

HEALTHCARE AND HOUSING (H²) SYSTEMS INTEGRATION INITIATIVE

PITTSBURGH - Homeless Housing Resources

HOMELESS HOUSING RESOURCES

Financial support for housing for low-income people tends to fall into categories: support to help cover “hard” costs (such as construction and rehabilitation) and support to cover more flexible “soft” costs, such as vouchers, operating costs, and services. Resources are often focused on a particular population (e.g. people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, people experiencing homelessness, veterans).

HUD Resources

HUD provides a variety of resources to states, local governments, and nonprofit housing agencies to provide access to or in order to develop affordable housing.

Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program¹

The Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program provides rental assistance for low-income individuals and families. The HCV Program provides “tenant-based” rental assistance under Section 8 by providing low-income households with a voucher they can use to rent any private apartment that meets program guidelines. Section 8 also offers “project-based” rental assistance, which provide rental housing to low-income households in privately owned and managed rental units, but in which the subsidy stays with the building.

There are 3 PHAs in Allegheny County- the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County Housing Authority, and McKeesport Housing Authority- all of which operate both a public housing and a HCV program.

Special Purpose Vouchers²

Special purpose vouchers have been appropriated by Congress exclusively for people with disabilities. They are an invaluable resource for meeting the housing needs of people with disabilities because they must be set aside for people with disabilities even when they turn over and are re-issued. Vouchers are targeted exclusively to people with disabilities through the following programs:

Five-Year Mainstream Housing Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

These vouchers are set aside exclusively for people with disabilities. They are funded through the Section 811 tenant-based rental assistance program (25% of the program’s appropriations have been used for tenant-based rental assistance). PHAs³ received 5-year annual contributions contracts.

- PHAs in the state of Pennsylvania have been awarded 451 Five-Year Mainstream vouchers
- **59 vouchers have been awarded to the Allegheny County Housing Authority as of November 2015**

Rental Assistance for Non-Elderly Persons with Disabilities (“NED” Vouchers)

Over the past decade, HUD has also awarded over 55,000 other vouchers targeted to non-elderly people with disabilities, now referred to as NED vouchers.

- PHAs in the state of Pennsylvania have received 2,054 NED vouchers

¹ Data from HUD PHA Contact Information http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/pha/contacts and HUD Housing Authority Profile database <https://pic.hud.gov/pic/haprofiles/haprofilelist.asp>

² Technical Assistance Collaborative, Database of Vouchers for People with Disabilities, <http://www.tacinc.org/knowledge-resources/vouchers-database/?state=PA>

³ Non-profit disability organizations were also eligible to apply for Section 811-funded Mainstream vouchers.

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- **The 3 PHAs in Allegheny County have not received any NED vouchers as of November 2015**

Although vouchers are an invaluable resource for helping homeless and low-income individuals with disabilities, PHAs often have substantial waiting lists for applicants to receive HCV and special purpose vouchers; lists may be also closed when the wait for housing becomes unreasonable.

HOME Investment Partnerships Program⁴

The federal government created the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) in 1990. The HOME program is a formula grant of federal housing funds given to states and localities (referred to as “participating jurisdictions” or PJs). As of June 2015, Pennsylvania has 31 participating PJs, **including Pittsburgh and the Allegheny County Consortium. Since 1992, these two PJs in the state of Pennsylvania have received over \$169 million in HOME funds.**

HOME funds can be used to:

- Build, buy, and renovate rental housing;
- Finance homeownership opportunities;
- Repair homes, including making buildings physically accessible; or
- Provide rental subsidies to eligible households.

HOME-Funded Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Vouchers and Housing Units as of June 2015

Participating Jurisdictions	Cumulative as of 2014 Award Amount	Number of Households Served by TBRA Vouchers Since 1992	Number of Completed Housing Units Since 1992
Allegheny County Consortium	\$88,582,870	0	2,240
Pittsburgh	\$80,918,323	0	3,195
TOTAL	\$169,501,193	0	5,435

National Housing Trust Fund (HTF)⁵

The federal government created the Housing Trust Fund in 2008, but it has not been operating due to insufficient funding. Funds are now being set aside, and HUD anticipates that allocations will begin in 2016. The HTF program is a formula grant of federal funds given to states and state-designated entities. Each state determines its priority housing need for production or preservation, primarily of rental housing, that is affordable and available to extremely low-income households. A state must use at least 80 percent of each annual grant for rental housing; up to 10 percent for homeownership; and up to 10 percent for the grantee's reasonable administrative and planning costs.

HTF funds can be used for:

- New construction of rental and homebuyer units;
- Acquisition or acquisition/rehabilitation of rental and homebuyer units; or
- Operating costs for rental projects (up to one third of annual grant).

⁴ HUD, HOME Dashboard Reports, https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/home-dashboard-reports/?filter_DateYearEach=2015-06-30&filter_State=PA&filter_Granttee=&program=HOME&group=Dash

⁵ HUD Exchange, Housing Trust Fund <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/htf/>

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During 2015, states will begin developing their HTF Allocation Plans and solicit input from their constituents. States will submit these plans to HUD along with their 2016 Annual Action Plans. HUD anticipates that grantees will receive their HTF allocations by Summer 2016. HUD has posted a list of states it has designated as grantees of the HTF, which will be updated as HUD receives notifications from states of their intent to become grantees.

Information on Pennsylvania's Housing Trust Fund – the 40 County Housing Trust Fund – will be presented later in this Worksheet.

Continuum of Care (CoC) Program⁶

Pennsylvania has 16 active Continuums of Care (CoCs):

- In January 2015, Pennsylvania had **16,140 total beds** dedicated for homeless persons year-round; about **54%** were in emergency shelters/safe havens and **46%** were in transitional housing programs.
- The state also had a total of **13,610** permanent supportive housing beds and **2,604** rapid re-housing beds.

Continuum of Care	2015 Homeless Housing Inventory			Permanent Housing Inventory		
	Total Year-Round Beds (ES, SH, TH)	Inventory by Type		Total (PSH, RRH)	Inventory by Type	
		Emergency Shelter/ Safe Haven	Transitional Housing		Permanent Supportive Housing	Rapid Re-housing
Pittsburgh/McKeesport/Penn Hills/Allegheny County	1,456	494	962	2,312	2,136	176
State Total	16,140	8,720	7,420	16,214	13,610	2,604

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)⁷

The Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program provides grants to states and localities for emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing for the homeless. ESG funds can be used for street outreach, emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, rapid re-housing assistance, and HMIS, as well as administrative activities. ESG funds may also be used to fund Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Programs (HPRP). In 2015, 22 grantees in Pennsylvania received ESG grants totaling \$15,303,337, **including \$1,159,290 to the city of Pittsburgh and \$1,127,473 to Allegheny County.**

Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA)⁸

HOPWA funding provides housing assistance and related supportive services by grantees who are encouraged to develop community strategies and form partnerships with nonprofit organizations. Funds may be used for a range of housing, social services, program planning, & development costs.

⁶ 2014 HIC Count, available at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3031/pit-and-hic-data-since-2007/>

⁷ HUD, CPD Allocation Awards, https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/cpd-allocations-awards/?filter_year=2014&filter_program=6&filter_state=PA&filter_coc=

⁸ HOPWA Performance Profile 2013-2014, https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/reportmanagement/published/HOPWA_Perf_GrantForm_00_PITT-PA_PA_2013.pdf

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HOPWA funds are awarded through the Consolidated Plan as a block grant to states and larger metropolitan areas based on the incidences of AIDS, and competitively through an annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). In 2014, the City of Pittsburgh received over \$720,000.

HOPWA – Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (2013)

	Households Served	HOPWA Expenditures
City of Pittsburgh		
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	70	\$491,263.16
Subsidized Permanent Housing	NA	NA
Transitional/Short-term Facilities	NA	NA
Short-Term Rent, Mortgage & Utility Assistance	199	\$218,788.84
Permanent Housing Placement Services	NA	NA
TOTAL	269	\$710,052

VA Supportive Housing Program (VASH)⁹

VASH is a joint project between the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The goal of the program is to transition veterans from homelessness to having permanent, secure, safe housing so that they may rebuild their lives. This program is administered with a housing voucher from HUD for veterans to rent a home or an apartment, and intensive case management services provided by the VA for five years.

From 2008 to 2015, 2,292 VASH vouchers have been awarded to 20 PHAs across Pennsylvania, **including 68 to the Pittsburgh Housing Authority and 331 to the Allegheny Housing Authority.**

Other Federal Resources

Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)¹⁰

The SSVF Program is a VA program that awards grants to private nonprofit organizations and consumer cooperatives that will provide supportive services to very low-income Veterans and their families residing in or transitioning to permanent housing. The grantees will provide a range of supportive services designed to promote housing stability.

In 2015, two Pennsylvania organizations (Impact Services Corporation and Veterans Multi-Service Center) received SSVF Awards totaling \$4,000,000 to serve low-income Veterans and their families in Philadelphia, Franklin, Fulton, Juniata, Mifflin, Snyder, Union, Centre, Clinton, Cameron, and Potter.

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery Program (SOAR)¹¹

Through its SOAR program, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) seeks to end homelessness through increased access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) support. Nationally, 37 percent of all applications for SSI/SSDI are approved upon first application. However, for people who are homeless, initial SSI/SSDI application approval is only 15 percent. When homeless people apply for SSI/SSDI through the SOAR

⁹ HUD.Gov, HUD-VASH Vouchers, http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash

¹⁰ Data from http://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/2014_SSVF_Award_List.pdf

¹¹ SAMHSA, SOAR Works! Pennsylvania profile, <http://soarworks.prainc.com/states/pennsylvania>

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Initiative, initial application approval is greatly increased – 93 percent of persons thought to be eligible are approved within 3 months.

In Pennsylvania, individuals may become eligible to utilize the SOAR model by completing the SOAR Online Course. There are currently 3 SOAR Trainers and 4 Local SOAR Leads in the state, **including one Local SOAR Lead in Pittsburgh. Allegheny County has used the SOAR model for over 5 years to assist consumers who are unable to work to apply for SSI and SSDI benefits.**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Resources

Funding – Special Initiatives – Coordination

Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program¹²

The federal Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program is one of the most important affordable housing programs available in Pennsylvania for supportive housing development. The LIHTC program is administered by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The program provides competitive awards of federal tax credits to developers to assist in the creation of affordable rental housing including supportive housing. In Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency administers the LIHTC program. The LIHTC program income targeting requires that 20 percent of LIHTC units be made available for households at or below 50 percent of area median income (AMI) or that 40 percent of LIHTC units be made available for households at or below 60 percent of AMI.

In 2015, nearly \$37 million in Low Income Housing Tax Credit funds were awarded for the construction of 39 affordable multifamily housing developments throughout the state, to preserve and create a total of 1,864 affordable housing units across the state. **3 of the 39 developments were located in Pittsburgh: Hillcrest Senior Residences, Dinwiddie Street Phase IV, and Middle Hall (aka Addison Phase 3).**

Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE)¹³

The Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE) was established in 2010, and received its first round of funding in 2012. PHARE is administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. The fund can be used for a variety of purposes, including but not limited to: creating homes for rent or purchase to low and moderate income households, preventing and reducing homelessness, mortgage or rental assistance, and providing loans or grants to owner occupants for repairs or improvements to their homes.

The PHARE program is funded through an impact fee tied to activity in the Marcellus Shale region of the state. Funding is only available to the 37 counties with active natural gas wells (which includes Allegheny) and those directly impacted by natural gas extraction industries. In 2014, \$9.6 million was allocated to the PHARE program, and \$9.3 million was awarded. The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania is working to create additional revenue streams for PHARE and expand the program's reach to all counties in the state.

¹² PA.Gov, "Governor Wolf Announces Tax Credits and PennHOMES funding for Affordable Multifamily Developments in Pennsylvania," May 14, 2015, <https://www.governor.pa.gov/tax-credits-and-pennhomes-funding-for-affordable-multifamily-developments/>

¹³ National Low Income Housing Coalition, PHARE <http://nlihc.org/rental-programs/catalog/pennsylvania-housing-affordability-and-rehabilitation-enhancement-fund-phare>

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Pittsburgh Rapid Results Veterans' Homeless Boot Camp¹⁴

On Aug. 8, 2014, Pittsburgh launched the Pittsburgh Rapid Results Veterans' Homeless Boot Camp, an outgrowth of the national Mayors' Challenge to End Veterans' Homelessness. The boot camp is a joint effort of many local service providers spearheaded by Mayor Bill Peduto, Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the Veterans Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services. Day-to-day operations are led by a Pittsburgh-based nonprofit, the Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. Each 100 days, the boot camp sets an aggressive target to permanently house homeless veterans, with the goal of ending veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Allegheny County has served 801 homeless veterans and successfully placed 396 veterans into permanent housing since the August 2014 launch.

Housing Programs- Homeless Assistance Resources

Pennsylvania Homeless Assistance Program¹⁵

Pennsylvania's Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) is a county-directed program that offers a variety of supportive services to individuals and families experiencing or at risk for homelessness and who can demonstrate that, with HAP intervention, they will be able to meet their basic housing needs in the near future. HAP includes five components: bridge housing, case management, rental assistance, emergency shelter, and innovative supportive housing. A county may choose to provide one, some, or all of the components as part of its program, depending upon its unique regional needs. HAP gives counties flexibility in creating their programs because human service agencies based at the local level are intimately acquainted with the local human services network and the needs of the community.

ACTION Housing, Inc. – Homeless Families Services Program¹⁶

Funded through the ESG Program, ACTION-Housing has served thousands of individuals through the Homeless Families Services (HFS) Program since 1984. The program is designed to address a broad range of problems and needs of homeless families and individuals throughout Pittsburgh and Allegheny County who are at various stages in the homeless cycle. Services offered include appropriate housing referrals, classes in life skills training and budgeting, employment searches, personal counseling and referrals for education and child care, and assistance with basic needs such as food, clothing, furniture, and household items. **ACTION-Housing operates three housing programs with services for Homeless Families: Braddock Apartments, McKeesport Downtown Housing, and The Residence at Wood Street (under development).**

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force¹⁷

Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force (PATF) provides the only HUD-funded, HIV/AIDS-specific housing programs in the region.

- **Pathways** – 24-month transitional housing for single adults.
- **Choice I, Choice II & Choice III** – Permanent housing for single adults and families throughout Allegheny County.

¹⁴ Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, "Press Release: Stand Down Pittsburgh," <http://www.peoples-gas.com/UserContent/UserFiles/Stand%20Down%20Press%20Release.pdf>

¹⁵ Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/homelessassistance/#.Vnm97BorLV0>

¹⁶ ACTION-Housing, Inc. <http://www.actionhousing.org/index.php/find-housing/homeless-families-services-program>

¹⁷ Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force, <http://www.patf.org/services>

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These housing programs provide a variety of case management services and referrals for primary medical care, nursing care, drug/alcohol and mental health treatment, nutrition counseling and money management education.

Bethlehem Haven¹⁸

Bethlehem Haven provides shelter and supportive services to thousands of homeless women. The system of care consists of a range of housing and supportive services designed to enable each woman to identify her needs, develop a plan of action, and achieve a successful outcome. Housing Programs offered by Bethlehem Haven include **SOAR (Safe Oasis And Residence)**, a Safe Haven housing model that provides supportive housing for women who are mentally ill, and **Safe at Home**, a program that offers monetary and basic assistance to women who are homeless or at immediate risk of homelessness. Priority for the Safe at Home program is given to women over 50 years old.

Primary Care Health Services' Supportive Housing Network¹⁹

Primary Care Health Services' Supportive Housing Network provides an average of 275 homeless adults and children with housing each year. Housing programs in the Network include:

- **Open Arms:** Transitional shelter containing nine 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments and a computer learning center. Women and their children may stay up to two years at Open Arms in order to address the factors contributing to their homelessness.
- **Sankofa:** Permanent Shelter serving a population at risk for chronic homelessness- women with long-term disabilities and their children. Containing twelve 1-, 2-, and 3-bedroom apartments, residents of Sankofa may stay indefinitely.
- **Penn-Free and Bridge:** These programs assist households throughout Allegheny County by providing help paying rent and utilities to individuals and families in need of short-term financial support.

Chartiers Center- Hestia Program²⁰

Hestia is a HUD-funded program for the chronically homeless with behavioral health needs. Consumers in this program are closely supported by the Service Coordinators, who have a strong knowledge of the homeless provider network in Allegheny County, to assist them in the transition from homelessness to independent, permanent housing.

Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. (VLP)²¹

VLP provides essential housing, employment, and vital support services to local veterans, service members, and their families. Each year, VLP serves more than 2,400 veterans and their families, makes 8,600 referrals for essential services, operates one of the nation's most effective veteran employment programs, and is the **largest provider of subsidized transitional- and permanent-housing to Veterans and their families in Western Pennsylvania.**

VLP operates the following housing programs:

- **Penn Free Housing Program:** Transitional housing program that serves 17 veterans recovering from drug or alcohol addiction.

¹⁸ Bethlehem Haven, <https://www.bethlehemhaven.org/program/housing-programs/>

¹⁹ Primary Care Health Services, Inc., <http://www.pchspitt.org/programs/housing.php>

²⁰ Chartiers Center, <http://chartierscenter.org/residential-programs/>

²¹ Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., <http://www.vlpwpa.org/services/>

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- **The Airborne Housing Program:** 18-month supportive transitional housing program that serves 25 veterans who are homeless and unemployed.
- **Independence Housing Program:** Scattered site permanent housing for homeless Veterans with disabilities, including drug & alcohol dependency.
- **Liberty Housing Program:** Permanent housing program serving nine veterans who are homeless, underemployed, and who have a disability.
- **Valor Housing Program:** Permanent housing program serving 15 veterans with a targeted population of three single men, four single females, four single men with dependent children, and four single females with dependent children.
- **Victory Housing Program:** Permanent housing program serving 15 homeless disabled veterans with dependent children.

All housing programs provide residents with supportive services including life skills training, individualized goal setting, job preparation and/or employment.

Sojourner House Motivation Opportunities Mentoring Spirituality (MOMS)²²

Since its inception in 2004, Sojourner House MOMS has provided safe, independent housing and supportive services for homeless, single, dual-diagnosed women in recovery and their dependent children. The MOMS program focuses on strengthening family relationships, promoting self-sufficiency, long term sobriety, and mental health. During their stay in the MOMS Program, families receive safe, affordable housing; job readiness and educational opportunities; case management and referrals to community resources; life skills and parenting counseling; and educational, recreational, and addiction prevention activities for children.

East End Cooperative Ministry (EECM)²³

EECM's Individuals Making Progress and Change Toward Self-Sufficiency (I.M.P.A.C.T.S) Program encompasses all of the services designed to help individuals move toward self-sufficiency, including EECM's educational, employment, and residential programs. Case managers and volunteers help individuals break the cycle of addiction, poverty and homelessness by giving them access to the supportive services and resources. Housing programs provided through I.M.P.A.C.T.S include:

- **FAITH (Families Achieving Independence Through Housing)** is a scattered-site permanent supportive housing program for families who have a family member with a physical or mental disability. Case managers work with participants to develop a plan for self-sufficiency.
- **Safe Haven/Safe Haven Accessible** offers permanent housing and support for ten chronically homeless men who have mental health issues. Two of the residences are accessible to, and meant specifically for, men who also have a physical disability.
- **The William and Mildred Orr Compassionate Care** provides 24-hour shelter and non-medical respite care for adults who are unable to return to their prior housing situation, and are in need of a supportive place to recuperate after being discharged from the hospital.

²² Sojourner House, <http://www.sojournerhousepa.org/services/housing/>

²³ East End Cooperative Ministry, <http://www.eecm.org/eecm-services/impacts-housing-services/>

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YWCA Greater Pittsburgh²⁴

YWCA Greater Pittsburgh initiated the country's first transitional housing program for women dealing with abuse and homelessness over 25 years ago. Today, YWCA Greater Pittsburgh operate three supportive housing programs that assist homeless women work toward self-sufficiency:

- **Bridge Housing** provides transitional housing and support services to homeless women and their children — up to ten families and six single women at any one time. Families may stay up to a maximum of two years; single women may stay a maximum of one year. Support services include case management, life skills education, referrals and assistance with permanent housing placement, referrals to community based health and welfare agencies, and assistance and support with vocational and educational goals.
- **Chrysalis: Shelter-Plus Care** provides permanent, supportive housing for 19 homeless women with a substance abuse and/or mental health diagnosis or HIV/AIDS. Housing is in leased, scattered site independent housing units.
- **Women in Supported Housing (W.I.S.H)** provides permanent supportive housing for 20 homeless women with a dual diagnosis, and their children. Housing is in leased, scattered site apartments and houses. The program includes intensive support services.

Operation Safety Net – Trail Lane Apartments²⁵

Trail Lane Apartments is a Housing First safe haven model that serves individuals with a history of chronic, unsheltered homelessness in Pittsburgh. Residents at Trail Lane are referred by Operation Safety Net street outreach teams, the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter, Wellspring Drop-In Center and other area homeless service providers. Consistent with the housing first philosophy, Trail Lane residents go directly from living on the street into housing. Operation Safety Net case managers then link the residents to services that improve quality of life and promote successful integration into the community. Amenities at Trail Lane include private one-bedroom apartments, on-site case management services, and on-site staff 24/7.

²⁴ YWCA Greater Pittsburgh, <https://www.ywcapgh.org/programs/housing>

²⁵ HUD, "A Housing First Safe Haven Model," <http://archives.hud.gov/local/pa/goodstories/2012-01-04.cfm>