TOP STORIES

Governor Wolf announces funding to support affordable housing across Pennsylvania

In early June, Governor Tom Wolf announced the recipients of a new round of funding for housing programs made available through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) fund. The governor named 245 housing and community development initiatives in 67 counties that will share a portion of the total $48.4 million in PHARE funding for fiscal year 2021-22. The PHARE fund is managed by PHFA.

PHFA anticipates that the PHARE funding awards will impact Pennsylvania households through a variety of affordable housing efforts including: 249 housing units rehabilitated or preserved through 4% tax credit projects; 71 new single-family homes created; 419 potential new homebuyers to receive down payment and closing cost assistance; more than 12,000 families/households to receive housing counseling and financial education; 74 housing units created or rehabilitated specifically for households in danger of homelessness; 5,289 affordable housing units to be preserved or rehabilitated; 449 new, affordable housing units to be created with PHARE funds; and more than 12,600 households in danger of homelessness to be assisted by PHARE-funded programming.

To see the list of proposals receiving PHARE funding, visit PHFA.org. See the bullet for “Funding Announcements.”

Governor Wolf announces $3.7 million for community revitalization

Governor Tom Wolf has awarded $3.7 million to six projects for the construction or rehabilitation of mixed-use developments. The funding was raised through the sale of tax credits under the Mixed-Use Development Tax Credit Program, the proceeds of which are being used to fund the work of the Community Revitalization Fund Program.

The goal of the Community Revitalization Fund Program is to stimulate high-impact neighborhood revitalization projects around the state. This round of funding prioritizes applications from smaller cities and communities, including third class cities.

The Mixed-Use Development Tax Credit Program is administered by PHFA, and the selected projects were approved by its board of directors. To read the entire press release and see a list of the six projects awarded funding, please visit PHFA’s website, click on Press Releases and click on the press release dated April 15.
PHFA receives grant to build stronger relationships with health organizations

PHFA announced in late May that it is one of six housing finance agencies (HFAs) in the country that have received a grant to develop strategic partnerships with hospitals and other health organizations to finance affordable housing.

The grants are part of the NCSHA-sponsored Healthy Housing, Healthy Communities (H3C) Partnership Initiative, which aims to leverage the state HFAs' role at the center of the affordable housing system to attract significant health institution involvement and elevate community-level leadership in addressing the worsening housing affordability crisis in America.

Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the grants will enable state HFAs to perform the planning, due diligence, and outreach necessary to secure significant financial commitments from hospitals and health organizations, which the agencies will complement with financing of their own. Community-based organizations will play key roles in each partnership.

The five other state housing finance agencies that received funding are: Colorado Housing and Finance Authority, Illinois Housing Development Authority, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Rhode Island Housing, and Washington State Housing Finance Commission.

PHFA AROUND THE STATE

The coronavirus hasn’t stopped great progress on affordable housing construction that’s going on around the state. Here are a few examples of the multifamily developments that were recently in the news with their groundbreaking or grand opening ceremonies. They all received funding from PHFA.

Grace Inspired Ministries celebrated the grand opening of the Sellersville Senior Residences in Sellersville in mid-May. The new community offers 50 affordable apartments for residents over the age of 55. Eight of the units are reserved for people with behavioral health needs. The development is a welcome addition of much needed affordable and supportive housing. PHFA's Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann spoke during the ceremony (top photo).
North10 Philadelphia held a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the kickoff of construction for Be a Gem Crossing in the Germantown Avenue commercial corridor in North Philadelphia in early June. The mixed-use development will bring 41 affordable housing units to the area. A separate condominium will offer community-serving space that will benefit both the development’s tenants and residents of the broader community. Robin Wiessmann, PHFA’s Executive Director and CEO was on hand to help celebrate. (Bottom photo, second from right.)

Coal Township, Northumberland County, welcomed the new Mountainside Estates development to the community in late May during a grand opening ceremony. This new development was the former county nursing home. It has been transformed into a three-story building offering 36 affordable units. There are supportive services and a wellness suite on-site, as well. It also offers four handicapped accessible units, plus a unit for a resident with vision impairments. PHFA’s Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann attended the event (third from left).

SAA/EVI, Union Housing Development Corporation, and Philadelphia Housing Authority, along with the City of Philadelphia, celebrated the grand opening of The Susquehanna Residences in mid-April. The new community offers 78 units for seniors and brings much needed affordable housing to the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Supportive services will also be available to residents. PHFA Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann, (top photo, third from right), and other officials were in attendance.
HOUSING CONFERENCES

PHFA honors three housing leaders during 2022 Housing Forum

PHFA recognized three affordable housing leaders during its Housing Forum held in early May at the Hilton Harrisburg. Honored with the agency’s prestigious Housing Pioneer Award were: Jane Downing, senior program officer, economic and community development, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Pittsburgh; Ira Goldstein, president of policy solutions, Reinvestment Fund, Philadelphia; and SEDA-COG Housing Development Corporation, Lewisburg, Union County, marking the first time an organization has been honored.

The Housing Forum was held in-person and celebrated 25 years of housing forums. It offered 21 education sessions, two keynote presentations, and a popular networking event. The biennial Housing Forum provides professional development opportunities for people working in the housing field.

PHFA’s Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference is a big success

PHFA’s 2022 Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference was held June 8-10 at Kalahari Resorts in Mount Pocono. With 516 housing services and housing management professionals in attendance, it was one of the largest conferences to date. The three-day conference included 53 breakout sessions lead by various leaders from the housing industry. Three keynote speakers were featured. PHFA would like to thank all of the sponsors, exhibitors, attendees, and volunteers that worked so hard to make this event a success.

MINORITY BUSINESS RECOGNITION

PHFA recognizes another of our diverse business partners

As a Pennsylvania based, woman- and minority-owned and operated law firm specializing in intellectual property, public finance, real estate, and construction law, Powell Law is a valued addition to PHFA’s partner team. Their expertise and experience help further PHFA’s mission of providing affordable housing in the commonwealth. Founded in 1998, Powell Law has been working with PHFA since 2009. We’re proud to work with this reliable and trusted business partner.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT PHFA

Interested in joining a premiere affordable housing agency?

Are you looking to further your career in the affordable housing industry in Pennsylvania? If so, PHFA may be a good fit for you. At PHFA we strive to provide affordable and safe housing for all residents in the state. We offer competitive pay and room for advancement. Best of all, we offer the opportunity to help others improve their lives by finding a place they can call home. Check out our website to view the job opportunities available now, including Business Analyst I, Customer Solutions Center Representative, and Technical Services Representative. Make the move and come join our team. Make a positive difference for others!