



PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

PHFA

Quick
Connections

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

PHFA Information and Trainings

Save the Date: Regional Housing Service Forums

- **SW Regional Housing Services Forum, September 23**, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at South Hills Retirement Residence, Pittsburgh. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **Scranton Area Regional Housing Services Forum, October 4**, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at Village Park Apartments, Scranton. Contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org.
- **Regional Housing Services Forum, October 12**, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at LIFE Lawrence County Building, New Castle. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **Bethlehem Area Regional Housing Services Forum, October 14**, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at Everyday LIFE. Contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org.
- **Central Regional Housing Services Forum, October 25** from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM in Lewisburg. Contact mmcgraw@phfa.org for details.
- **NW Regional Housing Services Forum, October 28**, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, at the Highmark Caring Place, Erie. Contact Steve Chopek at schopek@phfa.org.
- **Philadelphia Area Regional Housing Services Forum, November 4**, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM at The Salvation Army Ivy Residence. Contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org.
- **Philadelphia Area Regional Housing Services Forum-November 10**, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM, Coral Street Arts House, Philadelphia. Contact Robert Butcher at rbutcher@phfa.org.
- **Chester County Area Forum, November 16**, 10:00 AM-3:30 PM, at Westminster Place at Parkesburg. Contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org.

Engaging Residents in Energy Conservation Workshops

Are you looking for ways to engage residents in energy conservation? Have you had an energy audit? Do you participate in PHFA's Preservation through Smart Rehab Program, or other energy savings programs? Learn how management, service coordinators, and maintenance staff can involve residents in taking advantage of these improvements and conserve energy.

- **Sept 13, Central PA Region**, 9:00 AM- 12:30 PM, Giant Food Store Community Room, Camp Hill. To register: [click here](#).
- **Oct 13, Eastern PA Region**, 10:00 AM-2:30 PM, Sandy Hill Terrace, Norristown. To register: [click here](#).
- **Nov 15, Western PA Region**, 10:00 AM-2:30 PM, Cranberry Township Municipal Building, Cranberry Township. To register: [click here](#).

2012 PHFA Housing Services Conference Speaker RFP is Online

Do you have a great session for the 2012 PHFA Housing Services Conference to be held June 25-27, 2012, at the Sheraton Station Square in Pittsburgh? All proposals should be submitted by October 15, 2011, to Crystal Baker at cbaker@phfa.org or faxed to 1.717.614.2519. Complete and submit the Speaker RFP or, if you need a fillable RFP to be emailed to you, please call 717.780.1808. Go to [Click here for RFP](#).

Congratulations to Inaugural CESC Graduates!

Congratulations to those who completed all the requirements for the PHFA/California University Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program! The following participants of the 2010-2011 CESC program recently were awarded their Certificates: Mary Bell, Pamela Berg, Diane Berquist, Mary Ellen Bolden, Judie Brantner, Jeanne Douglas, Shaan Elsmann, Kimberly Jo Fox, Barbie Greer,

Lisa Jenkins, Monica Kreider, Nancy Loughry, Janine Mitchell, Kathy Muir, Lin Pleiman, Florence Powell, Sheila Rampolla, Renee Reachard, Sherry Riley, Lori Sabol, Gail Sagner, Rebecca Stemmler, Stephanie Stover, Maureen Sullivan, Sandra Suydam, Sherry Symons, Laura Womer and Maggie Yeager.

Other Trainings and Conferences

Sept 16 Domestic Violence Conference-Scranton

The Women's Resource Center and Barbara J. Hart Justice Center are hosting a conference on Domestic Violence entitled "Understanding Coercive Control as a Framework for Responding to Domestic Violence", September 16, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM at Marywood University, Scranton. For registration contact Linda Wrazien at laweazien@marywood.edu or call 570.340.6060.

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 PCA Regional Conference on Aging-Philadelphia

PCA will host the first Regional Conference on Aging at PCA offices, 642 N. Broad St., Philadelphia, September 19-22. Over 40 sessions to choose from. To register: [click here](#).

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 from 7:45 AM-4:30 PM on Sept. 20 and 8:00 AM-2:30 PM on Sept. 21 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey in Grantville. [Click here for details](#).

Sept 21 Linking Together a Chain of Care:PA Model for Youth Suicide Prevention

Linking Together a Chain of Care: The Pennsylvania Model for Youth Suicide Prevention, a one day symposium will be held September 21, at Central Hotel and Conference Center, Best Western Premier, Harrisburg. Space is limited. **Register by September 9**. For details: [Click here](#).

Sept 27 PA Adult/Older Adult Suicide Prevention Coalition Activities

The Adult/Older Adult Suicide Prevention Coalition and the PA Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative are coordinating a Suicide Awareness Day event at the PA State Capitol on September 27. They are looking for volunteer speakers to speak approximately 15-20 minutes about their experiences either as a person who has contemplated suicide, or as someone who has lost a loved one to suicide. They are looking for individuals to speak from various perspectives, such as: Youth, Adult, Older adult, LGBT, Veterans. For info: please call or email Rebecca May-Cole at 717.541.4219 or Rebecca@olderpa.org

- **September 27-Suicide Prevention Awareness & Legislative Event-Capital Bldg, Harrisburg**
[Click here for details](#).

The Pennsylvania Adult/Older Adult Suicide Prevention Coalition through the Long Term Living Training Institute will sponsor forums on "Reducing Suicide Risk through Reducing Access to Lethal Means" and Best Practices of Suicide Prevention Task Forces" on the following dates:

- **Oct 25-Genetti Hotel and Conference Center, 77 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre**
- **Nov 2-Holiday Inn Clarion, 45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion**

Cost is \$35. Mail registrations to LTLTI, 525 29th St., Harrisburg, PA 17104, fax to 717.541.45217 or register online at www.ltltrainingpa.org

Oct 20-21 PAHMA Fall Conference; Embracing the Future of Affordable Housing

The PAHMA Fall Conference; Embracing the Future of Affordable Housing to be held October 20-21 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion PA. Registration and info at www.pahma.org.

Oct 26-27 PennDeIAHMA Fall Conference "Are We There Yet?"

The PennDelAHMA Fall Conference "Are we there yet?" will be held October 26-27, at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, Dover, Delaware. [Register here.](#)

Various Dates-Senior Insights Series-Lancaster Area

A series of senior topics will be presented at Albright LIFE, 417 W. Fredrick St., Lancaster, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM on the following dates:

- **Sept 21-What you Need to Know About Veteran's Benefits and Social Security**
- **Oct 19-Legal Needs and Long term Care (When, Why and What)**
- **Nov 16-How Do I Talk to Mom and Dad About Driving, Scam and Finances**

RSVP to 717.381.4327.

Various Training Opportunities PA Behavioral Health & Aging Coalition

The Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition will host half day training sessions on selected dates /locations on "**Understanding Dementia: Diagnosis, Treatment and Behavioral Management**", 10:00 AM-2:30 PM. Cost is \$75. CEU's are available

Oct 6-Reading Hospital and Medical Center, West Reading, Nov 9-Case Management & Supports, Inc., Greensburg, Dec 7-Mt. Nittany Medical Center, State College. Other dates/locations next spring.

Register online at www.olderpa.org or by fax at 717.3703.6016 or email Rebecca@olderpa.org. For information call 717.541.4219.

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**".

- **Sept 22-Raymond & Miriam Klein JCC, 10100 Jamison Ave, Phila, 9:30 AM-3:15 PM**
- **Oct 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.

Resources/News – General

Find "Most Efficient" Products with Newest Energy Star Label

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy have teamed up to recognize the cream of the crop in energy-efficient appliances. DOE and EPA have identified [Most Efficient 2011 products](#) among televisions, clothes washers, and heating and cooling equipment. Refrigerators are coming soon. More product categories will be added in 2012.

FY 2012 Proposed Fair Market Rents are Published in the Federal Register

To access the proposed Fair Market Rents or provide public comment: [Click here for details.](#)

Health Talk for Spanish-Speakers

[Conozca las preguntas](#) ("Know the Questions") is a new Spanish-language website by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) designed to help Spanish-speakers get more involved in their health care. There's a [special website for mobile phone users](#), and you can get biweekly tips by texting "80676/Preguntas."

Pets of the Homeless

Most people who experience homelessness are homeless for a short period of time, and need help finding housing or a rent subsidy. Unfortunately, for those with pets it becomes more difficult. For info: <http://www.petsofthehomeless.org/>.

Rural PA Statistics-Children Decreasing, Seniors Increasing

There are now more rural Pennsylvania residents who are 40 years old and older than at any other time in the last 60 years. To take a closer look at Pennsylvania's rural population and how it is aging go to: <http://www.rural.palegislature.us/newsletter.html#4>.

The Truth About Cell Phones and the National Do-Not- Call List

Placing telemarketing calls to wireless phones is, and always has been, illegal. This applies whether or not your cell phone number is listed on a Do-Not-Call list. [Click here for info.](#)

Volunteer Connections

Volunteer Connections connects volunteers with non-profits, businesses and corporations. Organizations can post information about their selves, advertise their need for volunteers and screen potential volunteers interested in donating their time. For more information visit https://www.disability.gov/community_life/volunteering_%26_national_service_programs.

Resources/News - Senior Sites

Active Aging Week

Active Aging Week runs the week of September 25-October 1, 2011. For information on ideas and resources [visit here](#).

AARP Nationwide Anti-Hunger Initiative

AARP and the AARP Foundation have launched a nationwide anti-hunger initiative aimed at seniors that include new online hunger resources as well as local SNAP outreach and assistance. For more information, [visit here](#).

Compare Your Health Benefits

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services just launched the Quality Care Finder designed to help beneficiaries and their caregivers find better health care options. Patients and their caregivers can get started by going to www.Medicare.gov/QualityCareFinder or call 1.800.MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227) to find and compare health care providers. TTY users should call 1.877.486.2048.

Medicare Low-Income Subsidy Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has announced that some Medicare beneficiaries could qualify for help with their prescription drug costs. Find out if you are eligible for the Medicare Low-Income Subsidy Program (also called "Extra Help"). You can also call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1.800.325.0778) and ask for the Application for Medicare's Part D Extra Help. [Visit here](#).

Medicare's New Annual Enrollment Period Oct-15-Dec 7 Berks County

APPRISE counselors at Berks Encore will be available to assist people with assessing their Medicare coverage options at all of the Berks Encore Centers. For more information or to schedule an individual appointment with a counselor at one of the Centers, please call Rodney Guistwite at 610.374.3195 x208.

One Away Video Advocacy Campaign

One Away is an innovative, national video advocacy campaign that gives voice to vulnerable older adults who are struggling to make ends meet in today's economy. The campaign captures real stories of seniors on video. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is working with local advocacy partners around the country to build support for this campaign. To share a story or to learn more about the *One Away* campaign, please visit the website at <http://www.oneaway.org/>.

Profile of Older Americans: 2010 Now Available

The web based publication *Profile of Older Americans: 2010* is now available online. To access this publication, [click here](#).

Resources/News - Family Sites

Back to School Tips for Families

For some great back to school tips for families: [click here](#).

Bringing the Front Porch Project to Your Community-Local Trainings

Front Porch Project (FPP[®]) is a community-based primary prevention initiative based on the belief that everyone can and should become more aware of how to help protect fragile and at-risk children in their own community. The two-day training sessions equips citizens with a basic knowledge of

child welfare and safety issues, skills for increasing their comfort level in helping a child, and a wide range of ideas for ways they can support today's families. To learn more about training, contact Beth Bitler at PA Family Support Alliance at 717. 238.0397 or bbitler@pa-fsa.org or [click here](#).

Library of Congress Classic Books Online

[Classic Books Online](#) -- Explore time-honored tales, available from the Library of Congress.

Strong Minds Website

Help a child learn to read. Strong Minds volunteer opportunities can be found here:

<http://www.serve.gov/strongminds.asp>

Student Checklist

This checklist is for students (of all ages) who haven't attended college or trade school, and parents of students in elementary and secondary school. It includes a "to do" list, starting with elementary school, to help students prepare academically and financially for education beyond high school. Each section is split into subsections for students and parents, explaining what to do. It also has publications and other websites that might be useful to them. To learn more visit https://www.disability.gov/education/student_resources/preparing_for_college.

The MusiCares & GRAMMY Foundation's Teen Substance Abuse Awareness Contest

The [MusiCares and GRAMMY Foundation's Teen Substance Abuse Awareness through Music Contest](#) offers a great opportunity for teen musicians to use the medium of music to help spread the message about the importance of healthy choices and the dangers of drug abuse. The contest asks young musicians to create original music and/or music videos that celebrate healthy and inspirational living, or accurately depict the dark side of drug abuse. Go to: [For details, click here](#).

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline

This helpline provides information and support to people with memory loss, caregivers, health care professionals and the general public. Call toll-free anytime day or night at 1.800.272.3900, TDD 1.866.403.3073. [Visit here](#).

Disability.gov Improves User Experience with New Search Engine

The Disability.gov team has been working behind the scenes to improve the site's search engine. The new search engine includes additional features that will deliver more relevant and easier to view search results. [Click here](#).

Due Sept 30 Joining Forces Community Challenge Nominations

In April 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden launched [Joining Forces](#), a national initiative to support and honor America's Service Members and their families. The First Lady and Dr. Biden have now established the [Joining Forces Community Challenge](#) to recognize citizens and organizations with a demonstrated, genuine, and deep desire to serve military families. Citizens and organizations providing programs, services, or support designed to ease the burden and alleviate the emotional and mental stress on Service Members and their families are encouraged to [apply for the Joining Forces Community Challenge](#). Nominations must be submitted by **September 30**.

Employer Resource Guide

This guide is for public and private employers, human resource personnel, hiring managers and supervisors. It has information about laws that prohibit employment discrimination, job accommodations, tax incentives and where to find qualified job candidates with disabilities. [Visit here](#).

FAQ for Caregiver Stress

This FAQ answers frequently-asked questions about caregiver stress, including information about recognizing and preventing stress, finding care giving services in your community and paying for home health care and other care giving services. [Visit here for details](#).

Free Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder App Helps Veterans

The PTSD Coach Smartphone application (app), launched by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), has already helped more than 5,000 users connect to important mental health information and resources. The app enables Veterans and Service Members to track their PTSD symptoms, link directly to support services, find reliable information on PTSD and learn helpful strategies for managing symptoms on the go. For more information on the PTSD Coach app, visit the [VA's National Center for PTSD](#). You can also find other apps at the [DoD's National Center for Telehealth & Technology](#). <http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2102>

Guide on Autism Spectrum Disorders

This guide from the Disability Policy and Studies office at the University of Missouri discusses the aspects of Autism Spectrum Disorders that can affect a person's job performance and how accommodations on the job and in the work environment can help. [Click here for info.](#)

HUD, VA to Provide Permanent Housing & Support for Thousands of Homeless Veterans

The U.S. Departments of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Veterans Affairs (VA) have announced that HUD will provide \$46.2 million to public housing agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to supply permanent housing and case management for 6,790 homeless Veterans in America. This funding comes from HUD's Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH). [Click here](#) or the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans, 1.877.4AID.VET (424.3838).

HUD Website and Information for People with Disabilities

For information on HUD's website related to people with disabilities: [click here.](#)

Ideas on How to Make Cell Phones Accessible

This website describes recommendations, techniques and ideas about making cell phones accessible for people with various types of disabilities. For information: [visit here.](#)

Job Seekers with Disabilities

The State Civil Service Commission now has a PowerPoint presentation that explains the Civil Service employment process in general and services available to applicants with disabilities in particular. To access this presentation, please visit www.scsc.state.pa.us and click the Job Seekers tab on the home page. On the next page that appears, choose General Information from the left navigation menu. This will be the third option on that left navigation menu. The next Web page you see after making that selection will have a heading at the top that says Why Work For Us? From the left navigation menu on that page, choose the first option, which is Applicants With Disabilities. http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/general_information/14274/applicants_with_disabilities/590786.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). The theme for NDEAM 2011 is *Profit by Investing in Workers with Disabilities*, which promotes the valuable contributions people with disabilities make to America's workplaces and economy. 2011 NDEAM posters are now available to [download](#) or [order](#). Visit: [https://www.disability.gov/employment/news %26 events](https://www.disability.gov/employment/news_%26_events).

PIAT

PIAT offers information and referral on assistive technology (AT), gives device demonstrations and runs programs that include the AT lending library; the Telecommunication Device Distribution Program; and the Reused and Exchanged Equipment Partnership that lets people get, donate or sell AT equipment. [Visit here for details.](#)

SNAP Process and Tool

The Job Accommodation Network's SNAP Process and Tool can help you work through the most

common website accessibility issues. Watch a webcast that takes you through the SNAP process for fixing common accessibility problems. Handouts about website accessibility are also available to download. <http://askjan.org/bulletins/SNAPTool.htm>.

VA Caregiver Support Network

The VA has beefed up services for caregivers helping veterans if any war. There is a 24/7 toll-free phone line at 855.260.3274 to give families information about resources in their communities. There are now caregiver support coordinators at every VA Medical Center to provide counseling. A newly revised website, www.caregiver.va.gov features more extensive information.

Funding Opportunities

Due Sept 15 Letter of Inquiry, Sustainable Solutions to Hunger Innovation Grants-AARP

AARP Foundation Grants Program is accepting applications for the Sustainable Solutions to Hunger Innovation Grants. The program will award grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$300,000 to organizations that focus on sustainable solutions designed to make a significant impact on community food security and sustainable food systems for those 50 and older. Grant proposals accepted from nonprofit 501(c) (3) organizations and government entities, including but not limited to state/local governments, social service agencies, public health organizations, educational entities, and other nonprofit entities. Letter of Inquiry is due September 15. [For details click here.](#)

NFL Grassroots Grants Announced

The National Football League Grassroots Program is supporting the development and renovation of community fields with 13 new grants totaling \$2.5 million being directed to schools, parks and facilities across the country. "Community fields are pillars of their neighborhoods, where kids and their families bond with each other and their peers. [Visit here.](#)

Due Sept 16 Transportation Funding for Veterans

The Department of Transportation has joined with the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Defense, and Health and Human Services to establish an initiative that will improve transportation options and mobility for America's veterans, service members, and their families. Applicants must be eligible to receive Federal Transit Administration 5309 funding, which includes public agencies such as a transit authority, city/county government, metropolitan planning organizations, or the State. The application deadline is September 16. For more information about this funding notice, including application and partner resources. [Click here for details.](#)

Due Oct 20 HUD's Energy Innovations in Multifamily Housing Funded

HUD's Energy Innovation Fund: Multifamily Pilot Program provides support for financing demonstrations that propose innovative methods for financing retrofits of multifamily properties, and applied research demonstrations that propose solutions to longstanding barriers to multifamily residential retrofits. For details and application [click here](#) . Due Oct. 20, 2011.

Due Oct 28 HUD's (FY) 2011 NOFA for Continuum of Care (CoC)

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs has been published. Programs included in the CoC NOFA are: the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, and the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation for Single Room Occupancy Program. To view details: [click here.](#) Due Oct. 28, 2011.

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.