

Upcoming Opportunities & Available Resources

April 2010

Issue # 38

I. Trainings/Workshops

BuildaBridge Seeking Partner for Drama-Based Financial Training

Description: BuildaBridge is looking for a shelter or transitional housing program with which it can partner to offer its drama-based financial management training, the Money News Network.

The Money News Network, a program of BuildaBridge's life skills department, teaches financial management through drama, interactive skits, group discussions, and financial consulting.

Throughout the 5- workshop series, participants will:

- Learn banking basics.
- Learn how to manage their personal finances.
- Know where to go for financial help, such as filing taxes.
- Create a personal budget.
- Learn how to obtain a credit report.
- Learn about the process of buying a home.
- Gain a better understanding of loans.
- Open bank accounts.

Target group: 20-25 Adults.

Duration: 5 sessions of 2 hours each and 2 consultation meetings with a banker of 2 hours each.

Resources: Participants will receive a Money News Network Student Manual.

To partner with BuildaBridge, Contact: Alina Tudose, institute@buildabridge.org, 215 842 0428 x11

For more information: <http://whatmatters.uwde.org/buildabridgeflier.doc>

HEARTH Policy Forum- Sponsored by Project H.O.M.E. and People's Emergency Center

Description:

The HEARTH Act is the new law that will guide the next ten years of how Philadelphia serves homeless families and individuals by expanding the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program. The purpose of this workshop is to help Philadelphia's homeless service providers prepare for the new regulations that will be published by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in May 2010

Presenters/ Format:

Norm Suchar, a Senior Policy Analyst with the National Alliance to End Homelessness in Washington DC, will lead the forum and present his analysis of the HEARTH Act. Following Mr. Suchar's presentation, Roberta Cancellier of the Philadelphia Office of Supportive Housing and others will provide comments on how HEARTH might affect Philadelphia.

Date/Time:

Thursday, April 15, 2010, 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Location:

Project H.O.M.E. Back Space, 1515 Fairmount Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19130;

NOTE: limited off street parking is available

To Register:

Send an email to PPTFWorkshops@pec-cares.org.

Please include your name, job title, organization, and email address.

For more information, please contact:

Kelli Bowers, Policy Associate

People's Emergency Center

DHS Sponsors FREE Community Leadership Trainings

Description:

The Philadelphia Department of Human Services, Community Based Prevention Services Division along with the Equal Partners In Change Community Stakeholder Groups are sponsoring *The EPIC Leadership Initiative*, a series of capacity building workshops focusing on individual and organizational skill building.

All the workshops are free and open to individuals, community residents and organizations.

The first workshop offered is entitled: *The Nuts and Bolts of Grant Writing and Proposals*

This workshop will:

- Provide attendees with a better understanding of how to write strong applications
- Provide tools for understanding and following grant application guidelines
- Outline how to access grants from corporations, foundations and government agencies

Date/Time:

Saturday, April 17th from 10am to 1pm

To register:

Call 215-683-4068 or 4027 or email Aretha Hall at areth.m.hall@phila.gov

II. Other Resources

VA Launches Homeless Veterans Call Center and Online Chat Service

Description:

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will open a National Call Center for Homeless Veterans to connect homeless and at-risk veterans, their families, and other interested parties with VA and community-based resources. The service will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition, an online Homeless Veterans Chat Service will allow veterans to seek anonymous counseling from a trained professional, whether or not they are enrolled in the VA health care system. The call center and chat service are one of many initiatives the VA is launching as part of its Five Year Plan to End Veteran Homelessness

To access the call center: Call 1-877-4AID-VET (or 1-877-424-3838)

To access the online chat service:

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/ChatTermsOfService.aspx?accountID=1&siteID=8&queueID=18>

NAEH Publishes Study on Using TANF to End Family Homelessness

Description:

Last week, the National Alliance to End Homelessness released a paper entitled "Using TANF to Support and Improve Efforts to End Family Homelessness," which examines how communities are using the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Fund that was included in the Recovery Act, along with other TANF resources, to improve services to families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The paper includes steps for improving outcomes for families experiencing homelessness, including:

Ways to advocate for your state to tap into the TANF Emergency Contingency Fund through:

- Helping states increase their program activity
- Helping states find matching funds

Ways to convince leaders to invest in Housing First through:

- Demonstrating effectiveness and cost-savings
- Exploring current TANF spending on homelessness
- Proposing pilots and new initiatives

Ways in which a community can champion improvements in the TANF cash assistance program, such as through:

- Improving access to TANF cash assistance
- Improving services to families with multiple barriers to work
- Engaging TANF directors in the effort to end homelessness

Available: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2692/>

HRC Offers FREE Special Online Journal Issue: *Future of Homeless Services*

Description:

SAMHSA's Homelessness Resource Center (HRC) has released a special issue of the *Open Health Services and Policy Journal* on "The Future of Homeless Services."

The eight articles available free online cover a wide range of topics, including:

- A historical perspective of the United States' efforts to end homelessness
- Canada's efforts to end homelessness
- Homelessness prevention
- Outreach and engagement
- Adopting a recovery paradigm in addressing homelessness
- The use of trauma-informed care in homeless services
- The unique needs of families experiencing homelessness

Available: <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/Channel/Future-of-Homeless-Services-503.aspx>

HUD Releases Study Examining Costs Associated with First-Time Homelessness

Description:

Last week, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a study entitled "Costs Associated with First-Time Homelessness for Families and Individuals."

The study had numerous findings, including:

- The costs associated with providing housing for homeless individuals and families within a program are almost always higher than the Fair Market Rent cost of providing rental assistance without supportive services;
- Transitional housing is more expensive for the homeless assistance system than permanent supportive housing for individuals, largely because the services in permanent supportive housing programs are offered by mainstream service providers;
- The cost of providing emergency shelter to families is generally as expensive or more expensive than the cost of placing them in transitional or permanent supportive housing;
- Approximately 10 percent of individuals incur as much as 83 percent of total costs to the homeless system

The study concludes that communities should:

- Try to avoid the use of high-cost homeless programs like transitional housing for households whose needs can be met by mainstream systems.
- Explore ways to design discharge planning strategies from mainstream systems to help identify at-risk families and individuals

Available: http://www.huduser.org/publications/pdf/Costs_Homeless.pdf