



THE PHARE PROGRAM: AT A GLANCE

The PHARE Act was established in 2010 to provide funding throughout the Commonwealth to assist with the creation, rehabilitation, and support of affordable housing. Currently, the program is funded by two funding sources, the Realty Transfer Tax Fund and the Marcellus Shale Fund.



Did You Know?

Research shows that LGBT Youth are more likely to experience homelessness compared with their heterosexual peers and are often victims of physical and sexual abuse. It is crucial for youth to have a safe space and fair representation to gain affordable and equal housing opportunities.

LGBT Community Center Coalition of Central PA

APRIL 2024

Safe and Stable Housing for LGBTQ+ Young Adults for Long-Term Success

Harrisburg, PA

The LGBT Center of Central PA opened its community center as an HIV prevention program in the late 1990s with funding from the National Lesbian and Gay Community Partnership of New York. Since its inception, the Center's programming has evolved to become the full-service center that is today, focused on primarily supporting LGBTQ+ people of color ranging from ages 14-34.

Currently, the Center serves over 2,000 people annually across Dauphin, Cumberland, York, and Lancaster counties, with a mission of "fostering inclusive communities and holistic well-being for LGBTQ+ people through social, educational, and cultural engagement." In an effort to expand that mission and extend services to its community, the Center received a grant in the amount of \$71,591 from PHARE that assisted 11 households with counseling, financial education, and direct housing assistance needs in 2021.

Housing Case Manager, TL Waid (pictured 2nd from left), is the first person that people see when they walk through the doors at the LGBT Community Center in Harrisburg. To accomplish the Center's values of safety, respect, inclusion, and collaboration, an initial "needs assessment" is completed to address those they serve from the inside out.



While everyone that comes through the center is encouraged to participate in HIV testing, the Center also provides other services to individuals and families such as STD testing, counseling services, and housing assistance. The Center also hosts fun community events like monthly Karaoke events, craft nights, LatinX group events, substance abuse meetings, and educational events with community organizations and partners.

According to Carter (pictured far left), the Site Director of the Center's newest program, GLO HBG, the Center works from a collaborative approach in partnership with like-minded organizations saying, "some of the counselors partnered with the Center look like the people who walk through our doors and identify similarly to those who we serve". This approach allows individuals in the community to truly get the support and services that they need without judgement and as a safe space in the community.

For more information on the Center and their services, visit their Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/lgbtcentralpa?igsh=Z2JxMW14MDAxZHg2>

