

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

Pennsylvania administers a variety of homelessness support programs and services. These programs support people and families who are experiencing homelessness:

GENERAL RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

- **Quick Start Housing Resources**

www.phfa.org/mhp/serviceprovider/

This is an interactive map of Pennsylvania designed to help individuals easily locate housing resources and social services in their area.

- **County Assistance Office (CAO)**

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/

To seek assistance and a range of services for visit or contact your local CAO.

- **COMPASS**

www.compass.state.pa.us

You can also find information, apply, or renew a number of benefits on this website.

- **Rural Housing: Multi-Family Rental Housing Search Tool**

rdmfhrentals.sc.egov.usda.gov

The above link will take you to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's web-based rural housing search tool. Click on your county to find information about housing in your area:

- **Public Housing Authorities (PHA)**

portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts/pa

If you need public housing assistance or would like specific information about public housing programs such as housing choice vouchers, please contact your local public housing authority.

- **2-1-1 United Way**

www.pa211.org

PA 2-1-1 is a free resource and information hub that connects people with community, housing, health, and disaster services in 11 counties through a 24/7 confidential phone service and website. For more information, please visit the above website or dial 211

› **Eastern PA:** Berks, Carbon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Northampton, Schuylkill

Phone: Dial 211; toll-free 855-501-6785

Website: www.pa211east.org

› **Northeast PA:** Bradford, Clinton, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, and Wyoming counties.

› Services are also provided in Monroe County through PoconoInfo (poconoinfo.communityos.org).

Phone: Dial 211 or 570-829-1341; toll-free 888-829-1341

Text: Your zip code to 898211

Email: helpline@fsawv.org

Website: www.helpline-nepa.info/

› **Southeast PA:** Bucks, Chester, Southern Chester County, and North Penn

Phone: Dial 211 or 866-964-7922

Website: 211sepa.org/

› **Northwest PA:** Erie

Phone: Dial 211 or 814-456-2937

Website: www.unitedwayerie.org

(General Resources and Information Continued)

- › **Southwest PA:** Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Washington, Westmoreland
Phone: Dial 211; Toll-free 888-553-5778
Text: Your ZIP code to 898-211
Email: info@pa211sw.org
Website: pa211sw.org/housing

- **Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): Pennsylvania Resources**
<https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/states/pennsylvania>

The link provided will take you to HUD's website, which provides information on a variety of Pennsylvania resources. Information available includes: avoiding foreclosure, rental help, homelessness resources, housing counselor, etc.

HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE

• **Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)**

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/homelessassistance/

HAP provides five levels of service depending on an individual's or family's needs. Eligibility for HAP begins for individuals experiencing homelessness or near homeless whose income falls below 200 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines. Many of these services are complimentary to one another, and many times, an individual may receive multiple levels of service at the same time. The five levels of service include:

1. **Case Management** – Helps you identify your needs and why you are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. Services can include: budgeting, life skills, job preparation, home management, and referral to drug and alcohol services.
2. **Rental Assistance** – If you or your family are in danger of eviction, the CAO might be able to help with payments for rent, mortgage, security deposits, and utilities. A HAP provider will work with the landlord to decrease the chance of eviction. HAP can also be used to transition from a shelter to an affordable apartment.
3. **Bridge Housing** – The next step up from an emergency shelter. The bridge helps a person move from experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. The bridge is a shared facility or apartment where individuals can stay for up to 18 months with a small co-pay.
4. **Emergency Shelter** – If a person is experiencing homeless or is a victim of domestic violence, the emergency shelter provides a place to live for a

short time. During that time, case management services are provided.

5. **Innovative Supportive Housing Service** – This component allows a service provider to design and use a supportive housing service that is outside the scope of existing HAP components that addresses unique county needs.

• **Emergency Shelter Assistance (ESA)**

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/cashassistance/emergencyshelterallowanceesa

ESA helps individuals and families who are experiencing homeless or near homeless avoid eviction or foreclosure in order to find a long- or short-term place to live. ESA provides up to \$400 depending on the need, situation, and emergency. Often, multiple instances of need occur for various reasons (utilities, rent, etc.). An individual may be eligible more often than every 12 months. Individuals can apply for ESA through their local CAO.

› CAO Contact List: www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/

• **Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)**

www.hcsis.state.pa.us/hcsis-ssd/pgm/asp/PRCNT.ASP

PATH is a federal grant that supports service delivery to individuals who are experiencing homeless or near homeless who have serious mental illnesses and/or co-occurring substance use disorders. Contact your county mental health and intellectual disabilities office to find out if there is a PATH program and services in your area.

AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS, EVICTION PROTECTION

• PA Housing Search

www.pahousingsearch.com

PA Housing Search is a web-based search tool that allows for highly customized searches depending on need. For example, you can search by rent amount, accessibility, availability of public transportation, etc. Bilingual and toll-free phone numbers are also available.

• TANF Diversion

www.compass.state.pa.us

Diversion is a one-time payment to eligible families who are experiencing a crisis as a result of a reduction in earnings or the loss of a job. Examples of crisis situations include the threat of homelessness, eviction, or utility shutoff.

› CAO Contact List and apply for ESA:

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/

• Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/heatingassistanceliheap/

This program helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

• Foreclosure Prevention brochure

www.phfa.org/forms/brochures/foreclosure_prevention/HEMAPBrochure.pdf

• PHFA Housing Counseling and Education

www.phfa.org/homebuyers

- › Financial Fitness Program
- › Homebuyer Counseling and Education
- › Foreclosure Prevention
- › Homeowner's Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP)

› Mortgage Mediation and Diversion

› Anti-Predatory Lending

› Rural Development

• Assistive Technology Resources

www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/assistivetechology/

This website links to products and equipment that can help children and adults with disabilities and functional limitations.

• PHFA Keystone Renovate and Repair Loan Program

www.phfa.org/programs/randr.aspx

This program is designed to help homeowners pay for repairs and improvements that increase the basic livability of their home. This includes additions and construction that makes the home safer, more energy efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities or people who are elderly

• Alternatives to the Keystone Renovate and Repair Loan Program for Home Repairs, Modifications, Assistive Technology, and Weatherization

www.phfa.org/forms/renovate_and_repair/documents/guidelines.pdf

These programs help homeowners pay for repairs and improvements that make their homes more livable. This includes construction that makes a home safe, more energy efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities or who are elderly

• Pennvest Homeowner Septic Program

www.phfa.org/programs/pennvest.aspx

This program provides low-interest loans to qualified homeowners who need to repair or replace their individual, on-lot sewage disposal system or hook up for the first time to a public sewer system