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PHFA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF HELPING PENNSYLVANIANS

PHFA led several big events in May as part of its year-long 50th anniversary celebration. The agency became operational in 1973 and was charged by the General Assembly with the mission of funding the construction of more affordable rental housing across the state. Since then, it has added numerous other housing programs, including homeownership, consumer counseling and education, funding for local housing initiatives, foreclosure prevention and more.

The month's festivities started on May 3 during an afternoon event in the east wing rotunda of the state capitol with senators and representatives on hand voicing their support for the agency's many successful programs. Several legislators showed their support for the agency by attending the event, speaking or providing congratulatory messages, including Senators Jay Costa, Vincent Hughes, David Argall, James Brewster, Wayne Fontana, Tim Kearney, and Michelle Brooks; also Representatives Mike Sturla and Rich Irvin. Additionally, PA Housing Alliance Executive Director Phyllis Chamberlain praised PHFA for its decades of housing accomplishments. A Senate' citation and House of Representatives' resolution from the event thanked PHFA for ably fulfilling its housing mission over half a century of service.



Photo from the May 3 state capitol event. The names of the speakers are noted in the article.

PHFA's growth and innovative programs are applauded

That evening, PHFA held an event at Whitaker Center in Harrisburg during which speakers recalled special moments from the agency's history. The legislature was recognized for its vision to create the agency with a structure that has allowed it to evolve over time and adapt its housing programs to meet changing customer needs. The agency's employees were also cited for their hard work that has driven so many of the agency's accomplishments. Speakers during the event included Lt. Governor Austin Davis, NCSHA Executive Director Stockton Williams, former PHFA Board member and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Pittsburgh President Howard Slaughter, well-known housing advocate and Project HOME Founder Sister Mary Scullion, former PHFA Executive Director Brian Hudson, Esperanza President Rev. Luis Cortés, and current PHFA Executive Director Robin Wiessmann. Attending were 250 of PHFA's business partners and friends of the agency. At the conclusion of the event, a time capsule was sealed to be opened by PHFA employees during the agency's 100th anniversary in 2073.



Executive Director
Wiessmann speaks at
Whitaker Center

On May 17, the agency held a special recognition event just for staff at its main office in Harrisburg. Many retirees also attended. Executive Director Wiessmann and retired Executive Director Brian Hudson praised

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employees for all their efforts over the years that have helped families find and keep affordable housing. Employees and retirees also had the opportunity to share stories from their time working at PHFA. Retirees who had never been in the agency's 2019 building addition had the chance to tour the facility.

Downloadable photos from all three of the celebratory events are available on the agency's [Flickr webpage](#).

PHFA LEADS OUTREACH TO PAHAF CUSTOMERS

PHFA recognizes the urgent need for many Pennsylvanians to receive financial assistance from PAHAF and is working diligently to ensure that federal funds are appropriately distributed. The program's top priority is outreach to all current applicants to be sure they are properly set up in the system in order to quicken the processing of their applications.

For timely attention to their application for assistance, all homeowners who have previously registered for the PAHAF program are being asked to re-register by visiting <https://pahaf.org/register> or by calling toll-free 888-987-2423. The re-registration process is simple and estimated to require less than 30 minutes.



Re-registration is the most critical next step to initiate processing of all remaining applications and is important for three key reasons: it will allow applicants to review the information originally submitted and confirm or update it if necessary to reflect their current level of need; by signing a new third-party authorization (TPA), applicants give PHFA the authority to communicate with the applicant's servicer to obtain verification of debt data, which is an important and necessary legal requirement; and it will provide applicants with the ability to view the most current status of their application via an improved online dashboard. Applicants who no longer need assistance are asked to still register or contact the PAHAF call center to withdraw their applications allowing funds to be distributed to others who are in need of assistance.

PHFA has posted details for [community outreach in July](#) during which the agency's staff will be on-site in neighborhoods across the state where there are large numbers of applicants. For more information or questions about PAHAF, individuals can contact the PAHAF call center by phone toll-free at 888-987-2423, or by email at AskPAHAF@PAHAF.org.

MIXED-USE TAX CREDITS AND FUNDING FOR PROJECTS

PHFA accepting bids for \$4.5 million of mixed-use development tax credits

PHFA is now accepting bids for the purchase of \$4.5 million in mixed-use development tax credits. The funds collected from successful bidders will be used for the construction or rehabilitation of mixed-use developments in Pennsylvania communities. The deadline for bids is 2 p.m. on Friday, July 14.

More information about the mixed-use development tax credit and the current bidding process is available on the [PHFA website](#) (scroll down). Program guidelines and bid criteria are posted there. Interested organizations can learn more by contacting Bryce Maretzki at PHFA at 717-780-1867 or by email at bmaretzki@phfa.org.

PHFA announces funding for affordable housing and mixed-use developments

On June 8, PHFA announced the recipients of a new round of [funding for housing programs](#) made available through the Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) fund. PHFA has identified 309 housing and community development initiatives in all 67 counties that will share a portion of the total \$61.5 million in PHARE funding for fiscal year 2022-23.

PHFA also announced seven projects to be awarded \$4.8 million 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 for the Community Revitalization Fund Program. To read full details about the funding announced April 13, please visit [PHFA's website](#).

COUNTY PROFILE DATA

PHFA posts profile data on web for all 67 Pa. counties

PHFA announced the posting of current profile data for all the state's counties that will be useful for a wide variety of audiences. The new, online county profile document devotes a page to each of the state's counties and covers its residents' income levels, demographics, transportation usage, access to technology, employment levels, and, of course, its housing resources and affordability. Find out more on [PHFA's website](#) by clicking on the bottom bullet or by contacting Bryce Maretzki at PHFA by calling (717) 780-1867 or by email at bmaretzki@phfa.org.



A sample page from the new county profiles document.

HOMEOWNERSHIP

Mortgage America retains top spot as highest producing provider of PHFA home loans

PHFA recognized its top lending partners for 2022 during its annual homeownership awards event held at the agency's main office in Harrisburg in late April. These lenders work with homebuyers through the application for, processing, and closing of affordable PHFA home loans, playing a key role as the main customer contact. PHFA works with 80 agency approved lenders to market its home loan products.



Award winners Mortgage America

The awardees are, in ranking order from number one to number 10: Mortgage America; CrossCountry Mortgage; Guaranteed Rate; PrimeLending, A Plains Capital Company; Howard Hanna Financial Services; LoanDepot.com; Jersey Shore State Bank; Guild Mortgage Company; Quaint Oak Mortgage; Prosperity Home Mortgage; and Customers Bank. To read more about honorees in other categories, see the [April 26 press release](#).

PHFA AROUND THE STATE

Affordable housing construction continues around the state. Here are examples of affordable multifamily housing developments that were recently in the news and received funding from PHFA.



HumanGood held a groundbreaking ceremony in Philadelphia in early March to celebrate the beginning of construction of Janney Apartments. Slated to open in the spring of 2024, Janney Apartments will offer 47 one-bedroom affordable units for seniors aged 62 years and older on low incomes. PHFA's Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann spoke during the event (top photo, sixth from left, and bottom photo).

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In late May, Collingdale celebrated the opening of Saint Joseph Place. The former historic St. Joseph's parish elementary school, closed in 2010 due to declining enrollment, has been transformed into a 50-unit affordable housing complex for independent seniors. The Most Rev. Nelson J. Pérez blessed and dedicated the new housing during the event (bottom photo).



Tryko Partners held a groundbreaking ceremony in late June for Cedarwood Homes in the west end of Pittsburgh. The former Fairywood School site will offer 46 units of affordable housing for seniors 62 and over. Six of the units will be fully accessible for people with mobility, hearing and vision issues. Top image (artist rendition) courtesy of PWWG Architects. Bottom groundbreaking photo courtesy of Tryko Partners.

HOUSING POLICY FELLOWSHIP

Applications now being accepted for PHFA's 2024 Housing Policy Fellowship

PHFA has opened the application period for its 2024 Kathy A. Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship with the goal of funding critical research and promoting leadership development. Fellowships will be awarded to two researchers and will fund 12 months of research on a pressing housing or community development topic with a monthly stipend of \$1,000.

The fellowship application is available on the [agency's website](#). The fellowship application deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, July 31. Any questions should be directed to Amy Sechrist at (717) 780-3945 or via email to: PolicyFellowship@phfa.org.

PENNVEST

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 a 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.

Lenders interested in participating should visit the [PHFA website](#) for more details.

MINORITY BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Recognizing our diverse business partners



**Lisa D. Love &
Reginald A. Long**
Co-Managing
Partners



Aligning with PHFA's housing mission to provide affordable housing across Pennsylvania, Love and Long is a woman- and minority-owned and operated law firm specializing in transactional law including commercial real estate, finance, commercial leasing, bond, securities, mergers and acquisitions. Love and Long has recently joined with Porzio, Brombert & Newman in a strategic alliance to better serve clients and expand on their expertise and services. Love and Long has offices in Philadelphia, New Jersey and New York City. They're a great partner we know we can rely upon when needed.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT PHFA

Gain satisfaction while helping people find stable housing!

PHFA is always looking for new employees! We have a variety of positions available for talented candidates. We're eager to meet, connect and build success with people in our industry. We are currently offering a hybrid work environment (based on business needs) and a pension. Positions include attorney, home retention counselor I, special initiatives officer, and others. So, if you're interested in helping Pennsylvanians obtain affordable and stable housing, check out all of our [job listings](#) and apply today!



Josh Shapiro, 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.

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