

# HOUSING RESOURCES



Housing Resource Manual for Allegheny County

**ALLEGHENY COUNTY  
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## SECURITY DEPOSITS

When you rent a house or apartment you will probably pay a security deposit to the landlord to cover possible damage done to the premises or to pay for rent that is still owed when you move.

### **Amount of the Deposit**

During the first year of the lease, your landlord can charge no more than 2 months rent as the security deposit. After you have rented for more than a year, the landlord must return the amount equal to 1 month rent. If you have lived in a place more than 2 years and your security deposit was more than \$100, your landlord must put your deposit in an interest bearing account in a bank. Your landlord must also give written notice when he/she puts your deposit in a bank, telling you the amount put into the bank and the name and address of the bank. After you have lived there for more than 5 years, the landlord cannot raise the amount of the security deposit, even if the rent goes up.

### **Returning the Deposit**

To get your deposit when you move, you must give the landlord written notice of your new address (by certified mail so that you have proof that he/she received the letter). When you give this notice within 30 days of the time you move the landlord must;

1. Give you a written list of any damages he/she claims you caused, and return your deposit minus the amount for the damages.
2. If the landlord does not provide you with a list of the damages within 30 days, then he/she loses the right to keep any part of the deposit and also loses the right to sue for damages.
3. If within 30 days the landlord does not return your deposit minus any damages, then you have the right to sue for double the amount owed you. The landlord must also prove you caused the damages.

**It is important to remember that the landlord can refuse to return your security deposit if you did not pay your rent or broke your lease. Laws change. If you have concerns or questions about your security deposit, get legal help. Refer to the section in this Manual on Legal Assistance.**

Source: "Housing Resource Guide, 1996" by Allegheny County Community Support Program. Page 33-34.

## **EMERGENCY SHORT TERM FUNDS**

### **Catholic Charities Neighborhood Based Services (NBS)**

**412/456-6976**

Eligibility: A client must be able to provide some secured funds of her or his own and must be able to show that secured funds are available from another source. Any person living in Allegheny County is eligible.

Services: Catholic Charities is mainly a referral agency. Very few cash grants are made for rent or utilities, yet funds are often available. Cash grants are supplied to help clients with small requests.

### **Department of Public Welfare Emergency Shelter Assistance**

Pittsburgh State Office Building

300 Liberty Avenue, Room 111

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**412/565-5105**

Eligibility: Families or individuals must meet income, resource, and non-financial eligibility criteria. Eligibility is based on a gross annual income of \$6,192 for one person. To find the income criteria for additional people add \$2,096 for each additional person. There is no resource limit for individuals under the age of 21 or families with children under the age of 21. Individuals age 21 or older or families with children over the age of 21 must meet the resource limit for General Assistance. That is \$250.00 for one person, or \$1,000 for two or more people. Concerning non-financial eligibility, an individual or family must intend to remain in the state of Pennsylvania, must show good cause for unemployment, and must have a verified social security number, identity, age, income, and liquid resources. Overall, the need for Emergency Shelter must be the result of an emergency, or a "circumstance creating a breakdown of individual or family functioning in meeting basic needs and resulting in a need for immediate action to avoid destitution of or harm to the individual or minor children residing in the family unit (Dept. of Public Welfare 2)."

Services: The assistance provides individuals under 21 or a family with a child under the age of 21 a maximum of \$300 toward permanent living quarters. It provides individuals and families over the age of 21 with a maximum of \$100 toward permanent living quarters. To prevent eviction or foreclosure the Department of Public Assistance provides individuals under 21 and families with a child under 21 a maximum of \$400. It provides individuals and families over the age of 21 with a maximum of \$300 to prevent foreclosure and eviction. Finally when living quarters are uninhabitable, condemned as a result of a disaster, or when a family had to leave a permanent residence because of domestic violence a maximum of \$100 will be provided for

temporary shelter.

**Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force Emergency Funds**

905 West Street  
Fourth Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221-2833  
**412/242-2500**

Eligibility: Person must be disabled due to HIV, including AIDS diagnosed (T-cell count under 200), HIV positive and pregnant, HIV positive and have custody of a minor child, HIV positive with a history of mental health problems. Funds cannot be used to pay for on-going expenses, but are to assist with a one-time payment. Other financial options will have had to have been explored prior to applying.

Services: Person can apply for funding for payment of rent, utilities, car or health insurance, security deposit, eyeglasses and others based on an individual's circumstance.

**Pittsburgh Presbytery - Lazarus**

801 Union Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
**412/323-1400**

Eligibility: Unemployed or underemployed persons in economic need; individual does not need to be a member of the Presbyterian Church. You can call or go to your local Presbyterian Church.

Services: Provides financial assistance with mortgage foreclosures, rental evictions, utility bills, and other financial needs of this nature. Service is based on availability of funds.

**United Way Helpline Discretionary Fund**

P.O. Box 735  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0735  
**412/255-1155**

This is a very unstable, small fund of "last resort." To access a small request, it is recommended that an individual have a health care provider call with a referral as they may not process a direct request.

### **Urban League Housing Assistance Program**

One Smithfield Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**412/227-4804:** City of Pittsburgh residents

**412/227-4812:** Allegheny County residents

This agency offers both "new move" and "delinquent rent" funds for renters. To be eligible for the delinquent funds, one must be two months behind in rent, have already received a magistrates notice, a payment plan signed by the landlord, and your rent cannot exceed 50% of your income.

A one time only sum of up to \$550 is available for those that meet all the above requirements and are willing to participate in one group counseling session when funds are available.

To be eligible for the new move funds, one must be homeless or near homeless, have a referral letter from a social service agency, a lease signed by the prospective landlord, and your rent again may not exceed 50% of your income. The cap is again \$550, and you must pass a screening process as well as there being funds available before new move assistance is given out.

Call the Urban League for availability of funds as well as getting an application.

### **Local Churches**

Local churches often have limited discretionary available to members or to those living in the local community for emergency housing and rent assistance. Call your local church to see if they may have funds available, or know of local churches or religious organizations that do.

## PENNSYLVANIA RENT REBATE PROGRAM

Pennsylvania offers a property tax or Rent Rebate Program for individuals who are over the age of 65, age 50 (and over) and a widow or widower, or permanently disabled and over the age of 18 with an annual income of \$15,000 or less. You are still eligible if you received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), but not if you received Cash Assistance. This program is an easy way for persons who are disabled to receive free money for rent in which they have already paid. A typical grant for someone with a low income ranges from \$150 to \$200.

The Rent Rebate Program will reimburse you a certain percentage of what you paid in rent up to \$500 for one year. This form would need to be completed by December 31 of each year. To obtain an application and additional information ask your case manager, call 1-800-362-2050, or write:

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Department of Revenue  
Department of Tax or Rent Rebate Program  
Harrisburg, PA 17128-0503

### Sources:

Department of Public Welfare, Emergency Shelter Assistance, September, 1996.

United Way Helpline, Guidelines for Helpline Discretionary Fund, December 1993.

## UTILITIES

### Preventing Shutoff--Your Rights

If you have complaints about utility service, if the company decides to shut off your service, or if the company refuses to give you service, Public Utility Commission (PUC) rules may protect you. Most utility companies are regulated by PUC guidelines, but not all. There are certain rules which these companies must follow. If you encounter a situation with your utility company in which you need a moderator, contact:

#### **Public Utilities Commission - Consumer Services Bureau**

P.O. Box 3265

Harrisburg, PA 17120

**1/800/782-1110**

**1/800/782-7380** (Termination Calls Only)

There are certain regulations utility companies must follow if regulated by the PUC. A utility company **must**:

- allow you to pay your bills on a budget plan if you request it
- give a ten-day written notice before utility shutoff
- attempt to contact an adult personally 3 days before shutoff
- attempt to contact an adult personally immediately before shutoff
- be fair in a utility shutoff dispute
- continue to provide services if there is a formal complaint to the PUC
- reconnect services within 24 hours of receiving payment due for a bill (or an agreed upon partial sum) **and**
- **continue to provide services if someone in your home is seriously ill or has a medical problem that will get worse if you lose utility services**
  - With a shut-off notice, a call from a physician to the utility company stating a medical need for service will keep the utility on for 30 days. After 30 days, it can be renewed.

If you receive notice that your utilities will be shut off, act quickly to protect your rights -- it is much harder to get service turned back on after service has been shut off.

## **ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

These agencies will help out with utility costs if you are unable to pay your electric, gas, or other energy costs. These programs have very short application periods, so keep in touch with your provider so you do not miss out on these very helpful programs.

### **LIHEAP I - Energy Assistance Program**

300 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/562-0330**

The LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) provides funds to help people on low or fixed incomes to pay their fuel bills. This program operates during the heating season and is dependent on available federal funds. Both homeowners and renters are eligible.

### **Dollar Energy Fund**

P.O. Box 4239  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

A fund of last resort for low income households who have already applied for LIHEAP funds. One must be a customer of People's Natural Gas, Equitable Gas, Columbia Gas, T.W. Phillips Gas & Oil, Duquesne Light, West Penn Power, PA American Water, or City of Pittsburgh Water. To access this fund, call your utility company for a local Screening agency. Before applying for Dollar Energy, one must first apply for LIHEAP I.

### **LIHEAP II - Crisis Prevention**

Second Floor  
One Smithfield Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/350-5869**

LIHEAP II provides financial assistance for weather-related heating emergencies such as hot water heater repairs, furnace repairs, broken windows, gas or other fuel lines, and payment of utility bills. This program also operates on federal funds, so both homeowners and renters are both eligible. Before applying for LIHEAP II, one must first apply for LIHEAP I and Dollar Energy.

## TELEPHONE ASSISTANCE

### **Bell Atlantic LifeLine Service**

Bell Atlantic-Pennsylvania Inc.  
Administrative Support Center  
131 Seton Hill Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
**1/800/640-4155**  
**412/921-1428**

This service provides a 50% discount on the line connection charge and \$5 credit on monthly basic phone services for persons with low incomes. To be eligible, one must make less than \$7,740 yearly (\$645 per month), and live in Southwestern PA. Call for an application. This service usually takes anywhere from one to three weeks to hook up.

LifeLine also provides UTAP (Universal Telephone Assistance Program) Funds when available. These funds are government funds which can be used for low-income LifeLine subscribers who have fallen behind on past bills. Amounts awarded and availability of funds vary, so call your local telephone provider for details.

### **Link-Up-America**

**1/800/660-2215**

This program helps persons with low incomes pay for the installation fee for installing telephone service. A person can receive 50% off phone installation service (in addition to LifeLine). To be eligible, one only has to make less than \$11,500 per year, and receive SSI, SSDI, food stamps, Medical Assistance, LIHEAP Funds, or general assistance.

## **HOUSING RESOURCES IN THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL SYSTEM**

### **PennFree Fund**

PennFree Bridge Housing assists homeless individuals by providing housing and arranging for supportive services for a period from three months to a year, with the goal of returning individuals to the most independent, self-sufficient living situation as possible. The unique component of Allegheny County's PennFree Bridge Housing is that housing is specifically targeted to individuals and families who have suffered the effects of drug and/or alcohol addictions or co-dependency.

### **Debra House**

16 Holland Avenue  
Braddock, PA 15104  
**412/271-5787**

This facility runs a twelve month program, is open 24 hours a day, uses a sliding scale fee, and is open to all areas of Allegheny County. To be eligible, one must be a female 18 years of age or older, homeless, and have at least one child but no more than two. Their program provides case management, D&A supports, weekly meetings, and home visits when applicable. Check for openings or to be placed on a waiting list. The capacity for this program is 30.

### **East End Cooperative Ministries**

250 N Highland Ave  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/361-5549**

The EECM serves recovering, chemically addicted men, women and single-parent families. This twelve month supportive housing program is dedicated to creating self-sufficient clients. To be eligible, one must be clean and sober for 90 days, homeless, make no more than \$710 a month, and participate in a 12-step program with a sponsor.

Men, women and children are served at the EECM kitchen and thrift store.

### **Homewood Brushton Community Collaborative**

7119 Hamilton Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
**412/244-5144**

Bridge housing is provided for 5 adults and 15 children in this program. Housing is provided for one year to those living in temporary housing who have drug or alcohol problems. Case management as well as drug and alcohol supportive services are available.

## **YWCA**

(address confidential)

**(412) 371-2723**

To be eligible for this program, one must be a victim of domestic violence and be referred from a temporary shelter or D&A program. Residents may stay up to one year, as long as they are making progress on goals set by themselves. This facility accepts women and children, and the fee is 30% of your income -- there is no income cap.

## **Whale's Tale Scattered Sites**

250 Shady Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/661-1800**

The Whale's Tale offers several different programs, but they all have the same eligibility requirements. A resident must first be between the ages of 18 to 21, in recovery for at least 60 days (less time if going to counseling at Whale's Tale), homeless, and have an income no greater than \$710 per month. Participants must be actively involved in drug and alcohol treatment. Other than shelter, their programs can pay for security deposits, and help with rental assistance. Call for shelter sites and service eligibility.

## **Light of Life Ministries**

10-12 East North Avenue  
P.O. Box 6823  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
**412/321-4716**

This program offers housing for male clients at least 18 years old, homeless, currently suffering from an addiction, and have the ability to complete a work therapy program. There is a sliding scale for payment, a resident can stay up to one year, and the maximum occupancy is thirty beds.

## **The Salvation Army**

865 W. North Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
**412/231-0500**

This program is considered an outpatient program with rental assistance, and provides up to a starting housing stipend of \$250 (decreases over time and client stability) for persons with at least 90 days clean and the willingness to get clean and sober. To be eligible, one must make less than \$710 per month, be coming out of a shelter or homeless, either working or going to school, and be referred by a social service agency or like person who is knowledgeable about the client. Group meetings and one-on-one counseling sessions are mandatory.

## **Vietnam Veteran's Leadership Program of Western PA, Inc.**

1323 Forbes Avenue, Suite 202  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/281-8100**

This program will provide transitional housing with supportive services. The program has a capacity of 21. Housing is provided in the form of scattered site apartments, in addition, supportive services are available such as job placement, substance abuse treatment, and housing assistance.

## **HOUSING RESOURCES IN THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

Due to a larger than average demand for services, a reduction in funds and in beds, the Allegheny County mental health system limits its housing resources to only those who are referred from a local psychiatric hospital or one of their two state hospitals, Mayview State Hospital and Torrance State Hospital. Apart from addressing an individual's psychiatric needs, state hospitals can act as interim placement until a client can be placed into one of four different levels of care, for which he or she is best suited.

Within the county Mental Health/Mental Retardation system there exist nine different catchment (service) providers. **To access the provider serving your geographical area, please contact Allegheny Mental Health/Mental Retardation at 412/350-4457.**

**Mayview State Hospital**  
1601 Mayview Road  
Bridgeville, PA 15017  
**412/257-6500**

**Torrance State Hospital**  
Box 111  
Torrance, PA 15779  
**412/459-8000**

### **CRR - Community Residential Rehabilitation**

CRR is a transitional residential program in a community setting for persons with chronic psychiatric disabilities. They provide housing, personal assistance, and psychosocial rehabilitation to clients in non-medical settings. Full or partial care is provided, distinguished by the level of care needed. All sites used for CRR housing are owned, held, leased, or controlled by the provider or provider affiliate. Once a client has mastered the proper life skills needed for a lesser level of care, he or she may move on to Supported Housing.

### **Supported Housing**

This service provides permanent, decent, and affordable housing to mental health consumers for an indefinite amount of time. In this program, a mental health-funded provider agency has an on-going financial obligation to the consumer through rent subsidies, rent guarantees, and other landlord obligations. The Hallmark of this program is that the consumer may choose and keep his or her residence, with supports being provided on an individual basis.

### **Personal Care Homes**

PCHs are establishments which provide shelter, food, and personal assistance or supervision 24 hours a day. These facilities house mainly elderly adults but do not exclude based on age. PCHs are for those who do not require the services of a long-term care facility, but may need some help

in matters such as bathing, dressing, diet, financial management, and medication assistance.

The following criteria are *excluding* factors for PCHs. If an individual answers yes to any of the following questions, he/she should not be admitted to a PCH and should consider a nursing home:

If the individual is totally and permanently confined to bed...

If the individual requires an IV for fluids or for feedings...

If the individual has severe or multiple bed sores...

If the individual requires restraints...

If a medical assessment determines that the individual needs a higher level of care.

*PCHs cannot discriminate on the basis of HIV disability. The Governor's Action Center Toll Free Line at 1-800-932-0784 will help to resolve any grievances.*

### **Long Term Structured Residence**

LTSRs are highly structured therapeutic residential mental health treatment facilities designed to serve persons 18 years of age or older who do not need hospitalization, but who require mental health treatment and supervision on an ongoing 24-hour basis. Admission is either voluntary or by referral.

### **CMIBH - Chronically Mentally Ill Bridge Housing**

These programs provide housing and support services for homeless individuals with a mental illness and drug or alcohol dependencies. Services provided would include life skills development, job training, and linkage to mental health services, and medical care.

### **Miryam's Place**

1001 Colwell Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Population Served: women

Occupancy Limit: 10 beds

### **Wood Street Commons**

Community Human Services

310 Third Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Population Served: men and women

Occupancy Limit: 15 beds

**Light of Light Rescue Mission**

10 East North Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Population Served: men

Occupancy Limit: 8 beds

Sources: Emily Pytyk, County Mental Health Housing Coordinator  
Judy Wood, Supervisor Mental Health Program Operations  
Housing Resource Guide - Allegheny County Community Resource Program  
(1996)

**GOVERNMENT HOUSING AND OTHER HOUSING**

**There are three Housing Authorities that serve Allegheny County, each with their own income guidelines that determine eligibility for Public, Section 8, and Conventional Housing:**

INCOME LIMITS for Allegheny County, City of Pittsburgh, and McKeesport Housing Authorities:

Family Size	
1	\$23,900
2	\$27,350
3	\$30,750
4	\$34,150
5	\$36,900
6	\$39,600
7	\$42,350
8	\$45,100

*When choosing a housing option, if you are given a choice, each has its advantages and disadvantages. Talk with your housing authority or case manager if you have questions or need advice.*

**Allegheny County Housing Authority**

Fidelity Building  
341 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/355-8940**

This government agency provides subsidized public housing units in Allegheny County for low income persons who cannot afford market price housing. The ACHA manages both high rise developments as well as family units. Persons who are disabled often live in the high rise buildings due to their accessibility. No priorities are given to persons living with HIV or AIDS. Call the housing authority for up to date information.

Waiting lists vary in length due to availability of housing, as well as list turnover. Call for housing lists, estimated wait, and particular details about the application process as well.

## **Allegheny County Public Housing**

Public housing is government subsidized rental housing where the government pays part of the rent, while the resident pays the other part. The housing authorities get their money directly from the government, and offer it to low-income persons. To be *eligible*, one must be below established income limits.

To apply for housing, you must first set up an appointment with the local authorities. There they will ask for proof of income, birth certificates, expenses, bank statements, proof of disability, and other such things to prove your eligibility for public housing.

If accepted into the program, you will then be placed on a waiting list. Currently, the County has a local preference for those that are 1) employed 2) in a job training program or 3) in school.

## **Allegheny County Section 8**

Section 8 housing allows the recipient to choose privately owned housing and use a certificate or voucher to help with rent and utilities. A certificate limits the maximum rent of an apartment you might live in, but the resident pays the same as if they were in conventional housing. A voucher is a set dollar amount which one may use towards rent and utilities.

## **City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority**

200 Ross Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/456-5000**

Much like the Allegheny County Housing Authority, the City Pittsburgh Housing Authority and the McKeesport Housing Authority provide subsidized public housing units in the City of Pittsburgh and McKeesport for low income residents who cannot afford market price housing. They offer both high rises and family units as well. The only difference may be that this agency operates numerous projects in the city and in local neighborhoods. Tenants are placed at the discretion of the housing authority, according to availability. Tenants can not choose the particular development in which they would like to reside.

There are no preferences at this time for persons living with HIV or AIDS. At the time of this printing, the city's housing lists were closed, yet when the list does open again, the announcement will be printed in the local papers. Call for housing lists, estimated wait, and particular details about the application process.

## **City of Pittsburgh Public Housing**

Public housing is government subsidized rental housing where the government pays part of the rent, while the resident pays the other part. The housing authorities get their money directly from the government, and offer it to low-income persons. To be *eligible*, one must be below established income limits and:

- if you are 18 or older, agree to a criminal background check
- provide landlord/tenant references

To apply for housing, you must first set up an appointment with the local authorities. There they will ask for proof of income, birth certificates, expenses, bank statements, proof of disability, and other such things to prove your eligibility for public housing. If accepted into the program, you will then be placed on a waiting list. Currently, the City has no preferences that allow higher placement on the waiting list.

### **City of Pittsburgh Section 8**

Section 8 housing allows the recipient to choose privately owned housing and use a certificate or voucher to help with rent and utilities. A certificate limits the maximum rent of an apartment you might live in, but the resident pays the same as if they were in conventional housing. A voucher is a set dollar amount which one may use towards rent and utilities.

You will get *preference* over others applying if you are:

- living in substandard housing that has been cited by Health Department as uninhabitable;
    - paying 50% or more of your monthly income towards rent and utilities; or
    - involuntarily displaced from your last residence.
- \* if on waiting list and become homeless and residing in shelter, can be given preferential status.

### **McKeesport Housing Authority**

332 Fifth Ave.  
McKeesport, PA  
412/673-6942

### **City of McKeesport Public Housing**

Public housing is government subsidized rental housing where the government pays part of the rent, while the resident pays the other part. The housing authorities get their money directly from the government, and offer it to people with low-income. To be *eligible*, one must be below established income limits and:

- if you are 18 or older, agree to a criminal background check
- provide landlord/tenant references

To apply for housing, you must first set up an appointment with the local authorities. There they will ask for proof of income, birth certificates, expenses, bank statements, proof of disability, and other such things to prove your eligibility for public housing. If accepted into the program, you will then be placed on a waiting list. Currently, the City has no preferences that allow higher placement on the waiting list.

### **City of McKeesport Section 8**

Section 8 housing allows the recipient to choose privately owned housing and use a certificate or voucher to help with rent and utilities. A certificate limits the maximum rent of an apartment you might live in, but the resident pays the same as if they were in conventional housing. A voucher is a set dollar amount which one may use towards rent and utilities.

You will get *preference* over others applying if you are:

- living in substandard housing that has been cited by Health Department as uninhabitable;
- paying 50% or more of your monthly income towards rent and utilities; or
- involuntarily displaced from your last residence.

### **Conventional**

Lists vary for each agency, and from program to program. You may be given a choice between conventional and Section 8 housing. Conventional housing is owned by the authority and is usually either large high rises or privately subsidized (private owners who accept government funds) apartments or houses. The resident pays 30% of their adjusted income towards rent and utilities, while the government pays the rest.

## **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING**

Supportive Housing provides housing in conjunction with supportive services for homeless persons. The housing is transitional housing, permanent housing for homeless persons with disabilities, or is a part of an innovative project for meeting the immediate and long-term needs of homeless persons.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines homeless as: 1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and 2) An individual or family who has a primary nighttime residence that is: i) A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill); ii) An institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or iii) A public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. 3) This term does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained under an Act of the Congress or a State law.

The federal government (HUD - Dept. of Housing and Urban Development), realizing the urgent need, and increase in population of the homeless, awarded over 3 million dollars to the Supportive Housing Program to divide up among local agencies to start or improve programs for the homeless. At the time of this manual's printing, some programs had not yet received their funding. They will be addressing the needs of homeless individuals in the near future. Please call for details of when each will have openings.

### **Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (WPIC)**

3811 O'Hara Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
**412/624-2100**

The WPIC is developing a transitional housing program for homeless or near homeless families with adults dealing with mental health issues. Six families will be served.

### **Miryam's**

1001 Colwell Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15025  
**412/471-0155**

Miryam's includes a 24 hour residential facility which serves up to 24 women who are chronically mentally ill and homeless, as well as an 8 hour/seven day per week shelter and an additional treatment center facility to help an additional 30 to 40 homeless women.

### **Sister's Place**

460 Reed Street  
Clairton, PA 15025  
**412/233-3903**

This agency will provide affordable, permanent housing with supportive services for homeless families where the custodial parent is recovering from substance abuse. Must meet HUD definition of homeless and disability, have legal custody of at least one minor child and must have completed term of rehabilitation or transitional housing. Must complete an application and go through extensive interviewing process. The agency also provides a transitional housing program for 8 women and their minor children.

**Northside Common Ministries**

PO Box 99861  
Pittsburgh, PA 15233  
**412/323-1163**

This organization provides a Supportive Housing Program to break the cycle of homelessness by lending financial support and counseling in emotional and physical health, employment and education areas. This organization will provide affordable permanent housing with supportive services for persons with disabilities who are homeless. This project will serve eleven men. Provides opportunity to live independently by providing assistance in obtaining housing as well as subsidizing the cost of this housing. Eligibility: Must have a stable source of income. Applicants with a history of Mental Health/Mental Retardation must presently be in treatment with an accepted outpatient program. This treatment should be verifiable for a minimum of 90 days. Client must be six months clean and participation in a recovery program must be verifiable. Applicants must be referred by case management staff, self referrals not accepted.

**Bethlehem Haven - Step Up Program and STAR**

905 Watson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/391-1348**  
**412/391-0793 Shelter (24 hours)**

The STAR program is a transitional housing program with beds available for ten women. The program lasts 120 days. Participants must be involved in a recovery program and will receive therapeutic services. The Step Up program is a one year transitional housing program for women with substance abuse issues. Participants must be 90 days clean. They will rent an individual room for 30% of their monthly income. Ten women will also be served by this program.

**Community Human Services Corporation - Supportive Relocation Program**

374 Lawn Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
**412/621-4706**  
**412/621-7137 FAX**

The Supportive Relocation Program is an effort of Community Human Services Corporation, Central Relocation. The objective is to provide case management services and relocation assistance in order to make permanent, affordable housing a viable option for homeless/near homeless individuals and families. Case managers will provide support and service linkages to participants for period of one year. Tangible support in the form of furnishings, moving assistance and rental subsidies may be provided to facilitate the initial transition from homelessness to housing. The SRP will focus on the individual's or families' strengths to help them regain and sustain their independence in permanent housing.

Eligibility: 18 years of age or older and do not have a signed lease. Must demonstrate a history of motivation in working on personal goals and those issues related to their homelessness. If there is a history of substance abuse, individual with an addiction will have been clean or sober for at least 90 days and attend a program on a regular basis. The individual/family must have a stable source of income through employment or entitlements. If the applicant has been a victim of domestic violence, she/he should have been away from the abuser for at least six months and should have received counseling on this issue. Applicants with a current mental health diagnosis must be following their designated treatment plan. If accepted, participants will be expected to comply with a comprehensive case management plan, including a Renter's Certification Program.

**Debra House - Bridge to Independence - Families First**

16 Holland Avenue  
Braddock, PA 15104  
**412/271-5787**

Debra House provides transitional housing for women with substance abuse issues and their children. Up to 30 will be served by this program.

**First Step Recovery Homes - Primary Care Health Services, Inc.**

330 Penny Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
**412/673-7532**

This program will provide transitional housing for seven recovering homeless adult male substance abusers. Must attend 12 step fellowship. Referral from outside agency. On site counseling and referrals (including referrals for jobs) for outpatient.

**Jewish War Veteran's East Boros Post 718 - Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard**

4165 Ivanhoe Drive  
Monroeville, PA 15146

**412/856-7772**

This program will provide 15 separate units in 7 two-story structures located at 921-977 Washington Boulevard. A total of 50 beds of single room occupancy housing is available for homeless veterans.

**Light of Life Ministries, Inc.**

1012 East North Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**412/321-4716**

The Dually Diagnosed Program is an innovative supportive housing for 5 homeless dually diagnosed adult males, age 18 and up. Housing provided for up to one year. Must be psychiatrically and medically stable. Bridge housing is also available for up to 30 men.

**Primary Care Health Services, Inc. - Open Arms**

**412/363-7445**

Acquisition and rehabilitation of a vacant building at 6803 Frankstown Avenue to be converted into 10 apartment units of transitional housing with supportive services for 11 to 33 homeless women with children. ( Not currently operating.)

**Womansplace East, Inc.**

(address confidential)

**412/765-2665**

The bridge housing program provides long term (18 months to 2 years) for three families to provide safety and promote self-sufficiency. Outreach case management services to homeless women and their dependent children upon completion of their 30 day emergency shelter and/or bridge housing program. Home visitations to help avoid crisis, so participants won't lose housing again. Help with basic living necessities. Referrals are made.

**Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh - Home Find Project**

(address confidential)

**412/687-8005**

Supportive services that will enable women and children who are homeless due to domestic violence to move from living in an emergency shelter to living in safe, permanent housing. Will help with expenses to move into own home (security deposit, first month's rent, utility hookup). Must be employable or in school. Must commit to continue in a follow up program.

**Vietnam Veteran's Leadership Program**

1323 Forbes Avenue – Suite 202

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/ 281-8100**

Transitional housing with supportive services is provided to homeless veteran men, women and their children. The program capacity is 21.

**YMCA of Pittsburgh - Supportive Services**

2621 Centre Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/621-1762**

Crisis intervention and housing through their existing shelter and Single Room Occupancy Program.

**YWCA of McKeesport - Transitional Housing**

412 Ninth Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
**412/664-7146**

This program is an expansion of existing transitional housing in McKeesport through the renovation of a three-story building into 3 apartments for homeless mothers who are recovering from drug and alcohol addiction or who are victims of domestic violence. Referred by McKeesport Collaborative. Bridge housing is available for single adults with children (4 two bedroom units). Recovering alcohol and/or drug addicts with six months clean can receive assistance for up to two years. Case management services provided.

## EMERGENCY SHELTER SITES

### ***DOWNTOWN***

#### **Bethlehem Haven**

905 Watson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/391-1348**

Population Served: women

Capacity: 25 beds + mattresses

Hours: 7:30pm to 8:00am

Meals: dinner and breakfast

Bethlehem Haven is a primary care shelter which provides D&A counseling, legal guidance, and other services. It is bus accessible and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

#### **Three Rivers Youth (TLP and Loft Programs)**

2039 Termon Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

**412/ 766-2215**

Population Served: homeless female youth

Capacity: 4 females

Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner

**24 hour hotline: 412/243-LOFT**

The TLP program serves homeless females between the ages of 16 and 21. This program provides shelter, counseling and skill development to assist older homeless teens complete their transition to independence. The Loft program serves homeless females between the ages of 13 and 17. Safe shelter is provided for runaway youth. Crisis counseling, health care, food and clothing are provided. The goal of this program is to reunite children and families.

#### **Salvation Army**

424 Third Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/394-4817**

Population Served: women and children

Capacity: 40 beds

Hours: 24 hours a day

Meals: all

This facility gives referrals, and has both laundry and bathing facilities, but is not bus accessible.

#### **Whale's Tale**

1601 Fifth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/471-6160**

Population Served: Homeless Youth 18-22

Capacity: 18 males, 16 females

Hours: varies

Meals: dinner and breakfast

Whale's Tale offers D&A prevention, referrals, is bus accessible (61's and 71's), and does have laundry and bathing facilities for the residents.

#### **Wood Street Commons**

301 Third Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/765-2532**

Capacity: 33 rooms  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: paid for only with food stamps  
Population Served: Over 16 with an income of under \$300, only for mentally ill and homeless

The Wood Street Commons is a bus accessible (all South Hills buses, 41C, and 51C) shelter where the maximum stay is 60 days. Gross monthly income must be \$300 or less. They provide Mental Health outreach, referrals, and have both pay laundry and bathing facilities.

### ***EAST HILLS***

#### **Debra House**

16 Holland Avenue  
Braddock, PA 15104  
**412/271-8107**

Capacity: 12 families  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: all

Population Served: woman and up to 2 children under 5 years of age

The Debra house is a transitional housing facility where homeless mothers and children may stay up to 15 months. They provide life skills training, counseling, case management, and other support services. It is bus accessible (56B and 61B) and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

### ***EAST LIBERTY/OAKLAND AREA***

#### **East End Cooperative Ministry**

250 North Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/361-5549**

Capacity: 24 beds  
Hours: 4:30pm to 8:30am  
Meals: dinner and breakfast

Population Served: men

This facility provides shelter, baths, and two meals only. It is bus accessible (71A and 71B) and also goes by the name of The Good Samaritan House.

#### **The William Mildred Orr Compassionate Care Center**

6023 Harvard Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/362-3550**

Capacity: 14 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: all

Population Served: men and women

The Orr house serves mostly elderly persons and those disabled who have just been released from the hospital. It is bus accessible (71C and 64A), and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

### **Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh**

616 North Highland Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/687-8017**

**Hotline: 412/687-8005**

Population Served: women and children

Capacity: 36 families  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: dinner and breakfast

This shelter provides counseling and services to victims of domestic violence. The Center offers individual crisis counseling, referrals, laundry and bathing facilities, and many other services.

### **Youth Emergency Shelter Services Program**

250 Shady Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412/661-1800**

Population Served: 13-17, both male and female

Capacity: 15-20 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: all

This facility provides education, life skills training, and D&A prevention for runaways and homeless youth. It is bus accessible (EBA) and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

### **YMCA**

742 Ross Avenue  
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221  
**412/371-2723**

Population Served: women

Capacity: 16 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: dinner only

The Wilkinsburg YWCA offers employment training, referrals, and basic life skills training for homeless women in the area. The Facility is bus accessible (67A Monroeville and 67F Trafford), and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

### ***MON VALLEY***

#### **Whale's Tale - McKeesport**

Outreach and Shelter Program  
416 Olive Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
**412/672-8632**

Population Served: homeless youth aged 18 and younger

Capacity: 12 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: all

This facility offers crisis counseling, life skills training, and health care screening. It is bus accessible (56C), and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

#### **Womansplace**

P.O. Box 216  
McKeesport, PA 15134

Capacity: 27 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day

**412/678-4620** Meals: all  
Population Served: women and children

Womansplace is a transitional shelter which offers counseling, information, and referrals to victims of domestic violence up to thirty days. It is bus accessible, and has both laundry and bathing facilities.

**YMCA of McKeesport**  
523 Sinclair Street Capacity: 84 beds  
McKeesport, PA 15132 Hours: 24 hours a day  
**412/664-9168** Meals: none provided  
Population Served: men and women

This facility offers transitional shelter during the winter months of the year. It offers many programs including recreation, literacy, and parent-child courses. It is bus accessible (61C and 56C).

### ***NORTHSIDE***

**Light of Life Rescue Mission**  
10 East North Avenue Capacity: 38 beds  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Hours: 5:30pm to 8:00am  
**412/321-4716** Meals: dinner and breakfast  
Population Served: Men

The Light of Life Mission offers a bridge housing program that provides case management, D&A counseling, life skills training, and employment counseling. It is bus accessible (16C, 16B, 11D, and 54C) and has bathing facilities.

**Pleasant Valley Shelter**  
1601 Brighton Rd. Capacity: 25 beds  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Hours: 8:00 pm to 8:00am  
**412/321-4272** Meals: dinner and cereal  
Population Served: men

This shelter counseling and supportive services, laundry and bathing facilities, and is bus accessible (16B, 16C, and 16F).

### ***UPTOWN***

**Womansplace East**

P.O. Box 3826  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230  
**412/765-3830**

Capacity: 43 beds  
Hours: 24 hours a day  
Meals: all

**Hotline: 412/765-2661**

Population Served: women and children

Womansplace East offers transitional housing for women who are abused, homeless, or stranded. It services include counseling, legal advocacy, and is bus accessible (61's and 71's) with laundry and bathing facilities.

## **SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY**

These facilities all have single rooms available for low income individuals at low prices. Most do not have limits on length of stay, but should be viewed as temporary until more stable shelter can be acquired.

### **MARYHOUSE Residence for Women**

1113 Creedmoor Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15226  
**412/563-3312**

Operated by the St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, MARYHOUSE serves low income women over 50. Each furnished room holds one person, and the fee is based on a sliding scale.

### **St. Joseph House of Hospitality**

1635 Bedford Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/471-0666**

Poor and homeless men between the ages of 50 and 75 are served by this program. Applicants must be ambulatory and able to perform activities of daily living. Fees are on a sliding scale based upon income.

### **Wood Street Commons**

301 Third Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/765-2532**

Operated by the Community Human Services Corp., Wood Street Commons has single occupancy rooms at a sliding scale. 222 single rooms are available for men and women. There are five community bathrooms per floor, no cooking facilities, but a cafeteria is on the premise. Housekeeping and janitorial facilities are available. Weekly rates are based on resident's income. All applicants must apply in person Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 9 and 10am.

## **YMCA OF PITTSBURGH**

### **Allegheny Branch**

600 West North Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
**412/321-8594**

### **Centre Avenue Branch**

2621 Centre Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/621-1762**

Each YMCA Branch has several single rooms for rent. The Allegheny Branch's fees are \$63.22 for the first week, and around \$57 thereafter, while the Centre Avenue branch fees are on a

sliding scale. Meals are not available.

**McKeesport Branch**

523 Sinclair Street

McKeesport, PA 15132

**412/664-9186**

The Single Room Occupancy Program run by the YMCA of McKeesport houses low income men and women over the age of 18. The fees are \$180.77 for the first month, and \$170 thereafter. SROP is handicapped accessible, but not wheelchair accessible.

## **HOUSING FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS**

Funded with HOPWA funds (Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS), and run by the SeniorCare Management Network, three facilities currently are open to the HIV population. Each one is able to meet the needs of people living with AIDS (PLWA) in a supportive environment. Space in each of these facilities is limited, so call for information on applications and status of available rooms.

### **Negley Commons**

1215 Hulton Road  
Oakmont, PA 15139  
**412/826-6098**  
**412/826-6074 FAX**  
Contact: Patricia Fabian

Negley Commons is a 25-unit apartment building designed for very low income persons with physical disabilities 18 years of age or older. All tenants must have an income of \$14,950 or less. Certified income eligible residents then pay 30% of their adjusted income towards rent and utilities. This site is handicapped accessible, and has specially designed features for persons living with disabilities. Supportive services for people living with HIV are also provided. There is a strict tenant selection process.

### **Page Place**

1429 Page Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
**412/ 231-2149**

Page Place is a 21-unit building with the same guidelines, rules, and eligibility requirements as Negley Commons. Located on Page Street in the North Side of Pittsburgh, this residence will provide housing for persons living with HIV and AIDS. Strict application criteria apply.

### **Towne Place**

1600 Colwell Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/434-8414**

Towne Place is designed for very low income individuals over the age of 18 with chronic mental disabilities that can be verified by a third party professional. Individual income can not exceed \$14,950. Strict application criteria apply. 15 one bedroom apartments are available at this uptown location.

## HOUSING FOR PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Disability is defined by the Fair Housing Act as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. A “major life activity” includes activities such as walking, hearing, seeing, breathing, learning, speaking or working. Disabilities that are included are: hearing, mobility and visual impairments, alcoholism, environmental illness or multiple chemical sensitivities, psychiatric disability, AIDS and developmental disabilities.

Persons with disabilities are protected by the Fair Housing Act as well as local and state laws. A person with disabilities can not be discriminated against due to disability when seeking housing to rent, lease or purchase.

The **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency** provides an on line service for persons looking for an accessible apartment. Visit their website at [www.phfa.org](http://www.phfa.org). The home page has a link for the accessible apartment list. The listings are posted by county and give descriptions of the accessibility accommodations that have been made. This site is updated daily.

### Assisted Housing for Persons Living with Chronic Mental Illness

#### **Allegheny Independence House**

210 Marguerite Street  
Wilmerding, PA 15148  
**412/829-3910**

25 Units

#### **McKeesport Center**

315 Ninth Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
**412/461-1322**

12 Units

#### **McKees Rocks Commons**

613 Island Ave  
McKees Rocks, PA 15120  
**412/461-1322**

8 Units

#### **Plumwood (Dementia)**

Ridgemoor Road  
Plum, PA  
**412/828-5600**

10 Units

#### **West Park Commons**

Dohrman Street  
McKees Rocks, PA 15120  
**412/461-1322**

11 Units

**White Street Apartments**  
White Street  
McKeesport, PA 15132  
**412/233-8005**

15 Units

**Assisted Living for Persons Living with Developmental Disabilities**

**Allied Community Living**  
Long Ave & Jefferson Street  
New Castle, PA 16101  
**412/658-6627**

8 Units

**Jefferson Court**  
301-321 N. Jefferson Street  
Connellsville, PA 15425  
**412/771-0122**

7 Units

**McGuire Woodlands**  
150 Stuber Road  
New Brighton, PA 15066  
**412/843-3400**

4 Units

**Verland Cheswick Commons**  
Spruce Street  
Cheswick, PA 15143  
**412/741-2375**

4 Units

**Assisted Housing for Persons Living with Physical Disability**

**Allegheny Independence House**  
210 Marguerite Avenue  
Wilmerding, PA 15148  
**412/829-3190**

25 Units

**Landmark Court**  
Olivia & Washington Streets  
McKees Rocks, PA 15120  
**412/829-3190**

15 Units

**Mitchell Avenue**

357 Mitchell Avenue  
Clairton, PA 15025  
**412/642-9033** 6 Units

**Pitcairn-Dravosburg Apartments**  
(Scattered Sites) 20 Units  
**412/829-3190**

**West-In-Arms**  
Warren Avenue 26 Units  
Apollo, PA 15613  
**412/567-7799**

**Assisted Housing for Persons with CMI and Physical Disabilities**

**Independent Housing Resources East**  
(Scattered Sites) 24 Units  
**412/829-3910**

## **HOUSING REFERRAL/SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force**

905 West Street, 4th floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
**412/242-2500**

PATF provides support, referrals and services to people living with HIV or AIDS, and to their partners, families, and friends. Case Managers meet with individuals in the office or community to assess their need for various services, including housing, medical care, transportation, medication, home care, state or federal benefits, emotional support, and mental health or drug/alcohol treatment. Appropriate referrals are made and assistance with paperwork is provided, along with follow-up to ensure that services are obtained and needs are met.

### **ACTION Housing, Inc.**

10th Floor, Two Gateway Center  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/281-2102**

This agency improves housing conditions for the City of Pittsburgh residents with an emphasis on special populations such as low-income individuals and families, female-headed households, elderly, homeless, disabled, and unemployed. It operates a wide range of housing development, rehabilitation, and provides referrals to local non-profit and government housing programs and services. Their weatherization program offers free or at reduced cost repair or installation of furnaces, insulation, roofs, and other such items.

### **Allegheny County Health Department**

3333 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
**412/578-8026**

The ACHD provides home improvement grants, low-interest loans, and other housing related services such as inspection services and tenant-landlord dispute negotiations. Their IMPACT (Improvement Program of Allegheny County) provides low or no interest loans for home improvements for the disabled and elderly.

### **Community Human Services**

374 Lawn Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
**412/621-4706**

This program identifies homeless individuals and families in need of supportive services and to provide them with a link to needed services through case management.

### **Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh**

2600 East Carson Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
**412/481-9005**

This organization offers placement/resettlement assistance for families in Pittsburgh and in all of Allegheny County. Their HEART (Housing, Education, and Rehabilitative Training) Program offers transitional housing and vocational training for up to five families who are homeless. To be eligible, family children must be under 12 years old.

**Residential Resources**

Benedum Trees Building  
223 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/642-9033**

Contact: Martha Antonella

This organization provides housing for persons with a mental health diagnosis. Clients must be involved in counseling and case management services. Such services are not provided by the program. Rent is 30% of the participant's monthly income. Those interested must apply in person.

**Three Rivers Center for Independent Living**

7110 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
**412/371-7700**

This center offers a consumer-controlled assistance program which provides low-income and accessible housing lists and information on tenants rights for persons living with disabilities.

**Urban League of Pittsburgh**

One Smithfield Street 3rd Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/227-4802**

This agency provides comprehensive housing counseling in the areas of tenant-landlord relationships, pre-purchase, mortgage and rental delinquency, housekeeping and maintenance, budget counseling, and government housing programs. Anyone is eligible.

## **HUD APPROVED HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCIES**

### **Community/Lender Credit Program**

355 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1022

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**412/232-0708 or 1-800-773-9009**

### **Consumer Credit Counseling Service**

309 Smithfield Street, Suite 2000

Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**412/471-7584**

### **Elder-Ado Inc.**

320 Brownsville Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15210

**412/381-6900**

### **Garfield Jubilee Association**

5138 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

**412/665-5200**

### **Hill Community Corp.**

2015 Center Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/765-1320**

### **Housing Opportunities, Inc.**

133 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Box 9

McKeesport, PA 15134

**412/664-1590**

## HOME OWNERSHIP

### **Fannie Mae**

3900 Wisconsin Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

**1-800-7Fannie**

Fannie Mae, in cooperation with their housing partners, offers low and moderate- income household s mortgage products that are designed to overcome the most common barriers to home ownership. 1-800-7Fannie number will provide a list of approved lenders in a given area.

### **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency**

The Bourse- Building 200  
2275 Swallow Hill Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

**412/429-2842**

PHFA offers a number of opportunities for Pennsylvania families to buy homes of their own. All PHFA home ownership programs are available to persons with disabilities. The Lower Income Home Ownership Program provides mortgage loans to families with children having incomes below 80% of their county's median income who are buying their first home. Closing cost assistance may be applied for. Emergency mortgage assistance programs are also available.

### **Action Housing**

425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 950  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/281-2102**

### **Contact: Ann Bailey**

Action Housing offers several programs designed to help individuals buy homes. One program is the Family Savings Account Program which provides small grants to supplement family savings. Another program, the Family Self-Sufficiency Program can also assist individuals to access a variety of subsidy programs (**residents outside City of Pgh**).

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

### CLOTHING/FURNITURE

#### **Council House Thrift Store**

822 Fifth Avenue (Oakland)

Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**412/281-7467**

Low-cost housewares, sofas, chairs, tables, small appliances, clothing. Hours M-F 9-4:30 and Saturday 9-3:30.

#### **Focus on Renewal (FOR)**

701 Chartiers Avenue

McKees Rocks, PA 15136

**412/771-6460**

Free for the residents of McKees Rocks and Stowe Townships. Some services include: transportation program, emergency food assistance, low-cost clothing, crisis care, parenting services. Please call for more information.

#### **East End Community Thrift**

5123 Penn Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15224

**412/361-6010**

Affiliated with the Thomas Merton Center, this shop sells clothing and household goods at reduced prices. Please call for more information.

#### **Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh (low cost) Stores:**

Cheswick	1210 Pittsburgh Street	<b>412/274-5883</b>
Northside	509 East Ohio Street	<b>412/322-5666</b>
Southside	2700 East Carson Street	<b>412/481-5390</b>
Washington	89 Jefferson Avenue	<b>412/233-0917</b>
Whitehall	2780 Sawmill Run Blvd (Rt 51)	<b>412/885-5151</b>
Shadyside	5210 Liberty Avenue	<b>412/687-8840</b>

#### **Junior League Shop/Wear After Shop (low cost)**

4707 Liberty Avenue

Bloomfield, PA 15224

**412/687-8840**

**Methodist Union/Social Agencies Clothing Bank (low cost)**

131 East Ninth Avenue

Homestead, PA 15120

**412/461-1800**

**Project Bundle-Up**

424 Third Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

**412/394-4848**

This program is affiliated with the Salvation Army, and a person must sign-up with them before participating in Project Bundle-Up. Provides winter outerwear for needy persons under 18 and over 60. Please call the above number to locate your nearest Salvation Army.

**Salvation Army Thrift Stores (low cost) Stores:**

Homestead

306 East 8th Avenue

**412/461-5911**

Southside

44 South 9th Street

**412/431-9896**

**Shepherd Wellness Community (One More Time)**

4833 Second Ave.

Hazelwood, PA 15207

**412/421-4117**

Hours: T-F, 10-5 and Sat. 10-4

Free to needy individuals with AIDS and HIV. Necessity items such as clothes, dishes, furniture. Must have case manager contact number above before utilizing services.

Also, for more information about The Drop-In center, which offers social support nights, please call 421-8743 after 4:00 p.m. Transportation offered in certain areas.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store (low cost) Stores:**

Mt. Oliver

202 Brownsville Road

**412/431-3733**

North Side

616 East Ohio Street

**412/322-3670**

South Side

1709 East Carson Street

**412/381-1230**

Tarentum

214 West 7th Avenue

**412/224-6612**

**South Hills Interface Ministry Clothing Program (free)**

5311 Progress Blvd.  
Bethel Park, PA 15102  
**412/854-9120**

Eligibility: Residents of greater South Hills area. Will consider others. Please call to make appointment and to learn about their clothing program and food pantry.

**Three Rivers Center for Independent Living**

7110 Penn Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15208  
**412/371-7700**

Will accept and donate to the poor/disabled, medical equipment including hospital beds and wheelchairs.

**Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force - Emergency Funds**

905 West Street, 4th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
**412/242-2500**

Funds cannot be used to pay for on-going expenses. Emergency funds are to assist with a one-time payment and could be used, for example, in obtaining appliances or furniture. Other financial options will have had to have been explored prior to applying.

**EVICTIION**

## **How You Can Be Evicted**

1. You can be evicted if you don't pay your rent. If you were justified in not paying your rent because the place was unfit to live, you may not get evicted.
2. You can get evicted if you did not honor a written or oral agreement or lease.
3. You can get evicted if your lease is up.

You cannot be evicted due to a mental or physical disability (including HIV), your race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex or because you are blind and use a guide dog. You cannot be evicted because you complained about your bad housing condition.

## **Eviction Procedure**

The landlord can only evict you by going to court. It is against the law to evict by padlocking your door, changing the locks, shutting off the utilities, using force or any other eviction method.

1. First, the landlord or another adult must deliver to you personally or post where you can see it, a notice telling you to move within a certain time period. If you are being evicted because you did not pay your rent, then you must be given 30 days notice if it occurs between September 1 and March 31. You only need to be given 15 days if the eviction occurs between April 1 and August 31. If you are being evicted for other reasons, then you must be given a 30 day notice. If your lease is for a year or more, then you must be given 3 months notice to leave. Your lease can state a shorter or longer time period to move, or for no written notice at all. Read your lease before you sign.
2. Second, if you don't move within the stated time, then the landlord will go to court to evict you. You have the right to appear at the hearing and to also bring witnesses.
3. If you lose at the hearing but feel you have a good defense, then you can appeal to a higher court. If you do appeal, you can delay your eviction if you post bond or pay your rent in court. You must notify the court right away if you want to appeal and you should have legal help. If you do not appeal, then you have 30 days after the hearing to move. If you have not moved, then you will be evicted by a constable or sheriff.

Source: "Housing Resource Guide, 1996" By Allegheny County Community Support Program, Pages 31-32

## **Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS)**

900 Sarah Street, Suite 205  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**412/255-6700**

NLS provides free legal advice and representation in civil matters such as housing, landlord/tenant problems such as eviction, sheriff sales and foreclosures, and utilities. You must call for an appointment. Legal questions are not handled on the phone.

To be eligible for this service, your monthly income cannot exceed \$778. However, payment of medical expenses can be deducted in order to qualify for services. For families, the allowable income increases \$267 for each person. The income limit is doubled for cases involving spousal abuse.

## **DISCRIMINATION**

Laws exist at the city, state, and federal level that make HIV or AIDS related discrimination

illegal. Discrimination can involve refusing someone housing, employment, health care, or a service because you are HIV+ or because they assume that you are HIV+. Unless someone is providing you with medical care or services or you are applying for state and federal benefits, no one needs to know your HIV status. For example, when/if you are applying for subsidized housing or renting an apartment, the landlord may ask the nature of your disability. *This is none of their business. You have no obligation to reveal your HIV status.*

CITY:

The Pittsburgh Anti-Discrimination Ordinance makes it unlawful to refuse someone housing, employment, or public accommodations on the basis of race, sex\*, sexual orientation, handicap or disability, which includes HIV. In order to file a complaint, the discrimination must have occurred in the city of Pittsburgh or the realtor's headquarters are within the Pittsburgh city limits. You must file a complaint within 365 days of the alleged discrimination. The Pittsburgh Anti-Discrimination ordinance is administered by:

**Pittsburgh Commission on Human Relations**

908 City-County Building  
414 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/255-2600**

\*The definition of sex has been changed under Discrimination of the Pittsburgh Code of Ordinances: Title 6, Article V, Chapter 651.04HH - Sex is the gender of a person, as perceived, presumed, or assumed by others, including those who are changing or have changed their gender identification.

STATE:

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Act makes it unlawful to refuse someone housing, employment, or public accommodations based on race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, or handicap (mental and/or physical). For the purposes of this act, HIV+ status is considered a disability. In other words, you cannot be denied housing (including Personal Care Homes) due to having HIV Disease or perceived to be living with HIV. You must file a complaint within 180 days.

If you believe you have experienced discrimination, call:

**Fair Housing Partnership**

7 Wood Street, Suite 602  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
**412/391-2535**

**Human Relations Commission of Western Pennsylvania**

11th Floor State  
300 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/565-5395**

FEDERAL:

The Fair Housing Amendments Act prevents the refusal of housing to people with handicaps (HIV) or a history of a disability (mental health problems). The Fair Housing Act is enforced by the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity office:

**Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity**

U.S.Courthouse  
700 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/644-6965**

*For help in determining if discrimination occurred, and where best to file, contact either of the agencies listed below:*

**Disabilities Law Project**

1708 Law and Finance Building  
429 Fourth Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
**412/391-5225**

This program provides free legal services to people with physical and mental disabilities.

**Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force - Legal Committee**

905 West Street, 4th Floor  
Pittsburgh, PA 15221  
**412/242-2500**

PATF has a legal committee comprised of area attorneys who volunteer their services to people living with HIV in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, or Westmoreland county. Individuals are eligible for free service if they receive one or more of the following:

- A) cash assistance from Welfare
- B) Medicaid (ACCESS)
- C) food stamps
- D) SSI

or if their monthly income does not exceed \$778 for one person. If the income is higher, medical expenses paid out of pocket can be deducted to help the individual qualify.

**Note:** All initial contacts with an attorney are free. Subsequent service will be provided free of charge if the client's income is below \$778, or on a sliding scale if their monthly income exceeds this amount.