



THE PHARE PROGRAM: AT A GLANCE

The PHARE Act was established in 2010 to provide the 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?

PHFA Announced the 2022-23 PHARE Awards at its June 2023 Board Meeting. The total amount awarded to Organizations through the Commonwealth was approximately 61.5 million with a total of 309 funded requests. With this new funding round, it is reported that the following impact will be made statewide through funded PHARE dollars.

- 84 new, single-family homes to be created.
- 592 households to receive downpayment & closing cost assistance for homeownership.
- Over 11,600 to receive housing counseling or financial education.
- Over 2,000 existing affordable housing units rehabbed.
- Over 1,200 new rental units to be created.
- Over 10,700 to receive housing assistance (rent, utilities, transportation).
- 77% of MS funds awarded to 5th through 8th class counties.
- 66% of funds awarded will support households below 50% AMI.

W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc.

JUNE 2023

Housing and Rehabilitation and Individualized Intensive Case Management

Chester County, PA

PHFA Interviewed with W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Center, Inc. to highlight the community impact of the \$150,000 grant that was awarded in 2020 for the Housing Rehabilitation and Individualized Intensive Case Management program.

To keep the W.C. Atkinson's homeless shelter for men as well as Supportive Permanent Housing in good condition, PHARE funds were used for renovations to ensure a safe and sustainable environment for the individuals who are housed there. With a focus on health and longevity, the Center was able to replace wooden cabinets and wood lockers with



high quality materials such as stainless steel and metal. They also installed new flooring, a plumbing system, air conditioning in the townhomes as well bathroom renovations. As a result of the upgrades and pride within the community, the Center received additional donations to support their efforts in creating a better environment for those it serves.

The Center commented that "The timing to receive the PHARE funds was amazing." The Shelter was open 24/7 during the COVID-19 pandemic and did not experience an outbreak of COVID-19 because the men had a stable place "to be".

Like most counties throughout the Commonwealth, Chester County faces difficulty in acquiring affordable housing, especially for the male population. W.C. Atkinson's mission is to bridge the gap in this area within Coatesville. Opened in March 1983 the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Coatesville, PA opened an emergency homeless shelter due to significant need. After six years of operation the church formed a non-profit organization, W.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Service Center, Inc. (AMSCI), with the direction of its community partnerships. In 1993, the organization acquired what was previously known as the Clement Atkinson Memorial Hospital to provide 18 Apartments and a 22 bed Emergency Shelter for Men and Community Resource Center. The Center has expanded with an innovative approach to housing by providing 5 additional supportive permanent townhomes in the community, serving as a model for other organizations providing affordable housing. In collaboration with community partners, The Center also provides health education and screenings, after school programming, community clean-ups, and meal assistance making their organization a full-service support hub. Most recently, the Center was the recipient of an \$914,000 ARPA grant from the Chester County Commissioners to create 3 additional townhomes for Permanent Supportive Housing. Through their longstanding partnerships and experience, they continue to find new ways to support those in need in the community.