

Pennsylvania State Agency Emergency & Recovery Resources Catalog



For emergency management professionals and state agencies.

This resource is designed for emergency management professionals and state agencies as a reference guide for state-level programs that may be available to citizens and communities when affected by an emergency or disaster.

Resources Listed in this Catalog

Business Development/Recovery

Business Registration in Pennsylvania.....	5
Corporate and Association Document Replacement.....	6
Professional Licensure.....	7

Community Development

Community and Redevelopment Assistance	8
Recovery Resources Team (RRT).....	9
Bias and Discrimination Complaints	11
ChildLine - Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)	12
Consumer Protection	13
Fraud and Consumer Protection	14
Protecting Disaster Survivors from Financial Scams	15

Emergency Declaration

Weather-Related, Safety-Related or Health-Related Emergency Declaration	16
---	----

Education

School Resource Guide for Disaster Evacuees.....	Annex at end of document
--	--------------------------

Employment

Employment Availability - CareerLink.....	17
Disaster Unemployment Assistance	18

Environment

Environmental Emergency Response Program.....	19
---	----

Financial, Cash to Consumer

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	22
Individuals and Households Program (IHP)	23
Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)	24

Financial, Child Care

Subsidized Child Care – Child Care Works	25
--	----

Financial, Loan to Public Sector

Emergency Loan for School Districts	26
---	----

Fleet/Roadway

Emergency Road and Bridge Repairs 27
Local Technical Assistance 28
Motor Fuels Waivers 29
Vehicle Code Waiver 30
Vehicles to Deliver Recovery Resources 31

Food/Nutrition

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) 32
Emergency Food Assistance 33
Emergency Mass Feeding 34
Food Safety 35
School Nutrition Programs - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) 36
School Nutrition Programs - NON Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) 37
Summer Food Service Program 38
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 39

Health, Behavioral Care

Adult Autism Waiver 40
Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) 42
Consolidated Waiver 44
Crisis Counseling Program for Presidential Declared Disaster (Individual Assistance) 45
Early Intervention Services for Children 46
Healthy Families America (HFA) 47
Medical Assistance (Medicaid) 48
Narcotic Treatment 49
Nurse Family Partnership 50
Parents as Teachers 51
Person/Family Directed Services Waiver 52
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) 53
SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) 54

Housing

PA Housing Search 55
Clean Up Assistance 56
LIHEAP 57
Renovate and Repair (R&R) Loan Program 58
Individual On-Lot Sewage System Loans 59
Utility Assistance Referral 60
Consumer Complaint Assistance 61



Law Enforcement	
Law Enforcement	62
Older Adults	
Services for Older Pennsylvanians	63
Pets/Animals	
Animal Protection and Sheltering.....	64
Procurement	
Competitive Bidding	65
COSTARS and Emergency Procurement.....	66
Property Damage	
Personal Property Damage Guidance - Farmers and Agribusinesses.....	67
Records Recovery	
Birth and death Certificate Replacement	68
Replacement of Critical Vehicle and Identification Documents	69
Resources and Assistance for Records-Related Scenarios	70
Voter/Election Service	
Election Filings.....	71
Voter Registration	72
Water Systems	
Drinking Water System, Sewer Systems, Storm Water Systems.....	73
Additional Resources	74
School Resource Guide for Disaster Evacuees	Annex at end of document

Business Development/Recovery



Business Registration in Pennsylvania

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of State

Resource Description

Provide the foundation for economic development and job creation in the state through the business registration services of the Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations (BCCO).

We are the first stop for innovators and entrepreneurs who need to register a new business venture. Our foremost goal is to make Pennsylvania's system of business registration the standard of excellence for all other states.

For more information

Pennsylvania Department of State,
Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations (BCCO)
(717) 787-1057

Business Development/Recovery



Corporate and Association Document Replacement

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of State

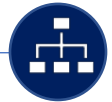
Resource Description

Provides copies of corporate/association documents lost in a disaster. There is a cost of \$3.00 per page.

For more information

Pennsylvania Department of State,
Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations
(717) 787-1057

Business Development/Recovery



Professional Licensure

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of State

Resource Description

Professional Licensing in Pennsylvania offers prospective licensees the opportunity to apply for initial licensure; current licensees the opportunity to renew their license; and licensees, employers and the general public the opportunity to conduct searches of licensed professionals via our secure Pennsylvania Licensing System (pals.pa.gov) website.

1. State Board of Accountancy
2. State Architects Licensure Board
3. State Board of Auctioneer Examiners
4. State Board of Barber Examiners
5. State Board of Certified Real Estate Appraisers
6. State Board of Chiropractic
7. State Board of Cosmetology
8. State Board of Crane Operators
9. State Board of Dentistry
10. State Board of Funeral Directors
11. State Board of Landscape Architects
12. State Board of Massage Therapy
13. State Board of Medicine
14. State Board of Nursing
15. State Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators
16. State Board of Occupational Therapy
17. State Board of Optometry
18. State Board of Osteopathic Medicine
19. State Board of Pharmacy
20. State Board of Physical Therapy

For more information

Pennsylvania Department of State,
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs
(717) 787-8503

Community Development



Community and Redevelopment Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

Resource Description

Provides state-funded grants for community revitalization and economic development activities. The program assists the community in becoming competitive for business retention, expansion, and attraction. Eligible applicants include housing authorities, redevelopment authorities, non-profit housing corporations, and units of local government. Typical grants average between \$150,000 and \$200,000, but no minimum or maximum amount is set.

Non-profit organizations in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are not eligible to apply through the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) directly for HRA funds. Requests must be made through the cities themselves. Typical grants average between \$150,000 and \$200,000, but no minimum or maximum amount is set. Grant funds are to be used to redevelop and reuse blighted and/or vacant property, expand housing opportunities and promote stability of neighborhoods.

For more information

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development
(866) 466-3972

Community Development



Recovery Resources Team (RRT)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development

Resource Description

Pennsylvania's mechanism to coordinate and orchestrate long-term recovery. The key objective of the Team is to institutionalize a process for ongoing communication and disaster recovery resource coordination among partners. Maintaining the framework of recovery resource coordination for the commonwealth creates an increased capacity for reduced recovery time in the event future disasters. By maintaining this structure, linkages between funding streams and the private sector are created. The Emergency Management Counsel activates the RRT.

The RRT seeks to:

- Develop permanent housing solutions.
- Rebuild infrastructure to meet future community needs
- Implement economic revitalization strategies.
- Facilitate funding for business rebuilding.
- Facilitate ongoing counseling, behavioral health and case management services.
- Re-establish disrupted healthcare systems.
- Implement mitigation strategies.

For more information

The RRT is activated by the Emergency Management Committee.

Communities or local government leaders with concerns, questions or comments, please contact our Recovery Resources Team at <https://dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/community-services/disaster-recovery/contact-disaster-recovery-team/>.

More information is available online:

<http://dced.pa.gov/housing-and-development/community-services/disaster-recovery/#.WEGAz00zWUk>

State and/or federal declaration required.

Consumer Protection



Financial Services

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities

Resource Description

Regulate financial services and work to ensure consumers and businesses are well-informed about the marketplace. Our Consumer Services staff members answer questions about financial issues, receive and process complaints, and refer callers to correct institutions or organizations. DoBS serves all 67 counties and services are free of charge. Constituents can call (800)-PA-BANKS or (800) 600-0007 Monday-Friday (8:30 AM to 5:00 PM); calls and messages are returned by a trained professional within 24 hours between Monday and Friday.

In addition we work with organizations and community groups to provide free educational programs designed to help consumers how to protect their assets and financial information from frauds and scams, as well as grow their money and save for retirement. Programs include:

- Avoiding Scams/ID Theft
- Banking Basics
- Understanding Reverse Mortgages
- Creating Spending Plans
- Responsible Homeownership
- Fraud Bingo
- Scam Jam

Additional online resources can be downloaded:

www.dobs.pa.gov/For%20Media/Pages/Publications-and-Reports.aspx

Invite us to your community to learn about scam prevention – email us at informed@pa.gov to schedule.

For more information

Learn more, file a complaint, or contact us at www.dobs.pa.gov.

CONTACT: 800-PA-BANKS or (800) 600-0007; informed@pa.gov

Consumer Protection



Bias and Discrimination Complaints

Lead Agency

Human Relations Commission

Resource Description

Promote equal opportunity and enforce non-discrimination laws; receive and investigate complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation and education; provide fair practice notices to PA employers businesses, schools, colleges, lenders and housing providers; and operates the PA Interagency Task Force on Community Activities and Relations.

The taskforce is made up of PHRC, PA Attorney General's Office and PA State Police working in conjunction with other state and federal agencies, community organizations, advocacy groups, local government and law enforcement agencies to quickly and appropriately address civil tension incidents and promote positive community relations in order to prevent tension.

1. Collect factual data related to complaints of discrimination via questionnaires.
2. Draft and serve complaint of discrimination.
3. Conduct investigation of complaint.
4. Adjudicate complaints of discrimination. Prevent and respond to civil tension incidents

For more information

Online at <http://www.phrc.pa.gov/File-A-Complaint/Pages/About-Filing-A-Complaint.aspx>

Consumer Protection



ChildLine - Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Pennsylvania's child welfare system is state-supervised and county-administered. The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF) provides technical assistance and oversight to the Commonwealth's 67 county children and youth agencies. In addition, OCYF has responsibility for the statewide child abuse hotline, ChildLine, and database.

Referrals made to ChildLine are referred to the county children and youth agencies as either Child Protective Services or General Protective Services. Families receive the same services, including safety assessments of children in the home, regardless of which type of referral. Child Protective Services reports are those that allege that a child may have been a victim of child abuse as defined by the Child Protective Services Law (CPSL). Typically, these are reports in which the child was harmed or there was a specific incident where the child may have been harmed or was endangered by a perpetrator as defined under the CPSL.

General Protective Services reports are those reports that do not rise to the level of suspected child abuse but allege a need for intervention to prevent serious harm to children.

The purpose of General Protective Services is to:

- Provide services to prevent abuse or neglect to children
- Provide or arrange for and monitor the provision of those services necessary to safeguard and ensure the child's well-being and development
- Preserve and stabilize family life wherever appropriate

Types of allegations that would be handled under General Protective Services include but are not limited to:

- Lack of Supervision
- Inappropriate Discipline
- Conduct by Parent, Caregiver, or Household Member That Places Child at Risk or Fails to Protect the Child from Others
- Truancy

For more information

Concerns regarding the safety of children should be called in to ChildLine: (800) 932-0313.

A trained caseworker is available 24 hours, 7 days a week to receive both Child Protective Services reports and General Protective Services reports.

ChildLine –(800) 932-0313



Consumer Protection



Consumer Protection

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Insurance Department

Resource Description

Provides assistance in settling disputes between policy holders and insurance companies and answers questions about insurance coverage and includes consumer insurance complaint assistance. It does not provide any monetary assistance.

For more information

Contact the hotline: (877) 881-6388

Consumer Protection



Fraud and Consumer Protection

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General

Resource Description

Provide guidance and answer consumer questions regarding scams.

- Answer questions regarding home improvement repair scams.
- Provide general literature on how to protect against fraud and scams.
- Document and investigate fraud complaints from victims.

For more information

Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act Helplines:

Consumer Helpline- (888) 520-6680

Contractor Helpline- (717) 772-2425

Helplines:

Child Predator Unit- (800) 385-1044

Elder Abuse Unit- (866) 623-2137

Consumer Protection- (800) 441-2555

Education & Outreach- (800) 525-7642

Health Care Section- (877) 888-4877

Do Not Call List- (888) 777-3406

Military and Veterans Affairs- (717) 783-1944

Consumer Protection



Protecting Disaster Survivors from Financial Scams

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Banking and Securities

Resource Description

Provides consumer and investor alerts and advisories on financial scams to avoid during and after a disaster.

Provides a resource for consumers to contact with questions regarding issues they may be experiencing with their bank, credit union, or other financial services provider.

File a complaint about a financial institution, check a background, or ask about a suspected scam.

For more information

Consumers should call the helpline to report charity scams, to investigate the background of a financial services firm/professional, or to file a complaint regarding a financial services firm at 800-PA-BANKS or (800) 600-0007 or online at www.dobs.pa.gov

The consumer helpline staffed Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

Emergency Declaration



Weather-Related, Safety-Related or Health-Related Emergency Declaration

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

Section 1505 of the School Code provides that the Secretary of Education may issue a weather-related, safety-related or health-related emergency declaration on a school entity, charter school entity, county or statewide basis.

A school entity may satisfy the one hundred eighty (180) instructional day per school year requirement in section 1501 of this act by one or more of the following options:

- Approving, by majority vote of the governing board of the school entity, a school year with a minimum of nine hundred (900) hours of instruction at the elementary level and nine hundred ninety (990) hours of instruction at the secondary level in lieu of one hundred eighty (180) instructional days.
- Approving, by majority vote of the governing board of the school entity, the scheduling of additional instructional days on Saturdays to complete one hundred eighty (180) instructional days or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction at the elementary level and nine hundred ninety (990) hours of instruction at the secondary level. .

24 P.S. § 15-1505(a).

Employment



Employment Availability - CareerLink

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Resource Description

Careerlink is a free online and in-person resource to assist with employment search.

Services include:

- Resume Workshops
- Free Career Counseling
- Job Search Assistance
- Interview Skills Training
- Skills Assessment
- Job Fairs
- Training Opportunity Exploration
- Computer Training
- Free Access to a Computer Lab
- Career Exploration -

For more information

Online employment search: www.pacareerlink.pa.gov

For Careerlink locations: <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/PaCareerLink/Index.htm>

Employment



Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Resource Description

Provides 180 days of unemployment assistance to individuals as a result of a disaster and are not eligible to receive unemployment compensation assistance, i.e., the self employed.

1. Assistance with eligibility and completing the application.
2. Financial Assistance - unemployment compensation.

For more information

877-FILEDUA or (877) 345-3382

State and/or federal declaration required.

Environment



Environmental Emergency Response Program

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) mission during emergencies and disasters is to respond quickly and professionally to any incident which adversely affects the health and safety or the environment of the citizens of the Commonwealth. This response typically comes from the Environmental Emergency Response Program which provides 24-hour availability for notification of pollution incidents and emergency situations. The program also provides a staff of trained professional personnel, through 6 regional Environmental Emergency Response Teams, that respond to emergencies and supplements the capabilities of local response agencies by providing technical expertise and analytical capabilities not normally available to local responders. During natural disasters DEP's staff responds in a variety of ways. The tasks undertaken by program areas are outlined below.

- Air Quality (AQ) – Most of the regional offices have a limited supply of SUMA canisters available to take grab samples to analyze for volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Should more extensive monitoring be required or monitoring for compounds outside of the suite of VOCs additional sampling equipment can be brought to an incident.
 - No federal or state disaster declaration is needed for air sampling to be conducted.

- Sampling – The Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) works with the regional programs to analyze samples, typically of drinking water, in an accelerated timeframe. The samples may be from permitted public water supply/drinking water facilities which may have been impacted by the disaster and are looking to return to service, or are from private wells which may have been flooded. During a natural disaster, such as a flood, homeowner well test kit fees can be waived. Additional costs associated with the analysis of sample results are variable depending on the size of the incident and the staff/overtime needed to analyze the samples within the designated holding times.
 - *No federal or state disaster declaration is needed. However, a local disaster declaration is helpful in substantiating the need. The event can be localized or widespread.*

- Clean Water (CW) –The CW program works with permitted publicly owned treatment work (POTW)/wastewater facilities to monitor their plants and sewer lines as well as monitoring the Waters of the Commonwealth the plants discharge to. The program will work with the plant operators on the implementation of their emergency response plans and maintain an operational picture of the status of the facilities within the areas impacted by the disaster. Additionally, biologists from vector management within the Clean Water program are available to assist local communities if there is a greater risk for mosquitoes after flooding events.
- No federal or state disaster declaration is needed for any of the above actions. Potential costs involved would be staff overtime.
- Environmental Clean-Up and Brownfields (ECB) –The Storage Tanks Section can be involved in evaluating resident’s basements/properties which have been flooded and impacted by a heating oil release. Storage Tanks staff can provide technical guidance to homeowners on the cleanup of the spilled fuel as well as communicate with insurance companies and contractors on behalf of homeowners.
- Emergency Response (ER) – ER operates the regional emergency response teams, which respond to any releases into the environment or transportation incidents during a natural disaster. ER Team members may also be asked to observe contractors if DEP executes an emergency contract for immediate removal of contaminants.
- Office of Pollution Prevention and Energy Assurance (OPPEA) - OPPEA will work with PENNDOT, PEMA, and PSP to approve/initiate waivers to fuel delivery and other fuel supply drivers when fuel supplies are interrupted. The waivers are typically an extended operating period for drivers and companies to provide the fuel to customers. OPPEA will also monitor supplies of fuel and energy for potential problems/shortages which may be exacerbated by the natural disaster.
- Safe Drinking Water (SDW) - In response to water supply emergencies, SDW actions may include on-site assessments and technical assistance, issuance of public notice on behalf of the PWS, sample collection and analysis, issuance of emergency permits for alternate water sources/interconnections/additional treatment, referrals/support to Pennsylvania’s Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (PAWARN), etc. The well test kits include the sample instructions, well disinfection instructions and the bottles needed to take the test.
 - *No federal or state disaster declaration is needed for any of the above actions. Potential costs involved would be staff overtime as well as the cost of sample collection and analysis. Costs will vary depending on the extent of the*

contamination and whether flooded/impacted areas are served by a public water supply or private wells.

- *During a drought, a state declaration of a drought emergency would be needed to mandate water conservation measures and other actions.*
- Waste Management (WM) –WM can waive required recycling and growing greener fees at disposal facilities if there is a disaster declared by the governor. WM also has the latitude to extend operating hours and waive daily tonnage volumes and Act 90 authorization requirements for landfills/vehicles accepting and transporting debris during a disaster. Also, DEP will work with local municipalities to establish staging areas for flood debris prior to disposal.
 - *A Governor's declaration is needed for the fee waiver. A local declaration of emergency is not required. The requests to extend operating hours, daily volume, waste acceptance and special leachate management needs to come from a landfill regarding those operations. Typically requests for temporary staging areas would come from municipalities or counties. Act 90 waivers could come from the landfill, or municipalities, or DEP.*
- Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands (WW) – The Regional Waterways and Wetlands Program Staff will issue emergency permits for bridge and culvert repairs, debris removal from streams, etc.
 - *No federal or state disaster declaration is needed, and the event can be localized or widespread.*
 - *No permit fee needed for emergency 105 permits. Potential costs would be staff overtime for permits which require site visit or when the volume of permits exceeds the ability of the program to complete the permits during regular business hours.*

For more information

Visit www.dep.pa.gov

Financial, Cash to Consumer



Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help families achieve self-sufficiency. TANF is also referred to as "cash assistance". States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program.

The four purposes of the TANF program are to:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.
2. Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

For more information

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/cashassistance/tanfandmovingtoindependence/>

Financial, Cash to Consumer



Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) helps people affected by a disaster. It provides money, up to the program maximum, for necessary expenses and serious needs, not housing related, that can't be met through other means.

Examples: Personal property, childcare, medical and dental expenses, funeral and burial costs, transportation.

Households who do not qualify for a loan from the SBA may be eligible for assistance with personal property, moving and storage, and transportation. Assistance with funerals, medical, dental and child care are offered regardless of the household's SBA loan eligibility. Essential personal property includes such items as kitchen table and chairs; kitchen utensils; beds; bed linens; couch; chair; a lamp; a telephone, etc. It does not include stereo systems, video games, VCRs, DVD player/recorders; toys; etc. It is limited to items needed for daily needs. The items lost must be verified by the site inspection performed by the FEMA inspector. Based upon documentation provided by the eligible disaster victim, this program also aids with replacement or repair to uninsured essential medical equipment; uninsured transportation; moving and storage due to disaster (not due to evacuation); assistance with uninsured funeral expenses due to disaster; uninsured disaster caused medical and dental expenses; and loss of seasonal clothing.

NOTE: Both state and federal emergency declaration is required.

<https://www.disasterassistance.gov/disaster-assistance/forms-of-assistance/4473/0/D05>

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/24945>

[25% State share; 75% FEMA](#)

For more information

For a Fact Sheet which provides IHP information:

[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1502371943459-](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1502371943459-711a17671708a7ded53f0b22315f2597/FACTSHEETIndividualsandHouseholdIHP.pdf)

[711a17671708a7ded53f0b22315f2597/FACTSHEETIndividualsandHouseholdIHP.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1502371943459-711a17671708a7ded53f0b22315f2597/FACTSHEETIndividualsandHouseholdIHP.pdf)

For more information:

<http://www.disasterassistance.gov/disaster-assistance/forms-of-assistance/4473/0/D05>

www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/24945

25% State share; 75% FEMA



Financial, Cash to Consumer



Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency

Resource Description

The Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) helps victims and their families who are residents of Pennsylvania through the emotional and physical aftermath of a crime by easing the financial impact placed upon them by the crime. VCAP staff will respond to mass criminal events occurring in Pennsylvania, such as mass violence, shootings and terrorist attacks, to assist with filing for compensation.

Eligible victims may be able to receive financial help from VCAP for a [variety of expenses](#), such as medical and counseling expenses, loss of earnings, loss of support, stolen cash, relocation, funeral, or crime scene cleanup.

Claims can be filed with the help of the responding VCAP team to the mass criminal event, a victim advocate at a local [Victim Service Program](#), or [filed online](#) directly to VCAP at <http://pcv.pccd.pa.gov>.

For more information

Victims Compensation Assistance Program
(800) 233-2339

Financial, Child Care



Subsidized Child Care – Child Care Works

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The subsidized child care program – known as Child Care Works (CCW) – helps low-income families pay for child care fees. The CCW program is managed by the Child Care Information Services (CCIS) office located in your county.

To qualify, families must:

- Live in Pennsylvania
- Have a child or children under age 13 who need child care while the parent works or goes to school
- Be working a minimum of 20 hours per week or working a minimum of 10 hours per week and in school or training a minimum of 10 hours per week.
- Have income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines (FPIG). A family of four could not have annual income in excess of \$49,200.
- Pay a weekly co-payment towards the cost of care
- Parents may choose the provider of his or her choice. The parent may choose a child care center, a small family day care home, a group day care home or a relative to care for his or her child. Families can get help with paying for child care and locating child care by contacting the local CCIS.

For more information

Visit the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' website at <http://www.dhs.pa.gov>, "Child Care and Early Learning" or call 877-4-PA-KIDS or (877) 472-5437 to find the CCIS in your community.

Families can also locate child care and other early learning programs by using the Department's COMPASS website at www.findchildcarepa.gov.

Financial, Loan to Public Sector

Emergency Loan *for School Districts*



Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

Emergency Loan for current expense and debt service for school districts.

Section 636 of the School Code provides for emergency loans for current expenses and debt service. When there is an emergency situation, pursuant to this provision a school district may appeal to the Secretary for permission to "incur a temporary debt for the purpose of providing funds for current expenses and debt service." 24 P.S. § 6-636.

Loan for expenses and debt service

For more information

When making such a request, a school district must present financial statements or reports to show the necessity of the increase in indebtedness beyond the amount allowed for under section 640. After reviewing the relevant documentation, the Secretary may grant or deny the request to borrow the funds. If the Secretary approves such a request, he shall designate the maximum length of the term and shall set a limit of the total amount of temporary indebtedness that the school district may incur.

Fleet/Roadway



Emergency Road and Bridge Repairs

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Resource Description

Under Section 516 of the Procurement Code, PennDOT performs emergency road and bridge repairs where needed on state highways.

The Federal Highway Administration can provide emergency funds for the repair and reconstruction of highways and bridges on the Federal-aid system in the event of natural disasters over a wide area or catastrophic infrastructure failures. Also, the Federal Emergency Management agencies can provide emergency funds for the repair and reconstruction of highways and bridges on the State funded system in the event a Presidential Declaration of Disaster is proclaimed. In this case, PennDOT works directly with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The procurements would proceed under the authority of Section 516 of the procurement code.

For more information

1-800-FIX-ROAD or (800) 349-7623

Central Office: (717) 787-2838

Fleet/Roadway



Local Technical Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Resource Description

PennDOT provides advice to local governments through the Local Technical Assistance Program and the direct interactions of PennDOT's District Municipal Services Coordinators; and coordinates their actions with local governments. During proclaimed emergencies, municipal governments are generally covered under FEMA guidelines and work extensively with PEMA for disaster response, recovery and federal reimbursement for highway and bridge repair. Where municipal governments have damage on Federal-aid funded roads and bridges, PennDOT works directly with the local governments to submit for recovery, repairs, and eligibility through the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information

<https://www.dot7.state.pa.us/LTAP/default.aspx>

Fleet/Roadway



Motor Fuels Waivers

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Revenue

Resource Description

Motor fuels waivers and permits.

For more information

(800) 482-4382

State and/or federal declaration required.



Vehicle Code Waiver

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Resource Description

In the event of a national, state, or local emergency, a specific determination that any provision of the Vehicle Code may be modified on any highway with respect to classes of vehicles to aid in alleviation of emergency conditions.

The governor typically delegates authority to do so to the Secretary of Transportation who issues appropriate waiver orders. The waivers typically concern hour of service for truck movements; when and where truck movements may be made; the International Registration Plan for trucks; and the International Fuel Tax Agreement for trucks. Regulations of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provide for the waiver of interstate trucking regulations relating to safety (including drivers hours of service) for vehicles engaged in a response to a declared emergency. The regulations can be waived by a state or the FMCSA. The FMSCA can also waive the regulations on a regional basis.

Authority: 75 Pa.CS § 6108

Fleet/Roadway



Vehicles to Deliver Recovery Resources

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board

Resource Description

Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board maintenance vehicles and personnel can be utilized to transport supplies (water, food, and medical) from county Emergency Management Agencies. This can be a non-emergency event that can be scheduled and lasts only one to two days, to an emergency event that can last a week or longer.

1. Vehicles and drivers to deliver supplies
2. Refrigerated vehicles

For more information

County emergency management agencies request the resource through the CRCC.

Food/Nutrition



Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Public Education

Resource Description

Children attending childcare at entities that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program are also eligible for free meals when they are deemed homeless.

For more information

Contact for CACFP: RA-CACFP@pa.gov

Food/Nutrition



Emergency Food Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Resource Description

The Bureau of Food Distribution administers the State Food Purchase Program and the federal Emergency Food Assistance Program. Both programs supplement the efforts of food pantries, soup kitchens, food banks, feeding programs, shelters for the homeless, and other similar organizations in reducing hunger.

Residents of households receiving any of the following may be eligible for this service: unemployment compensation, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps) benefits, cash assistance, medical assistance, or those whose household income is at or below 150 percent of the U.S. poverty level. Those experiencing a crisis situation -- such as a fire or natural disaster -- are also eligible. For more information on how to access food provided through these programs, contact the Bureau of Food Distribution at (800) 468-2433.

For more information

- Contact Feeding Pennsylvania at (717) 724-3194 or Hunger-Free Pennsylvania at (724) 941-1472 for help locating a food bank, food pantry, or soup kitchen in your area.
- Contact the USDA National Hunger Hotline at (866) 348-6479 to find emergency food in your community, government assistance programs, and social services.

Food/Nutrition



Emergency Mass Feeding

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Resource Description

Provides food for use in emergency mass feedings efforts. The food can be transported to a shelter by PDA, but must be prepared and served by another party at the feeding site.

If there's a Presidential Declaration, the food is pre-approved by USDA to be used for disaster feeding purposes. PA Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Food Distribution and the United States Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Services will need to authorize the use of this food during any type of emergency. Requests for mass feeding is coordinated through the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Distribution.

- Seeks approval from the PA Department of Agriculture and US Department of Agriculture, Food Nutrition Services (FNS) for bulk food distribution.
- This is food that is intended for "disaster mass feeding" at human shelters

Entities eligible to request the service are:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- American Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- PEMA

State and/or federal declaration required.

Food/Nutrition



Food Safety

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Resource Description

Provides food safety technical expertise and educational materials regarding food products that may have been contaminated as a result of the disaster.

For example, in the aftermath of a flood, power disruption, or radiological disaster, PDA could have a food safety regulatory expert in a DRC to provide food safety tips to citizens about their potentially adulterated garden or household food products. The Bureau of Food Safety also works to inspect disaster-affected food establishments. Any food establishment that loses power for more than 4 hours, or is impacted by flood waters must be inspected before producing/selling food to the public.

1. PDA may be able to provide testing for potentially contaminated ag products, if deemed appropriate
2. PDA performs emergency inspections to disaster-affected food establishments PDA can provide citizens or food establishment owners expertise/guidance on food disposal/recovery tips
3. There will probably be "FAQ" sheets that are specific to the disaster conditions that can be provided to disaster victims

For more information

(866) 366-3723

Food/Nutrition



School Nutrition Programs - Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

When students are deemed homeless, by definition of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, they are eligible for free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs. Students relocating into a school which participates in CEP, even short term, receive the same free meal benefits as all students in the school. The schools can claim these meals for reimbursement as they do all other meals. This applies to any CEP school (may vary school by school if CEP is not district-wide).

For more information

Contact for CEP schools: RA-NSLP@pa.gov

Food/Nutrition



School Nutrition Programs - NON Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

When students are deemed homeless, by definition of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, they are eligible for free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs. Students deemed Homeless are eligible for free meals. The district can claim these meals for free reimbursement as they do other meals. Food service will need a letter from the school district's Homeless Liaison with the homeless students' names. This applies to any non-CEP school.

For more information

Contact for NON-CEP schools: RA-NSLP@pa.gov

Food/Nutrition



Summer Food Service Program

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

Children attending summer meal service sites that participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are also eligible for free meals.

For more information

Contact for CACFP: RA-SFSP@pa.gov

Food/Nutrition



The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Provides funding for the purchase of food stuffs for those who are eligible. SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp program. These benefits are used to buy food and help eligible low-income households in Pennsylvania obtain more nutritious diets by increasing their food purchasing power at grocery stores and supermarkets. If you are eligible, you will receive a Pennsylvania Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) ACCESS Card which is used to make food purchases at grocery stores and supermarkets.

For more information

Information online:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/supplementalnutritionassistanceprogram/>

County Assistance Offices

Health, Behavioral Care



Adult Autism Waiver

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) is a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid waiver designed to provide long-term services and supports for community living, tailored to the specific needs of adults age 21 or older with ASD. The program is designed to help adults with autism spectrum disorder participate in their communities in the way they want to, based upon their identified needs.

In order to be eligible for the Adult Autism Waiver, a person must be age 21 or older, a U.S. citizen or qualified alien, a resident of Pennsylvania at the time of enrollment, and meet certain diagnostic, functional and financial eligibility criteria (listed below). Priority is given to people not already receiving state-funded, or state and community-based services.

Eligibility Criteria:

Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) using the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) applicable at the time of the diagnosis, must have substantial functional limitations in three or more of the major life activities – self-care, language/communication, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, as well as financial eligibility as determined by the County Assistance Office, based on 300% of the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR).

For more information

There are a few ways to request an application for Pennsylvania's Adult Autism Waiver, by contacting your local county office, by phone, or online. Applications may not be requested via email.

To request an application through your local county:

Contact the County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) office in the county you reside. County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office.

To request an application by phone:

Call (866) 539-7689 (toll-free number) and follow the prompts to select the Adult Autism Waiver. Leave a message and staff will return your call to gather your intake information.

To request an application online:

Visit the Information Referral Tool (IRT): <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/irt>

The IRT asks a few basic questions and will link individuals who indicate an interest in Autism Services to the COMPASS website.

Once connected to COMPASS, select "Submit a Referral."

After answering some additional questions, the referral is submitted electronically to the Bureau of Autism Services.

Health, Behavioral Care



Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

This program is only available in Dauphin, Cumberland, Chester, and Lancaster counties

The Adult Community Autism Program, ACAP, is a managed care program in Pennsylvania developed to support adults, 21 years of age and older, with ASD. It is a fully integrated, comprehensive system of care that includes physical health, behavioral health, social, recreational, transportation, employment, therapeutic, educational, crisis, in-home support, and independent living services.

Eligibility Criteria:

Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) using the most recent version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) applicable at the time of the diagnosis, must have substantial functional limitations in three or more of the major life activities – self-care, language/communication, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, must reside in the ACAP Service area of Dauphin, Cumberland, Chester or Lancaster counties, as well as financial eligibility as determined by the County Assistance Office, based on 300% of the Federal Benefit Rate (FBR).

For more information

There are a few ways to request an application for the Adult Community Autism Program: by contacting your local county office, by phone, or online. Applications may not be requested via email.

Apply through your local county:

Contact the County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) office in the county you reside. County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office.

To request an application by phone:

Call (866) 539-7689 (toll-free number) and follow the prompts to select the Adult Autism Waiver. Leave a message and staff will return your call to gather your intake information.

To request an application online:

Visit the Information Referral Tool (IRT): <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/irt>

The IRT asks a few basic questions and will link individuals who indicate an interest in Autism Services to the COMPASS website.

Once connected to COMPASS, select "Submit a Referral."

After answering some additional questions, the referral is submitted electronically to the Bureau of Autism Services.

State Base Funding – This is state funding from the PA Office of Developmental Programs that counties administer. Some counties Base Funding is a part of a larger Block Grant for Human Services - Contact the County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) office in the county you reside. County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office.

ODP Websites:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/intellectualdisabilitiesservices/index.htm>

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/autismservices/index.htm>

Health, Behavioral Care



Consolidated Waiver

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Pennsylvania Consolidated Waiver is designed to help individuals with an intellectual disability, autism or developmental disability to live more independently in their homes and communities and to provide a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models.

Eligibility criteria:

- There is no age limit for individuals with an intellectual disability or autism. Individuals with a developmental disability with a high probability of resulting in an intellectual disability or autism are eligible from age 0 through 9.
- Level of Care
- Medical Evaluation
- Diagnosis of an intellectual disability, autism or developmental disability
- Recommended for an intermediate care facility (ICF) level of care based on a medical evaluation
- Determined eligible for Medical Assistance (MA)
- Meet the financial requirements as determined by your local County Assistance Office

For more information

Contact the County Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) office in the county you reside. County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office.

Health, Behavioral Care



Crisis Counseling Program for Presidential Declared Disaster (Individual Assistance)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The mission of the CCP is to assist individuals and communities in recovering from the effects of natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. The CCP supports short-term interventions that involve the counseling goals of assisting disaster survivors in understanding their current situation and reactions, mitigating stress, assisting survivors in reviewing their disaster recovery options, promoting the use or development of coping strategies, providing emotional support, and encouraging linkages with other individuals and agencies who may help survivors in their recovery process (recover to their pre-disaster level of functioning). Supplemental funding for crisis counseling is available to State Mental Health Authorities through two grant mechanisms: (1) the Immediate Services Program which provides funds for up to 60 days of services immediately following a disaster declaration; and (2) the Regular Services Program which provides funds for up to nine months following a disaster declaration. While SAMHSA provides technical assistance for an ISP, the monitoring responsibility remains with FEMA. FEMA has designated SAMHSA as the authority responsible for monitoring all RSP programs.

Provides crisis counseling to those affected by a declared disaster

For more information

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/24411>

List of on-site County Assistance Office Locations.

State and/or federal declaration required.

Health, Behavioral Care



Early Intervention Services for Children

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Early Intervention Services are provided through the Bureau of Early Intervention Services. Infants, toddlers, and preschool children who have special needs due to a developmental delay or disability are eligible to receive early intervention services.

For more information

To learn more about Early Intervention, contact CONNECT information services at (800) 692-7288 or at connecthelp@tiu.11.org or www.connectpa.net.

Health, Behavioral Care



Healthy Families America (HFA)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Healthy Families America (HFA) is a home visiting program that is equipped to work with families who may have histories of trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health issues, and/or substance abuse issues. Services for this program begin prenatally, or immediately after the birth of a baby. They are offered voluntarily, intensively, and over the long term, from birth until three to five years. The HFA program is currently available in Erie, Lewistown, Upper Darby, and Wilkesburg Counties.

For more information

For more information, please visit www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org.

Health, Behavioral Care



Medical Assistance (Medicaid)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Provides subsidized medical coverage for low income individuals and families.

Medical Assistance (also known as Medicaid) provides an array of physical, behavioral and long-term care services for low income individuals and families. Inpatient services include acute care, rehabilitation and private psychiatric hospitals, and long-term care/nursing facilities. Outpatient services include physicians, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, dentists, therapists, psychologists, as well as rehabilitation, psychiatric, and drug and alcohol treatment. Other services include pharmacy, ambulance transportation, non-emergency transportation to and from medical appointments, home health care, medical supplies and equipment and prosthetic devices.

- Dental services
- Breast and Cervical Cancer screening and treatment
Healthy Beginnings for Pregnant Women
- Medicare Part D drug coverage information
- Family planning services
- Help with medical appointments if your English is limited
Sign language interpreter services for medical appointments
Substance abuse services
- Office of long-term living
- Long-term care services
- Long-term living in PA
- Get a ride to the doctor medical assistance transportation program
Phillyhelathinfo.org
- Special Kids Network
- Medical Assistance Eligibility Handbook
- Long-Term Care Handbook

For more information

(717) 783-8675. Individuals seeking treatment resources for themselves or a loved one may also call (800) 662-HELP or (800) 662-4357 to speak with a trained professional that can connect them to resources in their area. This free service is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Health, Behavioral Care



Narcotic Treatment

Lead Agency

Drug and Alcohol Programs

Resource Description

Assistance for individuals that need to guest dose at a narcotic treatment program (NTP) because their NTP is closed or public transportation has been shut down due to a disaster.

Can arrange to increase client capacity at several surrounding NTPs to serve a high number of displaced individuals.

For more information

(717) 783-8675. Individuals seeking treatment resources for themselves or a loved one may also call (800) 662-HELP or (800) 662-4357 to speak with a trained professional that can connect them to resources in their area. This free service is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

Health, Behavioral Care



Nurse Family Partnership

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) helps first-time mothers from low-income families experience healthy pregnancies, promotes early literacy, and encourages school readiness by helping mothers learn how to foster healthy development in their children. Families receive services during pregnancy until the child turns two years old.

For more information

For information visit www.nursefamilypartnership.org.

Health, Behavioral Care



Parents as Teachers

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

Parents as Teachers (PAT) provides home visits with trained experts who educate parents on how to become the first and most important teachers in their child's life. This program offers support services from pregnancy to Kindergarten, serving at-risk families such as teen parents, parents or children with disabilities, low-income families, parents without a high school diploma or equivalent, and parents experiencing substance abuse.

For more information

For more information, please visit www.center-school.org/pa-pirc/parentsasteachers.php.

Health, Behavioral Care



Person/Family Directed Services Waiver

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Pennsylvania Person/Family Directed Support Waiver is designed to help individuals with an intellectual disability, autism, or developmental disability to live more independently in their homes and communities and to provide a variety of services that promote community living, including self-directed service models and traditional, agency-based service models.

Eligibility criteria:

- There is no age limit for individuals with an intellectual disability or autism. Individuals with a developmental disability with a high probability of resulting in an intellectual disability or autism are eligible from age 0 through 9.
- Level of Care
- Medical Evaluation
- Diagnosis of an intellectual disability, autism, or developmental disability
- Recommended for an intermediate care facility (ICF) level of care based on a medical evaluation
- Determined eligible for Medical Assistance (MA)
- Meet the financial requirements as determined by your local County Assistance Office.
- Individual cost limit of \$33,000 per person per fiscal year
- Excludes Supports Coordination and Supports Broker Services
- The limit can be exceeded by \$15,000 for Advanced Supported Employment or Supported Employment services

For more information

Persons interested in more information regarding services may contact the Office of Developmental Programs by telephoning the Intellectual Disabilities Services Customer Service Line at (888) 565-9435 or by contacting their local County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities (MH/ID) Program Office.

Health, Behavioral Care



Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

PATH is a grant program that pivots on aiding individuals with a serious mental illness (SMI) or co-occurring SMI and substance use disorder (SUD), that are also experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness to get connected to services/living situations that the individual chooses. Examples of PATH services include, but are not limited to: community mental health services, alcohol or drug treatment services, case management, and referrals to primary health services, job training, educational services, and/or relevant housing services. PATH has 24 counties/joiners that cover 36 counties across PA. Please note that not all PATH counties receive the same amount of PATH funding, nor does every program provide all potentially eligible PATH services. To participate in PATH, an individual must be 18 years of age or older, have an SMI or SMI with SUD, be homeless or at risk of homelessness.

For more information

<https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/path>
<https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grants-programs-services/path-program/state-provider-contacts>

Health, Behavioral Care



SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR)

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

SOAR is a national methodology designed to increase access to the disability income benefit programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, serious medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. To participate in PATH, an individual must be 18 years of age or older, have an SMI, serious physical impairment or SMI with SUD, and be homeless or at risk of homelessness. Please note: SOAR is a process of collecting and submitting complete information to SSA. This is not an immediate process and typically takes at least 2 months to complete before a determination can be initiated by SSA.

For more information

<https://soarworks.prainc.com/>

<https://soarworks.prainc.com/states/pennsylvania>

Housing



PA Housing Search

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

Resource Description

PA Housing Search is a search engine and is funded by PHFA and various state partners to provide real-time vacancy information for affordable rental property units statewide. The ever-growing population of projects in the inventory includes public housing stock, private rental stock and all PHFA funded multifamily apartments.

Searchable database of rental properties available statewide for:

- Public housing
- Private rental
- PHFA multifamily apartments

For more information

The free service is available at (877) 428-8844.

Search online: www.PAHousingSearch.com

Housing - Cleanup and Debris Removal



Clean Up Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Resource Description

A labor force to assist homeowners who are disabled, have special needs or are senior citizens providing them with assistance in removing debris from the damaged dwelling and sanitizing the dwelling (flood victims).

Cleanup assistance

For more information

Do not have a place to go for the service

Housing - Grant for Heat



LIHEAP

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Resource Description

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, also known as LIHEAP, helps low-income families pay their heating bills. LIHEAP is a grant that offers assistance in the form of a cash grant, sent directly to the utility company, or a crisis grant for households in immediate danger of being without heat.

For more information

For more information, contact the local county assistance office or contact the LIHEAP hotline at (866) 857-7095, Monday through Friday (individuals with hearing impairments may call 711).

List of on-site County Assistance Office Locations is available at:

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/index.htm>

Housing - Loan for Repairs



Renovate and Repair (R&R) Loan Program

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency

Resource Description

This program provides loans to income-eligible (based on household income within limits) and credit-worthy (above 620) homeowners to renovate or repair their homes. R&R loans can be used to pay for repairs and improvements that increase the basic liability of the home, including additions and construction, that makes the home safer, more energy efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities or people who are elderly. R&R loans can also be used to remove or fix code violations, hook up to municipal water and sewer systems, and improve or install code-compliant septic or well systems. In addition, R&R loans can be a source of payment for emergency repairs to critical life–safety systems in the homes, as long as the loan application is made to the Local Program Administrator within 30 days of the repair. The maximum loan amount is \$35,000 or 120 percent of the home's value for approved home repairs or renovations (minimum of \$2,500).

For more information

For more information: http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/renovate_repair/

Housing - Sewage



Individual On-Lot Sewage System Loans

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)

Resource Description

Assistance to eligible homeowners who do not have access to a public sewage system and need to repair or replace their individual on-lot sewage disposal system. The PENNVEST program may be used to provide funding for eligible projects to mitigate damages or harden community drinking water, sewer or storm water facilities or systems to prevent damages or to repair systems after the disaster during recovery. (See 35 P.S. 751.1 et seq.)

The maximum loan amount is \$25,000.

Individual On-Lot Sewage System Loans

For more information

<http://www.pennvest.pa.gov/Information/Funding-Programs/Pages/On-Lot.aspx>

<http://www.phfa.org/consumers/homeowners/pennvest.aspx>.

Housing - Utility Assistance



Utility Assistance Referral

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Resource Description

This program provides utility customers having difficulty paying their utility bills information on various programs including:

- Budget Billing
- Customer Assistance Program (CAP)
- Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES)
- Low-Income Usage Reduction Program
- Hardship Funds

It does not provide any monetary assistance. Available at all times.

1. Budget Billing Customer Assistance Program (CAP)
2. Customer Assistance Referral and Evaluation Program (CARES)
3. Low-Income Usage Reduction Program
4. Hardship Funds

For more information

Requests for information can be made through the PA Public Utility Commission, Consumer Services.

PUC HOTLINE: (800) 692-7380

Housing-Utility Assistance



Consumer Complaint Assistance

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Resource Description

Assists utility customers with their utility services including:

- Payment arrangements
- Service and payment disputes
- Re-establishing service
- Establishing new service
- Terminations
- Informal complaints
- Other questions.

Depending on the nature of the initiating disaster, the PUC may establish a unique prompt or phone number for utility consumer calls from the Disaster Recovery Center (DRC). The specific type of solution would be communicated by the PUC to PEMA and PEMA Recovery and Mitigation for use in the DRC.

Utility disputes between customers and the utility

For more information

The PUC Consumer Hotline is (800) 692-7380 and is available during normal business hours.

Law Enforcement



Law Enforcement

Lead Agency

State Police

Resource Description

Aviation support. Augment patrols to deter looting and vandalism. PaCIC to identify persons with no ID. Criminal Investigations if needed. Coroner assistance. Coordinate with local municipality for response and mitigation. Incident Manage Teams (IMT) to be activated to coordinate the response of PSP and other state agencies and county assets. PSP High Level Commanders to oversee rescue and recovery efforts.

1. Fixed wing and rotary aircraft for surveillance and photography/videography
2. Patrols for access control and site security
3. Assistance with identifying individuals with no identification
4. Investigation into criminal activity
5. Assist the coroner with the performance of his or her duties
6. Assist local municipalities with response and mitigation operations and assessments
7. Provide assistance to PSP and other state or county agencies
8. Provide command and control for rescue and recovery efforts

For more information

Approval from the Commander of the PSP

Older Adults



Services for Older Pennsylvanians

Lead Agency

Aging

Resource Description

Through coordination by the 52 local area agency on aging (AAA), the services available include: caregiver support, employment services, health and wellness programs, in-home services, housing assistance, health insurance counseling, legal assistance, home delivered meals, ombudsman advocacy, prescription assistance, protective services, and transportation assistance.

After an evaluation by the AAA, an eligibility determination will result in a coordinated plan for services as noted in the program description above.

Find your local Area Agency on Aging

www.aging.pa.gov/AAA

Contact the Pennsylvania Department of Aging

(717) 783-1550

Pets/Animals



Animal Protection and Sheltering

Lead Agency

State Animal Response Team (SART)

Resource Description

Provides assistance with preparation, planning, response, and recovery of animal emergencies in Pennsylvania.

Includes temporary shelters for large and small animals affected by a disaster.

For more information

County Emergency Management Agencies activate the county CART Team. Requests for information can be made through the PA Emergency Management Agency.

Procurement



Competitive Bidding

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Resource Description

Section 751 of the School Code provides for a competitive bidding process through advertisement for all construction, reconstruction, repairs, maintenance, and other work that exceeds \$10,000. However, if due to an emergency a school plant or any part becomes unusable, the competitive bids for repairs or replacement may be solicited from at least three responsible bidders. Those bids are then submitted to the Secretary for review and approval.

Change to competitive bidding process.

For more information

After the Secretary approves a bid, the board of school directors may contract with that vendor and start the necessary repairs or replacements. See 24 P.S. § 7-751.

Procurement



COSTARS and Emergency Procurement

Lead Agency

General Services

Resource Description

Cooperative purchasing program that serves as a conduit for eligible local public procurement units (municipalities and non-profit organizations) and state-affiliated entities can leverage contracts established by DGS. Can include as emergency responder services, loose supplies, toiletries, water and waste treatment, janitorial supplies, material handling containers, etc. Contracts for accessory equipment, apparatus equipment, communications equipment, protective equipment, rescue vehicles and utility or special vehicles are available to local public emergency procurement units.

General Services also maintains a Disaster Emergency list of suppliers that are available to provide supplies and services in an emergency that individuals may utilize. BOP maintains a staff of trained, experienced agency representatives that can assist in resource allocation during emergencies.

For more information

Disaster Emergency Procurement website lists suppliers, guidance, and links to information about the GSA Disaster Purchasing Program

<http://www.dgs.pa.gov/Local%20Government%20and%20Schools/Disaster-Emergency-Procurement/Pages/default.aspx#.WECgEvkrKUK>

Property Damage



Personal Property Damage Guidance - Farmers and Agribusinesses

Lead Agency

Agriculture

Resource Description

Answer questions and provide guidance for farmers and agribusinesses - Farmers may have questions about how to handle crop or feed contamination issues; they may seek assistance for field damages from flooding and where to find government assistance; farmers and agribusinesses may be interested in pursuing financial assistance for disaster costs; they may be interested in land management/rehabilitation efforts

For more information

Farmers should report the damage to the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) County or State Office or to the (800) 621-FEMA or (800) 621-3362 number or report to their county Disaster Recovery Center. Any other farmer questions can be facilitated or directed by PDA. The type of assistance is dependent on many variables and in some instances, declarations may be necessary for certain assistance (for example: a USDA Secretarial disaster designation may be necessary for low interest loans for disaster-impacted farmers)

Records Recovery



Birth and death Certificate Replacement

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Resource Description

Provide copies of birth and death certificates lost in a disaster.

For more information

General information regarding the issuance of birth and death certificates is available on-line at:

<http://www.health.pa.gov/MyRecords/>

A state declaration is required for fees to be waived.

Records Recovery



Replacement of Critical Vehicle and Identification Documents

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Resource Description

Replacement of destroyed vehicle titles, driver's licenses, and vehicle registration cards.

Authority: 75 Pa.CS § 6108

Fees may only be waived when there is a State Proclamation of Disaster Emergency

For more information

<http://www.dmv.pa.gov/Driver-Services/Driver-Licensing/Pages/Replace.aspx>

Records Recovery



Resources and Assistance for Records-Related Scenarios

Lead Agency

Historical and Museum Commission, Bureau of PA State Archives

Resource Description

If a government office (state/county/municipality) or historical records repository (historical societies, libraries, etc....) should encounter records affected by leaking water, flooding, or other emergency, the Pennsylvania State Archives can dispatch teams for assessment, preliminary recovery work and guidance for implementing the statewide contract. Additionally, the State Archives provides disaster planning/response and essential records training.

For more information

Monday – Friday

(717) 772-3257

(717) 787-3051

Voter/Election Service



Election Filings

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of State

Resource Description

Extension of election filing in case of Department of State office closure.

For more information

(717) 787-5280

Voter/Election Service



Voter Registration

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Department of State

Resource Description

Individuals wishing to register to vote in Pennsylvania must be:

- A citizen of the United States for at least one month before the election.
- A resident of Pennsylvania and the election district in which the individual desires to register and vote for at least 30 days before the election.
- At least 18 years of age on or before the date of the election.

For more information

www.votesPA.com

To register:

www.register.votesPA.com

Water Systems



Drinking Water System, Sewer Systems, Storm Water Systems

Lead Agency

Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST)

Resource Description

The PENNVEST program may be used to provide funding for eligible projects to mitigate damages or harden community drinking water, sewer or storm water facilities or systems to prevent damages or to repair systems after the disaster during recovery.

Grants, low interest loans, and loan guarantees for drinking water systems, sewer systems, storm water systems.

For more information

www.pennvest.pa.gov/

(717) 783-6798

Additional Resources

Area Office on Aging Locations

www.aging.pa.gov/AAA

CareerLink Employment Office Locations

<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/PaCareerLink/Index.htm>

County Assistance Office Locations

<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/findfacilsandlocs/countyassistanceofficecontactinformation/index.htm>

County Emergency Management Agencies

http://www.pema.pa.gov/about/Daily%20Document%20Updates/County_Coordinators.pdf








School Resource Guide for Disaster Evacuees

Tom Wolf, Governor

Pennsylvania Department of Education

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services | Pennsylvania Department of Health

Contents

 Pre-Kindergarten	2
Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts.....	2
Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP).....	2
Early Intervention Services (EI)	3
Child and Adult Care Food Program.....	3
Summer Food Service Program.....	3
 Kindergarten - Grade 12	5
Out-of-State Transfers for Students with Disabilities	5
Eligibility for Free Meals for Students & Children through the Child Nutrition Programs Displaced from a Natural Disaster	6
School Nutrition Programs	6
Child and Adult Care Food Program.....	6
Summer Food Service Program.....	6
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).....	6
Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) for Presidential Declared Disaster (Individual Assistance).....	7
The Individuals and Households Program (IHP).....	7
Medical Assistance	7
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).....	8
 Postsecondary	10
Adult Education	10
Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).....	10
Policy 2017-01: Students Affected by Disasters	11
Veteran’s Education	11
Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission: Bias and Discrimination Complaints	12
 Appendix A: Resources for Parents	Error! Bookmark not defined.
 <u>Appendix B: Newcomer Academy</u>	18

Homeless Education Resources

The Pennsylvania Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (ECYEH) ensures that all children and youth, including birth through 4 preschool-aged children experiencing homelessness enroll, participate, and can succeed in school; and that those students receive a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) on an equal basis with all other children in the state. The program reduces educational barriers using local best practices and the authorized activities of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

The Homeless Education program at the Pennsylvania Department of Education provides:

1. Tutoring, supplemental instruction, and enriched educational services;
2. Referral services to homeless children and youths form medical, dental, mental, and other health services;
3. Assistance to defray the excess cost of transportation for students;
4. The provision of developmentally appropriate early childhood education programs;
5. Before and after-school mentoring programs and summer programs;
6. The provision of school supplies and uniforms; and
7. Other extraordinary or emergency assistance needed to enable homeless children and youths to attend school.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is a voluntary state funded pre-kindergarten program established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. It serves income eligible three and four-year-olds and offers half-day and full-day classes taught by certified teachers using a curriculum aligned to state standards. Pre-K Counts provides families in participating communities with a choice of quality pre-kindergarten options in a school, child care center, Head Start, or nursery school. The program increases access to quality pre-kindergarten to children and families throughout the commonwealth with a priority in at-risk communities.

[Learn more about the program, eligibility and how to enroll your child.](#)

Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP)

The Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program (HSSAP) provides state funds to supplement federal head start monies to expand high-quality, pre-kindergarten Head Start services for income and age eligible children. HSSAP programs provide comprehensive services for low-income children ages three to kindergarten.

[Learn more about the program, eligibility and how to enroll your child.](#)

Early Intervention Services (EI)

EI services are provided through the Bureau of Early Intervention Services. Infants, toddlers, and preschool children with special needs due to a developmental delay or disability are eligible to receive early intervention services.

To [learn more about Early Intervention](#), contact CONNECT information services at (800) 692-7288, or email connecthelp@tiu.11.org.

Child and Adult Care Food Program

Children attending childcare at entities that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are also eligible for free meals when they are deemed homeless.

For more information, contact CACFP at: RA-CACFP@pa.gov.

Summer Food Service Program

Children attending summer meal service sites that participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) are also eligible for free meals.

For more information, contact CACFP at: RA-SFSP@pa.gov

Disease Screenings

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) does not currently have set guidelines for health care facilities/providers about people who have traveled to areas affected by hurricanes. Patients are encouraged to share their travel histories with their doctors and all are encouraged to familiarize themselves with illnesses and conditions that can occur after natural disasters. While there are no specific diseases or symptoms that must be reported to the DOH because of hurricanes, reportable diseases as listed in the link below must be reported to either the local health department or DOH if confirmed or suspected. Reportable diseases should also be reported via PA-NEDSS.

[Search a list of reportable diseases.](#)

[Get additional information.](#)

WIC

Pennsylvania WIC is the Pennsylvania Women Infants Children Program. This program helps pregnant women, mothers and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy.

WIC provides nutrition services, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals and healthy foods to eligible participants.

Who is Eligible for WIC?

- Women who are pregnant or had a baby in the past six months or twelve months if breastfeeding;
- Infants and children under age five; and
- Fathers, grandparents and foster parents, who are the legal guardian of a child under age five, may apply for WIC on their behalf.

How do I Apply?

To apply for WIC, call (800) 942-9467 to be connected to a WIC office. The WIC staff will answer your questions and schedule your appointment. [Get more information \(in English and Spanish\).](#)

Flu Shots

The CDC recommends that everyone over the age of six months receive a flu shot.

For the 2017–18 season, ACIP has recommended that the live attenuated influenza nasal spray vaccine (LAIV4 or FluMist) should not be used. [Learn more about vaccine clinics around the state.](#)

Immunizations

While the [immunization requirements](#) are waived for many of the schoolchildren evacuating Puerto Rico, the following guidelines may still be helpful. Barring any medical, religious, or philosophical exemptions, all students should have required immunizations.

The [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children](#) program provides vaccinations at no cost (including flu shots) for eligible children.

Kindergarten - Grade 12

Homeless Education Resources

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Out-of-State Transfers for Students with Disabilities

Recent natural weather-related disasters have resulted in the influx of evacuees who are enrolling in a new school in the commonwealth from out of state. Many of these evacuees received special education services from their public school and may continue to be eligible to receive special education services.

According to 34 CFR § 300.323(f): If a child with a disability (who had an IEP that was in effect in a previous public agency in another State) transfers to a new public agency in a new State, and enrolls in a new school within the same school year, the new public agency, (in consultation with the parents), must provide the child with FAPE (including services comparable to those described in the child's IEP from the previous public agency), until the new public agency conducts an evaluation pursuant to §§ 300.304 through 300.306, (if determined to be necessary by the new public agency), and develops, adopts, and implements a new IEP, if appropriate, that meets the applicable requirements in §§ 300.320 through 300.324. The evaluation conducted by the new public agency would be to determine if the child is a child with a disability and to determine the educational needs of the child. Therefore, the evaluation would not be a reevaluation, but would be an initial evaluation by the new public agency, which would require parental consent as indicated under 34 CFR § 300.304 (a) Notice. The public agency must provide notice to the parents of a child with a disability, in accordance with § 300.503, that describes any evaluation procedures the agency proposes to conduct.

[Learn more about out-of-state transfers for students with disabilities](#) or contact the [Bureau of Special Education](#).

Eligibility for Free Meals for Students & Children through the Child Nutrition Programs Displaced from a Natural Disaster

When students are deemed homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, they are eligible for free meals in the Child Nutrition Programs.

School Nutrition Programs

- Community Eligibility Provision (CEP): students relocating into a school which participates in CEP, even short term, receive the same free meal benefits as all students in the school. The schools can claim these meals for reimbursement as they do all other meals. This applies to any CEP school (may vary school by school if CEP is not district-wide).
- Non-CEP schools: students deemed homeless are eligible for free meals. The district can claim these meals for free reimbursement as they do other meals. Food service will need a letter from the school district's Homeless Liaison with the homeless students' names. This applies to any non-CEP school.

For more information about CEP and non-CEP schools, please contact: RA-NSLP@pa.gov.

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Children attending childcare at entities that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) are also eligible for free meals when they are deemed homeless.

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The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP provides funding for the purchase of food stuffs for those who are eligible.

SNAP is the new name for the Food Stamp program. These benefits are used to buy food and help eligible low-income households in Pennsylvania obtain more nutritious diets by increasing their food purchasing power at grocery stores and supermarkets. If you are eligible, you will receive a Pennsylvania Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) ACCESS card which is used to make food purchases at grocery stores and supermarkets.

[Get more information about the SNAP program.](#)

Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) for Presidential Declared Disaster (Individual Assistance)

The CCP helps individuals and communities recover from natural and human-caused disasters through the provision of community-based outreach and psycho-educational services. The CCP supports short-term interventions that help disaster survivors understand their current situation and reactions, mitigate stress, assist survivors in reviewing their disaster recovery options, promote the use or development of coping strategies, provide emotional support, and encourage linkages with other individuals and agencies who may help survivors in their recovery process.

NOTE: state and federal emergency declaration are required. [Learn more about the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Crisis Counseling Program.](#)

The Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

Other Needs Assistance (ONA) helps people affected by a disaster. It provides money, up to the program maximum, for necessary expenses and serious needs, not housing related, that can't be met through other means.

Examples: Personal property, childcare, medical, and dental expenses, funeral and burial costs, transportation.

1. Household income must fall within the range of low income as set by the Small Business Administration's low income scale; or
2. Must have applied for a SBA loan and been declined due to inability to repay a loan. Essential personal property includes such items as kitchen table and chairs; kitchen utensils; beds; bed linens; couch; chair; a lamp; a telephone, etc. It does not include stereo systems, video games, VCRs, DVD player/recorders; toys; etc. It is limited to items needed for daily needs. The items lost must be verified by the site inspection performed by the FEMA inspector. Based upon documentation provided by the eligible disaster victim, this program also aids with replacement or repair to uninsured essential medical equipment; uninsured transportation; moving and storage due to disaster (not due to evacuation); assistance with uninsured funeral expenses due to disaster; uninsured disaster caused medical and dental expenses; and loss of seasonal clothing.

NOTE: state and federal emergency declaration are required. [Learn more about disaster assistance.](#)

Medical Assistance

Medical Assistance provides subsidized medical coverage for low-income individuals and families.

Examples: dental services, breast and cervical cancer screening and treatment, Healthy Beginnings for Pregnant Women, Medicare Part D, drug coverage information, family planning services, help with medical appointments if English is limited, sign language interpreter services for medical appointments, substance abuse services, Office of Long-term Living, long-term care services, long-term living in PA, transportation, medical assistance transportation program.

[Learn more about Medical Assistance.](#)

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one of the purposes of the TANF program. The four purposes of the TANF program are to:

1. Aid needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.
2. Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

TANF is also referred to as "cash assistance." [Learn more about TANF.](#)

Education Leading to Employment and Career Training (ELECT)

ELECT helps pregnant and parenting students, both male and female, under 22 years of age, to earn a high school diploma or its equivalent. This program is no cost to the parents or students.

This program helps young parents remain in school, earn a diploma, find doctors and health care, get transportation, training for a job, and have access to other critical services.

In addition to promoting self-sufficiency, the ELECT program provides participants with pregnancy prevention information, help to prevent secondary pregnancy, and healthy parental relationships

For more information, call (717) 783-6466.

Disease Screenings

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Postsecondary

Adult Education

The Commonwealth Secondary School Diploma (CSSD) is a high school equivalency credential available to Pennsylvania residents who have reached the age of 18, do not have a high school diploma from the United States, and are not currently enrolled in secondary school. The credential may be achieved by passing the GED® test, the HiSET® exam, or completing the 30 College Credit Option.

Information about the GED® test including Pennsylvania testing requirements, adult educational classes, scheduling to test, and age waiver requests may be found at:

www.ged.com.

Information about the HiSET® exam including Pennsylvania testing requirements, adult educational classes, scheduling to test, and age waiver requests may be found at:

www.hiset.org.

Information about the 30 College Credit Option may be found at: www.education.pa.gov under Postsecondary & Adult and under High School Equivalency.

Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)

State Grants and Special Programs: The Pennsylvania State Grant Program is a financial assistance program that provides funding to eligible Pennsylvanians and helps them afford the costs of higher education. PHEAA administers the Pennsylvania State Grant Program at no cost to taxpayers, ensuring that every dollar appropriated to the program goes directly to students.

[See a list of programs here.](#)

Higher Education Access Partners: Some of the outreach provided to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania include: financial aid presentations, FAFSA® completion sessions, school support, student programs, education conferences, interactions with community and government partners, and more. Contact the [access partner](#) in your region for more information.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF): The Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program was established to encourage individuals to enter and continue in full-time public service employment. The program allows the individual to receive forgiveness of the remaining balance of your Direct Loans after the individual has made 120 qualifying monthly payments, while working full time for a qualifying employer. To receive forgiveness, the individual applying must remain employed with a qualifying employer at the time the individual applies for and receive forgiveness for their loans.

Visit MyFedLoan.org/PSLF to learn more about this program.

Policy 2017-01: Students Affected by Disasters

Significant disasters may result in affected postsecondary education institutions suspending operations and displacing students. This policy enables Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education universities to meet the educational needs of students who have been displaced from postsecondary institutions that suspended their operations due to a disaster.

- **Disaster:** An event such as a flood, tornado, fire, earthquake, or hurricane that causes substantial damage such that a college or university in a particular region is inoperable for an extended period of time pursuant to declaration by appropriate legal authority.
- **Eligible Displaced Students:** Students, not domiciled in Pennsylvania, who have had their enrollment disrupted at an accredited college or university within the United States or its territories that has suspended operations due to a disaster. Universities are encouraged to work in good faith with students who are not immediately able to provide official college/university transcripts.
- **Out-of-State Tuition:** Tuition and the technology tuition fee charged to students who are not domiciled in Pennsylvania.

University presidents may waive a portion of out-of-state tuition to eligible displaced students who attend postsecondary institutions that have suspended their operations due to a disaster. Students who meet admission requirements may be offered enrollment on a space available basis and may be charged a reduced out-of-state tuition rate that is at least 102 percent of the in-state rate. University presidents may waive any or all other associated fees.

The chancellor, in consultation with the chair of the Board of Governors, is authorized to waive any policies as necessary to ensure the successful matriculation of eligible displaced students. The chancellor shall promulgate procedures, standards, and guidelines that will ensure compliance with federal and state financial aid requirements, as well as enrollment expectations and window of eligibility for reduced tuition.

Veteran's Education

If schools temporarily close due to Hurricanes Irma, Maria, or Nate, Veterans' Affairs (VA) will continue payments for certified periods of enrollment through the end of the term or up to four weeks (28 calendar days) from the date of the temporary school closure, whichever is earlier. VA has no authority to issue payments for terms that would have begun during a temporary shutdown. In that scenario, VA will resume payments for training effective the date the student begins training after the school reopens.

If your school is, or was, temporarily closed due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, VA will consider your attendance as continuous and your payment will not be affected. Beneficiaries Using Chapter 33 (Post-9/11 GI Bill) or Chapter 35 (Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance Program).

As long as the enrollment was submitted prior to the incident, no further action is necessary to receive continued payment. Beneficiaries Using Chapter 30 or 1606 (Montgomery GI Bill) or Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP).

Students should continue to verify their attendance until further notice as if the school did not close, doing this will ensure that the payment is not affected. Students may verify their attendance, using the WAVE website or by calling (877)-VACERT or (877) 822378.

Contact the Education Call Center at (888) 442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for more information.

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission: Bias and Discrimination Complaints

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission (PHRC) promotes equal opportunity and enforce non-discrimination laws; receives and investigates complaints of discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodation and education; provides fair practice notices to PA employers businesses, schools, colleges, lenders and housing providers; and operates the PA Interagency Task Force on Community Activities and Relations.

The Public Human Relations Commission:

1. Collects factual data related to complaints of discrimination via questionnaires.
2. Drafts and serve complaint of discrimination.
3. Conducts investigation of complaint.
4. Adjudicates complaints of discrimination. Prevent and respond to civil tension incidents.

[Visit the PHRC website for more information.](#)

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