



# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

August 13, 2020

## Meeting Agenda

**Welcome and Housekeeping:** Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

*Since the Housing & Homeless Coalition welcomes ideas, opinions, and knowledge from a broad spectrum of partners, meetings are open to the public and new members are always welcomed. Meetings take place the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm in the CYS Conference Room on Zoom until further notice. Zoom meetings are recorded to assist with the preparation of the meeting minutes. The recording will not be shared or posted.*

**July Meeting Minutes:** No errors or omissions were noted.

*Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at [www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org) and [www.bchmis.info](http://www.bchmis.info)*

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## 1. OPEN DISCUSSION

**Mary Leitao (Literacy Pittsburgh)** announced that they are not seeing clients face to face but they are still serving clients through remote learning. She said they are offering GED, English as a Second Language, and Refugee math courses. And the GED testing center is open with a limit of three students at a time.

**Keirstyn Marcucci (Fair Housing Law Center)** reported 3 recently settled cases of Fair Housing violations. There were two sexual harassment cases – one in Erie (settled at \$90,000) and one in Venango (\$17,500). The third case was about reasonable accommodation in Washington County and settled for \$70,000. She reminded the group that any cases of suspected fair housing can be referred to Fair Housing Law Center. She also stated that they can provide Fair Housing trainings virtually and in small groups that allow for social distancing. You can call the FH Law Center at 877.725.447.

**Rebecca Salopek (Housing Authority/Crossroads/Care Outreach Ministry)** reports that Crossroads is still accepting referrals and working with the Rapid Response Collaborative to engage and temporarily stabilize households until longer term placements are secured. She stressed that Crossroads is assisting all genders. You can reach them at 724.846.1303.

She also mentioned that Care Outreach Ministry is currently debating how they can safely host the annual Christmas Dinner. She stated that they are taking a number of options under serious consideration and they are open to other suggestions as well. She will update this group as the details become available.

**Deb Ferguson (Glade Run EPIC)** reported that they are still holding face to face groups to help folks to transition into full participation in society. She stated that they wear masks and socially distance. Referrals can be made by 724.452.4453 ext. 1961.

**George Ifill (Gateway Health Plan)** offered words of praise for the assistance The Cornerstone offered a mutual client. He specifically thanked Ros for her hard work. Marie thanked him for his accolades.

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**Herta Madder (BCBH)** stated that they have PPE and hygiene supplies for their providers and their clients. To obtain the supplies, contact Matt Stahoviak at 724.891.2827

**Nancy Grieco (Red Cross)** reported one house fire in the last 2 months. She noted that it was caused by a lightening strike and affected 2 adults. She also noted that free counseling is available to anyone who has lost a loved one due to Covid-19 through their Virtual Family Assistance Center ([www.redcross.org/VFAC](http://www.redcross.org/VFAC)). Finally she noted that their Preparedness training is now available online (see attached flyer). Trainings are also available in person with social distancing.

**Cynthia Gilkey (Neighborhood Legal Services)** noted that they are expecting a surge of evictions once the moratorium is lifted. She stated that in preparation they hired Ariel Dickenson - an attorney to provide guidance over the phone, and to assist with paperwork for hearings. She can be reached at 724.378.0595 or 866.761.6572. See attached flyer for guidance on evictions. NLS is still assisting with unemployment and they can help folks who have still not received their stimulus check. Cynthia also noted that they can assist with the PHFA Rental Relief paperwork. **Update: THE PA EVICTION MORATORIUM IS NOW LIFTED.**

**Lisa Signore** noted that the PHFA Rental Relief program is being managed by the Community Development office – specifically Cassandra Remler at 724.770.2040 or [cremler@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:cremler@beavercountypa.gov). Lisa noted that the County is slated to receive \$645,000 for rental relief but this amount can also be adjusted based on need. She stated that the first payment is ready to be sent out.

**Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator)** announced that we are still looking for additional spaces for severe weather centers. She noted that the Cooling Centers also serve as Warming Centers in the winter. Locations in the southern portion of the county are most needed but any public space that people can seek refuge during extreme weather are needed. Light snacks, water, and resource information will be provided to help get locations started. Location suggestions can be sent to Dina.

She also alerted the group that a scam is occurring to steal people's information by posing as contact tracers. Please alert your clients that a contact tracer will not ask for social security numbers, passwords, or money. Nor would they contact people via text or provide links.

She reminded the group that Community Development has free masks for partners and their clients. Contact Cassandra Remler at 724.770.2040 to arrange for pick up.

Dina noted that the Salvation Army has assistance available for Covid-19 needs. Also the SA is determining how they will handle Christmas assistance as well. See flyer for more information.

Dina also noted the following updates for BCCAN:

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- Poverty & Addiction training (Oct 1<sup>st</sup>) is at capacity. Let Lynell know if you'd like to be placed on the waiting list. Her email is [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org).
- Compassion Fatigue (Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>) registration is still open. CEU's will be 2.5 hours at a fee of \$15.00.
- Navigating the Housing & Homeless System (Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>) is at capacity. Email Lynell if you'd like to be placed on the waiting list.

## 2. AGENDA

### **Voter engagement rules for non-profits**

**Dina Ciabattoni**

With the upcoming election Dina provided a brief overview of the rules for non-profit organizations on voter engagement. She emailed information prior to the meeting about restrictions based on funding sources and general service delivery. She noted agencies that receive CSBG and Head Start agencies cannot pay for staff or materials to do voter registration or to provide rides to the polls. However many public service agencies (Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, etc) including state funded programs for people with disabilities are required by law to provide voter registration. **Overall, any voter engagement that a non-profit agencies conducts must be non-partisan in nature.** Dina encouraged everyone to review the emailed materials with their executive directors to determine what activities they are permitted to engage in prior to planning any voter engagement actions.

### **A Rent Issue - Neighborhood Legal Services**

**Cynthia Gilkey**

Dina noted that an issue was brought forward this week about a subsidized housing program requesting information from a tenant about their stimulus check so they could adjust the rent. Cynthia clarified that practice is not permitted. She noted that the stimulus checks are not to be considered income. She stated if anyone experiences this to have the person call their office for guidance. Further she clarified that Unemployment income IS considered income and should be reported if rent is income based. She explained that technically it should even out in the end as the rent will go back down after the unemployment ends. She stressed that tenants should pay close attention to reporting these details and NLS is available to assist if needed.

### **Updates: Outreach RFP, PHFA Rent Relief, ESG, HAP, ESG-CV, TA for finding ES, Commissioners grants Dina C.**

Dina stated a request for Proposals had been issued for an Outreach position and rental space prioritized for people with quarantine or isolation needs. She previously emailed the RFP to group. Proposals are due on August 19<sup>th</sup> by 4 pm to Community Development Program located at 1013 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Beaver Falls, PA. Questions can be directed to Dina.

Dina noted that the PHFA Rent Relief program was already covered in this meeting. Further questions can be directed to Cassandra Remler at Community Development Program.

ESG and HAP applications submitted in the spring have been reviewed and are in the process for final approval from the Commissioners. ESG-CV funds are currently committed to the Hotel program and the Homeless Hotline. The funding is not currently needed for the other

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identified services in the special amendment as current funding sources are still readily available. ESG-CV funds have a longer longevity (2 years) so those activities will be funding by ESG-CV when current funds expire.

Dina reported on the progress of the firm researching Beaver County zoning and real estate for a Men's Emergency Shelter. She noted that of the 53 municipalities in the county that the firm has already narrowed the list down to 10 that meet basic zoning and desired criteria. She reported that the contract for this research goes through the end of September with the firm making a recommendation for 3 feasible locations at that time.

Finally, Dina announced that the Commissioners opened an application window for Beaver County CARES Small Business/Nonprofit Grant Program. The purpose is to provide financial relief to small businesses and nonprofits impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. See attached flyer for more information. **THE APPLICATION PERIOD HAS NOW ENDED.**

## Bed Availability

Dina C.

Dina noted that we have started to see a slight uptick in homelessness resulting in a limited number of vacancies. She did highlight that CYS had 12 available units. She reported that the PSH programs are working on referring eligible households to the Mainstream Voucher program which is resulting in some openings. She stated that although there is a slight increase on the PSH and RRH waitlists, the majority of the households are currently engaged by a program.

## NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

### SAVE THE DATES

**8/19/20 Outreach Request for Proposals due** by 4pm to Community Development Program (1013 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. Beaver Falls).

**8/25/20 Racial Disparities Meeting** at 10:00 am. If interested in joining, please email Dina for the info.

**9/24/20 Poverty & Addiction Webinar.** AT CAPACITY. Email Lynell to be put on a waitlist [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON!! Beaver County Annual Veteran Stand Down** - The Cornerstone parking lot (600 6<sup>th</sup> Street Beaver Falls).

**10/8/20 Compassion Fatigue Webinar.** 2.5 CEUs available for \$10. To register, visit, [www.bccan.org](http://www.bccan.org)

**10/13/20 Navigating the Housing & Homeless System in Beaver County Webinar.** AT CAPACITY. Email Lynell to be put on a waitlist [lscaff@bccan.org](mailto:lscaff@bccan.org)

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# Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

The August 13, 2020 Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who were visibly in attendance on the Zoom meeting and who signed into the Zoom chat.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Erin Rathbun	Beacon Health Options
Harry Angelo	Job Training of Beaver County
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Herta Madder	BCBH
Darcy Casey	Housing Authority/Crossroads
Carrie Miller	PA Cyber
Mary Leitao	Literacy Pittsburgh
Kate Willette	Project STAR
Lisa Signore	Community Development Program
Angela Pope	KEYS - CCBC
Debbie Ferguson	Glade Run EPIC Psych
Nancy Grieco	Red Cross
Ariel Dickinson	Neighborhood Legal Services
Joanne Koehler	Mental Health Association
Rebecca Salopek	Housing Authority/Crossroads
Raeann Grivna	Crossroads
Sabine Kane	BCRC
Heather Prince	Prevention Network
Kristie Reilly	Prevention Network
Barb Reed	ABC Associates
Dianne Funkhouser	CareerLink
Jamie Hinkle	Beacon Health Options
Marie Timpano	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Renee Speaker	Housing Authority - CARL Program
Christy Ownes	Allies for Health & Wellbeing
Paul Lebanik	St. Vincent DePaul
Kirsten Marcucci	Fair Housing Law Center
George Ifill	Gateway Health
Jan Davis	TRAILS Ministries
Christy Miles	Veteran Leadership Project
Natalie Meade	Early Headstart
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Several phone users	Unknown

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# Be Red Cross Ready

Prepare so you can protect.



American  
Red Cross

## FREE Emergency Preparedness Training for Your Community!



Floods, hurricanes and wildfires are becoming more frequent and can be devastating to our loved ones, homes and communities.

Build confidence by learning simple steps you can take now, to help prepare and protect your family. It's easy to learn through one of our free disaster preparedness trainings!

Hosted by the American Red Cross, Be Red Cross Ready is a national, standardized, FREE preparedness education curriculum for adults taught by certified presenters. The program is designed to help people understand, prepare for and respond appropriately to disasters.

A companion module covering the COVID-19 response is now available. The curriculum reviews the overall COVID-19 situation, ways to protect yourself and your family, and ways to cope with stress and access local information. Option to mix and match with other emergency preparedness modules including: Preparedness Essentials, Home Fires, Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Floods, Tsunamis, Tornadoes, Wildfires, Extreme Heat, Thunderstorms, Winter Storms, Volcanoes and Landslides.

### Available in Virtual Delivery

Schedule a FREE presentation today! Provide your community with this lifesaving emergency preparedness training from the Red Cross.

To learn more about this training or schedule a presentation, please contact:

Chip Keebaugh, Community Preparedness Lead  
chip.keebaugh@redcross.org  
717-331-7824

For more information, please visit [redcross.org/prepare](https://redcross.org/prepare)



NEIGHBORHOOD  
LEGAL SERVICES

# Can I be evicted during the Covid-19 crisis in Pennsylvania?

**What is the  
reason for the  
eviction?**

**Not paying  
rent or fees**

**Do you live in  
subsidized  
housing?**

**Any reason other  
than not paying  
rent or fees.**

**No**

**Yes**

**NO.** If you have a Section 8 or Rural Development Voucher OR you live in:

- Section 8 project-based housing
- Public housing
- HUD-subsidized senior housing
- Other HUD-subsidized housing
- USDA-subsidized housing
- Tax credit or "LIHTC" housing

Evictions and late fees are banned by the CARES ACT federal stimulus. Your landlord must wait until July 25th, to give you a 30-day eviction notice. Your landlord cannot evict you until after the 30 days has expired.

**YES.**

Landlords can now file evictions for reasons other than non-payment of rent and termination of the lease.

**BUT:** Landlords cannot use this as a pretext to evict a tenant for non-payment.

**Does your  
landlord have a  
federally-backed  
mortgage?**

**Yes**

**No**

**NO.** New evictions for non-payment are banned statewide until at least August 31st.

**BUT:** This only applies if you have not gotten rental assistance

**NO.** If your landlord has a HUD (including FHA), USDA, VA, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage:

Evictions and late fees are banned by the CARES ACT federal stimulus. Your landlord must wait until July 25th, to give you a 30-day eviction notice. Your landlord cannot evict you until after the 30 days has expired.

If you are not sure if your landlord has a federally backed mortgage, call a lawyer!

# VIRTUAL

## FREE Emergency Preparedness Training for Your Students!

### Prepare With Pedro

The Red Cross is offering **FREE** youth disaster preparedness presentations for elementary-aged students in your area! Students will receive a fun emergency preparedness item and an age-appropriate presentation to help teach them how to stay safe during a disaster.

The Prepare with Pedro presentation, for students in grades K–2 (ages 5–8), is a 30–45 minute classroom-based presentation that teaches students to:

- Identify the best ways to stay safe during emergencies that can occur in their communities.
- Identify the best ways to prevent and stay safe during a home fire.
- Use coping skills to help manage stress during emergencies and in everyday situations.
- Gain confidence in their abilities to be prepared for emergencies through hands-on activities.
- Use their knowledge to act as advocates for emergency preparedness in their homes and communities.
- Discuss the role science plays in emergency preparedness.

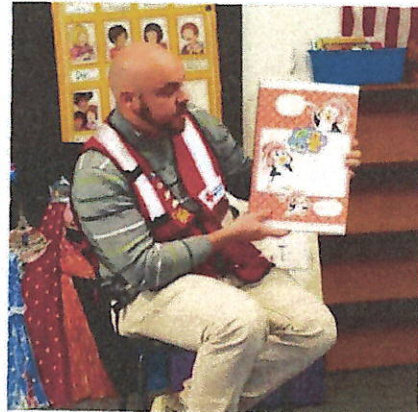
Schedule a **FREE** presentation today! Provide your students and their families with this life-saving emergency preparedness training from the Red Cross.

To learn more about the program in your area or to schedule a presentation, please contact:

Gail Wilhelm, Youth Programs Lead  
gail.wilhelm@redcross.org  
814-758-8896 (cell)

<https://www.redcross.org/local/pennsylvania/greater-pennsylvania.html>

For more information, please visit [redcross.org/youthprep](https://www.redcross.org/youthprep).



**American Red Cross**  
Greater Pennsylvania Region



# CARES RENT RELIEF PROGRAM

## COUNTY CONTACT LIST

### ADAMS

Pennsylvania Interfaith Community Programs

40 East High Street  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-2319  
717.334.1518, ext. 268  
[rentrelief@adamscha.org](mailto:rentrelief@adamscha.org)  
<https://www.adamscha.org>

### ALLEGHENY

Allegheny County Department of Economic Development  
*CARES Rent Relief Program Application*

One Chatham Center, Suite 900  
112 Washington Place  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
412.248.0021  
[ahicarestrp@actionhousing.org](mailto:ahicarestrp@actionhousing.org)  
[COVIDrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us](https://www.actionhousing.org/COVIDrentrelief.alleghenycounty.us)

### ARMSTRONG

ACTION-Housing, Inc.

235 East 7th Avenue, Suite 104  
Homestead, PA 15120  
412.248.0021  
[ArmstrongCARES@actionhousing.org](mailto:ArmstrongCARES@actionhousing.org)  
<http://www.actionhousing.org/armstrong>

### BEAVER

County of Beaver

Community Development Program  
1013 Eighth Avenue  
Beaver Falls, PA 15010  
724.770.2040  
[lignore@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:lignore@beavercountypa.gov)  
<http://www.beavercountypa.gov/Pages/Default.aspx>

### BEDFORD

Center for Community Action

195 Drive In Lane  
Everett, PA 15537  
814.623.9129  
[tjones@ccaofpa.org](mailto:tjones@ccaofpa.org)  
<http://www.ccaofpa.org>

### BERKS

The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Berks

606 Court Street, 3rd Floor  
Reading, PA 19601  
610.478.6325  
[bcraoffice@berksredevelop.org](mailto:bcraoffice@berksredevelop.org)  
<http://www.co.berks.pa.us/dept/berksra>

### BLAIR

Blair County Community Action Program

2100 Sixth Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16602  
814.946.3651  
[BCCAP-housing@blaircap.org](mailto:BCCAP-housing@blaircap.org)  
<https://www.blaircap.org/phfa-rental-relief-program/>

### BRADFORD

Trehab

428 Main Street  
P.O. Box 127  
Towanda, PA 18848  
570.265.6133, ext. 1 and 2  
[info@trehab.org](mailto:info@trehab.org)  
<https://trehab.org>

### BUCKS

Bucks County Opportunity Council

100 Doyle Street  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215.345.8175  
[rentrelief@bcoc.org](mailto:rentrelief@bcoc.org)  
<https://www.bcoc.org>

### BUTLER

The Housing Authority of the County of Butler

114 Woody Drive  
Butler, PA 16001  
724.287.6797  
[ri.dept@housingauthority.com](mailto:ri.dept@housingauthority.com)  
<https://www.housingauthority.com>



855.827.3466 • Facebook: @PHFA.org  
www.PHFA.org • Twitter: @PHFAtweets



\* For information on the Mortgage Assistance Program, visit:  
[www.phfa.org/pacares/mortgage.aspx](http://www.phfa.org/pacares/mortgage.aspx)

## **The Beaver County Salvation Army Assistance**

Beaver Falls 724-846-1089

Rochester 724-774-8335

Aliquippa 724-378-0875

### Christmas Assistance/Project Bundle Up

Procedures and process is currently being developed. Our process most likely will look different from previous years. Specific questions can be directed to your local Salvation Army. More information will be given in September

### COVID Assistance

Each Salvation Army location has a small amount of financial assistance for households impacted by COVID. Basic Criteria:

- Lost their job due to COVID or a reduction of hours. Documentation is required.
- Photo ID
- Proof of Household size--Birth certificates or COMPASS account benefit details
- Proof of Income: unemployment assistance that started after March 15, again document from employer dated after March 15, proof of self-employment
- Depending on what help they need: groceries, housing, utility, transportation, medical or funeral help. Need documentation.
- For housing they FIRST must apply for the PFHA assistance, our help must make them current and show the ability to maintain rent/mortgage moving forward.

Again, call your local Salvation Army for specific information.



# Federal Funds and Voter Registration

All 501(c)(3) organizations must follow the same IRS rule barring charities from conducting partisan political activities to support or oppose candidates while allowing nonprofits to conduct voter engagement and election activities on nonpartisan basis.

In a few special cases Congress has added stipulations on the use of certain federal funds to restrict voter registration activities. In contrast, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA) requires state agencies offering federal assistance like Medicaid or WIC to offer voter registration to those who sign up.

## Federal Funds with Voter Registration Restrictions

### Community Service Block Grants (CSBG)

Nonprofits who receive Community Service Block Grant funding, like Community Action Agencies:

- CANNOT**
- Use CSBG funds to pay for staff or materials to conduct voter registration.
  - Use CSBG funds to provide rides to the polls.
- CAN**
- Use non-CSBG funds to do voter registration such as having staff or others not paid by CSBG funds help register voters, so long as it's not identified as a service of the agency. In this case, voter registration should be done outside of service delivery, for example, at a table or local event.
  - Use CSBG or other funds to do any other kinds of nonpartisan voter engagement activities to promote voter education and voter participation such as reminding staff and clients about an upcoming election. However, it is recommended that CSBG funds used for nonpartisan election activity be limited and not done in a way to give public perception of the agency as being in anyway involved in partisan politics.

### Head Start

Head Start has similar restrictions to that of CSBG recipients, except Head Start had language added in 2007 to amend the Head Start Act to affirm a Head Start program's right to have outside groups do nonpartisan voter registration drives at their sites. A Head Start program:

- CANNOT**
- Use Head Start funds to conduct or have employees conduct voter registration activities.
  - Use Head Start funds to provide rides to the polls.
- CAN**
- Have a nonpartisan organization or non-Head Start personnel do voter registration at Head Start facilities during all hours of operation.
  - Do any other type of nonpartisan voter education, such as keeping parents and others informed about how, when, and where to vote.

### *Do CDBG funds have similar restrictions?*

No. Unlike with CSBG funds, there are no restrictions on doing voter registration or any type of nonpartisan activity. A nonprofit with CDBG funds should follow the same rules that apply to any 501(c)(3) organization barring partisan, political activity to support or oppose candidates.



# Federal Funds and Voter Registration

## AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)

AmeriCorps members and other recipients of CNCS funding are subject to the standard 501(c)(3) prohibition on partisan political activities for or against candidates. Additionally, while charging time to the AmeriCorps program or otherwise performing activities supported by the AmeriCorps program, CNCS supported personnel or service volunteers:

**CANNOT** • Do voter registration during work hours or while performing work for the host organization.

**CAN** • Make voter registration forms and information available on the premises for clients.  
• Conduct any other type of nonpartisan voter education as undertaken by the organization where they are doing service.  
• Do political activities in personal time outside of work and when not representing the organization they are assigned to.

## Legal Services

Legal Services groups are the most restricted. Legal Service employees and volunteers are generally prohibited by the Legal Services Act (LSA) and related policies from conducting any kind of nonpartisan or partisan political activity or issue advocacy.

## Federal Funds with Requirements to Do Voter Registration

The National Voter Registration Act of 1993 requires several types of federally supported agencies – such as those that offer public assistance or primarily serve people with disabilities – to proactively offer the people they serve the opportunity to register to vote. These include nonprofit agencies like community health centers or food pantries that sign people up to receive Medicaid, WIC, food stamps and other federally funded public assistance programs.

See our factsheet on the National Voter Registration Act for more information.

## Resources

CAPLAW, Election Year Refresher for Nonprofit Community Action Agencies-updated 2014,  
[www.caplaw.org/resources/articlesbytopic/Lobbying/CAPLAW\\_ElectionYearRefresher\\_2011.pdf](http://www.caplaw.org/resources/articlesbytopic/Lobbying/CAPLAW_ElectionYearRefresher_2011.pdf)

Legal Information Institute, Prohibited uses of CDBG Funds, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/24/570.207>

Corporation for National and Community Service, Prohibited Activities, [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov),  
[www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FinalProvisions6-25-13.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/FinalProvisions6-25-13.pdf)

Legal Services Corporation, Regulations CFR 45 Part 1608,  
[www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&n=45y4.1.3.11.9&r=PART&ty=HTML](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=&n=45y4.1.3.11.9&r=PART&ty=HTML)

Nonprofit VOTE, National Voter Registration Act Factsheet,  
<http://www.nonprofitvote.org/documents/2012/01/the-national-voter-registration-act.pdf>

Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) FAQ,  
[www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra](http://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra)

ITOV





# National Voter Registration Act and Voter Registration at Public Assistance Agencies

## What is the National Voter Registration Act?

The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) was passed by Congress in 1993 to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to vote. To make voter registration easier and more accessible, the NVRA includes providing a federal voter registration form, and requires states to offer voter registration services at public agencies. Although state motor vehicle departments are the most well-known of these agencies, other public assistance offices are also required to proactively register voters.

## What public agencies are covered by the NVRA?

Any agency or office in a state that administers or provides services or assistance under any public assistance program is required by law to offer voter registration. These include:

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program – SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps)
- State Children's Health Insurance (SCHIP)
- WIC – Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- State-funded programs for people with disabilities

States may designate other public agencies or offices as voter registration sites, such as libraries, schools, licensing bureaus, and unemployment compensation offices. Contact your Secretary of State's office to learn more about NVRA designated organizations in your state.

## What state disability organizations are covered by the NVRA?

Each state designates which disability agencies are required to serve as NVRA voter registration sites. These typically include offices providing vocational rehabilitation, transportation, job training, education, counseling, rehabilitation, or independent-living services for persons with disabilities. *Contact your Secretary of State's office to learn more about NVRA designated organizations in your state.*

## What voter registration services must be offered?

NVRA covered agencies and offices must: (1) offer voter registration to clients and constituents and ask each person about registering to vote; (2) offer to assist registrants with completing the form on paper or online, and; (3) accept and promptly return completed forms to the proper elections officials.

## Do all states implement the NVRA? Is it effective?

Unfortunately many states and nonprofit agencies do not enforce or comply with their obligation to promote voter registration at public assistance agencies. However, in recent years the number of states that do has grown, due to advocacy by public interest organizations.

## Are any states exempt from the NVRA?

Yes, states that offer Election Day Registration (EDR) are exempt. Only two EDR states don't accept the federal voter registration form for non-uniformed voters, Wyoming and New Hampshire.

## How can I learn more?

Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, NVRA FAQ, [www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra](http://www.justice.gov/crt/national-voter-registration-act-1993-nvra)

## Beaver County CARES Grant Program

The application window for the Beaver County CARES Small Business/Nonprofit Grant Program is now open. The programs will be funded using federal CARES Act dollars provided to Beaver County through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Department of Community and Economic Development (CED), under the COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant program.

**The primary purpose of this program is to provide relief to small businesses and non-profits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.** Beaver County hopes to help small businesses and nonprofits remain viable through the COVID-19 pandemic by retaining employees and covering expenses.

The primary purpose of the CARES Grant Program is to provide relief to small businesses/nonprofits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Beaver County hopes to help small businesses and nonprofits remain viable through the COVID-19 pandemic by retaining employees and covering expenses. Grant awards are available up to \$25,000, or 25% of calculated loss due to COVID-19, whichever is less. Nonexclusive examples of grant uses include payroll (preference will be given to those applicants that did not receive other sources of federal COVID relief funds); rent/mortgage payments; PPE or other COVID-19 related supplies; and operating expenses.

Application will be accepted starting 08/10/2020 at 8:30 a.m. to 08/21/2020 at 4:30 p.m. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit fully completed applications, with all supporting documents via one of the methods below:

Submitted via email to [CARES@beavercountypa.gov](mailto:CARES@beavercountypa.gov)

- Please use the subject line: CARES Act - Small Business Application or CARES Act - Nonprofit Application

Submitted via fax to (724) 728-0725.

Submitted in person to the Beaver County Courthouse Commissioners office between the hours of 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.

**NOTE: Mailed applications will not be accepted.**

Please understand that it is anticipated that this will be a competitive funding round.

Only fully completed applications will be considered.

Not all applicants will be funded.

There is no application fee.



More information and applications can be found at:

<http://www.beavercountypa.gov/Depts/Commissioners/Pages/CARES-GRANT-PROGRAM.aspx>

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	0	24	100%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	0	41	100%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	3	12	75%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	0	15	100%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	0	4	100%	BCCYS
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	12	14	79%	BCCYS
Women's Center	Emergency	0	24	100%	BC Women's Center
Women's Center	Transitional	0	10	100%	BC Women's Center
SA Rapid Rehousing *	Permanent	0	N/A	N/A	Salvation Army

\*McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs - See reverse side of chart for HUDs disability & homeless eligibility requirements.

**Wait List Details**

Subsidized or Section 8	Location	Bedroom Types	Wait List Details
Brightwood Manor	New Brighton	4- 2BRs; 1-3BR	Taking applications
Beaver Falls Plaza	Beaver Falls	Full	Taking applications.
Scottswood Apts	Hopewell	1BR elderly/disabled	Taking Applications
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	1 eff. And 2-3BRs	Taking Applications
ValleyView	New Brighton	2-1BR; 3-2BR	Taking Applications
Spring Run	Monaca	Full	Taking Applications
Towne Tower	Aliquippa	6 - one bedrooms	Taking Applications
Pinney Street Manor	Rochester	Sr. 1 BR	Building an accessible waitlist. Income cap 1 person: \$26,600; people: \$30,400

**Housing Authority**

Ambridge Towers	Ambridge	vacancies
Brodhead Apts	Beaver Falls	vacancies
Eleanor Roosevelt	Aliquippa	vacancies
Sheffield	Aliquippa	vacancies

\*Applications accepted for all HACB sites.

811 Program	Koppel/Roch.	No vacancies	*See back for more information
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**Coordinated Entry Waitlists**

PSH: 14  
TH: 9  
RRH: 5

**The Housing Authority's main office remains closed. Walk-up and high rise units are now being rented and HCVs are being issued.**



**Lifesteps**  
**Early Head Start**  
**FREE Program**  
*Serving You in Your Home*

- Parent/Child Activities
- Education
- Programs for Eligible Pregnant Women & Families with Children birth to age 3 in Beaver County



*A Healthy Start... Lifelong Learning & Growing*



**724-240-1575**  
**[www.lifesteps.net](http://www.lifesteps.net)**



# Early Head Start

Beaver County



A Healthy Start... Lifelong Learning and Growing

## **FREE Program** **for Eligible Expectant Mothers**

*Early Head Start is a federally-funded program providing FREE services for eligible low-income:*

- *Expectant mothers*
- *Families with young children*  
*Birth to age 3*

A healthy pregnancy has a direct influence on a child's development. The impact on a child's future potential for healthy growth and development can be lasting.

Early Head Start offers supportive services for expectant mothers including:

- **Accessing Health Care**
- **Education**
- **Social Services**
- **Parent Involvement**
- **In-home Services**