

TOP STORIES

New Pa. Comprehensive Housing Study released by PHFA

PHFA has released the latest Pennsylvania Comprehensive Housing Study that introduces access to a new online data dashboard. Both are freely available to housing professionals and the general public.

Data in the dashboard on housing trends covers all 67 Pennsylvania counties and draws on a variety of sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The dashboard data will be updated annually.

The study, produced in collaboration with the Housing Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania, explores the current status and recent trends for housing statewide. The report's findings are important to help PHFA manage its housing programs most effectively by strategically responding to changing housing demands. The agency is sharing the report publicly so it can be used by policymakers and housing professionals statewide to help guide their state and local housing policies and private sector housing construction.

The full Pennsylvania Comprehensive Housing Study, the Pennsylvania Housing Data Explorer, the 19-page special topic report, and the 67 county profiles are all conveniently and freely available on the [PHFA website](#).



**PENNSYLVANIA
COMPREHENSIVE
HOUSING STUDY**

Housing Policy Fellowship now accepting applications for 2025

With the goals of funding critical research and promoting leadership development, the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency has opened the application period for its 2025 Kathy A. Possinger Housing Policy Fellowship.

As in past years, the fellowship will fund a maximum of 12 months of research on a pressing housing or community development topic by two policy fellows. With a monthly stipend of \$1,000, the maximum funding available for each researcher will be \$12,000. The financial support can be used for a variety of activities supporting the approved research, including interviews with experts, securing resources and study materials, travel for attending relevant conferences and more.

Fellowships will be awarded to two researchers with different backgrounds: one from a university setting and one from outside academia. This is expected to produce two vastly different research topics, as well as two different perspectives from the fellows guiding the research.

This fellowship is intended to benefit the housing field by underwriting research on subjects that currently present housing or community development challenges. A secondary benefit of the fellowship is its investment in an individual to promote their growth as a housing leader. The fellowship will produce documented findings that will be made publicly available for everyone's benefit.

The fellowship application is available on the [agency's website](#). All legal residents of the state over the age of 18 are eligible to apply, excluding PHFA staff and board members. All applications will be reviewed by PHFA staff according to the fellowship criteria, which are outlined on the website.

HOUSING CONFERENCES

Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference slated for June



This year's Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference will be held June 26-28 at the Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center, and [registration is now open](#). This annual conference brings together property managers, service coordinators and other professionals in the affordable housing industry for three days of learning, networking and championing for best practices in the industry.

This year's theme of "We ARE...Housing Leaders, Changing Lives and Building Better Neighbors" will be highlighted through an outstanding line-up of speakers. These include three dynamic keynote speakers focusing on overcoming adversity, modern day leadership and becoming the superheroes of housing. Forty-two breakout sessions will cover topics ranging from EIV, fair housing, and HOTMA to subjects like how assistive technology can help residents, homelessness truths, ensuring safety at properties, and much more!

PHFA offers two certificate programs in collaboration with Penn Western University: the Certificate in Elder Service Coordination and the Certificate in Family Service Coordination, both of which will have classes starting at the conference. This conference is made possible thanks to the involvement of many generous sponsors and exhibitors. If you're interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor for the 2024 Multifamily Affordable Housing Conference, please contact Matt Wingfield at mwingfield@phfa.org or Dawn Bartha at dbartha@phfa.org.

PHFA's May Housing Forum in Harrisburg is tremendous success

PHFA's recent May 1-2 Housing Forum in Harrisburg drew more than 560 attendees for two days of professional development opportunities and networking. Feedback from attendees gave the conference high marks for its quality of educational content and outstanding keynote speakers.



CONNECTIONS
2024 HOUSING FORUM

The Forum offered a keynote speaker each day of the conference. On May 1, [Dr. Andre Perry](#) with Brookings Metro addressed the topic of race and structural inequality, sharing insights from the research in his book "Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities." On day two, former NFL great turned affordable housing developer [LeSean McCoy](#) shared stories from his upbringing in Harrisburg and his current efforts to give back to his hometown by building affordable rental housing in the state's capitol city. Other highlights from the conference included bus tours of a local tiny house village for veterans, 23 educational sessions, and a popular evening networking event. PHFA Executive Director Robin Wiessmann's May 2 awards presentation recognizing three housing leaders and a pioneering housing organization is available on the [Housing Forum website](#).

PODCASTS

PHFA continues providing educational information through podcasts

PHFA offers two podcasts that share information about the homebuying process and personal financial management in the hopes to further its housing mission by helping educate consumers. One, called "Close to Home," offers practical, easy-to-understand advice for homebuyers. The second, "Master Your Money," provides insights and tips people can use to better manage their personal finances. New episodes are added monthly to both podcasts. They can be found on [PHFA's website](#) by clicking on the podcast button at the of the homepage. You can also find them on iTunes, Spotify or wherever you listen to your podcasts by entering "PHFA" in the search engine.



PHFA AROUND THE STATE

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



HDC MidAtlantic held a groundbreaking event in early February for Apartments at College Avenue in west Lancaster. This is the first phase planned for the St. Joseph Hospital neighborhood. Once completed, the new apartment community will offer 64 one- and two-bedroom affordable units with a dozen units being fully handicap accessible. PHFA's Executive Director and CEO Robin Wiessmann addressed the crowd (bottom photo).

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in January to welcome Flats on Forward to the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh. The mixed-use development boasts 43 affordable housing units, a rooftop community room and ground floor office space. City of Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey (right photo) was in attendance along with other officials. After the ribbon-cutting, guests toured the building. (Photos courtesy of Bohlin Cywinski Jackson.)



Vice Capital held a groundbreaking ceremony in early March in Harrisburg. Its new development called JMB Gardens will have four buildings offering 42 townhomes including one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Six of the units are designed for ADA accessibility, and one unit will be for individuals with hearing and/or vision impairments. All the units will be 100 percent affordable housing. (Top photo: Vice Capital's Ryan Sanders, left and LeSean McCoy, right.)

(Cont'd)

North10 Philadelphia celebrated the grand opening of Be A Gem Crossing Apartments in early March in Philadelphia. The Liberty Hotel site, once a place of ill repute, has now been replaced with 41 units of affordable one-, two- and three-bedroom apartments and 22,000 square feet of commercial space. Both officials and residents joined in the celebration. (Photos courtesy of Envision.)



SCAM ALERT

Renters and homebuyers are advised to educate themselves against scam attempts



Scammers continue to master their craft to fool people at an accelerated rate. The best defense for consumers is to remain calm and resist emotional impulses and responses. Some of the signs that you may be dealing with a scammer include that they pretend to be from an agency or organization that you know and trust, they claim there is a problem or a prize, they use pressuring or threatening tactics to get you to act immediately before you have a chance to think things through, and they may insist you pay them a specific way, like with gift cards, cryptocurrency, wire transfers, etc. Also, pay close attention to incorrect spelling and punctuation, incorrect file extensions that don't match the real company's email address or that direct message you on social media, or text messages. If you feel like you've been the victim of a scam, be sure to immediately stop contact with the scammer, protect your money and your personal information, and report the incident at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/identity-theft).

MINORITY BUSINESS RECOGNITION

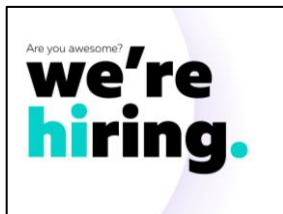
Recognizing our diverse business partners

Aligning with PHFA's housing mission to provide affordable housing across Pennsylvania, [1st Class Realty](#) is a woman-owned-and-operated realty firm that has the resources, expertise and compassion that helps us achieve that mission. Specializing in property management, real estate development and real estate services, they have what it takes to get their clients home. They have offices in Lords Valley and East Stroudsburg, and they have been a 1st class PHFA partner since 2019.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT PHFA

PHFA is looking for people with a passion for serving others



If you're looking for a new position that is challenging, satisfying and will allow you to grow, then PHFA may be the place for you. PHFA is now hiring for many positions including Bilingual Customer Solutions Center Representative, Final Document Manager, Program Officer, and more. PHFA is committed to bringing affordable housing to low- to moderate-income Pennsylvanians. If you're passionate about helping people, PHFA could be the place for you. Check out all our job opportunities on [PHFA's website](#).

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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