



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA's Housing  
Services Department  
**Best Practices**

**Kish Apartments/Farmers Market**

**Categories: Access to Services**

**Outcomes:**

Residents have easy access to fresh produce and affordable nutritious food through a collaboration with the local Farmer's Market and the property management company.

Every Tuesday for three hours, during the growing season, local farmers set up a farmer's market in the community room. The residents, family and friends are encouraged to shop at the market for fresh wholesome fruits, vegetables and baked goods.

**Units:** Kish Apartments consists of 141 one bedroom Section 8 units for residents 62 and older  
**Management Agent:** Affordable Housing Management Group  
**Service Coordinator:** Terri Heider  
717.248.4301  
kishapts@comcast.net

**Program Components:**

- **Relationship with Local Farmers.** The Service Coordinator and the Property Manager initiated a relationship with a local Farmer's Market. They spoke with the market master and asked for recommendations of local vendors. They then contacted a few vendors to see if they might be interested in selling fresh produce at the site.
- **Qualified Local Farmer.** The vendor that was selected accepts food stamp/EBT/Access cards, and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program vouchers. If it was a family site it would be beneficial for the vendor to accept WIC.
- **Terms and conditions.** The specifics including such items as times, dates and location of the Farmer's Market were agreed upon. They checked on the status of the vendors' liability insurance to make sure he was covered to provide the on-site market.
- **Publicity.** The Service Coordinator and Property Manager worked in coordination with the vendors to publicize this program and other services so that the residents are well informed about local resources.

**Background:**

Kish Apartments is a senior high rise development for residents aged 62 and older and persons with disabilities.

**Investment in Services:**

The on-site Farmer's Market does not result in any direct costs to either Kish



Apartments or the local vendors. The residents who are 60 and older are eligible to use their Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) Vouchers. The four \$5 vouchers are typically available for distribution in early July at the local senior centers. The vouchers may be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables grown in Pennsylvania at Farmers' Markets and farm stands. Depending on income, some residents may also qualify for food stamp/EBT/Access cards, and WIC.

## RESULTS

**Improved health of residents** by eating healthy fresh foods

**Better marketing for the property** by being able to offer residents on-site access to a Farmer's Market

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For more information,  
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