

## TOP STORIES

### **PHFA issues RFP for PHARE funding to support local housing initiatives**

PHFA has issued a Request for Proposals soliciting applications from organizations for projects to improve the availability and affordability of housing across the commonwealth. Funding for this RFP is being provided through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund. The total PHARE funding available this year exceeds \$45 million.

PHARE applications are completed and submitted entirely online, eliminating the need for paper submissions and simplifying the process for applicants. The RFP is located on [PHFA's website](#), and the application is accessible on the [PHARE webpage](#). Applications are due to PHFA no later than 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.



PHARE receives its funding from the impact fee levied on natural gas drilling companies and a portion of the Realty Transfer Tax. Funding is available for housing initiatives in all of Pennsylvania's 67 counties. PHFA is charged by the General Assembly with administering the allocation of PHARE dollars.

### **PHFA posts RFP to fund mixed-use development projects**

PHFA has issued a Request for Proposals for the new construction, or rehabilitation, of mixed-use developments seeking financial support. Funding will be provided through the Community Revitalization Fund Program. Mixed-use projects combine residential and retail/commercial space in the same building and often serve as a catalyst for neighborhood revitalization. The deadline for proposal submission is 2 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 4.

Eligible applicants for this funding include units of local government (counties, cities, boroughs, etc.); redevelopment authorities; for-profit firms; non-profit groups; and economic development organizations. Applications from third-class cities will be given higher priority in this year's proposal evaluations. Information about the Community Revitalization Fund RFP is posted on the [PHFA website](#). Interested organizations can learn more by contacting Shelby Rexrode at PHFA at (717) 780-1854 or by email at [srexrode@phfa.org](mailto:srexrode@phfa.org).

### **PHFA streamlines its procurement process**

In an effort to improve its procurement process, PHFA has joined the Pennsylvania Purchasing Group. As a result, beginning Sept. 1, the agency has been publishing and distributing bid opportunities on the bidnet direct system available via the Web. PHFA is using the bidnet direct system to streamline its purchasing process, including bid management, bid distribution and vendor relations. Bidnet direct's Pennsylvania Purchasing Group connects participating agencies from across Pennsylvania and is a single, online location for managing sourcing information and activities. It provides the tools needed to have a compliant, transparent bid process while minimizing the agency's costs and saving time.

(Cont.)

Interested businesses can register online at: <http://www.bidnetdirect.com/pennsylvania/phfa>. Registered vendors can access open bids, related documents and files, additional addendum, and award information. Additionally, the broader Pennsylvania Purchasing Group offers a value-added service by notifying vendors of new bids targeted to their industry, all addenda, and advance notification of expiring term contracts. Bidnet direct's vendor support team is available to answer any questions regarding the registration process or the bid system at 800-835-4603, option 2.

### **Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund team attends community outreach events**



The Pennsylvania Homeowner Assistance Fund, or PAHAF, had staff on site at several pop-up PAHAF outreach events in August in communities around the state.

PAHAF, administered by PHFA, is a housing-related program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assist Pennsylvania homeowners facing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was established through the 2021 American Rescue Plan and provides financial assistance to address mortgage delinquencies and avoid default, displacement, and foreclosure for eligible Pennsylvania homeowners experiencing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic.

PAHAF staff was able to answer questions, provide information, and help homeowners start the application process. Homeowners behind on their mortgage can also find more information on the [PAHAF website](#) or by contacting the PAHAF call center at 1-888-987-2423 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. If you know of any homeowners in need of assistance, please share this information.

### **PHFA AROUND THE STATE**

The coronavirus did not stop great progress on affordable housing construction that's going on around the state. Here are examples of affordable multifamily housing developments that were recently in the news. Both received funding from PHFA.



Delaware Valley Development Company celebrated the grand opening of Red Clay Manor in mid-September in Kennett Square, Chester County. This new community offers 60 units of affordable housing for people who are 62 or older. There will be on-site supportive services offered for residents, as well. PHFA's Director of the Eastern Region Jay Hauser was in attendance (second row, far left). *(Development photo courtesy of EGStoltzfus Commercial Construction.)*

(Cont.)

Makemie Court in Yeadon, Delaware County, celebrated its grand opening in October. The development has 44 one-bedroom units, and 12 are accessible for people with disabilities. PHARE funding provided by PHFA helped with the provision of smart home technologies, including Ring doorbells; Google Nest thermostats; smart blinds, lights and outlets; Amazon Echo devices; and automatic door openers in the accessible units. The developers are HumanGood and Inglis Housing Corporation. PHFA Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann participated in the ribbon-cutting (top photo, third from left). PHFA board members John Paone and Mark Schwartz were also on hand for the grand opening ceremony (bottom photo, L-R). (Photos courtesy of HumanGood and Inglis Housing.)



## MINORITY BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Recognizing our diverse business partners



Perry Media Group (PMG) is a valued addition to PHFA’s partner team. They are a Pennsylvania-based, woman- and minority-owned-and-operated strategic marketing, public relations and advertising firm that specializes in implementing fiscally responsible and culturally relevant campaigns. They have expertise in marketing strategy, marketing implementation, branding design, advertising, public relations, project management, website development, creative production, targeted promotional materials, graphic

design, crisis communications, video production, media buying and media placement. PMG has been working with PHFA for more than a decade, and we’re proud to have them as a valued partner.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT PHFA

Come join the PHFA team

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency offers an excellent employer-paid benefits package that includes medical, dental, prescription, drug and vision care coverage, life and disability insurance, a defined benefit pension plan, tuition reimbursement, and generous leave time. There are several jobs currently available including Construction Document Examiner, Energy Analyst I, Program Compliance Officer, and many more. So, if you’re looking for a fulfilling career in the affordable housing industry, we invite you to check out all our current job openings at [PHFA.org](http://PHFA.org).

Are you awesome?

**we're  
hiring.**

Tom Wolf, Governor • Robin Wiessmann, Executive Director & CEO

To receive an email notice when a new issue of PHFA Developments is posted, or for comments and questions, please write Renae Hyson at [rhyson@phfa.org](mailto:rhyson@phfa.org).

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