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Budget Breakdown: Health Care

This week, the Pennsylvania Senate signed the state budget that passed the House in July, which was then signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro. This budget makes critical investments in public health and wellness, including significant investments in mental health and the first-ever investment in addressing maternal mortality, including:

- A \$66.7 million increase for child care services, allowing up to 75,000 low-income families to continue to be enrolled in subsidized child care through the Child Care Works Program.
- \$50 million into the Hospital and Healthsystem Emergency Relief Fund to support the vital work of hospitals.
- \$20.7 million to increase mileage rates for ambulance services, protecting access to health care and ensuring that EMS workers and first responders are better reimbursed for the critical care they provide.
- \$20 million to increase base funding for counties to provide critical mental health services and address deepening workforce shortages.
- \$2.3 million to expand maternal health programming to allow for implementation of prevention strategies to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.
- \$5 million in funding for the Help at Home (OPTIONS) program through the Department of Aging, to reduce the waitlist of seniors seeking services that will allow them to stay in their homes.

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