



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA

*Quick
Connections*

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

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

Registration has begun for the 2011 Housing Services Conference! Go online now and qualify for the early bird registration through April 30. We have 36 great breakout sessions, 4 keynote addresses, the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination, display of the Common Thread Quilt Project that YOU generated, a Marketplace of Vendors, an evening reception and wine tasting, AND the Pennsylvania Supportive Housing Award presentation! Don't miss this jam-packed event! Our online brochure has all the details about the conference schedule, registration and hotel. Access the brochure [here](#). [Click here](#) to register online and pay by credit card or check. We are looking forward to your attendance and involvement to make the conference a success. We hope to see you in June in State College!

**2011 Pennsylvania Supportive Housing Award
to be given at Housing Services Conference
Nominations Due By April 22**

There is still time to nominate a deserving individual or organization for the 2011 Pennsylvania Supportive Housing Award. Sponsored by the Departments of Public Welfare and Aging and the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, the award recognizes significant efforts to increase the availability of supportive housing in Pennsylvania. [Visit here for more information](#). For nominating instructions: [click here](#). It's an honor to be nominated for this award that is open to any individual or organization, public or private, including builders, architects, planners, public housing authorities, municipal governments, financial institutions and non-profits. Honor that individual or organization that is most deserving of this recognition by submitting a nomination by April 22!

PAHousingSearch.com is up and running!



Good news! PAHousingSearch.com is now available to search for housing! The Pennsylvania Apartment Locator has been updated and expanded to become [PAHousingSearch.com](#). This enhanced housing locator service still lets you search for affordable apartments but it's now much more powerful. People looking for apartments will find it easier to use and will have an even larger number of listings – and eventually even single-family homes. More than 60,000 units are now listed, with more coming on-line every day. Don't be left behind. Make sure YOUR units are listed. For assistance searching the site, or listing affordable rental units, please call 877.428.8844.

PHFA Information and Trainings

Save the Dates: Regional Housing Services Forums

- **Western PA Regional Forum, April 13**, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at Mountview Manor, Cresson, Cambria County. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org
- **NW Regional Forum, April 15**, from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at Grandview Manor in Erie. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org for details.
- **Philadelphia Area Regional Forum, April 24**, Coral Street Arts House, Philadelphia. Contact Robert Butcher at rbutcher@phfa.org for time and details.

Join the Common Thread Quilt Project – There is Still Time

Don't miss your last chance to be part of this great event that highlights the talents and efforts of residents at properties throughout the state. The completed quilts will be on display at the 2011 Conference in State College, June 21-23, 2011. Get details by [visiting here](#). All completed quilt squares must be sent to Steve Chopek by **April 20**.

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 30**. Use the RFP posted at: www.phfa.org/forms/conferences/housing_services/2011_call_fr_vendors.pdf

Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program

Register now! Registration for the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program (CESC) is taking place now through **June 10**. If you are interested in registering for this program or if you have questions about the program, please contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org. Don't miss out on this training opportunity!

2011 PHFA Commonwealth Housing Forum – Register Online Now

The 2011 PHFA Commonwealth Housing Forum, Rebuilding the Dream, is scheduled for May 5 and 6 at the Hilton Harrisburg. For details or to register online, go to: <http://housingforum.phfa.org/default.aspx>

Other Trainings and Conferences

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- **April 6, Montgomery County, May 11, Jefferson County**. Cost is \$75 per session. For information on all events, go to: www.olderpa.org or call 717.541.4219.
- "Understanding and Accessing Medicare Services for Mental Health Consumers", "Working with Behavioral Health Issues in Older Adults", "QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) A Suicide Prevention Training" a free one day training on **April 13, Pittsburgh**, and **May 23, Chambersburg**. Register online at www.olderpa.org/bhc.

Apr 4, 5, & 7 DCED Partners Regional Budget Meetings

Team PA invites their public and private economic development partners to join in a conversation with Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) officials to discuss the 2011-12 budget:

- **Southwest DCED Partners Budget Meeting**, April 4, 10:30am-12:30pm, at Regional Enterprise Tower, 31st Floor, 425 Sixth Ave, Pittsburgh. [Register here for Southwest meeting](#).
- **Northwest DCED Partners Budget Meeting**, April 5, 1:00pm-3:00pm, at IUP at Punxsutawney, Learning Center, Room 122, 1012 Winslow St, Punxsutawney. [Register here for Northwest meeting](#).
- **Northeast DCED Partners Budget Meeting**, April 7, 1:00pm-3:00pm, at Kings College, Burke Auditorium, 133 N. River St, Wilkes-Barre. [Register here for Northeast meeting](#).

Apr 4 2011 Southeastern Pennsylvania Annual Dementia Conference

2011 Southeastern Pennsylvania Annual Dementia Conference (Alzheimer's Association) - April 4, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM, King of Prussia. [For information and registration visit here.](#)

Apr 6 The RHC Housing Summit

The Regional Housing Coordinators are sponsoring a one day event focused on the housing needs of people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians on April 6 at the Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel, Harrisburg. For information contact Mary@sdhp.org or to register [click here.](#)

Apr 9 Healthy Seniors, Healthy Cities: 1st Annual Wellness Day-Philadelphia

Healthy Seniors, Healthy Cities: 1st Annual Wellness Day - LIFE Center, 4508 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia on April 9, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM. For more info call 215.898.5629.

Apr 11-12 2011 PEAL Conference Pittsburgh Area

Join The Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center (PEAL) Center for the 2011 Conference on Discovering Genuine Relationships at the Radisson Hotel Greentree, southwest of Pittsburgh. [Click here](#) to review the conference brochure and register. For more information: contact Rose Huber at rhuber@pealcenter.org or 412.281.4404, ext. 11.

Apr 13 GenPhilly Presents Career Boom Job Security in an Aging Society-Philadelphia

Generation Philly presents "Career Boom" on April 13, 5:30 – 7:30 PM at Temple University Main Campus, 1913 North Broad Street, Mitten Hall Room 250. Register [here](#) by April 6.

Apr 20 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 The last call will be held on April 20. A [Case Review Form](#) is completed by anyone wishing to discuss their case or contact [Linda Shumaker.](#)

Various Dates PennDelAHMA Training Opportunities

- **Fair Housing Compliance**, April 20, **EIV Beyond the Theory to the Practical**, May 10 both at Desmond Valley Hotel and Conference Center, Malvern.
- **Certified Professional of Occupancy**, June 15-17, Crowne Plaza, Philadelphia Bucks County, Trevoese. For information call 856.786.2183 or go to www.penndelahma.org.

Apr 27 York County Housing Summit-Save the Date!-York

The Outreach/Education Committee (York Housing Task Force) of the York Housing Advisory Commission is planning a Housing Summit for April 27, at the Holiday Inn York from 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM. For info: http://www.housingalliancepa.org/events/view.php?event_id=330

Apr 28 Learn About Dyslexia: Forum-Fairview

Meet leading dyslexia expert Susan Barton at a free presentation on dyslexia on April 28, 6:00 to 9:00 PM, in Fairview, PA 16415. Reserve your seat online at: www.DianePrice.EventBrite.com

Apr 30 Vision of Hope Gala-Camp Hill

The Vision of Hope Gala and Auction is held each year to raise funds to support programs to protect children from sexual abuse and promote healing for victims. It will be held April 30, 6:00 PM-11:00 PM in Camp Hill, PA 17011. [For info.](#)

May 2 One Great Lunch with 8 Great Chefs-Harrisburg

Enjoy a 4-course lunch (noon) prepared by eight of the Harrisburg areas best chefs while also supporting the PA Hunger Action Center. Order tickets or for more info visit www.pahunger.org.

May 2-3 Building Safe Communities for Children-Grantville

PA Department of Health, in partnership with Safe Kids PA, is hosting the PA Childhood Injury

Prevention Conference: Building Safe Communities for Children. Attendance recommended for all who work to prevent injuries to children. Conference in Grantville. Registration: [click here](#).

Resources/News – General

Apr 18 Filing Deadline for 2010 Federal Tax Returns

If you still need to prepare your 2010 federal tax return, [April 18](#) is the deadline. Here are a few resources to help you with your taxes: [Tax Changes](#) -- View a list of tax changes. [FreeFile](#) -- Everyone is eligible for FreeFile. [Check Refund Status](#) -- If you've already filed your 2010 federal tax return, use this online tool to look up the status of your refund. [More Resources from IRS.gov](#).

April is Fair Housing Month - Events & Resources

For information on the PA Human Relations Commission and its resources related to Housing and Commercial Property Discrimination, [click here for details](#).

- **April 11**-The Office of Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity Presents: Working Together: A Discussion on Reasonable Accommodation-April 11, 10:00 AM-1:00 PM, at The Crystal Tea Room, The Wanamaker Building, Philadelphia.

Western PA Fair Housing Activities

- **April 15** – Fair Housing for Maintenance Staff -www.pahma.org.
- **April 21** – 5th annual Fair Housing Poetry Slam presented by the Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh-www.pittsburghfairhousing.org.
- **April 27** – Fair Housing for Management and Service Coordinators - www.pahma.org.
- **April 28** – Fair Housing Event at Three Rivers Center For Independent Living -www.trcil.org.
- **May 10** – Fair Housing in Erie presented by: Erie County Human Relations Commission 814.451.7021.

Apr 30 Second National Drug Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration's Second National Drug Take Back Day - April 30, 2011. The purpose of this National Take Back Day was to provide a venue for persons who wanted to dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. [More info here](#).

Deadline June 15, 2011 10.00 Friends of PA 2011 Commonwealth Awards

The 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania 2011 Commonwealth Awards are now accepting entries. Click [here](#) for more information. Entry deadline is June 15. The Commonwealth Awards help 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania put smart land use, smart design, and smart growth in the spotlight.

Due Apr 8 Comments on Fair Market Rents

HUD is currently accepting comments on proposed changes to how these rents are calculated. [Click here](#) to read this and make any comments that you feel may help to make those rents more accurate here. Due Apr 8.

Energy Saver's Blog

Visit the Energy Savers Blog to get tips or post comments on saving energy and money at home, on the road, and in your workplace. Go to: <http://www.eereblogs.energy.gov/energysavers/>

How to Start a Community Garden

Below are the phases of starting a Community Garden at your property: [Phase 1 – Basic Planning](#) [Phase 2 – Starting a Garden](#), [Phase 3 – Sustainability](#), [Tool Checklist](#), Download Tool Kit ([PDF version](#)).

LIHEAP Application Deadline Extended to April 15

It was announced that Pennsylvania's Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), will be extended more than two weeks, giving eligible households extra time to seek help paying their winter heating bills. The program has been extended through April 15. [Visit here for details](#).

Live Interpreter Service Via Cell Phone App

Codetalker, <http://codetalkerinc.com/> is a new cell phone application that connects users to a live

interpreter for a three-way conversation. This is a fee based program with annual memberships or pay-as-you go plans. If your property has non-English speaking residents or applicants, it would be a good idea to check this site out.

May 1 New Federal Benefits Applicants

Anyone applying for Federal benefits on or after May 1, 2011, will receive their payments electronically, while those already receiving paper checks will need to switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013. Details at http://fms.treas.gov/news/press/electronic_benefits_rule.html

Two New Nutrition Program Resources Offered Through USDA

Find information on U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) programs at http://www.fns.usda.gov/cga/Publications/food_help.htm

Resources/News - Senior Sites

FinCEN Advisory Warns of Elder Financial Exploitation

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) recently released a new advisory to help financial institutions spot and report on activities involving elder financial exploitation. To read the Advisory go to: http://www.fincen.gov/statutes_regs/guidance/html/fin-2011-a003.html To learn more about FinCen, go to <http://www.fincen.gov/>.

Get a Toolkit on Vision and Aging

The National Eye Health Education Program is offering a new online toolkit called *See Well for a Lifetime*. The toolkit was developed for professionals who work with older adults. To access: <http://www.nei.nih.gov/nehep/programs/visionandaging/whatis.asp>

WATCH for Senior Malnutrition

WATCH stands for:

- **W**atch for physical problems. Look for bruising, dental difficulties, or sudden or sustained weight gain or weight loss.
- **A**sk seniors about their eating habits. How have their tastes or preferences changed?
- **T**alk to a doctor or registered dietitian. Discuss nutritional needs or problems specific to the loved ones' unique needs or management of diseases.
- **C**heck with a pharmacist. They can warn you of the potential for drug-food interactions.
- **H**ave your visits during mealtime. This is the best time to observe eating habits first-hand

<http://www.comfortkeepers.com/information-center/news-and-highlights/malnutrition-watch>

Resources/News - Family Sites

Deadline Apr 18 "Fight the Bite" Poster Contest

CDC and the DEET Education Program are sponsoring the third annual "Fight the Bite" Poster Contest, open to any child in grades 5 or 6. Create a poster showing people how to fight the bite of mosquitoes and ticks and enter it in the contest. Contest rules and an entry form are available online at <http://www.fightthebitecontest.org/>. Entries must be submitted by April 18, 2011.

"Heads Up" Concussion Educational Initiatives

CDC developed the "[Heads Up](#)" educational initiatives to offer information to health care professionals, school professionals, sports coaches, parents, athletes, and others.

Mobile Garden in a Bucket Spring Project for Kids

Don't have a yard? No problem. Create a mobile garden in a bucket so your child can experience the joy of growing flowers and vegetables. [Visit here](#).

New NIH Cookbook Encourages Families to Eat Healthy

Nutritious meals can be tasty and easy to prepare. A new free cookbook *Keep the Beat Recipes*:

Deliciously Healthy Family Meals, is now available for families from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health. Access at: <http://hin.nhlbi.nih.gov/healthyeating>

STRYVE Online

[STRYVE Online](#). offers community leaders and others tips and resources for working on how to prevent youth violence

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Effective March 15 – Revised ADA Rules

Revised ADA rules are available at: http://www.ada.gov/revised_effective_dates-2010.pdf

Disability.gov's Other Resources Web Page

Disability.gov's "[Other Resources](#)" Web page has information about other federal government websites that offer information about benefits, student loan programs, grants, staying healthy and many other subjects. Here are just a few of the resources you'll find in this section of Disability.gov:

- [ADA.gov](#), which has information about the Americans with Disabilities Act, [revised ADA rules](#) that take effect on March 15 and an important initiative called [Project Civic Access](#);
- [Let's Move.gov](#), an initiative launched by First Lady Michelle Obama to help combat childhood obesity. With spring around the corner, the site's [Let's Move Outside](#) section has information about parks and playgrounds the whole family can enjoy;
- [National Resource Directory](#), with resources for Veterans, Service Members and [families and caregivers](#);
- [Section508.gov](#), which explains the requirement that federal government agencies buy electronic and information technology that is accessible to people with disabilities;
- [National Parks: Accessible to Everyone](#) has information about trails, campgrounds, ranger programs and other opportunities for visitors with disabilities;
- [Students.gov](#), which has comprehensive information about campus life and preparing for, and [paying for college](#);
- [HealthCare.gov](#), where you can learn about your [health insurance options](#), [preventive services](#) and how the Affordable Care Act is making health care more affordable for [people with disabilities](#) and others; and
- [Kids.gov](#), a website where kids can learn about American history, branches of government and find educational [games and activities](#)

Mental Health Consumers in Intergenerational Dialogue

This report recaps a meeting on enhancing dialogue between mental health consumers and supporters across multiple generations to promote recovery from mental illnesses. . <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA09-4372>

Resource Guide for Nonprofits Serving People with Disabilities

A new resource guide helps nonprofits serving people with disabilities comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. 'Renewing the Commitment: An ADA Compliance Guide for Nonprofits' includes comprehensive information in all area of ADA. To download the document, [click here](#).

Possible Tax Credit for People with Disabilities

Taxpayers with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities may qualify for a number of [IRS tax credits and benefits](#). Learn about tax credits and other benefits including Impairment-Related Work Expenses, the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Credit for the Elderly or Disabled.

Tax Benefits & Free Tax Prep for Taxpayers with Disabilities

Taxpayers with disabilities and parents of children with disabilities may qualify for a number of IRS tax credits and benefits. If you or someone else listed on your federal tax return has a

disability, you may be eligible for one of the tax credits listed below. In addition, there are several programs that can help people with disabilities prepare their taxes and file them electronically for free... [Click here for info.](#)

Funding Opportunities

Due Apr 30 Target Early Childhood Reading Grants

Target Early Childhood Reading Grants available for nonprofit organizations and public agencies, to support programs such as afterschool reading events and weekend book clubs. Grants are \$2,000. Applications are due by April 30. [Visit here](#) for details and application.

Due Jun 1 HUD Section 202 Supportive Housing Funding

HUD Section 202 NOFA for Supportive Housing for the Elderly available. This program provides funding for the development and operation of supportive housing for very low-income persons aged 62 or older. Details at <http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/nofa10/grp202elderly.cfm>

Deadline: Rolling Annie's Grants for Gardens

Annie's offers a limited number of small grants to community gardens, school gardens, and other education programs that connect children directly to gardening. These funds may be used to buy gardening tools, seeds, and other gardening supplies.

[Click here for more application details.](#)

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