## **Allegheny County**

# **Housing Navigator Unit**



The Allegheny County Department of Human Services Housing Navigator Unit works with tenants, landlords and service providers to ensure that their relationship works for all participants.

### **Summary of Housing Options**

The <u>Summary of Housing Options</u> chart contains links to details about housing options and eligibility requirements for individuals and families in Allegheny County. You'll also find links and information about how to locate and apply to rent an apartment.

### Online Tools to Find Income-eligible Housing

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- HUD Affordable Apartment Search
  - Allows you to specify the area, type and number of bedrooms you need
- HUD Low-rent Apartment Search
  - Find apartments in any area that are subsidized by the federal government to make them affordable to individuals and families who qualify based on income guidelines
- HUD Information for Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities
  - Provides information about staying in your home, finding an apartment and protecting yourself from scams.
- HUD Information for Veterans
  - Facilitates collaboration among federal agencies and veteran-serving organizations regarding programs for veterans of the U.S. armed forces.

Local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)

- Allegheny County Housing Authority
  - Find which public housing communities in Allegheny County have waiting lists opening and closing
- Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
  - Find many helpful resources related to renting in the City of Pittsburgh
- McKeesport Housing Authority
- Find information about housing in and around McKeesport for low income individuals and families

Non-PHA Search Tools

#### Everyone

- AffordableHousingOnline
  - Lists low income apartments in Allegheny County and Section 8 wait lists.
- Affordable Search
  - Provides listings based on community filter
- Go Section 8
  - Allows people with or without a Section 8 voucher to search for apartments
- PAHousing Search
  - Allows you to search based on neighborhoods in Allegheny County and beyond

#### Older adults

- <u>Allegheny County Nursing-care-facility Locator</u> View patient-care surveys and building-safety surveys for each of the nursing-care facilities listed.
- PA Personal-care-home Directory
   Find an alphabetized list of all PA-licensed personal care homes according to zip code or region.
- Senior Housing Non-subsidized Communities

#### Veterans

- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
   Provides 24/7 connection for veterans and their families to get information about VA homeless programs, health care and other services in your area
- <u>PA Serves Greater Pittsburgh</u>
   Connects veterans with providers in the community to help transition from active duty to civilian life
- Soldier On Works with the SSVF program to help veterans smooth their transition into civilian life including providing housing in various shelters
- Veterans Leadership Program
   Works with the SSVF program to help veterans find safe, affordable apartments in the community and close to transportations and appropriate amenities

### **Websites that List Private Market-rate Rental Properties**

Apartments.comPost-gazetteTruliaApartmentguide.comRentCafeZillowCraigsListSeniorCareNetworkZumperForRentSeniorHousing.net

### **Publications**

<u>The Prepared Renters Program (PREP) Guide</u> contains clear and complete advice, information and forms related to finding an apartment, becoming a renter, staying in an apartment and being evicted from an apartment.

- Allegheny County Hoarding Resource Guide
- Allegheny County Housing Information Guide for Senior Adults
- DHS Community Information & Referral Packet
- DHS Housing Toolkit for Those with a Criminal Background

Allegheny County-specific resources are available below in the Websites with Related Information section.

### **Forms**

Landlord-tenant-case manager Communication Agreement

#### **Websites with Related Information**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

<u>Fair Market Rents for Metropolitan Areas</u>
 Allows users to find out what a "fair market rent" should be in a selected area

<u>Housing Quality Standards</u>
Provides links to HUD forms and checklists used to determine if a rental property meets the eligibility guidelines for tenants to receive federal rental assistance.

- HUD Information for Persons with Disabilities
   Learn about the many federal laws that promote equal housing opportunities for persons with disabilities
- HUD Resource Locator Provides links to many resources related to housing

### Discrimination in housing (Fair Housing Act)

- The Fair Housing Act protects the buyer or renter of a dwelling from discrimination by the seller or landlord. There are seven federally protected classes under the Fair Housing Act. Race Skin Color Religion Sex Disability Familial Status National Origin
- Additional classes are protected under Pennsylvania and local law.
   Age (Over 40) Ancestry Sexual Orientation Gender Identity
- Help is available for members of any of the classes listed above who believe they have been discriminated against.
- <u>Fair Housing Partnership of Greater Pittsburgh, (FHP) Inc.</u> 412-391-2535
- Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity 800-669-9777, TTY 800-927-9275

#### Eviction assistance

Help may be available for tenants who are behind in their rental payments and at risk of eviction. Guidance is also available for landlords who would like to find an alternative solution to eviction.

Allegheny LINK
By phone 1-866-730-2368
Email AlleghenyLink@alleghenycounty.us
In person One Smithfield St. Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Neighborhood Legal Services
By phone 412-255-6700
On line application

PA 211 SW By phone 211

#### Legal resources

Find Law

Provides information and resources for both tenants and landlords on a wide variety of related subjects

Neighborhood Legal Services

Find answers to housing-related questions and also request free legal assistance for those who qualify

PA Law Help

Find legal information, referrals to legal service providers and information about your local courts relating to housing and shelter.

Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network
Find a Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network program by name or find the program office serving
Allegheny County to assist with civil legal issues.