

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

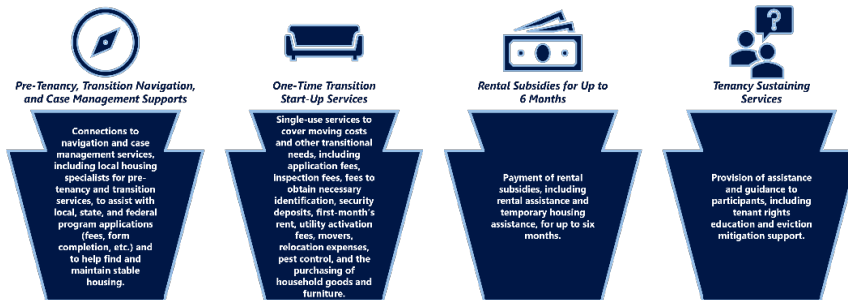
House Resolution 2023-66: The Impact of Housing on Health

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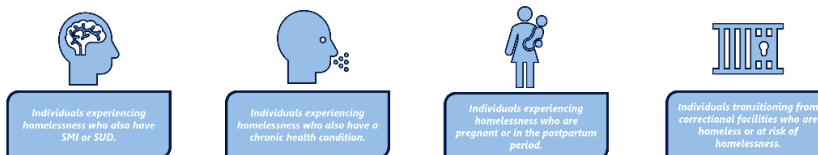
House Resolution (HR) 66, adopted by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives on June 26, 2023, directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a study and issue a report concerning the impact of housing on health in Pennsylvania. Key highlights include:

- ❖ **The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has recently issued guidance allowing states to test new strategies using federal financial participation for rental assistance services.** Historically, using federal Medicaid dollars on room and board had been unallowable except for specific institutional settings.
 - ❖ **We recommend that DHS should develop health-centered outcome measures and key performance targets for housing-related services within the Medical Assistance (MA) program.** Several researchers and public health professionals recently identified cost savings and improved healthcare outcomes from housing initiatives for MA participants. However, we found a lack of measurable outcomes data prevented us from fully assessing the impact of housing on health within MA. Data issues impact the private and public sectors, but our report highlights successful examples of collaboration from across the state.
 - ❖ **We recommend that the General Assembly Consider requiring DHS to report findings on healthcare cost**
- ❖ **affordable housing projects.** PHFA made its first award of \$1.8 million in match-dollar funding to four projects in Philadelphia and Bucks Counties this July.
 - ❖ **We recommend that the General Assembly consider allowing counties the flexibility to increase the maximum allowable fee for the optional affordable housing trust fund commensurate with their current recording fees and subsequently index the fee maximum for inflation.** PHFA reports that only four counties with affordable housing trust funds have not yet set their fee to the maximum allowable level.
 - ❖ **The total number of households benefitting from the DCED Community Development Block Grant from program years 2018 to 2022 increased by 77.8 percent.**
 - ❖ **We recommend that the General Assembly and Governor's Office convene a working group of public and private partners to address all issues surrounding the intersection of housing and health.** This group would determine the best use of available resources, encourage coordination and data sharing among stakeholders, and define best practices.

KEYSTONES OF HEALTH PROPOSED SUPPORTS



PROPOSED ELIGIBLE POPULATIONS



savings experienced during the Keystones of Health 1115 demonstration waiver period to the legislature.

The pending status of Keystones of Health makes many aspects of the waiver challenging to evaluate. We also recommend that DHS collect data to assess potential healthcare cost savings and healthcare outcomes realized from housing supports during the Keystones of Health waiver demonstration period.

- ❖ **The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) recently implemented a Housing for Health Investment Initiative to distribute four and nine percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) to developers who partner with hospitals or health systems to undertake**

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