

OCTOBER 2025

BUDGET IMPASSE IMPACT SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

The Bucks-Mont Collaborative is a **nonpartisan membership network of 130+ nonprofit health and human service providers and community partners** serving Bucks and Montgomery Counties. Its **Collaborative Advocacy Network (CAN)** offers interested members a space to engage in collective advocacy around its core policy priorities in housing, behavioral health, and related human services.

In October 2025, **the Collaborative surveyed its 32 CAN nonprofit providers** to understand how Pennsylvania's state budget impasse is affecting service delivery, staffing, and local needs. Responses reveal a sector under severe strain — making clear that each day of delay has real human and economic costs.

AT-A-GLANCE

78% report delayed payments or paused contracts

57% reduced hours, staff, or services

43% canceled or postponed community events/ outreach

7/10 Avg. staff stress level

61% can sustain operations beyond 60 days if impasse continues

(Source: CAN Budget Impasse Impact Survey, October 2025; n = 23)

KEY FINDINGS



Nonprofits Are Running on Empty

Organizations are depleting reserves, overextending credit, and postponing payments to vendors and staff. Many report they will **run out of cash within weeks** if state funds remain frozen.



Staff Are Exhausted and Demoralized

Nine in ten respondents report severe staff **burnout, moral distress, and fear of layoffs**.



Critical Community Services Are Breaking Down

Food pantries, shelters, and behavioral health programs describe **empty shelves, delayed payrolls, and families turned away**.

BY THE NUMBERS

VOICES FROM THE FIELD



“Staff, who are already spread thin, with many working two jobs to make ends meet, are bringing in food and supplies from home to keep our shelter running.”

- *A Woman's Place (Bucks County)*

“This impasse isn't just a line-item issue — it's a lifeline issue. Delays in funding jeopardize emergency shelter for families and delay rental assistance that keeps people housed.”

- *Family Promise Montco PA*

“We typically have five freezers stocked with meat purchased with government funds. We're now down to one. The families that come to us have been offered the same food for three months.”

- *CAN Member (Bucks & Montgomery Counties)*

“Without funding to safety-net programs, the Commonwealth is creating additional barriers for [domestic violence] victims trying to save their lives and their children's lives.”

- *CAN Member (Montgomery County)*

“If the county can't pay us, we could sustain staff for only three months before layoffs become unavoidable. Without our team, thousands would lose access to our free mental-health programs.”

- *NAMI Montgomery County PA*

“The social safety net — held together largely by nonprofit organizations — is strained even in the best of times. Legislators should be working nights and weekends until a budget is passed.”

- *CAN Member (Bucks & Montgomery Counties)*



THE BOTTOM LINE

The data and stories are clear: **our community-based nonprofits are being pushed past the breaking point.** Each day without a budget compounds the harm — forcing impossible choices between keeping staff or keeping doors open.

We call on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to end the budget impasse immediately and restore funding flows to stabilize essential services.