

What is this guide?

This guide is meant to help simplify some of the information about existing publicly funded housing resources that might be relevant to someone with a criminal record who is looking for housing.

How can I use this guide?

1. Determine Eligibility and Qualifying Programs

- Use the [Eligibility Flowchart](#) (pg. 2) to determine potential organizations or programs to contact
 - Start at “Are you a person who is?” (yellow bar at top) and follow the arrows downward
 - If the program has a purple triangle (▲) or blue star (✦), you may need to check [HUD Homelessness Guidelines](#) (pg. 4) and [PHA Eligibility Guidelines](#) (pg. 11) to see if you are eligible
 - Need immediate shelter? Look for any program with a red lightning bolt ⚡

2. Learn More

- Use the [Table of Contents](#) (pg. 3) to navigate to any resource or read through guide
- For each resource, expect:
 - Resource Name
 - Description of service
 - Eligibility Requirements
 - Intake Process
 - Additional information

3. Next Steps

- Use the information and contacts provided to obtain additional information
- Consider privately funded opportunities and affordable housing websites (pg. 16)

**Please note, this guide is by no means complete. This guide does not contain all resources that are available, the system(s) are frequently changing, and information here may not capture all of the complexities of how these resources are accessed. Use the information provided to obtain additional information.

Eligibility Flowchart

Use this flowchart to figure out which programs you might be eligible for. Start at black arrow in top left of page.

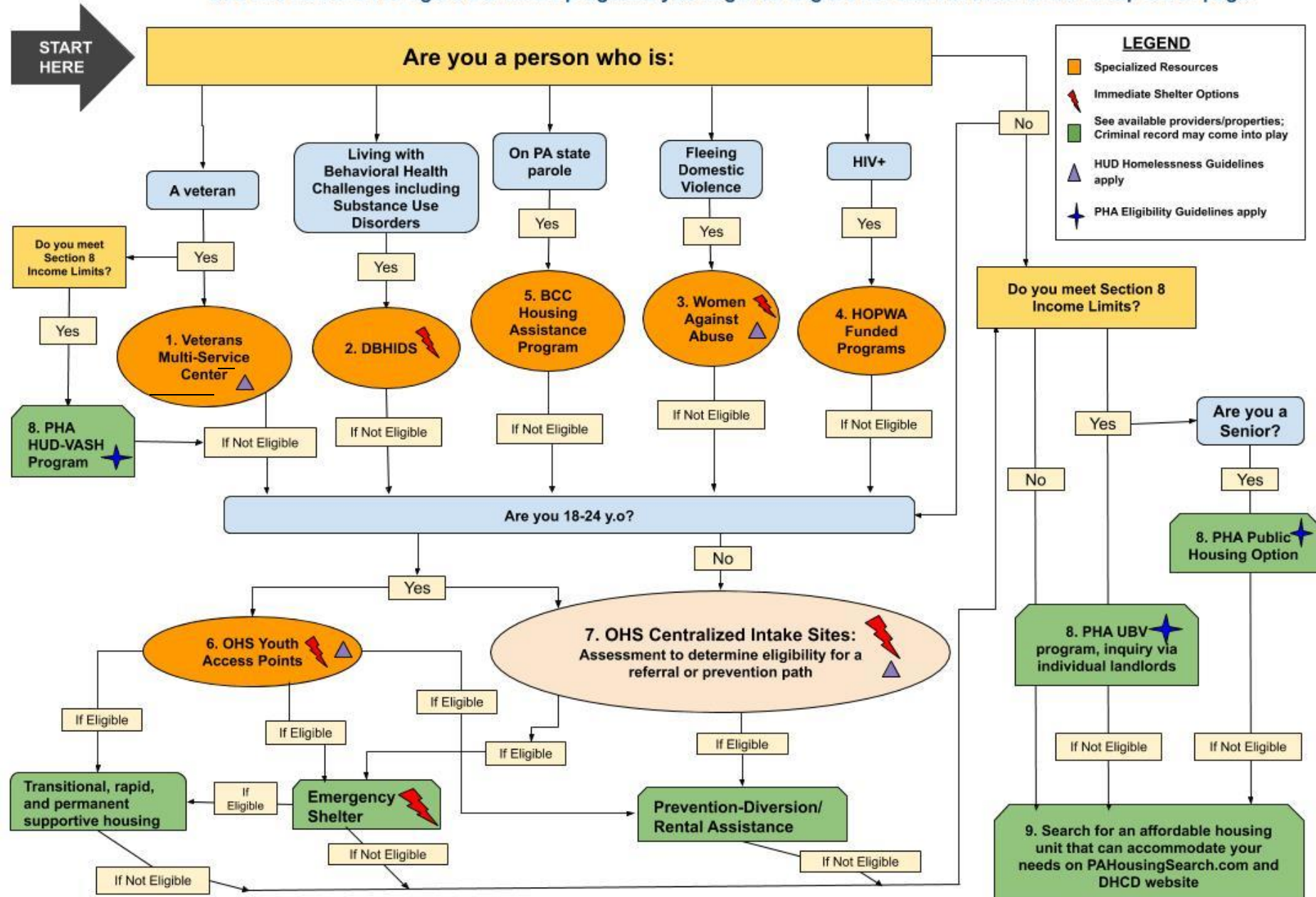











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HUD Definitions of Homelessness (Documentation Requirements are Italicized)

Category 1 – Literally Homeless

Household lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- a. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; OR
- b. Is living in a publicly or privately-operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); OR
- c. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less AND who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

- *Written observation by the outreach worker; OR*
- *Written referral by another housing or service provider; OR*
- *Certification by the individual or head of household seeking assistance stating that (s)he was living on the streets or in shelter;*
- *For individuals exiting an institution – one of the forms of evidence above AND:*
 - o *Discharge paperwork or written/oral referral, OR*
 - o *Written record of intake worker's due diligence to obtain above evidence and certification by individual that they exited institution*

Category 2 – Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Household will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- a. Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for assistance; AND
- b. No subsequent residence has been identified; AND
- c. Household lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

- *A court order resulting from an eviction action notifying the household that they must leave; OR*
- *For households leaving a hotel or motel – evidence that they lack the financial resources to stay; OR*
- *A documented and verified oral statement; AND*
- *Certification that no subsequent residence has been identified; AND*
- *Self-certification or other written documentation that the household lacks the financial resources and support necessary to obtain permanent housing*

Category 3 – Homeless under other Federal Statutes

Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

- a. Are defined as homeless under the other listed federal statutes;
- b. Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing during the 60 days prior to the homeless assistance application;
- c. Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during in the preceding 60 days; and
- d. Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time due to special needs or barriers

- *Certification by the nonprofit or state or local government that the individual or head of household seeking assistance met the criteria of homelessness under another federal statute; AND*
- *Certification of no PH in last 60 days; AND*
- *Certification by the individual or head of household, and any available supporting documentation, that (s)he has moved two or more times in the past 60 days; AND*
- *Documentation of special needs OR 2 or more barriers*

Category 4 – Fleeing/ attempting to flee domestic violence

Any household who:

- a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;
- b. Has no other residence; AND
- c. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

- *For victim service providers:*
 - o *an oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance which states: they are fleeing; they have no subsequent residence; and they lack resources. Statement must be documented by a self-certification or a certification by the intake worker*
- *For non-victim service providers:*
 - o *Oral statement by the individual or head of household seeking assistance that they are fleeing. This statement is documented by a self-certification or by the caseworker. Where safety is not jeopardized, the oral statement must be verified; AND*
 - o *Certification by the individual or head of household that no subsequent residence has been identified; AND*
 - o *Self-certification, or other written documentation, that the household lacks the financial resources and support to obtain other permanent housing.*

Resource Descriptions and Contact Information

I. Veteran's Multi-Service Center (VMC)



Call Center: 1-888-385-1250

VMC Homeless Veteran Services

- ❖ VMC provides assistance to homeless Veterans and Veterans in danger of this life situation. Providing a full continuum of care for homeless Veterans they operate: a homeless day service center providing immediate needs and both a male and female [transitional housing residence](#)
 - **Eligibility:** veterans of the US military
 - **Intake:** contact Herbert Fouch at 215-923-2600 ext.175; Herbert.fouch@VMCenter.org
 - **Additional Info:** 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Service Center

- ❖ **Day Service Center —The Perimeter:** Located at VMC headquarters in Philadelphia, the Perimeter offers daytime drop-in services for Veterans experiencing homelessness and Veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless. The Perimeter provides daily van transportation to and from designated locations including local shelters, the Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center and Camden, New Jersey. Services include breakfast and lunch, showers, personal hygiene items, haircuts and laundry facilities. After immediate needs are addressed, an assessment is completed, and practical goals are set to stabilize housing.
- ❖ **Philadelphia Alliance for Supportive Services to Veteran Families (PASSVF):** provides comprehensive supportive services to low-income Veterans who are currently experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of losing their leased homes. We provide eligible Veteran households with outreach, assessment, case management, advocacy and assistance in obtaining VA and other benefits, which may include housing counseling, legal support, credit repair, financial planning services, and time-limited, temporary financial assistance.

Permanent Supportive Housing

- ❖ **Veterans Home Project:** provides subsidized, supportive housing to 11 honorably discharged homeless Veterans with special needs.
- ❖ **Freedom's Gate:** Shelter Plus Care (SPC) program with scattered site units throughout Philadelphia County. Freedom's Gate provides Tenant Based Rental Assistance to 40 honorably discharged homeless Veterans with special needs.
- ❖ **CoC Rapid Re-Housing Bridge:** provides bridge housing to Veterans including move in cost, and supportive services, to all honorably discharged, disabled, chronically homeless veterans and at an income at or below 30% AMI while they are awaiting a PHA housing voucher.
- ❖ **Edison 64:** 66 Affordable Housing Units offering a preference to Veterans. Edison is comprised of 20 HUD VASH Vouchers (PHA and VA supportive service vouchers) and 14 Subsidized Supported housing units and 32 affordable units.
 - **Eligibility:** Veterans of the US military
 - **Intake:** contact 215-923-2600 or referrals are made through the Office of Homeless Services.

- **Additional Info:** 213-217 N. 4th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, Open Monday – Friday 8 am – 4:30 pm

❖ **Additional Resources:**

- Veterans Homeless OHS Hotline: 877-424-3838
 - Philly Vets Home Coalition Hotline: 215-923-8387
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2. DBHIDS TIP/ Housing and Homeless Residential Services



TIP Housing Services

The TIP Unit accomplishes its mission via centralized gatekeeping of admissions to and discharges from OMH-subsidized residences and a coordinated system to routinely review the status of clients residing at each site. The network of residential resources comprises approximately 1380 beds operated by 24 agencies at 135 sites.

TIP also works with the Clearinghouse at the Office of Homeless Services with short term and permanent housing subsidies that include Shallow Rent, Bridge/PHFA Housing and the 811 program. (Please note HUD definitions of homelessness are not necessarily applicable to all TIP programs)

❖ **Eligibility**

- Meet state Adult Priority Group criteria for Serious Mental Illness
- Philadelphia County resident for at least 6 months (exclusive of any institutional placement)
- At least 18 years old
- Income below \$1,000 per month unless documented extraordinary clinical or financial need.
- AND one of the following:
 - *Current Treatment History:* On Extended Acute Care Unit, or in TIP Housing; in Extended Acute Care Waiting List; in a Long Term Structured Residence
 - *Emerging Adult:* Persons aged 18-24 who have aged out of the Child Welfare System, been unstably housed, or experienced homelessness
 - *Homelessness:* Homeless outreach contact records within 90 days, admission to a Safe Haven, multiple or Long-Term Shelter Admission (HUD Chronic Homelessness Criteria)
- *Returning citizens monitored by:* Criminal Mental Health Court in coordination with the Behavioral Health and Justice Related Services Division (BHJRSD), Department of Corrections referrals for persons reaching max sentence in 12 months, in coordination with the BHJRSD, Philadelphia Prison System Reentry Program Coordination, for persons reaching max sentence, and persons leaving long-term institutional settings in coordination with BHJRSD

- ❖ **Intake:** complete the [DBHIDS Integrated Intake Packet application](#) with a case manager
- ❖ **Additional Info:** 215-546-0300 ext. 3381, 123 S. Broad Street, Phila., PA 19109, [DBHIDS.org](#)

Additional Services

- ❖ **Safe Haven System:** 13 safe havens (128 beds; typical stay 6-12 months), which utilize a harm reduction approach in a residential setting for individuals struggling with significant behavioral health challenges. Pathway to permanent housing through on-site assessment and case managers.
 - **Eligibility:** Chronically homelessness as defined by HUD and has a behavioral health issue, SMI and/or SUD (can still be actively using)
 - **Intake:** Street outreach
 - **Additional Info:** Contact Tim Sheahan at 215-546-0300 x.4776, Timothy.sheahan@phila.gov
- ❖ **The Office of Addiction Services (OAS) Recovery House Initiative:** 27 DBH funded recovery houses with 470 beds for individuals connected to treatment programs. Sites with recovery oriented living environment for males. 180 day stays. Pathway to long-term housing and outpatient treatment.
 - **Eligibility:** Must be Philadelphia resident at or above the age of 18 years old; Enrolled or is about to be enrolled in an intensive outpatient, outpatient medication free, or outpatient methadone maintenance treatment program or other MAT services
 - **Intake:** Complete referral form with case manager
 - **Additional Info:** call OAS at 215-372-7400, OAS-RHReferral@Phila.gov
- ❖ **Journey of Hope Project** has 6 long-term (9-12mos) licensed inpatient treatment programs, for chronically homeless individuals who are also struggling with substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health challenges.
 - **Eligibility/Intake:** Must meet the HUD definitions of chronic homelessness and be deemed medically necessary at a Crisis Response Center or other assessment point.
 - **Additional Info:** Contact Deanna at 215-599-4972 with eligibility questions Deanna.fasano@phila.gov

3. Women Against Abuse



DV-specific emergency shelters: two 24-hour emergency locations provide free services to adults and children who are victims of domestic violence. Services include: up to 90 days of shelter, case management, individual and group counseling, 3 meals a day, children's health assessments, emergency relocation funds (as available), adult education and job readiness referrals, after school and summer school programs, and on-site child care. Intake is through the DV Hotline (see number below)

Sojourner House: WAA's transitional housing program provides family apartments for women and their children for up to 18 months. Services include case management, group counseling, on-site child care, after school and summer school programs, economic management education, and parenting and life skills education. Intake is through the Office of Homeless Services.

- **Intake:** call the 24/7 [Phila. Domestic Violence Hotline](#) (1-866-723-3014), main source of referrals and admissions

4. HOPWA (Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS) Funded Agencies

Housing subsidies are available through Pathways to Housing PA

- ❖ **Eligibility:** Applicants must have CDC-defined AIDS diagnosis or meet the Social Security Administration requirements for disability due to HIV/AIDS and be chronically homeless at the time of admission with a documented history of long-term homelessness (over 1 year)
- ❖ **Intake:** Referrals are received from the Department of Behavioral Health
- ❖ **Additional Info:** (215) 390-1500, 5201 Old York Road, 4th Fl., Philadelphia, PA 19141, info@pathwaystohousingpa.org

PHMC's Emergency Financial Assistance Program ([application](#))

[PHMC Emergency Financial Assistance](#) (EFA) provides short term grant payment assistance (short-term rent, mortgage) to very low, low and moderate-income persons with HIV/AIDS. Public Health Management Corporation is designated to provide this service in Southeastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Delaware Counties).

- Assists people living with HIV/AIDS in an emergency that has resulted from a generally unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances that demand immediate course of attention
- Emergency financial assistance is the provision of short-term payments to assist with emergency expenses for essential services when other resources are not available.
- ❖ **Eligibility:** Funds are available to any persons diagnosed with HIV/AIDS regardless of race, sex, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, and place of citizenship residing in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. Applicants must be assessed for certification as eligible beneficiaries. Eligibility certification cards must be included with applications for EFA. Applicants not eligible to receive EFA funds for housing or utilities if they live in housing units that are subsidized with federal funds.
- ❖ **Intake:** The application MUST be faxed to PHMC at 215-985-2099, along with the required documentation
 - **Required Documentation:** Current photo ID, current copy of the Ryan White services eligibility certification card is required, certification of Medical Necessity and Financial Counseling forms (forms are in the application)
- ❖ **Additional Info:** PHMC – DEFA Department 267-773-4366 or 215-985-2500 (main number) www.phmc.org (Search: DEFA), fax (215-985-2099), 1500 Market St. Phila, PA 19102

5. Bureau of Community Corrections Contracted Reentry Services

Housing Assistance Program: Suppliers provide up to 24 months of housing coordination and up to 6 months of rental assistance for the purpose of assisting the client and, where necessary, their dependents, in attaining independent living by securing safe and affordable housing that meets the standards established by the Department of Corrections (DOC) and the Pennsylvania Parole Board (PPB). Rent/lease payments should not be less than 30% or exceed 45% of the total household income for the client. Government assistance can qualify as a source of total household income.

- ❖ **Eligibility:** Anyone residing in a Community Corrections Center (CCC) or Community Contract Facility (CCF) who needs aid in securing a home plan
 - ❖ **Intake:** Speak to your Parole Agent. Housing Assistance may begin at the Corrections Center or Facility and continue through community placement of the client, as needed. Clients will be referred to the Supplier(s) by the DOC and/or PPB due to inability to secure an approvable home plan without assistance or identified need for housing.
 - ❖ **Additional Info:** Housing Assistance is not intended to serve as Emergency Housing. Placement into approved housing is a process and not an immediate result.
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6. OHS Youth Intake/Access Points: for 24-year old's and under



- ❖ **Eligibility:** under 18, 18-24 years old, homeless or housing insecure

Services and Shelter for youth 17y.o and under

- Youth Emergency Services (emergency shelter for youth ages 17 and under): 215-787-0633 OR 1-800-371-SAFE
- Forget Me Knot Youth Services (emergency shelter for youth ages 17 and under): 215-223-3621
- Pathways PA (emergency shelter for female youth ages 17 and under): 215-397-4260
- Valley Youth House Synergy Project 24/7 Hotline: Ages 21 and Under 1-888-HOUSE-15

Access Points for 18y.o+

- Valley Youth House: 1500 Sansom Street 3rd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19102, Mon: 11:00-2:00pm, Wed: 2:00-4:00pm, Thurs: 1:00-5:00pm, Fri: 10:00-1:00pm, 1-888-HOUSE-15

After Hours:

- Valley Youth House Synergy Project 24/7 Hotline: Ages 21 and Under 1-888-HOUSE-15
 - Homeless Outreach: Ages 22 and Up 1-877-232-1984
-

7. OHS Emergency Housing

Homeless outreach hotline: 215-232-1984



Eligibility: Must meet HUD homeless definitions

Centralized Homeless Intake Services:

You must go through central intake for an initial assessment of your housing needs before placement into the homeless housing system. If eligible, persons and families are placed in appropriate emergency housing, boarding homes, or other alternative housing. *Metal detector screening is required before entering our intake sites and access points.*

Intake Mon-Fri 7am-5pm:

- **Appletree Family Center:** 1430 Cherry St.; 215-686-7150, 7151, or 7153
- **Roosevelt Darby Center:** Mon-Fri 7am-5pm; 802 N. Broad St.; 215-685-3700
- Or, call Bruce Johnson, 215-687-3267

Intake after 5pm Daily AND Weekends and Holidays 24 hours:

(Bed for the night, first-come, first-served)

- **Gaudenzia's House of Passage, Kirkbride Center (for single women):** 49th Street & Haverford Ave. (48th St. side entrance); 215-471-2017
- **Station House (for single men):** 2601 N. Broad Street, rear entrance; 215- 225-9230
- **Salvation Army Red Shield Family Residence (for families):** 715 N. Broad St., 215- 787-2887
- **Sunday Breakfast:** 302 N. 13th St., 215-922-6400

- ❖ **For people under age 24 see the section of this guide on Youth Access Points**
- ❖ **Referral placement is subject to provider discretion with screening**
- ❖ **Please refer to <http://philadelphiaofficeofhomelesservices.org/> for the most up-to-date information**

8. Philadelphia Housing Authority



Unit Based Voucher Program

- ❖ Under the Unit Based Program, PHA enters into Housing Assistance Payments contracts with property owners to provide rental assistance to eligible low-income households.
 - As a UBV Program Participant, you will pay the Owner a portion of the rent for the unit you live in and PHA will pay the rest (between to 26- 30% of their adjusted income for rent) based on their family size or specific UBV program.
 - The amount of rent that the tenant pays is reduced by a utility allowance if the tenant pays for utilities such as gas and electricity.
 - **PHA UBV Developments:** Please note that some of these places require referrals from OHS
- ❖ **Eligibility:** The income limit is 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI) as established by HUD annually.
- ❖ **Intake:** Applicants must apply directly at the UBV development and are selected by the Owner and not PHA. Owners set their own property-specific tenant screening and selection criteria, which must apply to all the units at a property regardless of whether it receives PHA subsidy. Upon completion of Owner screening, the family is referred to PHA for eligibility screening for the UBV program, including income eligibility.

❖ **Additional Info:** (215) 684-4000, 1800 South 32nd St., Philadelphia, PA 19145

Homeless Veterans Services (HUD-VASH)

- ❖ The Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program (VASH) combines PHA voucher rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veteran's Affairs (VA).
- ❖ Hancock Manor: 14 Affordable Shared Housing apartments offering a preference to Veterans. 7 units are supported PHA Project Based HUD VASH Vouchers

Mainstream Voucher Program

- ❖ HUD awards special Mainstream vouchers to PHA to provide rental assistance to 74 non-elderly disabled persons who are homeless, at risk of homelessness or in transitional housing. PHA partners with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) and [Liberty Resources](#) for referrals for this program and to provide ongoing supportive services to the voucher holders.
- ❖ **Eligibility:** non-elderly person with disability who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or in transitional housing
- ❖ **Intake:** complete the [DBHIDS Integrated Intake Packet application](#) with a case manager or reach out to Liberty Resources at 215-634-2000, info@libertyresources.org, 112 N 8th St, Suite 600, Philadelphia, PA 19107
- ❖ **Additional Info:** Contact Gail Nedd at Liberty Resources at 215 634-2000 x352 or Joyce Sacco at DBH at 215 546-0300 with questions

Public Housing Program

The Public Housing Program waitlist is **closed as of April 15, 2013**. However, senior-designated housing developments and special programs remain **open**.

Additional Info: 1800 South 32nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145; (215) 684-4000

PHA Eligibility Guidelines:

For full details about admission eligibility related to criminal records see Chapter 4.20-4.24 of PHA's "[Public Housing Program Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy](#)".

Important note from the document:

Section 4-17: PHA will conduct criminal background checks at admission, when an adult is proposed to be added to the household and when an existing minor household member turns 18. Additionally, PHA reserves the right to conduct criminal background checks at other times to ensure that clients are not engaging in or have engaged in certain criminal activities.

9. Affordable Housing

These websites can be used to search for affordable housing options:

PAHousingSearch.com: <http://www.pahousingsearch.com/index.html>

DHCD: <https://www.phila.gov/find-affordable-rental-housing/>

Community Development Corporations: http://pacdc.nationbuilder.com/member_list