

# PENNSYLVANIA

## SUPERVISION OF LOCAL CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

### Demographic Profile

- Population: 12,784,227 (2016 est.)
- Counties: 67 total; 48 rural and 19 urban (persons per sq. mile > 284); 73% live in urban counties

### State Supervision Profile

- State Supervised, Regional Presence, County/Community Agency Administered.
- Office of Children, Youth, and Families (OCYF) within PA Department of Human Services
- Regions for child welfare
  - 4 contiguous regions; regional system has been in place for over 30 years
  - 2-24 counties per region; caseloads ranged from 832 to 1,450 substantiated reports per region
- Regional staff
  - Includes regional director, 2-4 supervisors, and 8-16 human services program representatives
  - Most are home-based because of travel required but facilities are available
- Central v. regional roles
  - Central – Bureaus within OCYF include budget and program support, monitoring, policy development, juvenile justice, and information systems.
  - Regional – Duties include:
    - Monitoring, licensing and providing technical assistance
    - Investigating child abuse when county agency employee or agent involved
    - Investigating complaints and conducting annual inspections
    - Assisting county and private agencies in the interpretation and implementation of regulations and policies
    - Reviews of child fatalities and near fatalities
    - Support state support for county quality assurance activities
    - Support for facility/agency licensure
- Region -> County practices
  - Quarterly meetings for county directors, selected county staff + regional director
  - University provides Program Improvement Specialists for each region
    - Trainings, root cause analysis, and troubleshooting
  - Region convenes stakeholder meetings to discuss proposed policy changes