

# Community Developments

**CHESTER COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
A COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY**

Summer 2007



## Community Revitalization

The 2007 Community Revitalization Program (CRP) awards place focus on the relationship between sustainable growth practices and public infrastructure. This year, three of the four CRP awards will fund sanitary sewer and water systems projects to manage environmental and regional growth pressures and establish a framework conducive to development within established urban centers.

The Borough of Spring City will upgrade the municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with a \$1,000,000 CRP grant. Spring City has created a comprehensive plan, approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), to make improvements to its aging public wastewater collection system. The upgrades will allow the WWTP to handle heavy rains and wet-weather events, greatly reducing the chance for overflows and for untreated wastewater entering the Schuylkill River. In addition to environmental benefits, the WWTP improvements will maintain sewer rates for approximately 3,300 Spring City residents and provide long-term recovered costs for the Borough.

With a \$750,000 CRP award, the Borough of Downingtown will improve its water treatment facility. Recent development around the Downingtown area has increased organic

particulate and silt runoff to the Brandywine Creek and has increased the frequency of major flood events within the Borough. To effectively manage these increased pressures and the safety of the public water supply, Downingtown will upgrade the treatment capacity of the water plant to remove organic matter from the water system in accordance with PADEP and Chester County Health Department standards.

The Borough of Oxford will make storm sewer and water systems improvements in its business district with an \$807,500 CRP grant. New inlets, storm sewer and water pipe, and fire hydrants are planned along South Third Street, which supports over 50 businesses, offices, and residences. The infrastructure improvements will alleviate drainage concerns and provide expanded capacity to sustain and attract development in Oxford's downtown area.

Although less conspicuous than above ground streetscape beautification, public infrastructure projects provide the groundwork for sustainable communities. In a rapidly developing region, the capacity and maintenance of public infrastructure within older, established municipalities is often a challenge. The health of these systems is an essential element of smart growth within core communities leading to the preservation of open space within Chester County.

## Share the Blessing

Share the Blessing, a free tax preparation program, provided free assistance to over 154 low to moderate income tax payers, including people with disabilities, limited English proficiency and older taxpayers, through the three month period of February 1st

to April 17th, 2007. \$259,059 was returned to the pockets of local residents. Share the Blessing is an initiative of the Open Arms Transformation Center in conjunction with the City of Coatesville, Life Transforming Ministries, United Way of

Chester County, Open Hearth, the Internal Revenue Service and DCD.

For more information contact Jermaine K. Seamon, Director of Open Arms Transformation Center at (610) 384-5393.

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*For more information regarding any of the awards and programs mentioned in this newsletter, contact the Chester County Department of Community Development at (610)344-6900.*

### Save the Date:

**Health Career Fair**

**November 9th**

**9:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

**Center for Arts and Technology  
Brandywine Campus**

**For more information:  
PACareerLink-Chester County**

**(610)384-9393**

# DCD COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDING AWARDS

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## The Chester County Homeless Continuum of Care

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Chester County \$766,516 through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program. This program is designed to increase housing stability, increase skills and/or income, and help homeless individuals in the program achieve greater self-sufficiency. Funded programs for 2007 include the following:

**Children, Youth and Women's Alliance (CYWA)** - \$44,594 to provide permanent supportive housing for five (5) homeless families.

**Domestic Violence Center of Chester County** - \$87,174 to provide transitional housing for five (5) homeless families.

**Gaudenzia House, Inc.** - \$65,953 to provide transitional housing for five (5) homeless families in the Kindred House Program.

**Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems** - \$114,424 to provide permanent supportive housing for four (4) homeless families and fifteen (15) homeless individuals.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$112,907 to provide support services to homeless individuals and families through the Building Bridges Program.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$48,672 to provide permanent supportive housing for eight (8) homeless men through the Forensic House Program.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$83,868 to provide transitional housing for six (6) families.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$100,000 to provide permanent supportive housing through the Safe Haven Program for eight (8) homeless females suffering from mental illness.

**Northwestern Human Services** - \$91,260 to provide permanent supportive housing for fifteen (15) single homeless men and women through the Open Arms Program.

**Chester County OIC** - \$17,304 to provide support services to homeless individuals through the Preparing for Independence program.

**The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded Chester County \$766,516 through the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program.**

## Housing Trust Program Grants for Community Services

The Housing Trust Program uses a portion of the recording fees from real estate transactions to be used for affordable housing efforts. For program year 2007-2008 the following programs have been funded:

**Interfaith Housing Assistance Corporation of Chester County** - \$25,000 for emergency rental assistance to prevent homelessness.

**Pennsylvania Home of the Sparrow** - \$25,000 for the HomeShare Alliance program.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$26,164 for the Safe Haven Program, to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless females suffering from mental illness.

**Putting Agencies Together to Help the Homeless (PATHH)** - \$83,868 to provide supportive housing for homeless individuals.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$66,752 for case management services for homeless individuals and families in shelters through the Building Bridges Program.

## Department of Public Welfare Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)

DCD administers this program for Chester County. HAP funds are made available to counties to mitigate the effects of homelessness on families and individuals through the provision of housing, prevention activities, and case management services. For program year 2007-2008 the following programs have been funded:

**Community Service Council/Chester County Cares** - \$110,568 for rental assistance to prevent homelessness.

**Domestic Violence Center of Chester County** - \$37,540 to provide transitional housing to homeless individuals and families involved in issues regarding domestic abuse.

**Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children** - \$112,000 to provide emergency shelter and transitional housing for homeless families.

**Good Samaritan Shelter** - \$32,000 to provide emergency shelter for homeless men.

**Pennsylvania Home of the Sparrow** - \$35,000 to provide transitional housing for homeless families.

## Community Services Block Grant Awards

Community Services Block Grant is federal entitlement funding allocated to states by the Department of Health and Human Services. Funding comes to Chester County through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). DCD, as the Community Action Agency for Chester County, subcontracts with local agencies that support holistic approaches to move individuals and families toward self-sufficiency. For program year 2007-2008 the following programs have been awarded funding:

**Chester County Health Department** - \$15,000 for the Nurse Family Partnership Program to teach parenting skills to low-income mothers.

**Children, Youth and Women's Alliance** - \$118,679 for case management services to low-income families.

**Human Services, Inc.** - \$35,000 to provide case management services to homeless and low-income families and individuals through the Building Bridges Program.

**La Comunidad Hispana** - \$32,000 to provide case management services to low-income individuals and families in southern Chester County and the City of Coatesville.

**Life Transforming Ministries** - \$30,000 to provide prison after-care to individuals through the New Mornings Re-entry Services Program.

**Life Transforming Ministries** - \$10,000 for the Share the Blessing Program to provide free tax preparation for individuals through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program.

**Chester County OIC** - \$24,250 to provide job skills and employment support for homeless individuals through the Preparing for Independence Program.

**Chester County OIC** - \$24,250 to provide job training through the Certified Nursing Assistant Program.

**Open Hearth, Inc.** - \$40,000 for transitional housing, money management, and Family Savings Partner programs.

**Phoenixville Area Positive Alternatives** - \$10,000 for the Move Ahead After-School Program.



Certified Nurse Assistant Graduation at the Chester County OIC

## DCD/YOUTH COUNCIL FUNDING AWARDS

The Chester County Youth Council and the Chester County Workforce Investment Board have approved Workforce Investment Act Title I funding, as well as the PA Department of Welfare TANF funding.

## Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Approved Programs

The Workforce Investment Act is designed to prepare youth and unskilled adults for entry into the labor force, to offer job training to economically disadvantaged individuals and to assist workers who have been dislocated and other individuals facing serious barriers to productive employment. Funded programs for 2007 include the following:

**Henkels and McCoy Tech Bridge Program** - \$119,260 to serve twenty (20) out of school youth. For a program description turn to page 4.

**Handi-Crafters, Inc.** - \$85,000 to serve sixteen (16) out of school youth. Handi-Crafter's Career Directions Program for out of school youth offers individualized career based skill remediation leading to employment or post-secondary education. A vocational evaluation and job sampling are used for a career interest inventory. GED tutoring is available for students wishing to earn their diploma.

**Chester County OIC, Inc.** - \$85,000 to serve twenty (20) out of school youth. Chester County OIC offers the Independent Career Action Network (ICAN) Program. This program works with students to develop personal, educational and employment goals. Certified career strands are offered in Nurse Assistance Training and Advanced Administrative Assistance. Additional programming includes internet training, academic enrichment and remediation and GED preparation.

**In July 2007, DCD organized a workshop with Jodie Sue Kelly of Cygnet Associates to provide strategies for succeeding with youth to our youth-serving organizations.**



**CHESTER COUNTY  
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Director: Patrick Bokovitz

601 Westtown Road, Suite 365  
P.O. Box 2747  
West Chester, PA 19380-0990

Phone: (610)344-6900  
Fax: (610)344-6925  
Email: [ccdc@chesco.org](mailto:ccdc@chesco.org)

Board of Commissioners:  
Carol Aichele, Chair  
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Patrick C. O'Donnell

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[www.chesco.org/ccdc](http://www.chesco.org/ccdc)**

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## DCD/YOUTH COUNCIL FUNDING AWARDS (continued)

### TANF Approved Programs

The goal of TANF funding is to provide families in need with a combination of financial assistance and work opportunities. For the year 2007, the following programs have been funded:

**Henkels and McCoy Tech Bridge Program** - \$23,852 to serve four (4) youth.

Henkel's Tech Bridge Program offers a year-round, hands-on computer-training program for TANF in- or out-of-school youth. The program duration is 150-400 hours over a 6 to 16 week period depending on the individual needs of the student. Students build a computer from a kit load operating software and programs that teach basic, employability and occupational skills. As needed, remediation is taught by a Vocational Instructor. A Career Coach addresses soft skills and interviewing techniques leading to employment.

**New Life Youth and Family Services** - \$25,468 to serve nine (9) youth.

The Truancy Prevention Program operated by New Life Youth and Family Services will be offered to youth in the 12 school districts throughout Chester County. The TPP program provides counseling services to children and their families who have been identified as having attendance difficulties.

**Family Service of Chester County** - \$40,680 to serve twenty (20) youth.

Family Service of Chester County offers an Early Secondary Intervention Program for middle school student in the Octorara School District who are at-risk or have demonstrated a Lack of Commitment to School per a Communities that Care Risk Assessment. Youth will receive intervention services, including counseling and be provided with enrollment in the CCIU Summer Career Academy.



**Students at Henkels and McCoy Tech  
Bridge Program**

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