

PHFA Kathy A Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship

2026 Fellows

Zachary Phillips



Biography: Zachary Phillips is an Economic Development Analyst II with the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED), where he primarily manages HOME Program grants supporting affordable housing rehabilitation and community development across the Commonwealth. He also provides support to the Commonwealth's HOME-ARP initiatives, contributing to efforts that expand shelter capacity and resources for vulnerable populations. He holds dual bachelor's degrees in economics and political science from Syracuse University and an associate degree in Business Administration from Valley Forge Military College. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Business Analytics from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In addition to his state service, Zachary serves as a Logistics Officer in the United States Army Reserve, where he supports sustainment operations, oversees supply and distribution planning, and contributes to mission readiness within a Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Project Summary: This project seeks to identify and address the persistent challenges that veterans in Pennsylvania face in accessing both short-term and long-term housing solutions. While national organizations such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and HUD administer robust housing support programs, their implementation on the ground often falls short of meeting veterans' nuanced needs — especially in rural areas where housing assistance is sparse, transportation is limited, and community reintegration services are scattered. Through a mixed-methods approach, including interviews, service network mapping, and policy analysis, this project will identify policy and program innovations that close existing gaps. Special attention will be given to the most vulnerable veterans: those disconnected from VA benefits, residing in underserved communities, or navigating multiple transition points such as military discharge, reentry from incarceration, or recovery from substance use.