

PA HOUSING AND EVICTION PREVENTION RESOURCES

HOUSING AND UTILITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

With an end to the eviction and foreclosure moratorium on the horizon, DCED has prepared this guide of federal and state resources and programs aimed to help those with a looming housing crisis or those helping their friends or neighbors navigate the tools available to stay in their homes. Please contact the partner housing organizations detailed here to assist you.

RESOURCE	SERVICE PROVIDED	ELIGIBILITY	REQUIREMENTS	LEARN MORE
Emergency Solutions Grant: Homelessness Prevention (Annual Allocation/CARES Allocation)	Homelessness Prevention may cover arrears up to 6 months, security deposits, short-term/medium-term rental assistance, utility deposits and payments, and other select stabilization services.	Households must have an annual income no greater than 30% (Annual Allocation) or 50% (CARES Allocation) of the area medium income (AMI) AND meet one of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) categories of Homeless (Categories two, three, or four). Households "At Risk of Homelessness" qualify if they have an annual income no greater than 30% (Annual Allocation) or 50% (CARES Allocation) of the area medium income (AMI) AND lacks sufficient resources or support networks AND meets one of HUD's "Risk Factors."	All households must access services through the local/regional Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System to receive assistance. To access the Coordinated Entry System, dial 2-1-1. Additionally, all households must be able to document that they will lose their housing within 14 days or that they meet one of HUD's "Risk Factors." The household will be reevaluated at least every 3 months to ensure their income is not greater than 30% or 50% AMI. Households may not receive more than 24 months of assistance. Participant must meet with case manager at least once a month.	Call 2-1-1 for an initial assessment of eligibility and referral to appropriate program. For more information on HUD's Area Medium Income (AMI) rates, please visit www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il.html#2020_query . For more information on Homelessness Prevention, HUD's homeless categories, and their "at-risk factors", click here .
Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)	Provides rental assistance (up to \$1,000 for adult-only households or \$1,500 for households with children), case management, bridge housing, emergency shelter, and innovative supportive housing services.	Households must be homeless or near homeless AND have an agreement with the landlord to rent to them AND have sustainable income sufficient to pay rent in the future or have no income but have reasonable expectations for sufficient income in the next 90 days to maintain rental agreements; AND have an income at or below 200% of the federal poverty income guidelines (FPIGs).	The Federal CARES Act grant period is March 15, 2020 to November 30, 2020. State HAP funds dispensed prior to March 15, 2020 will be waived so the client can receive the maximum amount of assistance under the CARES Act HAP funds. State HAP funds dispensed from March 15, 2020 to June 30, 2020 will be waived to receive the maximum amount of assistance. A client can qualify for HAP dispensed after July 1, 2020 for the maximum amount using CARES Act and State HAP funding.	To learn more about the Homeless Assistance Program (HAP), please visit www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Other-Services/Pages/Homeless-Assistance.aspx . You can find the agency who administers the program in your county here .

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<p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program</p>	<p>The CDBG program is a federally funded program in which counties and municipalities may provide one-time or short-term (no more than 3 consecutive months) emergency payments on behalf of an individual or family, for the purposes of preventing homelessness.</p>	<p>Households must have an annual income that is at or below 80% of the published Average Median Income (AMI). The AMI is published yearly and posted on HUD’s website www.hudexchange.info/programs/home/home-income-limits/</p>	<p>All households must go through their county community development office or county redevelopment authority. Households will be required to provide copies of financial documents including, but not limited to, tax returns, pay statements, and bank account statements.</p>	<p>To apply for assistance, please contact your county community development office or county redevelopment authority.</p>
<p>Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program-CV (CARES Act)</p>	<p>The CDBG-CV program is a federally funded program in which counties and municipalities may provide one-time or short-term (no more than six (6) consecutive months) emergency payments on behalf of an individual or family, for the purposes of preventing homelessness.</p>	<p>To be eligible for CDBG-CV funds, households must have experienced a loss in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Households must have an income that is at or below 80% of the published Average Median Income (AMI) for the period of time they are seeking CDBG-CV funding. The AMI is published yearly and posted on HUD’s website www.hudexchange.info/programs/home/home-income-limits/</p>	<p>All households must go through their county community development office or county redevelopment authority. Households will be required to provide copies of financial documents including, but not limited to, tax returns, pay statements, and bank account statements.</p>	<p>To apply for assistance, please contact your county community development office or county redevelopment authority.</p>
<p>Veterans Temporary Assistance Program</p>	<p>Provides temporary financial assistance to Veterans and their beneficiaries who reside in PA. If eligible, Veterans or their beneficiary can qualify for an amount not to exceed \$1,600 in a twelve-month period.</p>	<p>A person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States, who was honorably discharged from service, died in service or was killed in action, or suffered a service related disability.</p>	<p>Applicant must be able to prove a temporary loss in income as a result of conditions beyond the applicant’s control such as unemployment, sickness, or natural disasters. OR Provide proof of increase in cost of costs or expenses that are beyond the applicant’s control and have resulted in not having sufficient funds to pay for all necessities of living.</p>	<p>Contact the County Veterans’ Affairs Director in the county you reside to apply for this program.</p> <p>Additional information can be found at: www.dmva.pa.gov/veteransaffairs/Pages/Programs%20and%20Services/Veterans-Temporary-Assistance.aspx</p>

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Continuum of Care (CoC) Rapid Rehousing	Rapid Rehousing may cover security deposits, rental assistance (short-term or medium-term), utility deposits, case management, and other select stabilization services.	Households must meet HUD’s definition of “homeless” under Category 1 meaning; a household living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping place (i.e. car, park, abandoned building, train station, etc.), Category 2 meaning; Imminently losing their primary night-time residence, Category 3 meaning; Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition but do qualify as homeless under another federal statute and meet specific criteria, and Category 4 meaning; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. All persons seeking assistance must demonstrate the need of supportive services.	All households must go through their local/regional Continuum of Care’s Coordinated Entry System to receive assistance. To access the Coordinated Entry System, dial 2-1-1. Household may not receive more than 24 months of assistance. Participant must meet with a case manager at least once a month.	Call 2-1-1 for an initial assessment of eligibility and referral to appropriate program. For more information on Rapid Rehousing, please click here .

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<p>Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</p>	<p>Permanent supportive housing is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability and live independently.</p>	<p>Households must meet HUD’s definition of “homeless” under Category 1 meaning; a household living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping place (I.e. car, park, abandoned building, train station, etc.), a household staying in an emergency shelter, or an individual who is exiting an institution where they resided for 90 days or less and resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution. Households may also qualify who meet the Category 4 definition meaning; They are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and has no other residence and lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. Additionally, one member of the household must have a disability.</p>	<p>To be permanent housing, the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year, which is renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long and is terminable only for cause. Permanent Supportive Housing programs may be facility-based or scattered site. Households who are designated as chronically homeless are prioritized.</p>	<p>Call 2-1-1 for an initial assessment of eligibility and referral to appropriate program. For more information on Permanent Supportive Housing, please click here.</p>
<p>HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)</p>	<p>Funding for programs that provide rental/security deposit assistance to very low- and low-income households.</p>	<p>Applications must be submitted by units of local government (cities, towns, counties, boroughs and townships). Only very low- and low-income households are eligible to receive assistance from TBRA programs.</p>	<p>TBRA program administrators must establish a rent standard and can pay an assisted household no more than the difference between 30% of the household’s income and the rent standard.</p>	<p>For more information on HOME TBRA, visit www.hudexchange.info/programs/home/topics/tbra/#policy-guidance-and-fags. To inquire about the possibility of applying for HOME TBRA funding, call PHFA at 1-855-U-Are-Home (827-3466)</p>

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<p>Home4Good/ PHARE Funding</p>	<p>These are flexible funds which are used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19 by providing emergency shelter, permanent housing placement, and homelessness prevention and diversionary services.</p>	<p>Households must meet HUD’s definition of “homeless” under Category 1 meaning; a household living in a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping place (i.e. car, park, abandoned building, train station, etc.), Category 2 meaning; Imminently losing their primary night-time residence, Category 3 meaning; Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition but do qualify as homeless under another federal statute and meet specific criteria, and Category 4 meaning; fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. All persons seeking assistance must demonstrate the need of supportive services.</p>	<p>All households must go through their local/regional Continuum of Care’s Coordinated Entry System to receive assistance. To access the Coordinated Entry System, dial 2-1-1.</p>	<p>Call 2-1-1 for an initial assessment of eligibility and referral to appropriate program. For more information on the PHFA Home4Good and PHARE Program in your community, please visit PHFA’s website at www.phfa.org or contact your local Continuum of Care homeless assistance agency.</p>
<p>Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)</p>	<p>Provides PA residents assistance with their heating costs due to the pandemic. Crisis Applications grant up to \$800 worth of assistance. Supplemental Benefits are for households who received assistance under the regular LIHEAP allocation and will receive an automatic \$100 issuance to the vendor that received the most recent payment.</p>	<p>To be eligible for the Crisis program, a household must; Be responsible for paying their primary or secondary heating source, have a total household income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG), be in jeopardy of having their heating utility service terminated, be without heating utility service, or heating fuel, or be within 15 days of being without heating fuel, the crisis funds available to the household must be able to remedy the crisis situation.</p>	<p>Once the Department of Human Services (DHS) receives your Crisis application, eligibility will be reviewed. If you are eligible, a one-time payment will be sent to the vendor with whom you have a crisis. You will receive notice of the payment by mail, once eligibility has been determined.</p>	<p>Applications are being accepted through the COMPASS Website or by paper application. You can find more information in addition to the paper applications by visiting: www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Providers/Pages/LIHEAP-Recovery-Crisis-Program.aspx</p>

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<p>Energy Assistance Programs</p>	<p>Energy Assistance Programs are available for residential customers.</p>	<p>Budget Billing has no income limit. Customers must meet certain income limits and be payment-troubled to qualify for CAP, CARES, LIURP and Hardship Funds. Payment-troubled usually means customers have made a payment agreement with the company. The Household Income chart shown on PUC's website shows the levels customers must meet for CAP. The income levels are slightly higher for CARES, LIURP and Hardship Funds. Customers who meet these limits, should call their local electric or natural gas company for details to see if you qualify. Each company's toll-free number is also listed on PUC's website.</p>	<p>Contact your current electric or natural gas company.</p>	<p>Contact your current electric or natural gas company and inquire about programs to adjust your bill. PUC's Energy Assistance Programs Possible Programs: Budget Billing, Customer Assistance Program (CAP), Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES), Low-Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP), Hardship Funds.</p>
<p>Lifeline Telephone and Broadband Assistance Program</p>	<p>The Lifeline Program is a federal benefit that provides eligible low-income consumers a monthly discount on their phone or internet service bill.</p>	<p>You must either have an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or participate in one of the following assistance programs: Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) (Section 8), Supplemental Nutrition, Tribal Programs.</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted online, printed and mailed, or requested by contacting Lifeline Support Center. The program guide is linked in the learn more column.</p>	<p>To learn more about the Lifeline Program please visit: PUC's STAY CONNECTED with the Lifeline Telephone and Broadband Assistance Program Contact PUC at 1-800-692-7380 OR your current telephone or internet service provider OR contact the Lifeline Support Center at 1-800-234-9473.</p>
<p>HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) Rental Housing Development Funding</p>	<p>Funding for new construction or rehabilitation of affordable rental opportunities to benefit very low-, low- and/or moderate-income households.</p>	<p>Applications must be submitted by units of local government (cities, towns, counties, boroughs and townships). The application can be made on behalf of a non-profit organization or for-profit developer. Only projects consisting of nine total rental units or less may be submitted to DCED for consideration.</p>	<p>A minimum match contribution of 25% is required for ALL HOME rental projects. Eligible match contributions may include cash contributions from non-federal sources, value of donated property, forbearance of fees, and other eligible sources detailed in 24 CFR 92.220.</p>	<p>Visit www.dced.pa.gov/programs/home or call 1-866-466-3972 to get in contact with your county's DCED HOME Grant Manager.</p>