Our Purpose

The purpose of the Department of Social Services is to

IMPROVE THE LIVES OF
PITT COUNTY CITIZENS

Helping families build the capacity to meet their own needs
Developing community solutions
Providing resources to help people through crises

Community Solutions

In addition to providing family-specific benefits such as Medicaid, Food & Nutrition assistance, and protective services for children and adults, we work with our partners to develop community solutions.
Child Abuse Awareness Festival

- Several hundred participants
- 7 co-sponsors
- 33 exhibitors

Other Events

- Foster Care Fundraiser at Great Harvest Bread
- Job Fairs
- Red Cross Shelters

Agency Financial Management

Responsible financial management is the single most important precondition for every service we provide, and for the agency’s own health.
Financial Management Goals

- Offer a helping hand, not just a handout.

- Bring taxpayer dollars back to Pitt County.

- Prevent & correct waste & fraud.

Support opportunities for client education & employment.

Optimize funding from Washington & Raleigh.

Emphasize accurate decisions, efficient operations, & recovery of unauthorized benefits.

Where Each Dollar Comes From

Federal & State Taxes  
($321 Million, 92%)

Collections & Donations  
($17 Million, 5%)

County Taxes  
($10 Million, 3%)

How Each Dollar Is Spent

Medicaid Services  
($236 Million, 68%)

Food & Nutrition  
($48M, 14%)

Child Support  
($15M, 4%)

Early Education  
($9M, 3%)

Other Programs*  
($40M, 11%)

* Includes child & adult protection, foster care, adoption, & administration.
We must be prepared to meet not only current demands, but upcoming challenges. This is especially true for:

- Foster Care
- Early Education
- Medicaid
- Services for Vulnerable Adults

Our foster care caseload has more than doubled during the past 6 years. This is partly due to family problems that are more serious, and children who are more seriously troubled.

Foster care demand is growing across the state. This suggests that there will be continued upward pressure on foster care services in Pitt County.
Like foster care, the demand for early education continues to grow even as funding becomes more limited.

This is a key service not just for children, but for low-income parents who need to work outside the home.

Like foster care, Pitt County's increased demand for early education is partly reflective of statewide trends.

Medicaid enrollments and annual recertifications have increased by one third over the past 5 years.

Also, the county's financial risk for potential errors has increased due to legislation.
Pitt County’s proportion of Medicaid enrollees is now significantly above that of the state as a whole.

By 2030, Pitt County’s population under the age of 65 is projected to grow by only 5% above its 2019 level. But the over-65 population will grow by 37%. These older people will account for most of the county’s total population increase.