

Upcoming Opportunities & Available Resources

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Issue #34

I. Grant Opportunities

VA Funding Opportunities: Capital Grant and Per Diem Programs

Goal:

To promote the development and provision of supportive housing and/or supportive services with the goal of helping homeless Veterans achieve residential stability, increase their skill levels and/or income, and obtain greater self-determination.

Eligible Programs:

Only programs with supportive housing (up to 24 months) or service centers (offering services such as case management, education, crisis intervention, counseling, services targeted towards specialized populations including homeless women Veterans, etc.) are eligible for these funds.

The program has two levels of funding: the **Grant** Component and the **Per Diem** Component:

Grant:

- Limit is 65% of the costs of construction, renovation, or acquisition of a building for use as service centers or transitional housing for homeless Veterans. Recipients must obtain the matching 35% share from other sources.
- Renovation of VA properties is allowed, but acquiring VA properties is not.
- Grants may **not** be used for operational costs, including salaries.

Per Diem:

- Priority in awarding the Per Diem funds goes to the recipients of Grants.
- Operational costs, including salaries, may be funded by the Per Diem Component.
- For supportive housing, the maximum amount payable under the per diem is \$34.40 per day per Veteran housed

Application Deadline: Wednesday, **March 31, 2010**

Available: <http://www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=10>

Questions: Contact the Grant and Per Diem Program at 1-877-332-0334.

Seed Grants for Community News Ventures from New Voices

Goal: To seed innovative community news ventures in the United States.

Eligibility: Projects can produce news and information for a geographic area such as a small town, city, county, state, or region, or they can serve a community of interest. Funding is available for print or electronic news initiatives, including online, cable, broadcast, narrowcast, satellite, and mobile efforts.

Nonprofit organizations and education institutions are eligible to apply.

Amount: Grantees will receive \$17,000 the first year and may apply for \$8,000 in matching funds in the second year.

Application Deadline: Wednesday, **March 31, 2010**

Available: <http://www.i-newvoices.org/site/story/2010rfp/>

The Connelly Foundation Grants

Goal: To foster learning and improve the quality of life, by funding non-profits in the following fields:

- Education
- Health and Human Services
- Arts and Culture and Civic Enterprise

Eligibility:

The Foundation supports non-profits with strong leadership, sound ideas, future viability, and attainable and well defined goals. It directs its philanthropy toward 501(c)(3) organizations and institutions based in and serving Philadelphia and the counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and the City of Camden.

Intrinsic to every Connelly Foundation grant is the sincere intention to improve the Quality of Life. The Foundation welcomes the opportunity to support the good civic works performed by non-profit and faith-based organizations that include:

- Compassionate services that provide for life essentials of food, shelter and clothing
- Access to primary health care for the underinsured
- Provisions to ensure safety and mobility for those who are physically disabled
- Cultivating an appreciation of ethnic diversity, art and beauty
- Encouraging civility and the belief in the dignity of each person

Application Deadline: None. Written proposals from nonprofit organizations are accepted and reviewed by the Connelly Foundation throughout the year.

Available: <http://www.connellyfdn.org/GrantsOverview.aspx>

II. Other Resources

HUD Announces \$1.4 Billion in Grants

The Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan has announced nearly \$1.4 billion in grants that will help an unprecedented 6,400 programs to continue offering critically needed housing and services to homeless persons and families.

Highlights of HUD's Homeless Assistance:

- HUD is awarding nearly \$1.4 billion to renew funding to 6,445 programs. (HUD awarded \$1.2 billion to 5,825 renewal projects last year.)
- More than \$738 million is being awarded to 2,997 projects that provide permanent housing solutions for homeless families and individuals, including persons who are chronically homeless.
- More than 3,200 local projects that serve families with children will receive over \$733 million.
- Locally, the Philadelphia Continuum of Care received over **\$24 million** in renewal funding to support: 2 Safe Haven, 21 Transitional, and 65 Permanent Supportive Housing Programs and the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

For more information: <http://www.ich.gov/>

The 2010 Census: Call for Participation

Ensuring an accurate count in the 2010 Census is of utmost importance for the wellbeing of all Philadelphia residents and the city as a whole. The information gathered in the 2010 Census will be used by the federal government to make important political, economic, and social decisions throughout the upcoming decade. Without an accurate census count, Philadelphia will not get its fair share of federal dollars, which could handicap the City and the citizens it serves for the next decade.

The federal government uses census-based grant formulas to determine funding amounts for many federal assistance programs, including each of the 10 largest federal programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, and Section 8. Additionally, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) rely on Census data in their allocations of funding.

In FY 2008, Philadelphia received a total of \$4 billion from programs using Census-based allocation formulas, or about \$2,796 per resident. Federal assistance, which will be based in the future on the 2010 Census data, is only anticipated to increase in the coming years.

If too many households do not participate, Philadelphia will undoubtedly fail to receive the funding necessary to provide them with crucial services. The 2000 Census count missed an estimated 8,326 Philadelphians, or about 0.5 percent of the city's population, greatly costing the city and its citizens for the past 10 years.

Please keep an eye out for further information from OSH about how you can ensure full participation by your consumers

PEC Publishes New Policy Brief on Homeless Education

Description:

People's Emergency Center recently released Part II of a two-part policy brief on education and homelessness highlighting trends and encouraging local advocacy to address current disparities.

Part I of the report provides data on the number of homeless students in Philadelphia and throughout the state and region.

Highlights include:

- The School District of Philadelphia identified 5,000 homeless students in the 2007-08 school year, an increase of 6% over the previous year.
- For the same time period, the US Department of Education reported a 17% increase in homeless students in the nation as a whole, and Pennsylvania reported a 9% decrease.

Available: [http://www.pec-](http://www.pec-cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/policy_brief_ed_&homeless_children_part_1_counting_homeless_children.pdf)

[cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/policy_brief_ed_&homeless_children_part_1_counting_homeless_children.pdf](http://www.pec-cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/policy_brief_ed_&homeless_children_part_1_counting_homeless_children.pdf)

Part II of the report describes the importance of supporting the "Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2009," S. 2800, currently being considered by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Highlights include:

- Evidence of why the legislation is needed, what it will accomplish, and how you can advocate for its support.

Available: http://www.pec-cares.org/clientfolders/pdf/pec_policy_brief_jan_10.pdf

NLCHP Offers Resources to Protect Tenants at Foreclosure

Description:

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty has been working to ensure the rights of renters living in properties that are the target of foreclosure actions.

The Law Center helped ensure the May 2009 enactment of a new federal law--the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act. Prior to the law, tenants in such rental properties, even if they were in good standing and had been paying their rent on time, could be evicted with little or virtually no notice, leaving them without time to find another suitable place to live.

Currently, The Law Center is actively working to educate advocates, renters, members of the lending community, and others about the protections provided by the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act by offering online resources.

Online resources include:

- PowerPoint Slides from a recent webinar,
- A copy of The Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act
- Sample letters for use by renters and advocates in cases involving potential violations of the act.

Available: <http://nlchp.org/news.cfm?id=121>