



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

June 10, 2021
Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Housekeeping: Dina called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. She asked partners to sign into the chat and reminded everyone that the meeting is being recorded to assist with preparing the meeting minutes.

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 2nd Thursday of every month at 1:30 pm on Zoom until further notice. The meetings are recorded to help prepare the meeting minutes but will not be shared or posted.

Archived Coalition Meeting Minutes are available at www.bccan.org

1. OPEN DISCUSSION

Cynthia Gilkey (Neighborhood Legal Services) announced that despite the eviction moratorium legal challenge, she does not expect it to lift prior to the June 30th deadline.

UPDATE: The CDC eviction moratorium has been extended to July 31st.

She reminded everyone that NLS is available to help with evictions and or completing Declaration forms to avoid eviction. She encouraged folks to take advantage of ERAP during this time. She noted that obtaining all required documents tends to be the biggest barrier for ERAP. She reminded folks that the NLSA website has a resource center on a variety of subjects.

www.nlsa.us

She also noted that NLS is putting together an advocacy project to address the conditions at Town Towers. She asked partners to share any details they know about the building and living conditions there.

Dina Ciabattoni (CoC Coordinator) asked partners if they have estimates of how many households they expect to be evicted when the moratorium lifts. She asked them to send any estimates they may have to her at ciabattondina@gmail.com

She also reported on the Vaccine Clinics. She noted that through the efforts of Central Outreach Wellness Center, The Women's Center, The Cornerstone of Beaver County, and the Salvation Army we were able to fully vaccinate 16 people.

Finally, she noted that Pastor Liptak has a connection with Carnegie Mellon who is looking to donate bedroom furniture from one of their dorms. She stated that if any one is interested to contact her directly and she will put you in contact with Pastor Liptak.

Nancy Greico (American Red Cross) reported 3 fires, 5 cases, affecting 22 people (9 adults and 13 kids). There have been no fires in June thus far.

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Teresa Lukes (Association for the Blind) reported they are holding a free Vision Screening and New Eyeglasses event on July 22 from 9 am – 3pm. To schedule an appointment, call: 724.506.6477. See attached flyer.

Chris Anderson (The Cornerstone of Beaver County) introduced their new housing coordinator. Dina welcomed her to the Coalition.

Josh Fischer (Veteran Leadership Program) announced the 60 Miles for Veterans cycling event from Connellsville to Pittsburgh on July 4th. He also noted that the VLP has received a State Opioid/Stimulant grant for veterans. SOR offers resources, case management, financial assistance, to veterans who have/had substance use disorder. Contact Josh for more information at: fisherj@vlpwpa.org

Susan Tomlinson (Private Industry Council) is the Case Manager Job Developer for the Dads Matter program. She explained that the Dads Matter program assists Dads who have substance use, mental health, or criminal issues. The program empowers them to shape their children's lives, enhance their relationships, and improve their financial well-being. Susan noted that it is a 24 hour curriculum that can be completed virtually or in-person. See attached flyer for more info or contact Susan at: stomlinson@privateindustrycouncil.com or 724.728.2110 ext 1251.

Emily Linkenheimer (The Prevention Network) announced the next Family Group Decision Making meeting is scheduled for July 22 from 9-12. It will be held both virtually and in-person. For more information email Emily at: e.linkenheimer@thepreventionnetwork.org

2. AGENDA

Columbia Gas

Alexa Mapstone

Alexa is a CARES Representative for Columbia Gas. She provided an overview of the various programs they offer to help people who are struggling with paying their gas bills. She noted that CARES representatives can be reached at 1.800.537.7431 and her direct cell phone number is 724.880.2995. She reported for the CAP program the biggest issue is clients not submitting required documents. She stated any assistance this group can lend with this is greatly appreciated. WarmWise helps decrease the amount of gas usage thereby reducing the bill. The Emergency Repair Program can assist with emergency repairs of heating systems, house/service gas lines, and hot water tanks. LIHEAP can be accessed by calling 1.800.272.2714 or by applying on COMPASS. LIHEAP is available Nov. 2nd through April 9th. Dollar Energy is a one time grant for households at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines. And Security Deposit Assistance Funds assist households between 150%-200% of the FPIG. Households must be facing financial hardship. More information can be found on the attached slides and at www.columbiagaspa.com or by calling Alexa.

Participant Satisfaction Survey

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina reported on the results of the participant satisfaction Survey. She noted that 2 surveys were completed online and 6 were completed on paper. Surveys were received from 2 agencies.

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She stated that she had hoped more agencies would have participated and noted that the survey is still open for completion. She said that if programs would like to send the survey to households who have exited that she could provide a letter explaining the survey. Overall, she noted the results were positive but there were a few outlying negative responses. She also reported that no one expressed interest in participating in a focus group to share more information. The survey can still be completed at the link found below. See attached survey results for more details.

ERAP

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina shared that as of last week \$630,000 had been spent on assisting households with rent and utilities. She stated that little over \$1 million in requested assistance is pending at this time. She reported that program is picking up speed in processing those requests noting that there were some obstacles to overcome at the beginning of the program. She echoed previous presenters in stating one of the biggest challenges is getting all of the required documentation from clients. Any assistance that partners can offer with this is greatly appreciated. She stated that if it is a matter of getting documents to the Franklin Center to let Dina know and she can help coordinate pick up of the paperwork. She also welcomed any other ideas about how to streamline obtaining and submitting the documents. Cyndi Gilkey reports a client was denied due to habitability issues which she noted is not a requirement with this funding. Dina agreed and stated that she had double checked with the FC on this situation and they also stated they do not do any habitability checks. Dina offered to look more closely at the situation with Cyndi and Cyndi noted she would get the client's permission to share the details. Sylenthia Siebenlist asked if the funding could pay for arrears on a previous residence. Cyndi stated that the purpose of the funding is to keep people housed in their current residence so she stated that it would not be eligible. Recommendations were made for other ways to pay off the arrears. Dina also stated she will double check and let Sylenthia know if ERAP can be used this way.

Bed Availability

Dina Ciabattoni

Dina noted that several of the PSH, RRH, and TH programs currently have openings. She reminded the group that folks do have to go through Coordinated Entry (724.846.6400) to access most of those programs. She reported that the PSH list is about the same from last month, TH has 11 people on it and most are engaged by Stone Harbour at this time, and RRH went up significantly. She noted that the list is being reviewed and appeals will be made if households would benefit from one of the other programs to help get them housed faster.

Finally, Dina thanked everyone for attending. She acknowledged the many challenges, pushes and pulls that everyone has been through in the last year. And she noted that it is likely to get even busier when the eviction moratorium lifts. However, she stated that she appreciates everyone continuing to come around "this screen" and share ideas and practices and to know we have each other's backs through these challenging times!



Housing and Homeless Coalition of Beaver County

NEXT MEETING: July 8, 2021

SAVE THE DATES

TRAININGS AVAILABLE!! VISIT <http://www.bc-systemofcare.org/training/>

CoC Client Satisfaction Survey Please share with anyone who has resided in a CoC residential housing program. The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TWCWZL6>
Email ciabattomidina@gmail.com if you'd like to obtain paper surveys instead.

VA CHALENG Survey (for homeless/formerly homeless veterans and staff who serve them):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CHALENG2021>

Online PA Tax Hub for personal income tax and Rent Rebate filings: <https://mypath.pa.gov/>

Information on NA meetings throughout the county (both in person and online), visit: beavervalleyna.org

FYI – The PA Dept. of Drug & Alcohol Program has established a 24 hour, 7 days/week hotline for those seeking D&A treatment services. The phone number is 1.800.662.4357.

The 6/8/21 Housing & Homeless Coalition Meeting was held on Zoom due to social distancing guidelines. Below is a list of attendees who signed into the chat or were visibly present.

George Beegle	HMIS
Alexa Mapstone	Columbia Gas
Carrie Miller	PA Cyber
Joshua Fisher	Veterans Leadership Program
Cyndi Gilkey	Neighborhood Legal Services
Denise DeVittis	Domestic Relations
Debbie Ferguson	Glade Run Lutheran Services
Abby Opal	Mental Health Association
Barb Reed	OARS Aliquippa
Nancy Grieco	American Red Cross
Kate Willette	The Children's Institute
Kevin Huwe	DON Services
Sr. Sarah Crotty	Sisters of St. Joseph
Melissa Grimes	Housing Authority of Beaver County
Emily Linkenheimer	FGDM – The Prevention Network
Chris Anderson	The Cornerstone of Beaver County
Sylvia Jenkins	WCBC
Lori Gaghan	Staunton Clinic
Stephanie Titus	Glade Run Blended Case Management

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Susan Tomlinson	Dads Matter/Private Industry Council
Erin Rathbun	Beacon Health Options
Jamie Hinkle	Beacon
Raeanne Barlow	3 rd Step Recovery Ministry
Jodi Pavlinch	CYS
Harry Angelo	Job Training of Beaver County
Ben DiNardo	Community Development Program of BC
Miki Clark	Children's Institute
Mary Ann McDevitt	Women's Center
Maria Townsend	Maria Townsend Associates, LLC
Heather Slaughter	Self Determination Housing Project
Darryel Spencer	Housing Authority
Darcy Casey	Housing Authority
Herta Madder	BCBH
Sylenthia Siebenlist	Children's Institute
Matthew Stahoviak	BCBH
Teresa Lukes	Association for the Blind
Dina Ciabattoni	CoC Coordinator
Angela Pope	CCBC/KEYS
Rich Pirozzi	VA HUD-VASH
Amy Fredericks	CYS

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FREE

**VISION SCREENING &
NEW EYEGLASSES!!!**

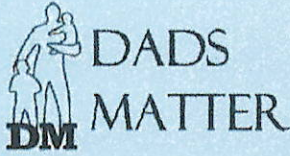
WHERE : Beaver County Association for the Blind
616 Fourth Street
Beaver Falls, PA 15010

WHEN : Thursday July 22, 2021
ONE DAY ONLY!

TIME : 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm

**To schedule an appointment,
Call Terry: 724-506-6477**

Financial Availability Requirements
BCAB is NOT responsible for glasses supplied by Mission Vision.
In order for Mission Vision to keep this a free service you will
NOT be given a copy of your prescription.



Available in Beaver, Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties!

DADS MATTER is designed to empower fathers and father-figures to shape their children's lives, enhance their relationships, and improve their financial well-being.

Who's Eligible?

YOU are! If you are a father or in a fathering role, YOU are able to participate.

Father Engagement Sessions include:

- **Balancing Work and Family Life**
- **Co-parenting & Getting Involved with Your Children**
- **Managing Health and Wellness**
- **Financial Education**



What's in it for You?

- **Job Skills Training**
- **Employment Certifications**
- **Resume Development & Job Search Assistance**
- **And More!**

**Apply
online here!**



Follow us on Facebook: PICs-DADS-MATTER-Southwestern-PA

For more information, please call below:

DADS MATTER
219 Donohoe Rd.
Greensburg, PA 15601
724-836-2600


DADS MATTER
112 Commonwealth Dr.
Lemont Furnace, PA 15456
724-437-2590

DADS MATTER
205 Beaver Valley Mall
Monaca, PA 15061
724-728-2110

"Funding for this project was provided by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Grant: # 90Z0016-01-00"
"Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families." "These services are available to all eligible persons, regardless of race, gender, age, disability, or religion." Private Industry Council is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

Program Overview

Alexa Mapstone
Universal Services
Outreach & Education Coordinator
CARES Rep.



Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania
Columbia Gas of Maryland

Nisource Companies

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Agenda

- I. Introductions
- II. CARES
- III. Customer Programs
 - I. Universal Services
 - II. Residential Customers
 - III. COVID Response
- IV. Questions and Answers


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Customer Assessment, Referral & Evaluation Services (CARES)



Alexa Mapstone, PA North, PA South, PA Central
Cell: 724-880-2995
Amapstone@Nisource.com



Tammy Ravier, PA East and Maryland
Cell: 717-668-9782
Travler@Nisource.com

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Customer Assessment, Referral & Evaluation Services (CARES)

- Outreach for All Programs
- Vulnerable & Special Needs Customers
 - Customers experiencing Domestic Violence
 - Aging Adults
 - Customers who are in low-income situations
 - Veterans
- To Apply call 1-800-537-7431 or contact a CARES rep

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Low – income programs:

Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

- Residential Heat Customer
- Income at or below 150% FPIG
- Low Monthly Payment
- Arrearage Forgiveness
- Income must be documented (pay stubs one month's worth, direct deposit statements, tax documents for self employed, social security award letters, etc.)
 - Can be sent to CARES Rep

To apply call 1-800-537-7431





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Low – income programs:

WarmWise: Low Income Usage Reduction Program (LIURP)

- Free for home owners & renters with high natural gas usage.
- Income at or below the 200% of FPIG.
- Measures include: Clean & Tune of furnace, resolution of any heating safety issues, sidewall & attic insulation, caulking & weather stripping and blower door guided air sealing
- Call 1-800-537-7431 to refer a customer

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Low - Income Programs:

WarmWise: Audits and Rebates



Guidelines:

- Customers with Gross Household Income less than 250% FPIG or less and not meeting LIURP Guidelines
- Gas Heat Customers
- Property Owners (Renters with property owner approval/participation)

Benefits:

- Free BPI Audit
- \$1,800 Rebate Award Towards Audit Recommended Installed Measures
- Free Programmable Thermostat or NEST

To apply call 1-800-537-7431 or apply on line at www.columbiagaspa.com





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Low – Income Programs:

Emergency Repair Program (ERP)

- Income at or below 150% FPIG
- Homeowners Only
- Help with:
 - Heating Systems
 - House/Service Gas Lines
 - Hot Water Tanks
- Heat Wise
 - In September, most vulnerable customers, a free clean & tune and safety check to prepare for Winter
 - Volunteers from Columbia and a Contractor



To apply call 1-800-537-7431



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Low - Income Programs:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program:
LIHEAP

- HOT LINE – 1-800-272-2714 for agencies
- COMPASS
- November 2, 2020 – April 09, 2021

CASH

- Income at or below 150% FPIG
- Help with offsetting winter heating costs

CRISIS

- Income at or below 150% FPIG
- Help with Reconnecting & Stop Termination
- Help with equipment issues


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Low – Income Programs:

Dollar Energy Fund

- Opens October 1st
- 200% FPIG or less
- One time grant
- NEW** - all CAP , active and inactive may be eligible for a grant!



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Low – Income Programs:

Security Deposit Assistance Fund (SDAF)


- Income between 150% - 250% of FPIG
- One time grant to help pay Security Deposits
- Customers need to disclose financial hardship then they will be referred by customer service representatives to SDAF

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Programs for all customers

- **Energy Efficiency Information**
 - Call 1-866-956-0308 then mailed by Goodwill
- **Third Party Notification**
 - Customer agrees to list third party agency or individual who is not responsible for payment but allows that party to know the happenings on account (Ex: student, case worker, etc.)
 - Authorized Caller on Account – can be changed as needed by customer
- **Budget Payment Plan**
 - Projected cost divided by 12
- **Budget Plus Payment Plan**
 - Extends bill more than one year – a prescribed amount of months to get caught up
 - Maximum amount is 60 months




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Partners roles:

- Refer customers to us
- Tell clients to call us as soon as they think they need help
- Tell customer about our programs
- Distribute or make available brochures to your clients
- Write a testimonial on the purpose of LIHEAP
- Join us in DC next year to support LIHEAP funding
- Donate to Dollar Energy Fund



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Response to COVID19 Pandemic

<p>All Customers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delayed all late payment Charges• Suspended all termination activity• Offering flexible payment options for short and long term payment troubles to all customers• Senior Wellness Checks• Outbound calls to all customers that were behind on their bill	<p>Universal Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relaxed Hardship Fund guidelines• Increased efforts to promote LIHEAP Recovery CRISIS program• Relaxed CAP guidelines to reduce enrollment barriers• Ceased removals from CAP
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- ERAP – Emergency Rental Assistance Program

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Emergency Renter Assistance Program

- Federally Funded through Stimulus Package
- 80% median income of area – making this the most helpful program
- Must be a renter
- Will cover amount due after March 2020 – whatever the amount is

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Questions?

[Income-Eligible Assistance Programs - Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania \(columbiagaspa.com\)](http://columbiagaspa.com)

Alexa Mapstone
Cell: 724-880-2995
amapstone@nlsource.com

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Participant Satisfaction Survey – Raw Data

- 8 surveys completed (2 online, 6 on paper)
- 2 agencies submitted surveys

Results

Did you secure a housing option that met your needs?

YES **7** NO **1**

Did the Continuum of Care (CoC) partners treat you with respect and dignity when they were assisting you?

DISRESPECTFUL **1** NEUTRAL ___ VERY RESPECTFUL **7**

Did you feel that the CoC partners had your best interests in mind?

YES **6** NO **2**

Did the CoC partners help you address challenges like: finding a place, filling out an application, communicating with the landlord etc?

1 NO HELP OFFERED WITH CHALLENGES
2 SOME HELP OFFERED WITH CHALLENGES
5 VERY HELPFUL WITH CHALLENGES

What was the biggest problem you encountered while working to secure housing?

3 Trouble finding a place that met my needs such as: affordable, near supports and services that are important to me, safe, utilities being included etc.
___ Took too long to find a place.
1 CoC partners were slow to respond to my questions, calls, etc.
1 CoC partners weren't supportive.
___ Landlords were difficult to communicate with.
2 Something else.

What was the best part of your experience with CoC partners?

6 Finding a safe place to live.
___ The support the CoC partners gave me.
___ Finding a place I can afford.
1 Something else.

How likely is it that you would recommend the Continuum of Care to a friend or colleague?

Not likely
0 **(2)** 1 2 3 4 5 **(1)** 6 7 **(1)** 8 **(1)** 9 **(1)** 10 **(2)** Extremely likely

Please indicate your race. This will help us to learn more about achieving equitable outcomes for all of our participants.

5 White
3 Black
___ Native American/Alaskan Native
___ Multi-Race
___ Other

Housing Program	Type	Availability	Units/Beds	Occupancy	Administrator
Crescent Commons*	Permanent	10	24	58%	Housing Authority
Friendship Homes*	Permanent	0	33	100%	Salvation Army
BC On-Call	Emergency	0	2	100%	The Cornerstone
Community Residential*	Permanent	2	41	95%	Housing Authority
Stone Harbour*	Transitional	5	12	58%	CRS
CRS Transitional	Transitional	2	15	87%	CRS
Help House	Transitional	0	11	100%	Housing Authority
Harmony House	Transitional	1	4	75%	BCCYS/SA
BCCYS Housing	Emergency	12	17	29%	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
Safely Home*	Permanent	10	16	38%	Housing Authority
Lighthouse	Transitional	3	3	0%	BCCYS/SA

*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.
Scottwood Apts	Hopewell	1BR elderly/disabled	Taking Applications
Valley Terrace	Aliquippa	1 eff. And 2-3BRs	Taking Applications
ValleyView	New Brighton	3 -1BR; 5-2BR; 0 - 3BR	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; 2 people: \$30,400

Housing Authority

Ambridge Towers	Ambridge	vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled
Corak Towers	Midland	vacancies	Fair market ren
Eleanor Roosevelt	Aliquippa	many vacancies	Must be 45 yrs+ or permanently disabled
Sheffield Towers	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: 7 (7)
TH: 11 (8)
RRH: 40 (26) Includes all RRH prgms

() indicates last month's count

43
13
416

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

Description of Beaver County McKinney Vento Supportive Housing Programs

Community Assisted Residential Living (C.A.R.L.) is a permanent supportive housing program for homeless households with a disability. It is a tenant based rental model administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County. The Program focuses on households with the longest length of homelessness, homeless households with children, veterans, and victims of domestic violence. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: [Melissa Grimes mgrimes@beavercountyhousing.org](mailto:Melissa.Grimes@beavercountyhousing.org)

Crescent Commons is a permanent supportive housing program administered by the Housing Authority of Beaver County which provides housing vouchers to participants who are chronically homeless with disabilities and who have exhausted all other housing options. At full operational capacity the program should house approximately 31 people. Individuals and families live in scattered sites. The program is not funded to provide case management services. Contact information: [Darcy Casey darcycasey@att.net](mailto:DarcyCasey@att.net)

Friendship Homes is a 33 bed scattered permanent supportive housing program administered by the Salvation Army for both chronically homeless and non-chronically homeless individuals and families and with disabilities. In addition to housing, the program is funded to provide moderate case management services. Contact information: [Renee Sannan Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org)

Stone Harbour is a transitional supportive housing program administered by Cornerstone Recovery and Supports (CRS) which provides supportive housing for 12 chronically homeless individuals struggling with co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse, as well as those with legal histories. Individuals live in a single site in Freedom PA. The program is funded to provide on-site case management services. Contact information: [Marcy Scott: mscott@crscares.org](mailto:marcy.scott@crscares.org)

Salvation Army Rapid Re-Housing is a medium term rapid re-housing program for homeless households who score for rapid re-housing through Coordinated Entry and who need longer term financial assistance (up to 2 years). Individual assessment will determine length of financial support and types of supportive services offered. Contact information: [Renee Sannan Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Renee.Sannan@use.salvationarmy.org).

Safely Home is a medium term rapid re-housing program for homeless households fleeing DV situations. The Women's Center will also provide support to clients. Referrals come from CE and are verified by the Women's Center. Contact information: [Darcy Casey at darcycasey@att.net](mailto:DarcyCasey@att.net)

811 Program (not a McKinney Vento program)

A subsidized housing program for disabled adults (age 18-61) who are either in an institution or at risk of institutionalization and who are able to reside in the community with supports. Criteria include:

- Disabled and Medicaid eligible. Also eligible for long-term services and supports
- Income at or below 30% AMI
- Eligible for the Housing Authority

Questions and/or applications can be directed to Lisa Kessler at hacblk@comcast.net