

TOP STORIES

PHFA coordinates with other state agencies in ongoing effort to aid state's flood victims

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency is one of the lead agencies, along with the Department of Community and Economic Development, on efforts to provide temporary and permanent housing for families whose homes were made unlivable by floodwaters. The agency continues to help staff the Commonwealth's Joint Field Office in Harrisburg to provide critically needed services to affected Pennsylvania families. An important tool used for this purpose has been the online housing locator available at www.PAHousingSearch.com, which PHFA helped develop. The housing locator has been used successfully to rapidly identify affordable rental housing across the state for those in need. PHFA is continuing to work in close partnership with other state agencies to identify additional housing solutions for those people still displaced by the flooding.



Gov. Tom Corbett on an aerial tour of the state following the September flooding.

Pre-application workshop conducted for groups interested in 2012 multifamily funding



On Sept. 15, PHFA's multifamily division conducted a pre-application workshop for groups interested in submitting applications for tax credits and funding to be awarded in the spring of 2012 for the construction of affordable multifamily housing. More than 225 people attended the event, representing organizations

from around the state. The event was held at the Crowne Plaza in Harrisburg. The audience was briefed on the application process, key elements of the application form were discussed, and attendees had the chance to ask questions to PHFA staff. The goal of the workshop was to help groups submit more complete and accurate applications so the evaluation process goes as smoothly as possible.

Number of EHLP foreclosure assistance applications approaches 7,000 as deadline passes

PHFA announced it exceeded its \$105 million allocation from the federal government through the Emergency Homeowners' Loan Program by approximately \$3 million. The agency has already received approval from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the additional funding needed to help all the homeowners who were approved for foreclosure assistance prior to the Sept. 30 deadline. This brings Pennsylvania's total federal allocation under the foreclosure prevention program to approximately \$108 million, all of which is now committed to approved homeowners.

As of Sept. 30 – the federal EHLF deadline – PHFA had received 6,986 applications from across the state. Of that total, 3,056 applications, or 44 percent, were approved for assistance.

“During the final few weeks of this program, our staff worked evenings and weekends to process every EHLF application,” said PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson. “I’m proud of the tireless effort they made, and we’re all very pleased to have helped so many Pennsylvania families avoid the heartbreak of foreclosure.”

Pennsylvania is one of four states to commit all of its EHLF funding, which also includes Maryland, Connecticut and Idaho. Like Pennsylvania, Maryland and Connecticut were approved for additional EHLF funding from HUD.



PHFA loan officer Don Goss verifies EHLF application information over the phone.

PHFA ‘AROUND THE STATE’

PHFA’s Brian Hudson keeps the agency visible in Pennsylvania communities



State Senator John Gordner was the guest of honor for the ribbon cutting Sept. 16 at Westminster Place at Bloomsburg, a new development providing 36 units of affordable senior housing. Bloomsburg Hospital and Presbyterian Senior Living are partnering to create this mixed-use senior community near the Bloomsburg town center. This project is partially funded by PHFA. Shown here (left-to-right, front row) are: Banking Secretary and PHFA Chairman Glenn Moyer, PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson, Senator Gordner, Presbyterian Senior Living Board Chairman Robert Hormell, and Bloomsburg Health System President and CEO Regis Cabonor. Following the event, Hudson accompanied Senator Gordner on a tour of the Bloomsburg area, which was heavily affected by the September flooding. The tour provided an opportunity for a discussion of ways to help house local families displaced by the disaster.

PHFA 'Around the State' (continued)



Senator Vincent Hughes convened an August meeting of state and local government leaders to announce awards totaling almost \$16 million for the Mt. Vernon Manor apartments. The awards are part of a reinvestment program in the Mantua section of Philadelphia. Shown here on a walking tour of the apartment and grounds are (left to right) Michael Thorpe, chairman, Mt. Vernon Manor Inc.; Senator Hughes; Philadelphia Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell; and PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson. The renovations will include updated apartments, landscaping and courtyards. PHFA has awarded low-income housing tax credits to help with the financing of the project, which has attracted generous public and private support. The 125-unit Mt. Vernon Manor apartments were built in 1980.

The People's Emergency Center celebrated the opening of its new sustainable, affordable housing facility, Jannie's Place, in West Philadelphia with the slashing of a giant energy bill. The building, which was rehabilitated in part with PHFA funding, features 29 energy-efficient units and a "green" roof that uses plant cover to lower temperatures and reduce the building's energy consumption. PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson (fourth from right) was on hand in mid-September, along with city and PEC officials, to applaud the opening of this new, environmentally friendly and affordable multifamily building.



PHFA IN THE NEWS

New feature adds news coverage of PHFA to the agency Web site

People following the work of PHFA can now find news stories about the agency from the last 30 days on the Web site. The news stories are from papers within Pennsylvania, and a few national papers, that are covering the work of the agency. This new feature, called "PHFA in the News," is located in the agency newsroom on the [Web site](#). Articles will be updated regularly.

HOMEOWNERSHIP DIVISION

PHFA homeownership director reaches younger audience with information about affordable housing programs

This summer, Homeownership Director Kate Newtown was interviewed for several segments on WQXA-FM, “the X,” a rock station in Harrisburg with a strong signal that reaches much of southcentral Pennsylvania. Newton was invited on the program by Carl Delmont, owner of Freedmont Mortgage who hosts a real estate show on the station. She was interviewed by Delmont and the station’s popular morning show DJ’s, Nipsy and Earl. The interview gave PHFA the chance to share information about its homeownership programs and to reach a younger audience with information about homeownership and affordable housing options in Pennsylvania.



PHFA’s Homeownership Director Kate Newton and Communications Director Scott Elliott are flanked by WQXA-FM DJ’s Nipsy (left) and Earl.

MULTIFAMILY HOUSING

Agency’s use of technology to work more efficiently wins national recognition

The Multifamily Division’s use of computer and wireless technologies to help staff work more efficiently in the office and while traveling was recognized with an award from the National Council of State Housing Agencies during its annual convention in San Diego, Calif. on Oct. 3. Housing management representatives on staff have moved away from the use of paper to instead rely on computers and wireless technology for monitoring Tax Credit, HOME, and Section 8 program compliance at approximately 600 agency funded properties around the state. Even with the purchase of new technology, the program was able to save nearly \$10,000 in its first year, and savings in the second year are expected to exceed \$25,000.

Tom Corbett, Governor • Brian A. Hudson Sr., Executive Director & CEO

To receive an e-mail notice when a new issue of PHFA Developments is posted, or for comments and questions, please write Scott Elliott at selliott@phfa.org

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