



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA

*Quick
Connections*

An electronic news service of the PHFA Housing Services Department –January 2011

**2011 HOUSING SERVICES CONFERENCE:
Healthy Housing/Healthy Communities
June 21, 22, 23 – State College, PA**

We've come a long way, baby! For more than 35 years, PHFA and our partners have been dedicated to providing housing that is safe, decent and affordable – and healthy for the people who live there. There has been great progress in eliminating lead, carbon monoxide, fire and safety hazards. We've been challenged by threats related to pest control, moisture, mold and dust allergens. We now see that access to green space, limiting noise and creating a climate for healthy social relationships results in better emotional and physical wellbeing. And we recognize that neighborhood safety can be a barrier or a boon to healthy lifestyles.

All these factors combine to have a huge impact on more than just the health of our residents. Healthy housing creates healthy communities. The 2011 Housing Services Conference is a celebration of our past successes and a look into the future in creating healthy housing. This year we'll have over 36 sessions in Service Coordination, Supportive Housing and Management tracks that include the following topics:

- Housing as a platform for improving health and quality of life
- Integrated pest management
- Suicide prevention
- Ethics in property management
- Hoarding and how to deal with it
- Healthy living and falls prevention
- Transitioning from institutions to independence
- Grandparents raising grandkids
- Fighting stigmas related to mental illness

Our goal is to enhance the capacity of Service Coordinators, Property Managers and other housing professionals to design and carry out service programs that enrich residents' lives, improve health, build strong communities, and improve the financial position of the property. We do this through a combination of expert trainers and the collective expertise of the people gathered.

And don't forget about other Conference features this year, including the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination; and the Common Thread Quilt Project.

Join us in State College, June 21-23 to be a part of the Healthy Housing/Healthy Communities movement!

PHFA Information and Trainings

2011 Housing Services Conference Call for Marketplace Vendors

Reserve your spot to market your product or service to developers, housing management staff and service providers in State College on June 21. Deadline for application is April 1. Use the RFP posted at: www.phfa.org/forms/conferences/housing_services/2011_call_fr_vendors.pdf.

2011 Common Thread Quilt Project

The combined efforts of many sites will be unveiled at the 2011 Housing Services Conference with the Common Thread Quilt Project. Each site's squares will be sewn into a completed quilt – see it at the 2011 Conference in State College, June 21-23, 2011. Get the details and let us know that you're going to participate at: www.phfa.org/forms/conferences/housing_services/2011_common_quilt_project.pdf.

Western PA Regional Housing Services Forums-REQUEST!

Our Spring 2011 Southwest (Pittsburgh), Northwest (Erie) and Mountain (Cambria Co. area) Regional Forum plans are underway; Steve is looking for your suggestions NOW on location, topics, speakers and etc. Send them directly to Steve at schopek@phfa.org or 412.429.2843

2011 PHFA Commonwealth Housing Forum

The 2011 PHFA Commonwealth Housing Forum, *Rebuilding the Dream*, is scheduled for May 5 and 6 at the Hilton Harrisburg. Watch for more information at www.phfa.org.

Due Feb 4 Applications for Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Round 3 (NSP3)

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been allocated \$5 million in appropriation for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, Round 3 (NSP3). Applications are due February 4 by 5:00 in the PHFA office. For details: www.phfa.org/hsgresources/nsp/default.aspx?WT.mc_id=HomeNews2NSP.

Other Trainings and Conferences

Feb 1 Germinating Partnerships: Connecting Seniors with Community Gardens - Phila

Germinating Partnerships: Connecting Seniors with Community Gardens! will be held, February 1 in Philadelphia. RSVP by January 26 to: www.gpgardens.eventbrite.com/?ref=ebtn **Survey Request- GenPhilly and Philadelphia Association for Senior Service Administrators (PASSA)** has partnered to conduct a survey to assess the aging network's interest level and current activity relating to gardening. The groups want to gain a greater understanding of how to support the aging network in building capacity to enhance and/or expand gardening activities. The survey should only take 5-10 minutes. Please click here: www.surveymonkey.com/s/6L8SGJK.

PA Behavioral Health & Aging Coalition Offers Multiple Training Opportunities

- "Understanding Depression, Anxiety and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults" will be presented on the following dates and locations-**March 23, Wilkes-Barre, April 6, Bryn Mawr, May 11, Kersey**. Cost is \$75 per session.
- A one day free training is being offered on the following topics "Understanding and Accessing Medicare Services for Mental Health Consumers", "Working with Behavioral Health Issues in Older Adults", and "Understanding and Working with Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities" on **February 14, DSG Annex Complex (Clothes Tree Building), Harrisburg**.

For information on all events, go to: www.olderpa.org or call 717.541.4219.

PA Behavioral Health & Aging Integrative Case Conference Series

ICCS is a monthly video/audio conference series targeting ideas and solutions for working with older adults with behavioral health issues. The series serves as a forum to discuss complicated cases with cross-system needs. Calls are held from 12:30 PM-2:00 PM.

- January 19, 2011
- February 16, 2011

- March 16, 2011
- April 20, 2011

Interested in participating? A [Case Review Form](#) is completed by anyone wishing to discuss their case or contact [Linda Shumaker](#) if you would like to participate or for more information.

Resources/News – General

Applications Due Jan 9 for The White House Internship Program

The White House Internship Program provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. This hands-on program is designed to mentor today's young leader and prepare them for future public service opportunities. For more details read the [fact sheet](#) about this program. Apply by January 9, 2011.

Collect Your Family's Health History

Your family's health history could be important for your child's or grandchild's health. Learn more about how to document your family's health history and share this health history with your child's doctor. Go to: www.cdc.gov/Features/FamilyHistory/.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Check out these resources about the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax credit for people who work, but don't earn much money. For more information go to: www.eitc.irs.gov/public/site_files/36621j09-3211.pdf.

Energy Blog

The Energy Blog, from the U.S. Department of Energy, posts daily on topics such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, policy, green jobs, and more. Check it out at www.blog.energy.gov.

FDIC Releases Updated Money Smart Curriculum for Adults

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) recently announced the release of an enhanced version of its instructor-led Money Smart financial education curriculum for adults. The FDIC provides the Money Smart curriculum to interested parties free of charge. The materials are easily reproduced and have no copyright restrictions. Go to: www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/.

Free Tax Preparation in Pennsylvania

Free Tax Preparation in Pennsylvania via www.icanefile.org. It's simple, it's quick, and it's free!

Healthy People 2020-Nation's New Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Agenda

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently unveiled Healthy People 2020, the nation's new 10-year goals and objectives for health promotion and disease prevention. For information on Healthy People 2020: www.hhs.gov/news/press/2010pres/12/20101202a.html.

Help with LIHEAP

The LIHEAP program helps eligible families pay the costs of heating and insulating their homes in the winter, and cooling their homes in the summer. Find out how to apply for this assistance. For contact info in PA: http://liheap.dpw.state.pa.us/welcome_lh.asp.

Jan 8-15, 2011 PA Farm Show-Harrisburg

Pennsylvania Farm Show sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at the Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, PA. For more information, visit www.farmshow.state.pa.us.

Making Non-Violence Manly

Sexual violence is not just a women's issue. [Men Can Stop Rape](#) encourages men to help end violence by remaking masculinity. The organization offers programs for youth, training for youth workers and a newsletter.

National Foundation for Credit Counseling

If you're having trouble paying your bills, seek help. The [National Foundation for Credit Counseling](#) may be a good place to start if you're seeking a counselor.

Nationalities Service Center (NSC)-Philadelphia Area

Nationalities Service Center (NSC) is a nonprofit organization that provides social, educational, senior, translation and interpretation, and legal services to immigrants and refugees in the Greater Philadelphia area. www.nscphila.org/.

New PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Act

PA Governor Edward G. Rendell signed into law House Bill 60 that will provide funding for housing projects to benefit older adults, people with disabilities and low income residents. Go to: www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2009&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=B&billNbr=0060&pn=3975.

Save \$\$\$\$ by Switching Power Companies

For tips to save \$\$\$\$ by switching power companies, visit: www.papowerswitch.com/.

VetoViolence: CDC's New Facebook Page

CDC's newest Facebook page, VetoViolence, provides free training, tools, and an interactive application for sharing successes in the field of violence prevention. Learn more: [VetoViolence on Facebook](#), [VetoViolence Website](#), [CDC Violence Prevention Website](#).

Resources/News - Senior Sites

Eldercare Locator Call Center Enhancements

The Eldercare Locator introduced a newly enhanced call center that links callers to an Information Specialist who will help connect them to a local agency in their area for information and assistance. Go to www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx.

Due Feb 15 New Ventures in Leadership Class Applications Being Accepted

The American Society on Aging is now accepting applications for its 2011-2012 New Ventures in Leadership (NVL) Class, the only program in the field of aging designed to develop the next generation of leaders of color. For more information: www.asaging.org/nvl/index.cfm . The application deadline is February 15.

Medicare Helps Kick the Smoking Habit

If you're a smoker with Medicare and want to kick the habit, Medicare can help. For more information, visit <http://www.medicare.gov/navigation/manage-your-health/preventive-services/smoking-cessation.aspx>. For more resources and support related to quitting smoking, visit www.smokefree.gov or call 800.QUIT.NOW.

New Links Added for Seniors on USA.gov

The following new links have been added to USA.gov - [Housing for Seniors](#) and [Consumer Protection for Seniors](#)

Philly Pets and Seniors Website

The Philadelphia Corporation on Aging has launched a website dedicated to the importance of pet ownership in later life. This new website can assist older persons in the care and enjoyment of their companion animal. Most of the information is relevant to seniors anywhere. Go to: <http://www.phillypetsandseniors.org>.

Social Security Website Updated

Social Security's website has recently been updated in the area of online claims and services: Go to: <http://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices/>.

Resources/News - Family Sites

Database of Federally Funded Youth Programs

An online database of federally funded youth programs is available at:
www.findyouthinfo.gov/programsearch.aspx.

Report on Mental Health Disorders and Services for Youth

This report provides information about the prevalence of mental disorders and use of mental health services for youth aged 12 to 17 and adults aged 18 or older. It also looks at mental health, suicidal thoughts and behavior and the co-occurrence of mental illness and substance use. For more information: www.disability.gov/health/research_%26_statistics.

Ride the Food Label Game

This talking interactive food label game helps kids learn how to read food labels.
www.nourishinteractive.com/kids/en/label-game/label-game.

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Access Certificates Art-Reach and Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia

If someone you know loves going to the theater but have a visual or hearing impairment, consider getting [Access Certificates](#). Access Certificates are gift certificates that can be purchased in \$10 increments, and redeemed for tickets to an accessible performance at one of a dozen Philadelphia theaters.

CDC Learning Connection

CDC Learning Connection is a newly established website, designed to help you locate public health learning products created by CDC and partners. Resources include free products in various media formats, including podcasts, e-learning, electronic publications, and live events. www.cdc.gov/learning/.

PATF Loan Application Changed

The Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) is a non-profit organization that provides low-interest loans to people with disabilities and older adults so that they can buy assistive technology devices and services they need. Great news! As of January 1, 2011, the interest rate for the low –interest program was lowered to 4%. The interest rate for the mini-loan program will remain at 0%. Check out the revised application at www.patf.us or if you have questions please call PATF at 888.744.1938 or email patf@patf.us.

Rehabilitation Engineering Resource Center (RERC) Cell Phone Guide

[RERC](#) works on solutions and policy issues related to the accessibility and usability of mobile wireless products and services for people with disabilities. Read RERC's [Your Guide to Choosing a Cell Phone](#), to help you choose the best cell phone to meet your needs.

Five Strategies for Building a Successful Relationship with your Local VA

For strategy ideas: www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/3633.

Resources for Veterans

- [America's Heroes at Work](#) addresses the employment challenges of returning service members and veterans living with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and/or Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Resources include the recently released
- [Veterans Hiring Toolkit](#) for employers.
- [Benefits.gov](#) provides information about benefits programs available to veterans and their families.
- [Disability.gov](#) gives information and resources for veterans covering benefits, education, employment, health and housing.
- [Disability Benefits for Wounded Warriors](#) is where military service members can receive expedited processing of disability claims from the Social Security Administration.
- [FedsHireVets.gov](#) is the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's government-wide veteran's

- employment website.
- [HUDVet](#) is a national, state and local housing information resource for veterans from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.
 - [Job Accommodation Network](#) gives information about job accommodations and workplace supports for veterans.
 - [myVA](#) provides information about benefits for Veterans, including health care, job assistance, education support through the GI Bill and home loans.
 - [National Resource Directory](#) provides access to services and resources at the national, state and local levels to support the recovery, rehabilitation and community reintegration of veterans and service members.
 - [Office of Disability Employment Policy](#) offers a variety of resources to help veterans with disabilities understand training and employment services that may be available to them.
 - [Patriot Express](#) is a program of the U.S. Small Business Administration that helps veterans and members of the military community who want to establish or expand a small business.
 - [Serve.gov](#) is a calling on all Americans to support service members and their families.
 - [Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration](#) provides for the mental health and behavioral health needs of veterans and their families.
 - [USA.gov](#) offers information about benefits, health care, job training and other programs for veterans.
 - [Vantage Point](#) is the official blog of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - [Veterans' Employment & Training Service](#) helps veterans obtain meaningful careers, maximize their employment opportunities and protect their employment rights. Cb
 - For tips for caregivers of veterans go to: <http://www.unitedhealthfoundation.org/veterans/>. cb
 - Use the VA's [Financial Calculator](#) to find out if your income level and assets may affect your eligibility for VA health benefits. Using this calculator only takes about two minutes. For more information visit this link: http://www.disability.gov/health/specific_populations/veterans_&_military.

2011 Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities

The [2011 Workforce Recruitment Program for College Students with Disabilities](#) database is now available to help federal and private-sector employers recruit workers with disabilities. Federal officials can register and search for candidates who meet their hiring needs. Private-sector employers can search the program's database through the [Employer Assistance and Resource Network](#) or by calling 866.327.6669.

Funding Opportunities

Due Jan 19 Public Housing-Family Self-Sufficiency NOFA

The PH-FSS NOFA announces the availability of FY2010 program funding to employ program coordinators for the public housing FSS program. This program is a voluntary asset-building and employment program for public housing residents. All applicants must have an approved PH-FSS Action Plan on file with their local HUD field office or Area Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) prior to this NOFA's application deadline. The application deadline is January 19, 2011. The PH-FSS NOFA can be found [here](#).

Due Jan 25 AmeriCorps 2011 Grant Availability

Organizations interested in addressing critical community needs are invited to apply for a 2011 AmeriCorps grant. Applications are being accepted now. Learn more about AmeriCorps online at www.americorps.gov/for_organizations/apply/national.asp.

Due Feb 21 ROSS Service Coordinator NOFA

The ROSS Service Coordinator NOFA announces the availability of FY2010 program funding to employ service coordinators in public housing authorities and tribes/tribally designated housing entities. The application deadline for the ROSS Service Coordinator program is February 21 and the NOFA can be found [here](#).

Due Feb 22 NOFA for HUD's Rural Innovation Fund

The Notice of Funding Availability for HUD's new Rural Innovation Fund has been posted at grants.gov. The deadline is February 22. Eligible applicants are local rural nonprofit organizations,

community development corporations, federally recognized Indian tribes, state housing finance agencies, and state community and/or economic development agencies.

Due Feb 28 Summary of Set-Aside Funding for Project-Basing HUD VASH Vouchers

HUD updated *PIH Notice 2010-40* to: Extend the deadline to February 28th, 2011 and clarify the application process. The updated information is at:

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/publications/notices/10/pih2010-40.pdf>

Due Mar 1 Dr. Scholl Foundation Charitable Grants

The Dr. Scholl Foundation, an independent charitable grant-making foundation is accepting requests for applications. Grants are awarded in the following areas: social service agencies, environmental organizations and religious institutions; programs for children and developmentally disabled senior citizens; hospital and healthcare organizations; education; and civic and cultural institutions. Grant applications may be submitted between November 1 and March 1. For more information, go to www.drschollfoundation.com.

Due Mar 17 VA-Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program NOFA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced the availability of funds for supportive services grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program (SSVF Program). A Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) was published in the Federal Register on December 17, 2010 concerning the SSVF Program, the application process, and the amount of funding available. Applications for assistance under the SSVF Program must be received by the SSVF Program Office by 4 p.m. Eastern Time on March 11, 2011, in accordance with the requirements set forth in the NOFA and the application. [View the NOFA](#). Visit the [SSVF Program Web Site](#) to download a copy of the application, view a new webcast discussing the NOFA and application, and learn about grant-writing workshops taking place in January.

College Access Challenge Grants: Including Adult Learners

The College Access Challenge Grant Program (CACG) offers resources that are used primarily to improve college access rates for middle and high school students. The program, however, can be used to improve college access and success for a much larger population: low-skilled adults. Go to: <http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org/>.

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