



PCRG statement on Governor Shapiro's 2024-25 Budget Address

Gov. Josh Shapiro unveiled his spending plan and has remained steadfast in continuing investments in public education, higher education, and public safety for Pennsylvania communities. Additionally, the governor's commitment to fund over \$300 million in public transit infrastructure is long overdue. Increasing access to affordable transit will greatly benefit all communities – especially low-income and minority neighborhoods.

PCRG is pleased to hear the governor acknowledge and dedicate resources to address the housing crisis that's affecting Pennsylvania and most major cities in the country. His five-point housing plan aims to address the lacking inventory of affordable housing as well as prioritize eviction support services to keep Pennsylvanians from losing their homes. PCRG is also thrilled to see Gov. Shapiro's commitment to making the Whole Home Repairs program permanent and raising the cap of the housing trust fund to \$100 million.

As we learned last week, the governor will prioritize supporting a robust economy, positioning Pennsylvania to compete with other states on business investment as well as workforce growth and development. As part of the state's 10-year economic development strategy, Shapiro is requesting more than \$600 million to fund economic development initiatives for the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Of those funds, \$25 million will go towards investments in main street businesses as part of the Main Street Matters program. While there was no mention of it from Gov. Shapiro, PCRG will continue to advocate and work with the state legislature to increase of Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP), a critical program for non-profit organizations performing important community and economic development work in some of the most underserved communities throughout Pennsylvania.

While this is a well-intentioned budget proposal, PCRG is disappointed that the state legislature continues to hold over \$12 billion in reserves for a "rainy day" fund instead of investing in people and communities that need it the most. This is all when the minimum wage for Pennsylvania workers remains \$7.25.

In the coming days, we will break down the governor's proposal further and provide analysis on how this budget will impact communities. Additionally, PCRG, along with our partners, will work with the Shapiro administration and state lawmakers to see laws that fund the necessary proposals and programs that were left out of the governor's budget – as well as continue funding this year's priorities.