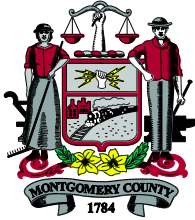


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SHELDON C. GOOD  
ADMINISTRATOR

July 2021

To HOME-funded Affordable Housing Partners:

Montgomery County Office of Housing and Community Development would like to introduce our developers to all of the services we provide through the nationally recognized “**Your Way Home**” program. **Your Way Home** is a public-private partnership whose mission is to ensure that everyone who lives, works, learns, and invests in Montgomery County has equal opportunity to live in an affordable home and a thriving community. By providing this information, *we hope you will consider the opportunity to set-aside HOME-funded affordable housing units for our homeless population in every new development proposed within Montgomery County.* All referrals for these units would come from Your Way Home, as well as fit within designated referral criteria as designated by the development (e.g., seniors, veterans, etc.).

Experiencing or being at risk of homelessness is an unfortunate reality for many of our county residents, as outlined in the newly published **Your Way Home** initiative entitled “[Homes For All.](#)” Through the wide range of services made available by **Your Way Home**, as well as our partner programs through the Montgomery County Office of Mental Health, Montgomery County has realized successful tenancy for thousands of households by providing holistic case management, 24-hour crisis intervention services, and long-term connections to income, employment, and social security.

Montgomery County Office Housing and Community Development is the lead public agency for **Your Way Home** and is also the Continuum of Care (CoC) for the county. **Your Way Home** coordinates all homeless services in the county. This partnership provides housing-related supports to those experiencing homelessness based on an assessment of their need. Below is a list of services provided to our participants:

- **Street Outreach**- the Your Way Home Street Outreach team, run by the non-profit Access Services, is a team of individuals who provide housing- focused diversion and problem solving, connections and referrals to local resources, as well as life-saving survival supplies to those who are experiencing street homelessness in Montgomery County.
- **Emergency Shelter**- several individual and family shelters operate throughout the county to provide shelter placement for those experiencing literal homelessness in Montgomery County. The shelter provides a housing-focused connection to other homeless supports services for residents.
- **Rapid Re-Housing**- Rapid Rehousing is a time-limited intervention that combines rental assistance and case management to quickly achieve housing stability. Run primarily by Your Way Home Housing Resource Centers (Carson Valley Children’s Aid, Keystone Opportunity Center, and Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities) as well as a few smaller providers serving specialty populations, Rapid Rehousing is the largest homeless services program in Montgomery



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County. The goal of Rapid Rehousing is to connect participants to any other needed community-based supports during this time to ensure long-term housing success. Rapid Re-housing case management is typically lasting from 6 months up to 2 years.

- **Rapid Re-Housing Lite**- All Montgomery County Rapid Rehousing providers offer one-time financial support for those who need assistance moving into their own housing from literal homelessness. Rapid Rehousing- Lite will provide move-in fees for a household (security deposit, first and last month's rent) to households who will be able to maintain rental payments in the future.
- **Permanent Supportive Housing**- long-term housing and case management support for those in Montgomery County experiencing chronic homelessness (12+ months of literal homelessness) with a diagnosed disability.
- **Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition**- Your Way Home has partnered with several Montgomery County magisterial district court judges, as well as Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, to intervene and divert active eviction cases. Funds can be provided to pay rental arrears and legal representation can be utilized to mediate other landlord-tenant concerns. This program is managed by Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities.
- **Emergency Rent and Utility Coalition**- a collaboration of Montgomery County non-profit agencies to distribute emergency rent and utilities funds to those experiencing economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Services provided by the above providers would typically be coordinated with an individual's community support program, as well as any other services provided through the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

Additionally, the Montgomery County Office of Mental Health has numerous supports available for Montgomery County residents who are exiting homelessness and struggle with behavioral health. These ongoing supports include:

- **Community Behavioral Health Centers ("CBHCs")** – The CBHCs act as the front door to the County's mental health services, and offer an array of behavioral health services including recovery coaching and outpatient treatment. There are six CHBCs in Montgomery County: Central Behavioral Health (Norristown and Abington), Creative Health Services (Pottstown), Lower Merion Counseling and Mobile Services (Bryn Mawr), Merakey (Lansdale), and Penn Foundation (Franconia/Salford Region).
  - **Recovery coaching** - A collaborative process between the program participant and the recovery coach (case manager) that facilitates access to available resources and engagement in behavioral health treatment and support services.
  - **Outpatient treatment** - Services consist of evaluation, diagnosis, counseling, and visits with a psychiatrist to monitor medication.
- **Critical Time Intervention (CTI)** – (Resources for Human Development) CTI is a blended case management service for adults who have entered the Your Way Home system who are not already connected to mental health supports. CTI's primary focus is to connect people to housing and provide support over a 9-month period as the person transitions out of homelessness. During this "critical time", linkages to mental health services, collaboration with community providers, and the development of natural support systems are paramount to CTI's approach.
- **Justice Related Services (JRS)** – (Access Services) JRS is a case management program for residents with mental health challenges who are involved in the criminal justice system. The JRS



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staff work towards diversion through collaboration with police and the courts as a primary goal. They also work in the jail to develop and support re-entry plans, and also to assist in the assessment and planning process for individuals being supported in the community or considered for Behavioral Health Court.

- **Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams** – (Penn Foundation and Horizon House) ACT is a highly-intensive, community-based level of treatment for individuals who are not able to be supported by traditional outpatient services. ACT teams are composed of an integrated, interdisciplinary group of mental health professionals, usually involving a psychiatrist, nurse(s), certified peer specialists, vocational/career specialists, drug & alcohol specialists, and a case manager. In total, Penn Foundation and Horizon House operate three ACT Teams in the county.
- **Starting Point** - (Access Services) Also known as “Mobile Psychiatric Rehabilitation”, Starting Point is a strength-based and skill building support helping individuals attain self-elected goals within the five domains (Living, Learning, Socializing, Self-maintenance, and Working) by improving their chosen role (family member, student, worker) and functioning in their environment of choice (home, school, work, community). This is a 1-on-1 service that can provide three to nine hours of support per week.
- **Certified Peer Specialists (CPS) services** – These “Peer Support” services are person-centered, recovery-focused services which are provided by a trained professional who has a lived-experience with behavioral health services. Peer support services are intended to inspire hope in individuals that recovery is not only possible, but probable. The services are designed to promote empowerment, self-determination, understanding, coping skills, and resiliency through mentoring and service coordination.
- **Career Providers** – While all mental health services are intended to support an individual’s recovery goals – including work and education - there are also specialized programs. Four of the CBHCs have Career Centers which focus on “Supported Employment”. Also, Montgomery County Community College hosts the POWER program, which is provides “Supported Education” classes that cover Career Self-Assessment, The College Experience, Effective Communication, Study Skills, Time Management, Computer Skills, and Balancing School, Work & Life.
- **Mobile Crisis** – (Access Services) Mobile Crisis provides immediate support for crisis situations, but also assistance with managing recurring or future crises. Support is available to anyone in Montgomery County (including children, teens, adults, and families) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-855-634-HOPE (4673). Services include: Mobile in-person services, Talk and Text lines, Support for drug/alcohol use or addiction, Help coping with past traumatic experiences, Emergency respite, Assistance with talking to doctors, Peer support, etc.

It should be noted, participation in all programs is voluntary and not a precondition of being referred to housing. However, the County maintains a strong commitment to using various methods to successfully engage and support residents who would benefit from such services.

If you have additional questions regarding the County administered supports provided to residents who experienced homelessness in Montgomery County, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Sheldon C. Good  
Administrator



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