

An electronic news service of the Housing Services Department – February 2012

**PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY
2012 HOUSING SERVICES CONFERENCE:**

**Welcome to My Neighborhood!
June 25, 26, 27 – Pittsburgh**

There are fewer than 4 months left until this year's Housing Services Conference in Pittsburgh, and we have 4 great keynoters lined up to super-charge this conference, including:

- **Teja Arboleda**, otherwise known as the Ethnic Man, is African American, Native American, Filipino-Chinese, German-Danish. He was born in Brooklyn, lived in Germany, grew up in Japan and will enlighten and entertain us as he addresses the enigma of cultural, racial and ethnic diversity.
- **Stacey Bess**, award winning educator and author of Nobody Don't Love Nobody. She'll share with us her experiences of teaching children at a Salt Lake City homeless shelter.
- **Patti Wood**, a leading expert in non-verbal communication – otherwise known as body language! This will be a fascinating expose on building credibility and spotting lies! You'll be amazed at how this can help you deal with residents, bosses, co-workers and everyone you meet through your day!
- **Imaculée Ilibagiza**, author of Left to Tell, and a survivor of the Rwandan genocide. Her faith, perseverance and hope in a desperate situation are sure to offer inspiration for your daily trials.

With this great line-up of keynote speakers and superb content in the break-out sessions, you won't find a better value for your \$275! Registration will begin April 1 – watch your inbox for more information or go to www.phfa.org.

PAHousingSearch.com
**READY FOR EVERY DAY
AND EVERY DISASTER**



***Apartment Building in Swissvale Condemned... Tropical Storm Lee Prompts Evacuations...
Hurricane Irene Blasts the Northeast...Pine Meadow Housing Complex To Be Empty By
Christmas...***

The headlines over the past 6 months offer a compelling reason to make sure that PAHousingSearch.com has the most accurate and up-to-date information available. This free listing service helps disaster survivors and every day people that need to find an apartment to suit their needs. Make sure you are doing your part by listing your rental units and keeping that information current. For help, call 1.877.428.8844 or go to <http://www.pahousingsearch.com/>.

PHFA Information and Trainings

Save the Dates: Regional Housing Services Forums

SW Regional Forum, March 9, UCP, Pittsburgh, New Swissvale location, 1400 South Braddock Avenue, Pittsburgh, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. Contact: schopek@phfa.org.

Central PA Regional Forum, March 9, in Lebanon County, sponsored by Community Homes and Albright LIFE, 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. To register email: mmcgraw@phfa.org.

Central PA Regional Forum, March 14, at Kelly Meadow Apartments, Lewisburg, Union County, 10:00AM-3:00 PM. To register email: mmcgraw@phfa.org.

NW Regional Forum, April 11, Benetwood Apartments, 641 Troupe Road, Erie, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Contact schopek@phfa.org.

SW Regional Forum, April 13, Meadow Heights Community Room, 144 North Beeson Avenue, Uniontown in Fayette County, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Contact: schopek@phfa.org.

Mountain Regional Forum, April 27, Ridgewood Greene, Reynoldsville, in Jefferson County, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. Contact: schopek@phfa.org.

2012 Housing Service Conference Vendors

The 2012 Housing Services is a great place to show your wares and services to property managers and service providers throughout Pennsylvania. Reach a wide audience of staff, management, developers and service providers at affordable rental housing communities on June 25 in Pittsburgh. To access an application: [click here](#) or, to get a fillable application email cbaker@phfa.org or call 717.780.1808.

Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program

Register now! Registration for the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination Program (CESC) is taking place now through **June 15, 2012**. If you are interested in registering for this program or if you have questions contact Alicia Spencer at aspencer@phfa.org. Don't miss out on this training opportunity!

2012 Photo Collage - "Welcome to My Neighborhood!"

Join in the 2012 PHFA Housing Services Conference Photo Collage - "Welcome to My Neighborhood!" For details and an application: [click here](#) and for the photo release waiver: [click here](#).

PHFA Housing Services Recent Wiki Updates

Updates to the Service Coordinator/Housing Services wiki include the Conference Ride Board: <http://servicecoordinator.pbworks.com/w/page/49296846/2012%20Housing%20Services%20Conference%20Ride%20Board>.

There is also a widget on the wiki from the Administration on Aging (AoA) at <http://servicecoordinator.pbworks.com/w/page/49710644/AoA%20Resources%20to%20Live%20a%20Healthier%20Life>. The information on their widget updates automatically when AoA updates. To activate the widget, put your mouse over the text in the Healthy Living Tips section on the wiki.

PHFA Breaking News-Changes in Homeownership Programs

To access the new changes in PHFA Homeownership Programs:

http://www.phfa.org/forms/newsletter/phfa_developments/current/UTTM_HOLaunch_FINAL_Jan2012.pdf.

PHFA January Developments Newsletter is Now Online

To view the January PHFA Developments newsletter online, [click here](#).

Other Trainings and Conferences

Mar 7 & Apr 16 New One Day Trainings from "Behavioral Health Connection"

"Behavioral Health Connection" will present new one-day training sessions including *Understanding*

and Accessing Medicare Services for Mental Health Consumer and QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) A Suicide Prevention Training at the following locations and dates.

- **March 7-Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, DuBois**
- **April 16, Riverview Manor, Sharon**

Lunch is provided. Call 717.541.4219 or register online at www.olderpa.org/bhc.

Mar 9 Seniors on the Move-Innovation Around Transportation-Philadelphia

Join GenPhilly to learn more about innovative ways to help seniors access different transportation options on March 9, 8:30 AM-11:30 AM at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, 190 North Independence Mall West, Philadelphia. For details and registration: <http://genphilly.wordpress.com/events/next-event/>.

Mar 10 HHS' Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Conference Call

Health and Human Services Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Conference Call for Faith & Community Leaders will cover a "Tour of healthcare.gov" - March. 10, 4:00 PM. Call 1.888.323.9813.

Mar 19 and May 4 2012 STAR-Center Conference Philadelphia and Pittsburgh

The STAR-Center will host its annual conference "Protecting Children from Harm" on March 19 at the Radisson Hotel Valley Forge, King of Prussia and on May 4 at William Pitt Student Union, Pittsburgh. For details and to register: <http://www.starcenter.pitt.edu/ConferenceInfo/21/default.aspx>.

Mar 28-30 PEAL Center Inclusive Communities Conference-Variou Sites

The Parent Education and Leadership Center in Pittsburgh is putting on their annual conference in three cities this year to reach more parents. For more information, dates and locations see the event flyer at the [PEAL Center website](#).

Mar 28 - Apr 1 ASA's 2012 Aging in America Conference-Washington DC

ASA's 2012 Aging in America Conference will be held March 28 - April 1, in Washington, D.C. [More info here](#).

Apr 22-24 The Leadership Conference on Energy and Water Efficiency for MF Housing

The Leadership Conference on Energy and Water Efficiency for Multifamily Housing will be held April 22 -24, at the Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, VA. Click [here](#) for Save the Date and info.

Apr 23 Financial Literacy Live Webcast

The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago will host a live webcast on Financial Literacy on April 23 from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM Central Time. To register: <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/summit2012/index.php>.

Free Online Training Course for Aging Information & Referral Professionals

A new online course for aging network professionals offers basic training in aging information and referral/assistance (I&R/A). To enroll, [click here](#). Free online registration is required at The National Association of States United for Aging & Disabilities online learning center.

Resources/News – General

February is American Heart Month

Celebrate February with Health and Human Services by focusing on heart health.

- The [Million Hearts campaign](#) to prevent one million heart attacks over five years.
- The [Heart Truth campaign](#) to increase awareness of heart disease among women.
- The [Let's Move! Campaign](#) to prevent childhood obesity by helping kids stay active.

Commercial & Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives for Business Program

Commercial and industrial customers of Met-Ed, Penelec and Penn Power are invited to apply for the Commercial & Industrial Energy Efficiency Incentives for Business, which provides incentives to install high-efficiency equipment. Details at <http://www.energysavepa-business.com/>.

Conservation and Recycling

Every year Americans generate millions of tons of trash. You can find recycling information and centers, conservation resources, and more to help practice an environmentally friendly and ecologically responsible lifestyle. [Learn more about conservation and recycling.](#)

Download Transportation By the Numbers

Want to look at the costs of your transportation service? Check out *Transportation by the Numbers*, a popular resource that helps service providers identify and evaluate the true costs of providing transportation services. [Download *Transportation By The Numbers*.](#)

Government Book Talk

Government Book Talk brings you the best publications from the federal government, past and present. [Check out the variety of government publications today.](#)

New Law Change Increases Insurance Coverage for Veterans

Some Veterans covered under the Veterans Group Life Insurance program (VGLI) now have the opportunity to increase their coverage to the current maximum coverage under the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) program. The additional coverage can be issued regardless of the Veteran's health. [Click here.](#)

Recycling Old Electronic Gadgets

Did you receive new electronic gadgets over the holidays? If so, now is a good time to figure out what to do with your old ones. There are plenty of ways to put those unwanted electronics to use. [Learn more about how you can recycle old electronic gadgets.](#)

Re-Entry Resources

For a listing of resources for individuals reentering society after incarceration, such as Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (PRI). Visit: <http://fatherhood.hhs.gov/Incarceration/index.shtml>.

What Help is Available for Homeless Veterans?

All Veterans at risk for homelessness or attempting to exit homelessness, as well as their family and friends can access a variety of resources and benefits, such as prevention services, housing support, job training, and healthcare. The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans provides a hotline and online [chat](#) for free and confidential assistance. Trained VA staff is on-call and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to assist homeless Veterans and their families at 1.877.4AID VET (877.424.3838). <http://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp>.

York Housing Authority Initiates New Preference for PREP

The York Housing Authority has instituted a preference for applicants under age 62 who have successfully completed Prepared Renter Program (PREP) training. The PREP program prepares individuals for the process of finding and retaining affordable housing that meets their needs. The York Housing Authority has recognized the quality of the PREP training program and the need for such training in York County by instituting this unique preference. PREP training is available for free. Contact Beth Ellis, Regional Housing Coordinator serving York County, at bellis@cilcp.org or at 717-731-1900 to discuss this training opportunity. Email Mary Penny, Statewide Coordinator for the Regional Housing Coordinator Program, for PREP training across PA – mary@sdhp.org .

Resources/News - Senior Sites

Administration on Aging (AoA)

The Administration on Aging is pleased to provide the following resources to connect older persons, caregivers and professionals to important federal, state, and local programs. Go to: http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Elders_Families/index.aspx.

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, click [here](#).

Due Feb 17 Emergency Fund Coalition Seeks Nominations for Awards

The Emergency Fund Coalition for Older Philadelphians (EFC) will present 'Bright Stars of Aging' community service awards at its 23rd anniversary luncheon on Friday, June 1. For more information about the EFC or these awards, contact Rick Spector, PCA Community Relations Director, by e-mail to rspector@pcaphl.org. For the 'Bright Stars of Aging' nomination form, [Click here](#).

Aging Plan for Pennsylvania - 2012-2016 Planning for Our Future Executive Summary

To view "Planning for Our Future Executive Summary of the State Breakout Sessions for 2012-2016" held in November [click here](#). If you have suggestions, comments or questions, please send an email to RA-StatePlanOnAging@state.pa.us. For progress reports on the current PA Aging Plan (2008-2012) go to: www.aging.state.pa.us.

Medicare in American Sign Language

Now you can get Medicare information in American Sign Language (ASL). Medicare has a short video in ASL for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. The video gives an overview of Medicare, (including covered preventive services), and discusses the differences between Medicare and Medicaid. [Watch the video on our YouTube channel](#), or [download it here](#).

Winter Warmth and Safety: Home Energy Tips for Older Adults

To download a copy of this new brochure produced by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), go to <http://www.n4a.org/pdf/HomeEnergyTips.pdf>.

Resources/News - Family Sites

Ask the Dept. of Education your FAFSA Questions on Twitter

For those who may need help paying for college, a new year means it's time to complete a new [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#). To help you navigate the process, the Dept. of Education announces the launch of the [@FAFSA Twitter account](#) from Federal Student Aid. You can complete the FAFSA online today at www.fafsa.gov.

Color A Smile

Color A Smile collects crayon drawings from school children. Every month they distribute these drawings to nursing homes, Meals-on-Wheels programs, and individuals all across the country. Their goal is to make people smile! For information and instructions to participate: <http://www.colorasmile.org/>.

Connecting Kids to Coverage Challenge

InSureKidsNow.gov is requesting submission of innovative ideas to help enroll uninsured kids in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program. Suggestions should include at least one of the following strategies: cut red tape, capitalize on technology, and create opportunities to sign up, focus on retention, and forge partnerships. For details: [click here](#).

Parents and Teens Should Read Books on Tough Issues

For tips on tough teen issues: [visit here](#).

National Children's Dental Health Month in February

Print the activity sheets from the American Dental Association's website and get kids interested in good dental habits or use for students gathering afterschool at your site. Visit www.ada.org/5578.aspx for resources.

Resources/News - People with Disabilities

Addiction Treatments

Different types of treatments are available to meet specific needs. To get referrals to treatment programs, call 1.800.662.HELP (confidential hotline) or visit: <http://dasis3.samhsa.gov/>.

Primary Sources: Canine-Assisted Therapy as Trauma-Informed Care

Why do so many homeless youth have dogs? Read this study of how intervention with canine-assisted therapy can help alleviate post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms. [Read more.](#)

TSA Launches New Toll Free Number for Air Travelers with Disabilities

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has launched a new helpline number for air travelers with disabilities and medical conditions. You can call [TSA Cares](#) toll free at 1.855.787.2227 before you travel for answers to questions about screening policies, procedures and what to expect at the security checkpoint. TSA recommends that passengers call about 72 hours before traveling so that when needed, TSA Cares can coordinate checkpoint support with a TSA Customer Service Manager at the airport. [Click here for info.](#)

Visit Disability.gov for Information

Visit [Disability.gov](#) for information about these and many other subjects: Finding [employment](#), Help finding and paying for [housing](#), [Laws](#) that protect your rights as a person with a disability, Disability [benefits](#), [Scholarships](#) and other financial aid, Federal government [grants](#). Looking for organizations, programs or services near you? Visit Disability.gov's [Information by State](#) section. Visit [Disability Blog](#) to read and comment on a wide variety of subjects of interest to the disability community, including [benefits](#), [healthcare](#), [housing](#) and the special "[Career Connections Series](#)."

Funding Opportunities

Feb 2 DCED Keystone Communities Program Guidelines for Grants-Webinar

The Department of Community and Economic Development's Center for Community Financing will hold a webinar to discuss the Keystone Communities Program Guidelines. A webinar will be held on, February 2, from 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM. To join the online meeting, go to: <https://copa.webex.com/copa/j.php?ED=149368332&UID=1232377127&RT=MIMxMQ%3D%3D>. For assistance contact Jody Michael at 717.720.7410 or jmichael@pa.gov. DCED's policy is to accept applications on a rolling basis year-round. However, please note that the deadline for submitting an application to assure that it is considered for 2011-12 funding is February 29, 2012.

Due Feb 15 Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program-NOFA

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced \$100 million in grants has been made available for 2012 to community agencies that assist low income Veterans and families facing homelessness. The available funds were announced via a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) posted on the Federal register and at VA's SSVF website, www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

Due Feb 24 Grants for Community Garden and Green Space Development

Scotts Miracle-Gro Company is accepting applications for its GRO1000 Grassroots Grant awards to organizations with their 501c3 status, to create edible gardens, flower gardens, and public green spaces at the neighborhood and community levels. Grants will range from \$500 to \$1,500. [Click here for application.](#)

Due Feb 28 Applications for Adult & Family Literacy and Summer Reading Grants

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is accepting applications for the following grant programs from organizations with 501c3 status: The Adult Literacy Grants, The Family Literacy Grants, and the Summer Reading Grants program. Details and application at [For details and application click here.](#)

Due Mar 1 The National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts has announced funding for the 2012 Our Town grants. The funding supports creative place making projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Deadline to apply: March 1, 2012. For guidelines and more information, click [here](#).

Due Mar 5 Housing Counseling Training Program Funds

Funding is available through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to provide training activities designed to improve and standardize the quality of counseling provided by housing counselors employed by agencies participating in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling Program. Applicants must be public or private nonprofit organizations and must have a 501(c) (3) tax exempt status. [Click here for details](#).

Due Mar 16 2012 Eisner Foundation Prize for Intergenerational Excellence

2012 Eisner Foundation Prize for Intergenerational Excellence. Nominations and applications due Mar. 16. [More information here](#).

National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition

The U.S. Department of Energy is holding six competitions across the nation that seek to create a new generation of entrepreneurs who will address energy challenges and turn promising technology from American universities and laboratories into innovative energy products. Learn more about the [National Clean Energy Business Plan Competition](#).

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