

Resource List for Home Repairs, Modifications and Assistive Technology
Dated: February 2017

FOR HOME REPAIRS AND /OR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS:

Homeowners Energy Efficiency Loan Program – PHFA product that permits specific energy related home improvements (roof replacement; caulking, sealing & insulation; heating/cooling systems repair/replacement; window and door replacements; and limited other repairs that permit federal Weatherization assistance or replicate its assistance for non-eligible households). Loans are up to \$10,000 for a term of 10 years (although they can be repaid earlier without penalty). For more information contact the PHFA Solution Center at 855-827-3466 or view [PHFA's website](#).

PENNVEST Homeowner Septic Program – The PENNVEST Homeowner Septic Program is a low-interest loan to qualified homeowners who need to repair or replace their individual, on-lot sewage disposal system or hook up for the first time to a public sewer system. This low-cost financing option is funded by PENNVEST and administered by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency. Loans are up to \$25,000 for a term of up to 20 years or 15 years for a mobile home. They can be repaid earlier without penalty. For more information, go to [PHFA's website](#) or contact the PHFA Solution Center at 855-827-3466

Local Government – Start with your county unless you live in a larger city. Some townships and boroughs also have funds available. Phone numbers can be found in the blue, government pages of your phone book and through an internet search. Often the right office is a “Redevelopment Authority,” a “Housing and Redevelopment Authority or Agency,” “Weatherization Program” or a “Planning Office.” If you do not find a listing similar to this for your local government, try the general information number and explain that you need assistance with home repairs, accessibility modifications, or your specific housing issue. Funds may be available and may include: HOME, CDBG, Act 137 Funds and PA Accessible Housing Program.

U.S. Rural Development Agency (USRDA) – Agency that offers loans and/or grants to assist individuals living in rural areas. Funding may be available through Rehabilitation Loans that have a 1% interest rate and offer up to \$20,000. There is also very limited grant funding available for senior citizens in amounts up to \$7,500. If you live in a rural area, contact the state office at 1-800-670-6553 and ask for help in determining which regional office you should contact or use the [U.S Rural Development Agency website](#) and go to the regional office directly.

Weatherization – A county or regional program that provides grants for specific energy efficiency and heat-related repairs. Local weatherization programs can be found by using the search function at [Benefits.gov](#).

KeystoneHELP – An unsecured loan provided by Renew Financial, the Energy Programs Consortium (EPC), and the PA Treasurer. Some of its key characteristics are loans up to \$20,000.00, unsecured financing; flexible repayment terms of 5, 7, or 10 years; work completed by KeystoneHELP Registered Contractors; fast, simple approval and application process. For more detail, please call 510-451-7900 or visit the [KeystoneHELP website](#).

Quick Start Housing Resource - PHFA and the Self-Determination Housing Project's Regional Housing Coordinators have compiled information about specific social service and housing resource agencies throughout the Commonwealth. Examples of these agencies are Habitat for Humanity, Residential Living Options and United Way as well as many more. For more information, go to [PHFA's website](#).

PAHousingSearch.com - A resource to link consumers to affordable housing options throughout the Commonwealth. This Web site offers information about apartment locations, rental prices and subsidies, accessibility features, development amenities, current vacancies, contact information, and the status of a property's waiting list. For more information, go to the [PA Housing Search website](#) or contact 877-428-8844

FOR ACCESSIBILITY ONLY:

PA Assistive Technology Foundation (PATF) – A foundation that is committed to providing borrowers with low interest loans so they can pay for home modifications and devices that make their lives easier, more productive and more independent. They offer loan rates at 3.75% for \$1,500 to \$60,000. Loans of \$1,500 or less are interest free. Call 1-888-744-1938 or go the [PA Assistive Technology Foundation website](#).

Also, you can reference a comprehensive list of [Assistive Technology providers](#).

Self Determination Housing Project (SDHP) – A non-profit organization that works to expand housing options for people with disabilities in PA. SDHP promotes self-determination and control for people with disabilities and operates the PA Accessible Housing Program in many counties of the state. For more information call 1-877-550-7347 or view the [Self Determination Housing Project website](#).

Centers for Independent Living (CILs) – Are non-profit organizations that serve throughout Pennsylvania. Each Center for Independent Living (CIL) provides four core services including information and referral, advocacy, peer mentoring and independent living skills training. CILs can offer home evaluations and help you find resources to pay for home modifications and assistive technology. To locate your local Council on Independent Living view the [Centers for Independent Living website](#).

JEVS Human Services – A private non-profit organization that provides quality services that allow people who are disabled, aging, or both, to maintain their independence and lead productive, more fulfilling lives by helping them to manage and direct the delivery of their own care. To find examples of various home modifications and different ways of financing those modifications view the [JEVS Human Services website](#) or contact them at 800-610-7910.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) – Locally-based agencies throughout Pennsylvania that offer a wide array of programs to help Pennsylvanians age 60 and older, and their families, to get the help and information they need. To contact your local AAA use the search function on the [PA Department of Aging website](#) or find the local number directly by using the blue pages of your phone book.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – A federal agency that assists and supports military veterans and service members. VA has two types of grants for people with certain service-connected injuries. The Specially Adapted Housing grant (SAH), currently limited to \$73,768 is generally used to create a wheelchair-accessible home. The Special Housing Adaptations (SHA) grant, currently limited to \$14,754 is generally used to assist veterans with mobility throughout their homes due to blindness in both eyes, or the anatomical loss or loss of use of both, hands or extremities below the elbow. For more information about grants and other adaptive housing programs, contact a local VA regional office at 1-800-827-1000. Additional program information and grant applications (VAF-26-4555) can be found at the [U.S Department of Veterans Affairs website](#).

FOR PROGRAMS AND/OR SERVICES FOR ELDERLY AND/OR PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY:

Department of Human Services and its Office of Long Term Living – This state agency has programs available to help with home modifications for accessibility, and activities of daily living such as home maker services, attendant care and food security. Visit the [Department of Human Service's website](#) or call 1-800-692-7462 for more information. Visit the [Office of Long Term Living's website](#) or call 1-866-286-3636 for more information.

Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) – An FHA reverse mortgage program that enables homeowners 62 years of age or older to convert a portion of the equity in their home into cash. For more information regarding this program, contact a HECM counselor at 1-800-569-4287. For an approved FHA lender, view [HUD's website](#). To receive additional information on reverse mortgages, contact the National Council on Aging at 1-800-510-0301 or view the [AARP website](#).

National Multiple Sclerosis Society – An organization that offers grants to individuals diagnosed with MS. The grant amount depends on circumstances. There are no income or age guidelines. Funds have been provided for uses, such as: assistive technology, home/vehicle modification, or paying for services such as physical, occupational, or speech therapy. Call 1-800-344-4867 option 1 for MS Navigator or visit the [National Multiple Sclerosis Society website](#) to find a Chapter.

FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE:

Community Action (CA) – Agencies that assist families experiencing financial difficulties with many different types of help and referrals on a wide variety of concerns. To locate your local agency call 717-233-1075 or view [Community Action's website](#).

Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) – State agency responsible for helping persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain and keep employment. Services may include diagnostic services, vocational evaluation, guidance and counseling, restoration, rehabilitation technology, training and placement. OVR helps individuals develop job-seeking skills and locate employment opportunities. OVR may pay for home modifications and assistive technology that are directly supporting an individual's return to paid employment. For further information, contact 800-442-6351 or view the [Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation website](#).

Building Your Financial House (PHFA)-A free resource for individuals who want to make smart financial goals, build money management skills, learn about money and saving for emergencies etc... You may visit the website <http://www.buildingyourfinancialhouse.org/>; to utilize all the worksheets available on the website to help you Build Your Financial House.

Sustainable Home Improvement Partnership (SHIP) – An initiative that supports repairs and weatherization to the homes of veterans, seniors, and disabled residents. You may apply to receive home repair and weatherization services if you live in the Pittsburgh **neighborhoods** of Larimer, Homewood, East Liberty, or Garfield. Available services include handicapped accessibility upgrades, weatherization, health & safety upgrades, plumbing, electrical, and utility improvements, structural integrity upgrades and homeowner counseling services. For more information about how you can access services contact 412-931-6996 or email bvandivier@chfmanor.org.

Nazareth Housing Services Pittsburgh - Shelter Listings is dedicated to serving people who are homeless and low-income across Pennsylvania. Our shelter list consists of over 3,000 listings and includes emergency shelters, homeless shelters, day shelters, transitional housing, residential drug/alcohol rehabilitation programs, supportive housing and permanent affordable housing. Contact 412-931-6996 or view the website the [Nazareth Housing Services website](#).

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) – The program assists individuals with low incomes in paying their heating bills through home heating energy assistance grants and crisis grants. Applications are available at county assistance offices, local utility companies and community service agencies, such as Area Agencies on Aging or Community Action Agencies. For more information, call the LIHEAP Hotline at 1-866-857-7095. Applications for LIHEAP Cash Grants are available on the [LIHEAP website](#).

Keeping Warm This Winter - The Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate represents the consumers of Pennsylvania in matters involving their utility services. The [Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate website](#) offers a shopping guide for consumers to shop for and compare prices for their homes utility services.

ENERGY STAR Home Advisor - The [ENERGY STAR Home Advisor website](#) can give you information to help improve the energy efficiency of your home while adding comfort and value.

Federal Tax Credits – These credits may be available for energy efficiency work, depending on the type of work and the year completed. PHFA does not provide tax guidance, however we encourage you to determine if your home qualifies for these credits by viewing the [Energy Star website](#) for more information.

You may be able to claim home modifications as medical expenses on an itemized federal tax return. Learn more on the [IRS Refund webpage](#).

State Tax Credits – PHFA is not aware of state tax credits, however encourages you to research their availability through the [Commonwealth's Department of Revenue website](#), or you may contact your local representative's office.

Homelessness Assistance - The Department of Human Services (DHS) funds a statewide homelessness prevention program administered by counties and local non-profit organizations. For more information search the [Department of Human Services website](#) using the term “homelessness”.

Emergency Shelter – The [Homeless Shelter Directory website](#) provides a list of resources, such as emergency shelter, for those facing homelessness.

Mold – The Federal Environmental Protection Agency website, <https://www.epa.gov/mold>, provides a list of basic information & resources on mold & your health, mold clean up, mold testing & sampling, and frequent questions about mold. It does not list potential financial resources for people looking to address this concern.

Lead – If your home was built before 1978, old lead paint on your walls, doors, windows, and sills may be dangerous. The Federal Environmental Protection Agency website, <https://www.epa.gov/lead>, explains what lead is, where it is found, who is at risk of lead poisoning, provides educational materials, and tells you how to protect your family from lead hazards. . It does not list potential financial resources for people looking to address this concern.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)

The PUC may be able to provide information and referral assistance to consumers who are unable to reach a payment agreement on their past-due gas or electric utility bills. The PUC can be reached toll-free at 1-800-692-7380, or check out their website at www.puc.pa.gov

The Underground Heating Oil Tank Cleanup Reimbursement Program provides funds to owners of underground heating oil tanks, to assist with cleanup costs due to heating oil leaks from underground tanks. The tank capacity must be 3,000 gallons or less, the leak must have occurred after January 30th, 1998, and the oil must be used to provide heat to qualify for this program. For an application go to www.elibrary.dep.state.pa.us/dsweb/View/Collection-9089. Also check out www.dep.pa.gov for more information on this program.

NOTE: All funds allocated for the Underground Heating Oil Tank Cleanup Reimbursement Program through June 30, 2017 have been depleted. The Department cannot accept any more applications at this time. Extension of this program after June 30, 2017 requires legislative action.