

Section V. Non-Homeless Special Needs

The actions taken to address the special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing, such as 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 incomes and/or fixed incomes. 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. The Redevelopment Authority of the County of Lancaster 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.

The 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 programs 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 Redevelopment Authority administers the Department of Community and Economic Development's ACCESS grant to provide financial assistance for homeowners and renters to make housing units more accessible. This grant began in 2005 for \$135,000. Fourteen (14) families were approved for assistance through the program in the fiscal year, committing \$87,120. The average grant is \$5,000; a maximum of \$10,000 may be approved for special circumstances. Six (6) families began construction on projects in 2005. Grant dollars are mostly used to make modifications for ramps, grab bars in bathrooms, and barrier-free showers

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 in the City of Lancaster. Housing in the City of Lancaster is generally more affordable as well as more accessible to the support services for people with disabilities.

An issue that came to the attention of the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Lancaster in late 2005 is the growing shortage of personal care homes for persons with Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The Lancaster County Office of Aging did some research on Personal Care Boarding Homes (PCBH) that accept clients with SSI in the County and found that last year 169 SSI beds were eliminated, primarily due to increased costs of new State licensing regulations. The concern is that this trend may increase the rates of homeless mentally ill and perhaps mentally retarded individuals, as case managers have depended greatly on PCBHs for housing for the people on their caseloads.

In terms of physical improvements, CDBG-assisted projects installed a total of 38 handicap-accessible ramps in four (4) neighborhood improvement projects throughout the County.

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

The AIDS Planning Coalition of South Central Pennsylvania completed a “Continuum of Care Plan” for those with the disease in 2004. 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. The coalition continues to meet on a regular basis to discuss the delivery of AIDS/HIV services in the County.