

# AROUND *the* HOUSE A NEWSLETTER FOR HOMEOWNERS & HOMEBUYERS

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## Affordable loans available to help with sewer repair or hook-up



The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) and PHFA remind homeowners that they offer an affordable loan for the repair or replacement of on-lot septic systems and sewer laterals, or first-time sewer connection from an existing home.

The Homeowner Septic Program has been made more customer friendly thanks to expanded eligibility criteria, a streamlined application process, loan amounts up to \$25,000 for all homes (including manufactured homes), and no prepayment penalty.

For more information or to start the PENNVEST application process, homeowners should contact a [participating lender](#) or PHFA at 1-855-U-Are-Home (827-3466), then press “0” to be connected with the agency’s Customer Solutions Center. Information is also available from the bottom bullet point on [PHFA’s website](#).

## PHFA celebrated America Saves Week with new podcasts!

America Saves Week was started in 2007 as a call-to-action for everyday Americans to commit to saving and they are encouraged to do a financial check-in that allows them to get a clear view of their finances, set savings goals, and create a plan to achieve those goals.

Listen to five new financial education podcasts presented by PHFA’s Senior Financial Education Officer Holly Zugay and PHFA’s “Master Your Money” podcast host Renae Hyson as they talk about how YOU can start your own savings program.

Listen on [iTunes](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen to your podcasts. Also connect via [PHFA’s website](#) by clicking on the “Podcasts” button at the top of the webpage.

## Tap into PHFA resources to improve your financial capabilities

PHFA’s financial education team regularly provides webinars and podcasts intended to help consumers improve their financial well-being. These online seminars and presentations are archived so you can conveniently access them whenever it's convenient for you.

Financial capability is not about budgeting. It’s about having the money knowledge, skills, tools, and confidence to make sound money choices for ourselves and our families now and for the future. Let’s break down the components of financial capability.

(Cont’d)

**Knowledge** – Simply put, just the facts. How does money work? We need to know how to earn, grow, and protect our money. This means choosing the right job or career that will be supportive (income and benefits), sustainable (long-term), and satisfying (like what you do!). It means understanding the concepts of saving and investing. It means knowing about taxes, insurance, and being a smart consumer.

**Skills** – It's not enough to know the information – we must take action. We need to create and use manageable spending, pay ourselves first, and monitor our net worth (what we own versus what we owe), lower and defer taxes by utilizing employee benefits and other savings programs.

**Tools** – There are a lot of financial tools available to help us reach our financial goals including savings products, financial assets (stocks, bonds, mutual funds), insurance and credit. Understand the accessibility of these tools through banks and credit unions, employer retirement savings plans, and state-sponsored savings plans such as the PA 529 college savings plan.

**Confidence** – When you achieve the first three components, you will have the confidence to make good choices! Just remember though that financial capability evolves as our individual situation changes (marriage, children, divorce, death, retirement) and with new tools being brought to the market (financial technology). Embrace the changes and keep on building your financial capability.

Take full advantage of financial education resources available on the [PHFA website](#). And watch our [Facebook page](#) for updates about future webcasts and podcasts.



**Need help with housing?**

**Assistance is a call or a click away!**

**Customer Solutions Center • 1-855-U-Are-Home (827-3466)**

**Mon – Fri 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Email your questions to: [AskPHFA@PHFA.org](mailto:AskPHFA@PHFA.org)

