

## **Section V. Non-Homeless Special Needs**

The actions taken to address the special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing, including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families include:

### Housing Needs:

- Elderly
- Frail Elderly
- Persons with Severe Mental Illness
- Developmentally Disabled
- Physically Disabled
- Alcohol and other Drug Addicted Persons
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families
- Public Housing Residents

### Supportive Services Needs:

- Elderly
- Frail Elderly
- Persons with Severe Mental Illness
- Developmentally Disabled
- Physically Disabled
- Alcohol and Other Drug Addicted Persons
- Persons with HIV/AIDS and Their Families

For all categories listed above, supportive housing is part of their housing needs. From interviews with agencies that serve these populations, the overwhelming need was for truly affordable rental housing for people on low income and/or fixed income. In addition, combining the services needed, such as counseling, transportation, medical care, supervised living situations, and personal care were all identified as part of the housing continuum. Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority provides particular funding for many public services that help to support persons with special needs from becoming homeless. Please see Section IX, for the Activity Summary Report for specific details on the many programs funded with CDBG public service dollars and other funding sources.

Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority also funds several site-based projects targeting persons with special needs through the use of CDBG and HOME dollars, including but not limited to, Jubilee House (a transitional housing facility for women graduating from drug and alcohol treatment program and their dependent children), Hope House (a personal care facility for persons with HIV/AIDS), and Lincoln House (a permanent supportive housing facility for persons with serious mental illness).

To help serve the physical accessibility needs of County residents with disabilities, the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority applied to the State Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) for an "Access" grant in 2004 to provide

financial assistance for homeowners and renters to make housing units more accessible. This grant was subsequently approved and will begin in 2005.

In addition to County CDBG, HOME and ESG funds, other funding resources are used to address the needs of the non-homeless special needs populations. These funding resources include the County General Fund dollars through the following departments: Office of Aging; Mental Health/Mental Retardation; Children & Youth Agency; and Drug & Alcohol Commission. Other resources include the Human Service Development Funds (HSDF) received by the County from the State Department of Public Welfare, the allocation of United Way of Lancaster County funds, and local foundations, such as the Steinman Foundation, the Lancaster County Community Foundation and the Oxford Foundation. There are also several non-profit organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of persons with special needs, and each of these non-profits conduct significant fundraising to supplement grant funds and other resources.

Most of the housing affordable to these groups is located in urban areas, particularly the City of Lancaster. Many of the services which are needed are also located within the City of Lancaster, which explains why people with disabilities are locating in or close to the City of Lancaster.

#### Specific HOPWA Objectives

In Lancaster County the HOPWA funds are administered and distributed by the AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central PA (APCSCP), which is a nonprofit organization that plans HIV/AIDS care and prevention services. Developed as a direct result of the Ryan White CARE Act, first authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1989, the APCSCP is one of seven statewide regional HIV planning coalitions created by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

The Coalition membership is comprised of individuals and organizations with a commitment to ensuring premier HIV prevention and care services within the region. Working in collaboration with community members, the Coalition:

- Assesses HIV/AIDS related needs throughout the region
- Produces needs assessment reports for the PA Department of Health
- Identifies service delivery gaps and barriers to service
- Prioritizes service needs for infected persons and communities
- Educates other systems/policy makers about the HIV/AIDS arena and related issues
- Researches and implements best practice models and techniques for delivery of services
- Develops a strategic plan that directs all Coalition activities
- Develops public policy statements concerning HIV/AIDS
- Creates partnerships with other systems and organizations to enhance service delivery

Representatives of the Lancaster County Redevelopment Authority met several times during 2004 to assist organizations in Lancaster that served persons with HIV/AIDS to develop a "Continuum of Care Plan" for those with the disease. The purpose of the Continuum of Care Plan is to ensure that no duplication of service occurs and that the organizations work collaboratively with one another to best serve clients.