



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA

Quick
Connections

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

PHFA Information and Trainings

Save the Date: Regional Housing Service Forums

- **Central PA Regional Housing Services Forum, August 25**, from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at East Gate Apts., Carlisle, Cumberland County. Contact Martha McGraw at mmcgraw@phfa.org for details.
- **SW Regional Housing Services Forum, September 23** from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at South Hills Retirement Residence (Recently opened rehab of S. Hills High School), Pittsburgh. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **Regional Housing Services Forum, October 12** from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the brand new LIFE Lawrence County Building, New Castle, Lawrence County. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **NW Regional Housing Services Forum, October 28** from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, at the Highmark Caring Place, Erie. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **Philadelphia Area Forum, November 4** from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at The Salvation Army Ivy Residence. Contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org.

Engaging Residents in Energy Conservation Workshops

- **September 13, Central PA** 9:00 AM-12:30 PM-Giant Food Store Community Room, Camp Hill. For info contact mmcgraw@phfa.org or call 717.780.3962.
- **October 13, Eastern PA** 10:00 AM-2:30 PM at Sandy Hill Terrace, Norristown. For info contact aspencer@phfa.org or rbutcher@phfa.org or call 610.270.1989 or 610.270.1560.
- **November-TBA, Western PA Region**, Cranberry Township Municipal Building, Cranberry Township. For info contact schopek@phfa.org or call 412.429.2843.

PHFA Housing Services Conference Handouts Available Online

To access handouts: http://www.phfa.org/developers/serviceprovider/event_materials.aspx.

2012 PHFA Housing Services Conference Speaker RFP is Online

We are looking for Speaker presentations for the 2012 PHFA Housing Services Conference to be held June 25-27, 2012 at the Sheraton Station Square. All proposals should be submitted by October 15, 2011 to Crystal Baker at cbaker@phfa.org or faxed to 1.717.614.2519. If you need a fillable RFP to be emailed to you please call 717.780.1808. Go to http://www.phfa.org/forms/conferences/housing_services/2012_speaker_rfp.pdf.

New PHFA Supportive Service Reporting System

EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2011 REPORTING YEAR (Jan-Dec. 2011) All PennHOMES and Tax Credit (LIHTC) programs report supportive service activity online at: www.phfa.org/ephfa/ (then click Multifamily Housing). **START TODAY:** You can start building your supportive service report now and update as you continue to provide services throughout the rest of the year! *Those sites using AASC Online or Family Metrics are exempt from this requirement if you submit your annual supportive service reports directly to your Regional PHFA Housing Services Representative.* **REMINDER:** This report is due annually on January 31st in addition to the owners' certification of continued compliance. The paper version will no longer be accepted. This report must be filled electronically at the website above, which includes more information detailing how to get access to this system.

Notice of Public Hearing, PHFA 2012 Low Income Tax Credit Allocation Plan

A Public Hearing for the 2012 Low Income Tax Credit Allocation Plan will be held Thursday, August 18, at 10:00 AM at Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, 211 North Front Street, Harrisburg. For details [click here](#).

PHFA Multifamily Conditional 2011 LIHTC Awards List

Prospective developments awarded 2011 Low Income Tax Credit allocation can be found at: http://www.phfa.org/forms/tax_credit_reservations/2011_conditional_reservations.pdf.

Other Trainings and Conferences

Save the Date-PA Insurance Department Stakeholder Forums

Mark your calendar for the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's Stakeholder Forums on Health Insurance Exchanges! *Health care consumers, payers and other stakeholders have the opportunity to offer comment during August forums:*

- **Tuesday, Aug. 9:** Doubletree Hotel Pittsburgh/Monroeville Convention Center, 101 Mall Boulevard, Monroeville
- **Thursday, Aug. 11:** Crowne Plaza Liberty Convention Center, 260 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia
- **Tuesday, Aug. 23:** Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey, 4650 Lindle Road, Harrisburg

The forums will be held from 9 AM- to 3 PM with registration beginning at 8:30 AM.

Free Training from PA Behavioral Health & Aging Coalition-Variou Dates/Locations

A new free one day training will be presented entitled "Understanding and Accessing Medicare Services for Mental health Consumers" & "Understanding and Working with Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities who Have a Dual Diagnosis".

- **September 22-Raymond & Miriam Klein JCC, 10100 Jamison Ave, Phila, 9:30 AM-3:15 PM**
- **October 6-Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, 199 Beaver Drive, DuBois, 9:30 AM-3:15 PM**

Register online at www.olderpa.org/bhc or call 717.541.4219.

Sept 18-21 Second International Research Conference-Philadelphia

The Second International Research Conference on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities hosted by the Temple University Collaborative will be held September 18-21 at the Double Tree Hotel, Philadelphia. View the conference agenda by clicking [here](#).

Sept 19-22 Save the Date PCA Regional Conference on Aging-Philadelphia

PCA will host the first Regional Conference on Aging at PCA offices, 642 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, Sept 19-22. Over 40 sessions to choose from. Watch for additional information.

Sept 20-21 2011 Aging/Intellectual Disability Cross-Systems Conference -Grantville

The Aging/Intellectual Disability Cross Systems Conference-Building Bridges is designed for people who are part of the Aging Network and the Intellectual Disability System. It will be held Sept 20-21, from 7:45 AM-4:30 PM on Tuesday and 8:00AM-2:30PM on Wednesday at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey in Grantville. <http://www.lttrainingpa.org/events/index.cfm?ekeyid=821>.

Variou Dates Circle of Life Coalition Seminars-Reading Area

- **Aug 4-Cancer Challenges & Community resources-Tools for Those Facing Cancer**
- **Sept 1-Community Tragedy in memory of the 10th Anniversary of 9/11 attacks**
- **Oct 6-Reflections: Life review and Reminiscing**

All sessions are held at the Bernardine Franciscan Conference Center, 460 Bernardine St, Reading from 7:45 AM-8:45 AM. For info or to register: call 610.372.3638.

Resources/News – General

12 New Compassionate Allowances Conditions from Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has announced [12 new Compassionate Allowances conditions](#) involving severe heart diseases, bringing the total number of conditions in the expedited

disability process to 100. Visit: https://www.disability.gov/benefits/news_%26_events.

2011 Consumer Action Handbook

The Federal Citizen Information Center is offering a free [2011 Consumer Action Handbook](#) to help consumers make smart purchases and handle disputes.

Coming in 2014: Affordable Insurance Exchanges

Starting 2014, new Affordable Insurance Exchanges will allow consumers and small businesses to shop for and buy private health insurance in new competitive health care marketplaces. [Read the Press Release](#) or learn more at HealthCare.Gov/exchanges.

Connecting Communities for the Common Good Toolkit

The White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships and the 13 federal Partnership Centers have created a new [Connecting Communities for the Common Good toolkit](#) that describes specific ways you can partner with the Center. Check out the toolkit for great ways to get involved! [Visit here](#).

Consumer Assistance Program (CAP)-Get Free Help Finding Insurance

If you're having trouble finding, keeping or using health insurance, your state has a free Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) that can help. Even if you already have insurance, it's not always easy to read the fine print and get the benefits you paid for. Here's what your CAP can do for you: <http://www.healthcare.gov/law/provisions/cap/>.

Financial Protections to Same-sex Couples Receiving Medicaid

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued guidance to state Medicaid agencies clarifying that they are able to offer same-sex couples many of the same financial and asset protections available to opposite-sex couples when a partner is entering a nursing home or care facility. HHS advised state agencies... [click here](#).

Findnonprofits.org Website

The Nonprofit Center launched a new website: findnonprofitjobs.org, to serve as a hub for both organizations in search of talent and for job-seekers looking for opportunities in the nonprofit sector. The site also serves as a place where nonprofits can post board and volunteer openings, and individuals can promote their credentials as employees or potential board members/volunteers.

Free Online Violence Prevention Course

Each year, more than 53,000 people lose their lives to violence. In addition to the tremendous physical and emotional toll, violence has substantial medical and lost productivity costs. [Click here](#).

Greening your Pantry 10 Dos and 10 Don'ts

For tips on greening your pantry: [visit here](#).

Joint Center for Housing Studies Publishes 2011 Report

The Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University released its [State of the Nation's Housing 2011 report](#). This yearly report provides an assessment of the current national housing market and summarizes housing-related economic and demographic trends.

Know your Farmer, Know your Food Initiative

Read stories and ideas from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food initiative to promote sustainable local and regional food systems. [Visit the Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food blog](#).

Local Farmer's Markets

A farmer's market is one in which farmers, growers, or producers from a defined local area sell their own produce directly to the public. The [Agricultural Marketing Service \(AMS\)](#) provides information on [locating local farmers markets](#).

New ChooseMyPlate.gov Website

Visit ChooseMyPlate.gov for guidance on which foods to add to your diet and which foods you may want to consider reducing. You'll find resources to help you plan a healthy menu, lose weight, analyze your diet, and more.

USA.gov Website

USA.gov is your official source for federal, state and local government information. To make your total government connection, visit www.USA.gov.

Visit USA.gov's Prescription Drugs Page

Visit USA.gov's [Prescription Drugs page](#) for a variety of resources to help you [learn more about the medications you're taking](#); verify [how your pills should look](#); check [drug interactions](#); see if you qualify for [assistance with drug plan costs](#); and [more](#).

Resources/News - Senior Sites

10 Tips for Maintaining the Mental Health of Older Adults

Maintaining mental wellness, enlisting the help of others when you need it and surrounding yourself with a supportive, healthy environment are essential in today's modern, on-the-go world. For tips: <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net/go/olderadults/10tips>.

AoA Toolkit for Serving Diverse Communities

The Administration on Aging released a new [Toolkit for Serving Diverse Communities](#) "to provide a replicable and easy-to-use method for providing respectful, inclusive, and sensitive services for any diverse community.

Boomer Bust 2011: Still Unprepared and Unaware

Boomer Bust 2011: Still Unprepared and Unaware, a study commissioned by Volunteers of America investigating the financial realities faced by seniors and their caregivers today. Is available at: <http://www.voa.org/Boomer-Bust-2011>.

Hot Weather Risks for the Elderly

Older people can face risks related to hot weather. The National Institute on Aging at NIH offers advice for helping older people avoid heat-related illnesses. [Visit here](#).

Medicare Guide Available

This guide explains state programs that can help you pay for your Medicare Part A (Hospital Insurance) and Part B (Medical Insurance) premiums. <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/10126.pdf>.

Medicare Interactive Website

Medicare Interactive, at <http://www.medicareinteractive.org/> can help you find answers about Medicare benefits. It was created and is maintained by the Medicare Rights Center. [Click here](#).

National Center on Elder Abuse Resources

To access resources from National Center on Elder Abuse: [visit here](#).

National Resource Center on LGBT Adds Resource Tools on Legal Support/Finances

The Administration on Aging (AoA) funded National Resource Center on LGBT Aging recently added a new section on its website to address legal support and financial planning for LGBT older adults To learn more about this website and to access the abovementioned resources, go to <http://www.lgbtagingcenter.org/resources/index.cfm>.

One Away: Campaign for Elder Economic Security

One Away: campaign for Elder Economic Security is a collection of videos that reflect the struggles that seniors face. To access: <http://www.oneaway.org/content/keyword/Video>.

PCA Library Online for Aging Topics

PCA Library Online offers books, articles, web resources, and newsletters, on aging topics. Search the online library at http://www.pcacares.org/pca_learn_PCA_Library_Online.aspx or email www.AskScott.com.

PCA Offers Farmer's Market Produce Vouchers to Low-Income Seniors in Philadelphia

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) began distribution of the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program produce vouchers as part of an annual program to encourage seniors to include fresh fruits and vegetables in their diet. Eligible Philadelphia seniors can receive \$20 worth of vouchers for use at certified Farmer's Markets throughout Philadelphia. Contact information: Call 215.765.9040 or email info@pcaphl.org.

Promoting Emotional Health & Preventing Suicide: Toolkit for Senior Living Communities

The Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services recently released *Promoting Emotional Health and Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for Senior Living Communities (Toolkit)*. This new toolkit contains resources to help staff in senior living communities promote emotional health and prevent suicide among their residents. <http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4515>.

Reminder: You May See Changes on your MSNs

You may see changes to some of your old Medicare claims, since adjustments of how payment for certain services was made in 2010. Your provider may owe you a refund for services you got in 2010, or you may have to pay your provider more coinsurance. Check your Medicare Summary Notice for any changes. Contact your provider with any questions. [Click here](#).

Senior Driving Program Through AAA

Senior driving tips can be found at: <http://www.seniordrivers.org/home/>.

Senior Service America

Senior Service America, Inc. (SSAI) is committed to making it possible for low-income and other disadvantaged older adults to participate fully in determining their own future and the future of their communities. <http://www.seniorserviceamerica.org/site/index.html>.

VolunteerMatch.org Website

Find a Place to Volunteer. Go to: www.VolunteerMatch.org.

Resources/News - Family Sites

ALA's Tips for Parents

American Lung Association's Tips for Parents regarding Smoking: [Visit here](#).

"Apps Against Abuse" Technology Challenge

The "Apps Against Abuse" technology challenge, a national competition to develop an innovative software application, or "app," that provides young adults with tools to help prevent sexual assault and dating violence. This challenge is a chance to empower a new generation to take a stand against violence. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/07/20110713a.html>.

Eat Smart, Play Hard™ Materials

The Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Campaign was launched by USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) to encourage and teach children, parents, and caregivers to eat healthy and be physically active every day. Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ offers resources and tools to convey and reinforce healthy eating and lifestyle behaviors. <http://teamnutrition.usda.gov/Resources/eatsmartmaterials.html>.

Family Resources for Helping Children Learn

Parents and families remain the first teachers for their children. Learn ways to help your children in school through numerous family resources. For more information: [Visit here](#).

Fight BAC

Fight BAC-Kids, the Food detectives need your help to fight an enemy...Bacteria! Play the games,

listen to the songs and solve the cases to become a Food detective! <http://www.fooddetectives.com/>.

Getting Organized for School

School is stressful and can take a toll on your health. Learn a few tricks to stay organized and avoid stress. For more information: [click here](#).

Health Information Resources for Young Adults

Information to help young adults understand what it means to be legally in charge of their health care and how to stay healthy as they grow into adulthood. Includes quizzes on being an adult with special needs, life as an adult, talking with doctors, plus additional Web resources on college and work. For more information: [click here](#).

Save \$\$\$ During Back to School Shopping

Need to save money during back to school shopping? For more information visit: www.HotCouponWorld.com.

Sex Offender Registries

The [Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website \(NSOPW\)](#) is a public service by the Department of Justice (DOJ). Use this website to learn about the possible presence of sex offenders in your local community. For additional info. view answers to [frequently asked questions](#) and [Megan's Law](#). The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provides a list of [state sex offender registry websites](#). [Click here](#).

Workin' Hard for the Money: How to Stay Safe as a Working Teen

What are teen responsibilities on the job? What are teen rights? What if I need help?

- Know the laws for your state: <http://youthrules.dol.gov/states.htm>.
- For more information on working safe, visit the Department of Labor web site at <http://www.dol.gov>
- To make a health or safety complaint, visit Occupational Safety and Health Administration at www.osha.gov
- To make a complain about sexual harassment or discrimination, visit Equal Employment Opportunities Commission at www.eeoc.gov
- For more information on Young Worker Safety and Health, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/youth/>

Go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/media/subtopic/matte/pdf/2010/teenworkers.pdf>.

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Brain Injury Helpline

Pennsylvania has a Health and Human Services Call Center which offers a Brain Injury Helpline along with several other lines to assist you and your family to provide referrals to Brain Injury services in Pennsylvania, referrals to the PA Dept. of Health's Head Injury Program (HIP), rehabilitation centers, and support groups. You may also obtain various publications related to brain injury. The toll free number is 1.866.412.4755. The TTY number for all lines at the Call Center is 1.877.232.7640. Helplines can also be accessed online at www.HelpinPA.state.pa.us.

"Checklist for New Family Caregivers" for Veterans

Have you recently found yourself in the position of caring for an ill, injured or disabled Veteran? Read [Checklist for New Family Caregivers](#).

New ADA Websites

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has added a [new section](#) to its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) website to help combat discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. The site has information about filing a HIV/AIDS discrimination complaint and ADA technical assistance materials. Visit: https://www.disability.gov/civil_rights/laws_%26_regulations/americans_with_disabilities_act.

Priced Out Publication

This report shows that in 2010, the basic cost of shelter, represented by the average rent for a modest one bedroom apartment, was more than the entire income of an individual receiving

Supplemental Security Income (SSI). *Priced Out* also reports that there was not one state or community in the nation where a person with a disability on SSI could afford to rent housing without a permanent rental subsidy. Visit https://www.disability.gov/housing/news_%26_events.

Resources for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities

More Americans with disabilities are going into business for themselves...For many Americans with disabilities, self-employment can offer empowerment, control and the flexibility to succeed. [Resources for Entrepreneurs with Disabilities](#).

Resources for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury

For Resources for Veterans with Traumatic Brain Injury, [click here](#).

Services for Veterans

Did you know that VA has [Homeless Veteran Coordinators](#) in every state? These individuals assist homeless Veterans, their families, and Veterans at risk of becoming homeless with access to the programs and services that are right for them. They also provide guidance for VA Medical Centers, service providers and others in the community.

Social Security Disability

The Social Security Disability Benefits section of Disability.gov website has information about about [Social Security Disability Insurance \(SSDI\)](#), [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#), benefits for [children with disabilities](#), [qualifying for benefits](#) and how to file an [appeal](#). You'll also find information about programs that can help you [return to work](#) while you are receiving benefits. If you want to apply for Social Security disability, visit [Apply Online for Disability Benefits](#).

Substance Abuse Resources

For more information, please visit the following links:

Descriptions of drugs that are commonly abused can be found on both the [drug information website](#) from the [Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\)](#) and the [drugs of abuse website](#) from the [National Institute on Drug Abuse \(NIDA\)](#).

- You can find information on substance abuse for teenagers on the [NIDA for Teens website](#). NIDA also offers answers to [frequently asked questions about drug abuse](#).
- The [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) provides an [online treatment facility locator](#) where you can find a detox, rehabilitation, halfway house, clinic, or counseling center anywhere in the United States for both alcoholism and drug addiction.
- The [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) establishes policies, priorities, and objectives for the nation's drug control program.
- [MedlinePlus: Substance Abuse Topic Problems](#) provides links to a wide range of substance abuse resources.
- [A Guide to Safe Use of Pain Medicine](#) is a website from the [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) about how to avoid becoming addicted to pain medication.
- [Dontserveteens.gov](#) is a website created and maintained by the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\)](#). On this website, parents will find tools and information to help reduce teen drinking and related harm.
- [Rethinking Drinking](#) is a website offered by the [National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism \(NIAAA\)](#) that offers information about alcohol abuse as well as tips and strategies to help citizens cut down on alcohol consumption.

The Red Book - A Guide to Work Incentives

[The Red Book](#) - A Guide to Work Incentives (SSA, Jan. 2011) "...a general reference source about the employment-related provisions of Social Security Disability Insurance and the Supplemental Security Income Programs.

VA Works to Provide Post 9/11 Family Caregiver Benefits

A new law provides [eligible family caregivers](#) who care for severely disabled Veterans a monthly stipend, mental health services and access to health-care insurance if they are not already entitled to care or services under a health plan. Caregivers also qualify for travel expenses, including lodging and per diem when accompanying their family member for care, comprehensive caregiver training,

medical support and respite care. <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=64295>.

Funding Opportunities

Due Aug 15 Open Meadows “Housing for Everyone” Grant

Open Meadows Foundation provides grants of up to \$2,000 for projects that are designed and implemented by women and girls that promote building community power; promote gender, racial, social, economic, and/or environmental justice. Applicants must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or a fiscal sponsor that is tax exempt, and organizational budget should not exceed \$150,000. Proposal due August 15, 2011. <http://www.openmeadows.org/>.

Due Sept 2 “Housing for Everyone” Grant

TD Charitable Foundation, will award \$2.5 million in grants to support affordable housing initiatives through its annual "Housing for Everyone" grant competition. The theme, "Building for the Future," focuses on three areas in affordable housing: energy efficiency, capacity building, and infrastructure investment to expand services provided. Grants are available in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton and Philadelphia counties. Details and application at http://www.tdbank.com/community/housing_grant_competition.html.

Due Sept 16 Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative Capital Grant

Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative Capital Grant is a joint effort of the Departments of Transportation, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Defense, and Health and Human Services to improve transportation options and mobility for America's veterans, service members, and their families. Funding can provide for One Call-One Click Centers. Eligible applicants include public agencies, such as a transit authority, city/county government, metropolitan planning organizations, or the State. A webinar has tentatively been scheduled for Aug 4th at 12:30 PM. Application and details at http://www.fta.dot.gov/funding/grants/grants_financing_12809.html.

Due Oct 5 North Face Explore Fund

North Face has launched the Explore Fund, a grant program to support nonprofit organizations that help young people connect to the outdoors. Grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to help children connect to nature, increase access to recreation, and provide education for both personal and environmental health. The grant application process will open September 1, with applications due by October 5, 2011. Application and details at <http://www.explorefund.org/>.

US Dept. of Agriculture’s Programs for Rural Homeowners

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has several programs that can help people living in rural areas buy, renovate or repair a home. There are also programs that can help elderly, low-income rural residents and people with disabilities who live in multi-family housing units make their rent payments. Qualified applicants pay no more than 30% of their income for housing. [Click here.](#)

PA Department of Education Grants

The PA Department of Education has a “one stop shop” on state and federal grants available to the Commonwealth. For more information: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/grants_and_subsidies/7207.

Verizon Foundation Grants

The Verizon Foundation improves lives through literacy, knowledge and readiness for the future. Grants are available for various organizations. For more information visit: <http://www.verizonfoundation.org/grant/guidelines.shtml>.

Subscriber: If you wish to unsubscribe from Quick Connections please email cbaker@phfa.org. To assure that you continue receiving this e-newsletter in your inbox, add cbaker@phfa.org to your email address book.