

Investing in Our Communities: Solutions to safeguard and strengthen services

My main efforts and goals are to work with others to deliver crucial human services that protect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged; to support and expand our educational opportunities; and to safeguard and strengthen our healthcare and resources.

The gap between need and resources is growing every year. There are fewer dollars and more people in need. We need to meet those needs in a different way. I will continue to work tirelessly to find solutions for today and tomorrow.

Human Services Community

“I believe the aim of local government is to help people go from the safety net to solid ground.”

Human services data show that safety nets cut poverty nearly in half. I will continue to work with elected officials, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and stakeholders to provide these services.

Results and goals from these Indiana County partnerships include:

- Increased ability to deliver crucial human services
- Expanded capacity for drug and alcohol and mental health services
- Strengthened response to illegal drug activity
- Sufficient and continuous justice system operations and key emergency management services

Education Community

I am deeply committed to supporting quality public education for our children and post-secondary educational opportunities for those who seek to further their skills for better jobs, higher wages, and a more hopeful future.

I work with others to support:

- Awarding tuition scholarships to every student born in Indiana County; [Keystone Scholars Program](#), an initiative of PA Treasurer’s Office
- Agricultural education to motivate our young people to keep farming alive in our county
- [Expanding affordable broadband](#) to rural areas so our children and adult students can do their homework and access educational programs
- Working with the community college and the technology center to teach current and future farmers how to integrate new technology that is designed to support and improve agriculture

- Awarding grants to schools and scholarships to senior high school students
- The co-location of Indiana County Technical Center and Westmoreland County Community College
- Construction of Central Allegheny Challenger Learning Center
- Advocating the state to increase funding for our public schools and higher education institutions

Healthcare Community

Rural areas have poorer health outcomes than other parts of the country. To discover what services our county needed, I served on the Steering Committee for Community Healthcare Needs Assessment for Indiana Regional Medical Center and convened a panel of public health policy experts and practitioners for American Association of University Women about the state of health resources for women in rural areas.

I will continue to work with our partners to:

- Explore ways to expand treatment and support to individuals and their families on the journey to recovery from opioid and other drug substance use disorder
- Support a robust operation of emergency services for the county, including delivery of an efficient and effective 911 system
- Bring communities together around healthy, active lifestyles with walking and biking trails, Bike to Work and School Days, WalkWorks and county parks.
- Support expansion of broadband services to rural areas so patients have access to specialists and services that are typically available only in more urban areas
- Find solutions to improve healthy living in Indiana County
- Advocate the state for more financial resources to strengthen emergency and healthcare services