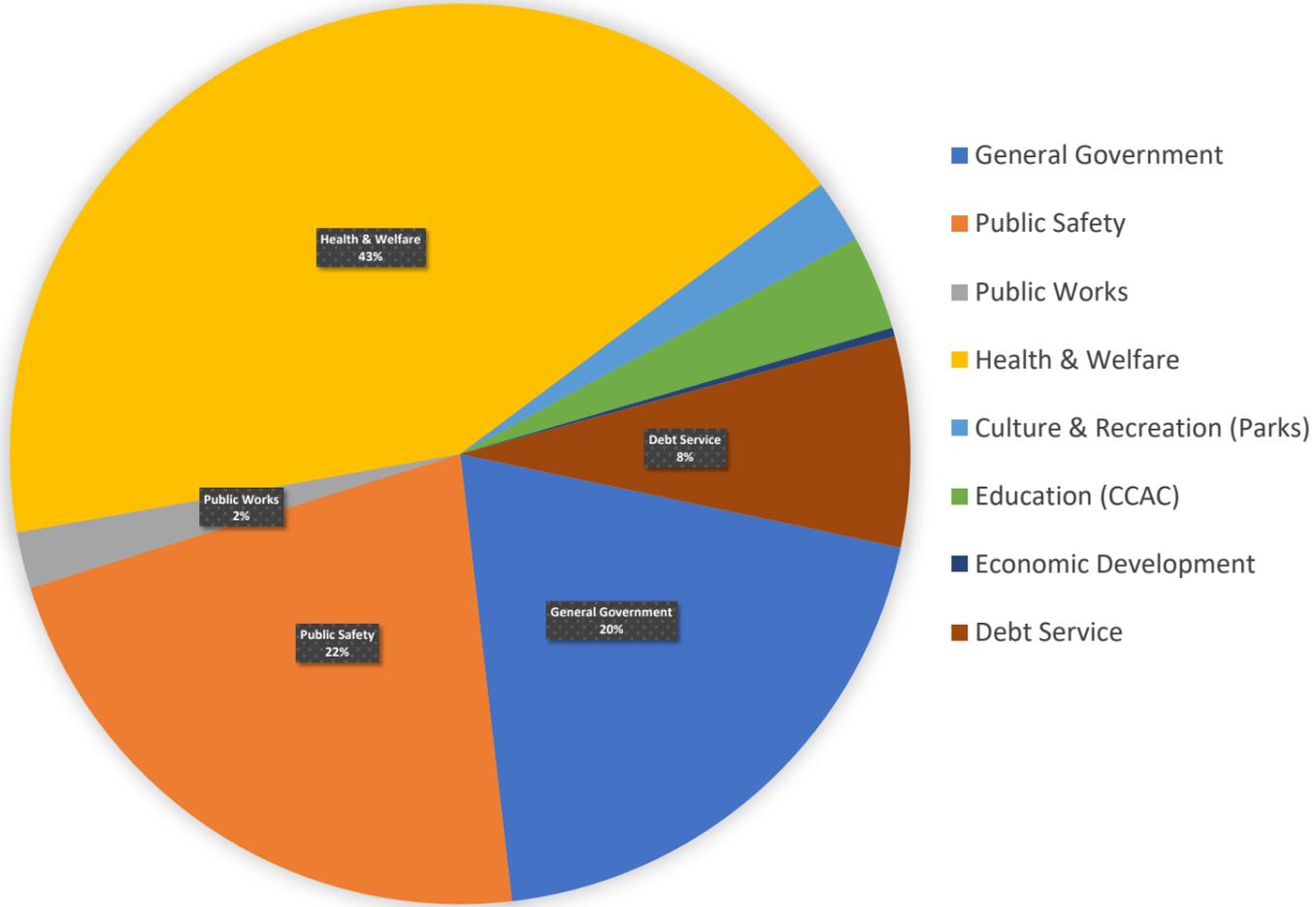
Controller Wagner has identified \$790,053 in unpaid taxes, penalties and interest this year stemming from the County's Hotel/Motel tax. In 2012, the Controller and Treasurer agreed to have the Controller perform certain hotel and rental car audits in order to achieve greatest efficiency. These included hotel tax compliance audits referred by the Treasurer, who collects the tax. The 22 reviews this year identified an average amount owed of \$35,911.50.

# Expenditures

Expenditures	2020	2019	2011	Variance from 2019	Variance from 2011
General Government	\$156.5	\$158.6	\$124.8	\$(2.1)	\$31.7
Public Safety	\$173.8	\$183.7	\$125.3	\$(9.9)	\$48.5
Public Works	\$15.9	\$17.9	\$27.1	\$(2.0)	\$(11.2)
Health & Welfare	\$336.1	\$356.8	\$338.4	\$(20.7)	\$(2.3)
Culture & Recreation	\$18.0	\$19.8	\$9.3	\$(1.8)	\$8.7
Education	\$26.8	\$26.3	\$19.1	\$0.5	\$7.7
Economic Development	\$2.5	\$5.2	\$6.7	\$(2.7)	\$(4.2)
Debt Service	\$59.5	\$74.8	\$67.9	\$(15.3)	\$(8.4)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$789.1</b>	<b>\$843.1</b>	<b>\$718.6</b>	<b>\$(54.0)</b>	<b>\$70.5</b>

in millions

Expenditures were down \$54 million overall, with large decreases in debt service due to refinancing (\$15.3 million), a reduction of services provided under the Department of Human Services (\$8.8 million), a decrease in Jail and alternative housing populations of approximately 750 residents (\$7.6 million), and approximately 115 fewer residents in the Kane Regional Centers, a 10% decrease (\$5.6 million).



### Controller Highlight 2015

Controller Wagner’s Office, in conjunction with the County Courts, District Attorney Stephen Zappala’s Office and the Allegheny County Constables’ Association, will begin providing constables with education and training regarding improved procedures, clearer policies and tighter controls surrounding payment for their duties. Controller Wagner announced the need for training after an audit of the constable payment process found duplicate payments as a result of inadequate internal controls and confusing procedures. Wagner’s efforts have recovered nearly \$58,000 in duplicate payments to constables due to fee vouchers submitted to both the Court and the County, and a lack of coordination between both computer systems.



# CARES ACT

Federal funding during the COVID-19 pandemic



Close to \$300 million has been awarded to Allegheny County for COVID-related assistance to date. Through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) the County was awarded \$212 million. Of that, approximately \$30 million was spent through the County’s Department of Human Services, \$22 million was given to the Port Authority, \$20 million made available for grants to small businesses, \$18 million to municipalities, \$15 million for test kits, \$14 million for rent relief, \$12 million for institutions funded by the Regional Asset District, and \$11 million to institutions of higher education. The County incurred \$11 million in salaries and benefit costs charged to CARES for public safety services, employees paid under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, as well as overtime and hazard pay incurred due to the result of the pandemic. The County expects to be awarded \$382.7 million under the American Rescue Act of 2021 and is awaiting guidance on how this money may be spent.

### COVID-19 Assistance Resources

Allegheny County’s Emergency Rental Assistance Program is for tenants in Allegheny County who are unable to pay their rent due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and runs from March 15, 2021 until at least September 30, 2021. The program can pay for up to 12 months of rent between March 13, 2020 through December 2021. For more information or to apply, visit <https://Covidrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us>. Utility payment assistance is also available through this resource.

The Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and its network of hunger-relief organizations are committed to making sure all of our neighbors have access to enough food during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) crisis. Find information on local distributions, an agency in your neighborhood and SNAP (food stamps) at <https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org/get-help/>.

PA 2-1-1 Southwest provides an easy-to-remember telephone number, chat, text, and a web resource for finding health and human services--for everyday needs and in crisis situations. Call 2-1-1.

# HEALTH & WELFARE

The Allegheny County Health Department 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.

Court Programs provide alternative sentencing programs for adults and juveniles, including placement facilities and home detention.

Shuman Juvenile Detention Center provides secure, temporary shelter to delinquent youths awaiting final case dispositions.

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.

Health & Welfare Expenditures (in millions)	2020	2019	2011	Variance from 2019	Variance from 2011
Health	\$15.8	\$16.6	\$28.0	\$(0.8)	\$(12.2)
Human Services (CYF)	\$188.3	\$197.1	\$168.5	\$(8.8)	\$19.8
Kane	\$100.2	\$105.8	\$97.3	\$(5.6)	\$2.9
Shuman	\$9.2	\$10.0	\$11.2	\$(0.8)	\$(2.0)
Court Programs	\$22.6	\$27.3	\$33.4	\$(4.7)	\$(10.8)





**Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC)**

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.

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

**Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA)**

Operates Pittsburgh International Airport and the Allegheny County Airport. For more information, see Transportation (Page 22).

**Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN)**

Manages wastewater from communities in Allegheny County.

In May 2020, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority received federal approval to proceed with a \$2 billion plan for reducing storm water and sewage overflows. Alcosan's Clean Water Plan calls for reducing 7 billion gallons of overflows into local waterways annually by 2036 by expanding capacity of Alcosan's waste water treatment plant and preventing excess water from entering sewers by repairing pipes, diverting streams, and making use of green infrastructure such as rain gardens. Visit [alcosan.org](http://alcosan.org) for more information about the Clean Water Plan.

**Sports and Exhibition Authority (SEA)**

Provides venues for sporting, entertainment, educational, cultural, civic, and social events for the public. The authority owns and leases PNC Park, Heinz Field and PPG Paints Arena. The Authority owns and is responsible for the operation of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center

**Port Authority of Allegheny County (PAAC)**

Operates public transportation service throughout Allegheny County. For more information, see Transportation (Page 22).

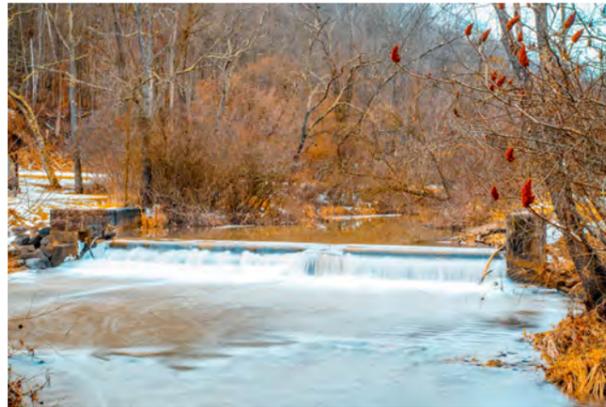
Selected Authorities Operating & Capital Expenditures 2020

Authority	Total
ACAA	\$210,053,267
ALCOSAN	\$178,579,748
SEA	\$19,807,013
PAAC	\$573,749,296

# Associated Agencies

# PARKS & RECREATION

Allegheny County operates nine regional parks, which together comprise nearly 12,000 acres. These parks offer a wide range of amenities including wooded areas with nature centers, biking, and walking trails, picnic grounds, a golf course, the only downhill skiing available in Allegheny County, and other year-round sports and recreation facilities.



A Controller's Office report issued in 2019 showed that while more than \$40 million was spent on the Parks in 2018, sources outside County government and revenue generated in the Parks themselves covered more than three-quarters of that spending, meaning County property tax dollars covered less than \$10 million in Parks spending for the year.

The Parks are funded in large part through the Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD), which receives one-half of the additional one percent sales tax in Allegheny County. In 2018, RAD provided the parks \$20.61 million in operating funding. Another \$4 million has been provided to the Parks annually in recent years from Allegheny County's Hotel Tax, a 7 percent tax on hotel stays devoted to promoting tourism to the County.



The Parks themselves generated another \$6.38 million in revenue: of that, \$1.29 million came from natural gas drilling royalties; \$3.37 million came from equipment & activity fees (like ski rentals and pool fees); and the rest came from food & beverage sales, and rentals of park shelters, stables, and other facilities.



The Allegheny Regional Asset District is funded through one half of the proceeds from the Allegheny County 1% Sales and Use Tax. The District's 2020 tax revenue budget of \$103.5 million was revised during the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 actual revenue is \$100.2 million, which exceeded the mid-year revised projection of \$97.5 million. Out of a total allocation budget of \$101.4 million, the District will allocate \$74.1 million to contractual assets, \$12.6 million to civic and cultural facilities and programs through annual grants, \$13.4 million to a multi-year asset and \$975,000 to administration. The operating grants amount to \$99.1 million or 97.7% of the budget while capital and programming grants amount to \$2.3 million or 6.5% of the budget. Administrative costs will use less than 1% of the allocations. (Source: Allegheny Regional Asset District 2021 Final Operating and Capital Budget)

## Controller Highlight 2015

After identifying \$743,107 in unpaid taxes, including applicable penalties and interest, during an initial audit completed in December 2014, Wagner's auditors investigated further, broadening their inquiry to the inception of the Rental Vehicle Tax in 2008, to determine that Hertz owed an additional \$1.8 million — \$840,790 in unpaid taxes and an estimated \$930,099 in penalties and interest. The Controller provided the total amount due to the Treasurer's Office, which bears responsibility for collection, in April 2015.

# TRANSPORTATION

Drink Tax revenue was cut more than half in 2020 to \$20 million from \$45.5 million collected in 2019. Whereas typically over \$30 million is paid to the Port Authority of Allegheny County for local operating matching funds, only \$5.5 million was provided in 2020, with the remainder made up through emergency federal aid.

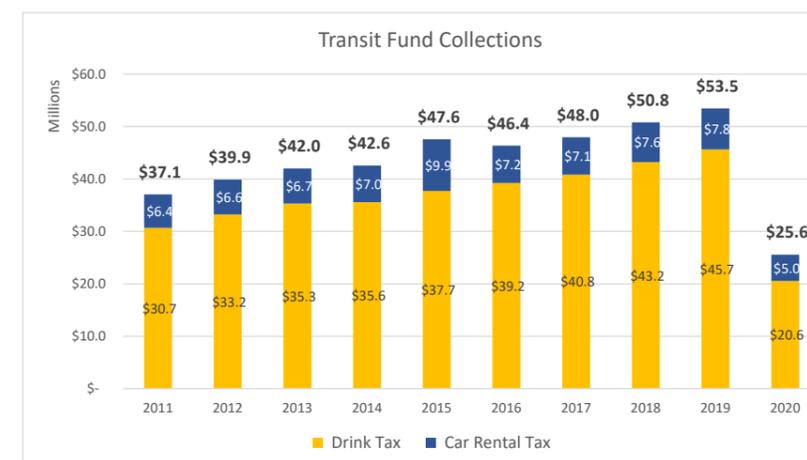


Over the past few years, the region has made some headway in repairing its deteriorating roads and bridges. In 2016, 18.6% of the bridges in Allegheny County and its surrounding counties were classified as structurally deficient (meaning one or more elements is in poor or worse condition); by 2019 that percentage had fallen to just 11.7%. That is a lower percentage of structurally deficient bridges than in the state as a whole (14.6%), but still higher than the national average (7.3%).



Site preparation for Pittsburgh International Airport's \$1.1 billion Terminal Modernization Program was due to start on April 23, 2020 for a 2023 opening, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been delayed.

Construction on the Port Authority's \$230 million Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system linking the region's two largest economic centers, Pittsburgh's Downtown and Oakland neighborhoods, is scheduled to begin in late 2021 with service beginning in fall 2023.



# PUBLIC SAFETY

**Sheriff**

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

**Public Defender**

Provides legal counsel for indigent defendants and for respondents.

**Emergency Services**

Oversees the countywide 911 network, responds to natural and man-made disasters, assists municipalities with training of firefighters, and investigates fires of suspicious origin.

**District Attorney**

Responsible for the prosecution of all Allegheny County criminal cases.

**County Jail**

Detains and supervises persons awaiting trial, accused of violating probation or parole, or serving given sentences.

**County Police**

Investigates all criminal activity which occurs on County-owned property and provides assistance to local police departments and other criminal justice agencies.

**Medical Examiner**

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

In February 2021, Allegheny County was awarded another \$2 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to reduce the county jail population and eliminate racial inequalities. The County received its first grant from the foundation in 2018, and was one of 15 jurisdictions selected for additional funding in 2021 based on the promise and progress of work to date: between Jan. 1, 2019 and Jan. 1, 2021, the non-federal population of the jail was down 30.1%; this was due in large part to the County’s response to the pandemic, which included a 77% reduction in jail bookings, and the rapid review and release of people being held in the jail. However, there was a large racial gap in the jail population reduction over those two years: the white non-federal population fell by 43.8%, while the black non-federal population fell by just 22.4%. As of Jan 1, 2021 black people, who make up just 13% of the population in Allegheny County, made up a higher percentage of the jail population (67.7%) than they did two years earlier (60.3%).

Allegheny County through the Controller’s Office was also one of ten jurisdictions chosen to receive a grant as part of the inaugural cohort of the Cities and Counties for Fines and Fees Justice network in 2021. The Controller’s Office is using the grant funding to examine and reform the system which collects \$15 million annually in court fines and fees that currently fall disproportionately on those residents who can least afford to pay them.



Public Safety expenditures in millions

	2020	2019	2011	Variance from 2019	Variance from 2011
District Attorney	\$19.0	\$19.3	\$14.1	\$(0.3)	\$4.9
Public Defender	\$9.2	\$9.3	\$8.3	\$(0.1)	\$0.9
Medical Examiner	\$10.5	\$10.6	\$8.2	\$(0.1)	\$2.3
Sheriff	\$19.2	\$19.9	\$13.7	\$(0.7)	\$5.5
Emergency Services	\$3.6	\$3.3	\$2.2	\$0.3	\$1.4
Jail	\$78.8	\$86.4	\$55.8	\$(7.6)	\$23.0
Police	\$33.5	\$34.9	\$23.0	\$(1.4)	\$10.5



In a significant step forward in our efforts toward greater government accountability and transparency, the Allegheny County Controller’s Office is pleased to present our OpenGov Web portal. OpenGov is an online financial transparency tool that dynamically presents the County’s revenues, expenses and other relevant statistical data. This data is frequently updated in order to provide the most recent and accurate information and can be presented in a variety of formats, from historical trends down to line item level detail. Visit our OpenGov site: [AlleghenyCounty.OpenGov.com](http://AlleghenyCounty.OpenGov.com)

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](http://InfoPortal.AlleghenyCounty.US). The one-stop shop provides information, department data, forms and other materials that are already available through the County’s website. New features include reports and data from the Medical Examiner’s Office and sales data from Real Estate. Additionally, there are quick links to community used information in the county including job listings, real estate and court records, restaurant inspection reports, elections information, budgets, maps, and forms.

# RESOURCES

- Seniors**  
The 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
- 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
- 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 website.  
2-1-1