

# Housing Services In Centre County



CENTRE COUNTY  
Affordable Housing Coalition

## A Guide to Emergency, Transitional and Permanent Affordable Housing

1<sup>st</sup> Edition  
2013

## **Need Help Fast? Read Me First!**

### **In Imminent Danger? Call: 911.**

If you believe you or someone else is in imminent danger of death or serious injury, call 911 right away. It is better to be safe than sorry. Responders will include police and emergency medical technicians.

**For any Information or Referral Needs:** Call Community Help Centre at 1-800-494-2500 OR Call 211

**If you are homeless or being evicted and you need immediate housing:** Call Housing Transitions (814)237-5508

**If you are homeless youth under the age of 18 and/or have nowhere to go:** Call Centre County Youth Service Bureau (814)234-2100

**If you are fleeing a domestic violence household:** Call Centre County Women's Resource Center at (814)234-5050

**If you are being threatened with eviction and you need short term rental assistance:** Call Interfaith Human Services at (814)234-7731

**If your landlord will not fix something and it is dangerous or urgent (ie. Black mold):** Call Centre Region Code Enforcement (814) 231-3056 or the Code Officer of your local municipality.

**If your landlord violates the terms of your lease:** Call MidPenn Legal Services (800) 326-9177 or a Private Attorney

**If you believe you are a victim of Housing Discrimination:** Call MidPenn Legal Services (800) 326-9177. Or Housing and Urban Development at 1 (888) 799-2085. Or Centre County Planning and Community Development Office at (814)355-6791. In the State College Borough call the Planning Department at (814) 234-7109.

**If you are in need of long term rental housing assistance:** Call the Housing Authority of Centre County at (814) 355-6750 or stop in at 121 Beaver Farm Lane, Bellefonte PA 16823

# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS &amp; ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SERVICES</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>PERMANENT HOUSING SERVICES</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>COMMUNITY RESOURCES</b>	<b>24</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Housing is a basic need we all have. Housing can be the stability that is needed too often when we most need help, the hardest thing is to find out where and how to get it.

In Centre County, we are fortunate to have many agencies, organizations, and individuals available to offer advice and resources in assisting you with this basic need. This handbook will introduce you to these people and organizations and tell you how to get in touch with them. While the need is great and not every situation can easily be resolved, we hope this book provides a foundation for you to find your own solutions.

This handbook primarily focuses on services available to those seeking rental housing in Centre County. The beginning contains a glossary of terms. The first section contains information on emergency housing. The second section contains information on transitional housing. The third section contains information on permanent housing. The remainder of the book provides

community resources and information available in the community to meet your basic needs.

For those seeking housing information, confidentiality is important to all agencies involved in assisting your needs. Laws and restrictions pertaining to confidentiality are outlined by each agency and will be reviewed with you. Your confidentiality will be respected.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS & ABBREVIATIONS**

**Affordable Housing:** Housing in which the total monthly costs do not exceed 30% of the household's total monthly income. (Source: HUD)

**Assisted Housing:** Housing that is subsidized with public funds to reduce the cost of development or to make the rent or mortgage more affordable to the tenants or buyers. (Source: Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc.)

**Area Median Income (AMI):** The median divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. (Source: Wikipedia) HUD uses the median income for households to calculate income limits for eligibility in a variety of housing programs.

**Bridge/Transitional Housing:** Short-term housing with access to appropriate supportive services such as health care, social services, education and job training to enable homeless households to achieve self-sufficiency. (Source: PA Dept. of Public Welfare)

**Department of Public Welfare (DPW):** Our mission is to promote, improve and sustain the quality of family life; break the cycle of dependency; promote respect for employees; protect and serve Pennsylvania's most vulnerable citizens; and manage our resources effectively. DPW administers funding that promotes affordable housing programs. (Source: PA DPW)

**Disability/Disabled:** Federal laws define a person with a disability as "Any person who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities; has a record of such impairment; or is regarded as having such impairment." (Source: HUD)

**Emergency Shelter:** A facility with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. (Source: HUD)

**Fair Housing Act:** Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Fair Housing Act), as amended, prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings, and in other housing-related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and disability. (Source: HUD)

**Fair Market Rent:** indicates the amount of money that a given property would command, if it were open for leasing at the moment. Fair market rent is an important concept both in the Housing and Urban Development's ability to determine how much of the rent is covered by the government for those tenants who are part of Section 8, as well as by other governmental institutions.<sup>[1]</sup> U.S. HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) publishes Fair Market Rents and Income Limits (respectively, the basis for how much program administrators will subsidize housing units, and the maximum incomes that tenants may not exceed in order to qualify for subsidized housing) on an annual basis. (Source: Wikipedia)

**Federal Poverty Rates:** The HHS poverty guidelines are used as an eligibility criterion by a number of federal programs. (Source: United States Census)

**Homeless:** A person is considered homeless when he/she resides in one of the following: places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, and abandoned buildings; an emergency shelter; or transitional housing for homeless persons and who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter. (Source: HUD)

**Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** Federal Government Agency that provides housing funding throughout the country.

**Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8):** A Federal rental assistance program for low- and very-low income households typically administered by public housing authorities. Under this program, HUD pays the landlord the difference between 30% of the family's adjusted gross income and the HUD approved or fair market rent for that area. There are two types of Section 8 subsidies:

**1. Vouchers** -A family is approved, and select from the open market a property inspected and approved as meeting basic habitability requirements. If the family chooses a unit that rents for more than the FMR, the family makes up the difference between the FMR and the rent charged in addition to their 30% of income rent contribution.

**2. Project-based** - Some or all of the units in a housing development are approved for Section 8 subsidies. Occupants of those units must meet the income requirements. Property owners receive rental assistance payments for specific units designated for households qualifying for Section 8 assistance.

([www.refugeehouse.org](http://www.refugeehouse.org))

**Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and Inspection:** HQS defines “standard housing” and establishes the minimum criteria necessary for the health and safety of program participants at least annually. (Source: HUD)

**Imminent Risk of Homeless:** an individual or family who will imminently lose (within 14 days) their primary nighttime residence provided that no subsequent residence has been identified and the individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing. (Source: HUD)

**Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC):** A dollar-for-dollar tax credit in the United States for affordable housing investments. It was created under the Tax Reform Act of 1986 (TRA86) that gives incentives for the utilization of private equity in the development of affordable housing aimed at low-income Americans. The LIHTC provides funding for the development costs of low-income housing by allowing an investor to take a federal tax credit equal to a percentage of the cost incurred for development of the low-income units in a rental housing project. (Source: Wikipedia)

**Public Housing Agency/Authority (PHA):** A government agency generally affiliated with a local government whose responsibility is the ownership and operation of subsidized housing and rental assistance programs. Centre County Housing Authority is our PHA.

**Supportive Housing Program:** A HUD-funded program that provides funding for the development of transitional and permanent supportive housing and services that help homeless persons transition from homelessness to living as independently as possible. (Source: HUD)

**Rental Assistance Program (RAP):** Funding provided by DPW. If an individual or family are in danger of being evicted from their apartment or home, your county may be able to assist you with payments for rent, mortgage, and/or security deposits. Assistance can also be used to move out of shelter into an affordable apartment. (Source: PA DPW)

**Rental Subsidy:** The PHA calculates the maximum amount of housing assistance allowable for Housing Choice Vouchers to pay for a family's rent. The maximum housing assistance is generally the lesser of the payment standard minus 30% of the family's monthly adjusted income or the gross rent for the unit minus 30% of monthly adjusted income. (Source: HUD)

# EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES

**Emergency housing services includes shelters that provide housing, food, and/or supportive services for a limited period of time for residents. Each shelter operates independently with its own rules and regulations.**

## **Centre County Women's Resource Center**

140 W. Nittany Ave., State College, 16801

24/7 rape/abuse hotline 234-5050 or 1-877-234-5050 Counselors available 24 hours a day.

[www.ccwrc.org](http://www.ccwrc.org)

Emergency housing is available at the Sylvia Stein Shelter for women and children fleeing abuse. WRC provides free and confidential services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Centre County. Services include individual or group counseling, advocacy, civil legal representation, safe custody exchanges, supervised visitation and referrals. CCWRC provides assistance with housing searches, advocacy with landlords and relocation.

## **Centre County Youth Service Bureau**

Program Name: Burrowes Street Youth Haven (BSYH)

330 S. Burrowes St., State College, PA 16801

814-234-2100; Available 24/7

[bsyh@ccysb.com](mailto:bsyh@ccysb.com)

The BSYH is a four-bed facility in State College, PA. This voluntary shelter houses both males and females ages 12-17, for a maximum of 21 days. The youth that benefits from this service are homeless, runaways, or persons at risk for either of those conditions due to difficulties within their home. Youth are welcome to access this shelter whenever they need a safe place to stay, day or night. There are caring, professional counselors at the facility 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to offer their assistance for both residential or drop in care. All of the services offered to both youth and their families are free and confidential.



## **Housing Transitions, Inc.**

Program Name: Centre House Emergency Shelter

217 E. Nittany Ave., State College, PA 16801

814-237-5508; Staff available 24/7

[www.housingtransitions.com](http://www.housingtransitions.com)

This program provides shelter and food to individuals and families in Centre County who are homeless or in crisis. Individuals must be at least 18 years of age unless they are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian or are legally emancipated. Persons convicted of or charged with a violent crime, a crime of a sexual nature, or a crime involving the sale/distribution of drugs do not qualify for residential services. All individuals must go through an interview process for determination of eligibility. The Centre House Case Manager works with each individual or family to set objectives for employment, child care services, and the like; to review progress; and to make and coordinate referrals to other community services. Each resident works with the Centre County Housing Case Manager to set objectives for their housing search. Each resident is responsible for completing several housekeeping chores daily to help keep the shelter running efficiently. Also, each resident is expected to follow all Centre House rules and work with their case manager daily. The shelter works with Centre County residents for up to 30 days (a person who is making progress but has substantial obstacles to overcome may be granted additional time to stay in order to become successful and stable) and with out-of-county residents for up to three days.

## **Out of the Cold Centre County**

**1-800-494-2500**

The mission of OOTC<sup>3</sup> is to provide the homeless in our community with a warm and safe overnight accommodation and nourishment within a welcoming atmosphere, as a supplemental option to locally established shelters through local churches. We are open seasonally during cold weather. No one under the age of 18 is permitted to sleep in the site. Guests arrive at the site between 9:00 – 10:00 pm. No guests will be accepted into the site after 10:00 pm, unless Community Help Centre contacts the Host Coordinator for an emergency admission. Guests must sign the

House Rules form every evening and take their personal belonging with them when they leave each morning. Men and women will be assigned separate sleeping areas. A cot, blanket, snack and drink will be supplied to each guest each night. All guests must leave the site by 7:00 am each morning. Guests must be referred by the Community Help Centre: 1-800-494-2500 or 814-237-5855.

# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SERVICES

**Transitional Housing Services are programs that work with residents, primarily those previously homeless, to establish a living environment, work on goals, and provide support during a restricted time period. Each program operates independently with its own rules and regulations to participate. Programs are limited in availability and have certain populations they serve. These programs are important to assist those looking for greater assistance before establishing a permanent home.**

## **Bridge of Hope Centre County**

P.O. Box 433 State College, PA 16804

814-237-HOPE (4673)

<http://centre.bridgeofhopeinc.org/>

The mission of Bridge of Hope is to end and prevent homelessness for women and children with the help of trained mentoring groups within congregations. Single mothers achieve permanent housing and financial stability through employment and attain stability and enhanced self-esteem through ongoing mentoring friendships. The goal is to exemplify Christ's love and to promote physical, emotional, social and spiritual wholeness. Provision of rental assistance is a foundational part of the Bridge of Hope program. Rental assistance is typically provided on a decreasing basis over a period of 12 to 18 months. The amount of rental assistance is based on each woman's individual circumstances and plans for financial stability and determined in consultation with the program staff implementing the Bridge of Hope model. Rental assistance enables women to pursue job training and education to increase earning potential, pay down back debts/fines, develop positive budgeting skills, and possibly even establish an emergency savings fund, all while meeting the basic needs of their families.

## **Centre County Women's Resource Center**

Program: Bridge Housing Program

140 W. Nittany Ave., State College, PA 16801

814-234-5050 or 1-877-234-5050

[www.ccwrc.org](http://www.ccwrc.org)

In addition to shelter and other services, WRC provides a Bridge Housing Program. Eligible for this program are individuals and/or families who are survivors of domestic and sexual violence who are in need of supportive services in order to transition to increased safety and independence in permanent housing. Bridge Housing residents receive supportive services toward achieving their self-determined goals with the assistance of a case manager.

## **Centre County Youth Service Bureau**

Program: Stepping Stone Transitional Living Program (TLP)

334 S. Burrowes St., State College, PA 16801

814-234-2632; Staff available 24/7.

[steppingstone@ccysb.com](mailto:steppingstone@ccysb.com)

Stepping Stone is an 8-bed transitional living program located in State College. Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, the program serves placement and homeless youth ages 16-21 for up to 18 months of programming. The program's primary mission is to provide youth with a nurturing, supportive, and challenging environment conducive to learning the independent living skills needed to make the transition to self-sufficiency. All youth must go through an application and interview process to determine eligibility. Youth work with a Case Supervisor to set goals related to education, employment, safety, and life skills competence to help them transition to independent living.

## **Housing Transitions, Inc.**

Program: Transitional Housing Programs

217 East Nittany Ave., State College, PA 16801

814-237-1944; 8am to 4pm M-F

[www.housingtransitions.com](http://www.housingtransitions.com)

The Transitional Housing Programs are supportive goal-oriented programs intended to assist homeless individuals and families in becoming self-sufficient and in securing and maintaining permanent housing. Centre County adult individuals and families who are homeless and need such assistance are eligible for this program. Bridge Housing is a one-year program and the Supportive Housing Program is a two-year program.

### **Community Residential Rehabilitation**

A state-licensed program that provides psychiatric rehabilitation in a community setting designed to help residents live as independently as possible. Each individual works closely with a primary contact person, called a goal manager. Activities include individual goal-planning, help with personal care, medication management, attendance at offsite mental health programs, and volunteer work or paid employment. Providers include the following:

- **Community Services Group (CSG)**

614 Locust Ln., State College, 16801

814-861-0617

The CRR provides individuals with mental illness the opportunity to improve daily living skills and become more integrated into the community. Individuals learn to live more independently and staff is trained in assisting individuals to readjust to life in the community.

- **Strawberry Fields, Inc.**

3054 Enterprise Dr., State College, 16801

814-234-6023; M-F 8am to 4pm

[www.sfionline.org](http://www.sfionline.org)

Our State College CRR program serves 11 individuals and is located in a cluster of town homes that have easy access to public transportation, shopping, employment opportunities, YMCA, and treatment services. SFI also operates a three bed full-care CRR program in Bellefonte.

# **PERMANENT HOUSING SERVICES**

**Permanent Housing Services includes opportunities to maintain your residency for the length you chose as long as rules and regulations pertaining to the programs are abided by.**

## **Centre County Assisted Rental Housing Inventory**

Housing that is subsidized with public funds to reduce the cost of development or to make the rent or mortgage more affordable to the tenants or buyers. Elderly can be 60, 62 or 65 years old and can be verified by the property management. Small family includes 1-2 bedroom units. Large family includes 3 and larger bedroom units.

### **Bellefonte**

Beaver Farms Apartments

121 Beaver Farm Lane

Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-6750

Target Population: Family, small & large

Beaver Heights Apartments

200 Beaver Farm Lane

Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-6830

Target Population: Family, small & large

Brockhoff House

105 South Allegheny Street

Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-6830

Target Population: Elderly

Crestside Terrace

602 East Howard Street

Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-6750

Target Population: Elderly

Governor's Gate  
405 Governor's Park Road  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-3682  
Target Population: Elderly, Small Family

Spring Brae  
721 Blanchard Street  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-9774  
Target Population: Individuals, Small Family

Terra Sylvan  
101 Terra Sylvan Drive  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-9774  
Target Population: Family, small & large

Fox Hill Apartments  
200 Wyndtree Court  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-4090  
Target Population: Elderly

Fox Hill II Apartments  
200 Wyndtree Court  
Bellefonte, PA 16823  
Target Population: Elderly

## **Milesburg**

Dublin Woods  
137 Dublinwood Drive  
Milesburg, PA 16853  
814-355-2627  
Target Population: Individuals, Small Family

## **Philipsburg**

Philips Place

216 North Second Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

814-342-4200

Target Population: Elderly

Philipsburg Court

103 North Second Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

814-342-5659

Target Population: Family

Philipsburg Towers

300 Front Street

Philipsburg, PA 16866

814-342-6802

Target Population: Elderly

Westminster Place at Windy Hill

225 Dogwood Drive

Philipsburg, PA 16866

814-342-8456

Target Population: Elderly

## **Pleasant Gap**

Lutheran Commons

400 Rhoads Drive

Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

814-359-2800

Target Population: Elderly

Pleasant Hills

155 North Danielle Drive

Pleasant Gap, PA 16823

814-359-4417

Target Population: Family, small & large



## **State College**

Arnold Addison Court  
120 East Beaver Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
814-238-0400  
Target Population: Elderly, Non-Elderly Disabled

Bellaire Court  
729 Bellaire Avenue  
State College, PA 16801  
814-234-7109  
Target Population: Elderly

Ashworth Woods  
Ashworth Lane  
Boalsburg, PA 16827  
814-466-9000  
Target Population: Large Family

Centre Estates  
Jack's Mill Drive  
Boalsburg, PA 16827  
814-466-7553  
Target Population: Small Family

Huntingdon Park  
102 Huntingdon Park Drive  
Boalsburg, PA 16827  
814-466-4662  
Target Population: Family, small & large

Mt. Nittany Residence  
301 Rolling Ridge Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-234-1323  
Target Population: Elderly

Park Crest Terrace  
1400 Martin Street  
State College, PA 16803  
814-231-9677

Pheasant Glenn  
446 Blue Course Drive  
State College, PA 16803  
814-235-1377

Sylvan View  
Blue Course Drive  
State College, PA 16803  
814-234-5244  
Target Population: Family, small & large

Yorkshire Village  
913 Southgate Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-867-8989  
Target Population: Family, small & large

Waupelani Heights  
460 Waupelani Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-867-8989  
Target Population: Family, small & large

**For information on additional affordable rental units and units that accept subsidies, please review the Housing Resources List at:**

<http://www.housingtransitions.com>

**Centre County MH/ID/EI-D&A**

Program Name: Shelter Plus Care  
Willowbank Bldg., 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-6782; 8:30am-5pm M-F

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

Individuals are eligible for the Shelter Plus Care program if they meet the homeless criteria for the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act and have an open case with MH/ID/EI-D&A. This program is in coordination with the Housing Authority of Centre County. For this program, individuals are considered homeless if they fit the definition of literally homeless:

1) Sleeping in a place not designed for or used as a regular sleeping accommodation, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, camping ground, etc.

2) Living in a shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including emergency shelter, congregate shelters, transitional housing, hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by government programs)

3) Exiting an institution where they: resided for 90 days or less **and** were residing in the emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately prior to entering the institution.

4) Fleeing domestic violence

5) And/or currently in Transitional Housing, if literally homeless or in a shelter prior to Transitional Housing.

Individuals must participate and follow through with supportive services coordinated through MH/ID/EI-D&A. Individuals must have income and their amount of financial assistance is based on their income. They may also receive some assistance with utilities.

### **Strawberry Fields, Inc.**

Program: FAIRWEATHER LODGE

3054 Enterprise Dr., State College, 16801

814-234-6023; M-F 8am to 4pm

[www.sfionline.org](http://www.sfionline.org)

The Fairweather Lodge is a residential program in the State College Area specifically for adults with a mental health diagnosis. Residents share in the expenses and the day-to-day experience of running a household with minimal staff assistance. Residents must be willing and able to work or volunteer. Certified Peer Support services are being provided by SFI through the Fairweather Lodge business.

## **Housing Authority of Centre County**

121 Beaver Farm Ln., Bellefonte, PA 16823

814-355-6750; 8am to 4pm M-F

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

Centre County residents can be eligible for a number of programs and housing units available through the Housing Authority of Centre County.

- ***Housing Choice Vouchers:*** The Housing Choice Voucher Program is a tenant-based rental assistance program which requires participants to pay approximately 30% of their adjusted gross income or the minimum rent (\$50) towards the rent. The tenant based voucher stays with the tenant when he or she moves as long as all program requirements are met. Participants are selected through waiting list management, and must meet income and occupancy guidelines, along with tenant suitability standards.
- ***FUP Vouchers:*** The Family Unification Program is a form of subsidy available only through a referral from Children and Youth Services. The program is designed to prevent the separation of children from their parents because of inadequate housing. Program participants must complete an intake and be open with Children and Youth.
- ***Shelter Plus Care Program:*** SEE ABOVE. This program is in coordination with the Housing Authority of Centre County.

## **HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Department of Veterans Affairs**

James E. Van Zandt VA Medical Center

2907 Pleasant Valley Blvd.

Altoona, PA 16602-4377

814-943-8164 ext. 7640 – Homeless Programs

This program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics.

## **Housing Case Management**

217 E. Nittany Ave., State College, PA 16801

814-237-1944; 8am – 4pm M-F

[www.housingtransitions.com](http://www.housingtransitions.com)

Housing Case management is service for residents in Centre County seeking affordable, stable housing. Housing Case management provides support, resources, budgeting skills, and advocacy for our residents. Housing Case management works with the homeless shelters, Housing Authority of Centre County, human service agencies, developers, landlords, county agencies, and faith based organizations all for the need to find housing.

## **Permanent Supportive Housing**

217 E Nittany Ave., State college, PA 16801

237-4863; 8am-4pm M-F

[www.housingtransitions.com](http://www.housingtransitions.com)

Housing Transitions operates six (6) permanent, supportive housing units for individuals who have become homeless and require mental health supportive services. These units are meant to provide permanent, long term housing and supportive case management after becoming homeless and entering Centre House Emergency Shelter.

## **FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN HOMEOWNERSHIP**

### **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County**

1155 Zion Road Bellefonte, PA 16823

(814) 353-2390

[www.habitatgcc.org/](http://www.habitatgcc.org/)

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre County is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. Habitat welcomes all people -- regardless of race, religion, ethnicity or any other difference -- to build simple, decent, affordable houses with those who lack adequate shelter.

Habitat is able to make housing affordable to low-income families because:

- Houses are sold through a no-profit, no-interest mortgage.
- Individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide vital financial support.
- Homeowners and volunteers build the houses themselves, under trained supervision.

### **Centre County Housing and Land Trust**

1150 Zion Road, Bellefonte, PA 16823

Phone: (814) 571-1179

The Centre County Housing and Land Trust's (CCHLT) mission is to provide development and oversight of affordable housing for persons in Centre County, including those of low and moderate income. Serving income-qualified home buyers, the CCHLT provides affordable housing opportunities by holding the land in trust, which allows the prospective homeowner to apply for a mortgage based only on the cost of the house.

### **Centre County Planning and Community Development Office**

Program: The First-Time Home Buyer Program is offered by the Centre County Commissioners and Participating Banks

420 Holmes Street Bellefonte PA 16823

(814)355-6791 M-F; 8:30am – 5:00pm

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

If you fully qualify, the First-Time Home Buyer Program through the Centre County Housing Trust Fund provides:

Down Payment and Closing Costs Assistance - The Centre County Housing Trust Fund will be used to assist the home buyer with down payment and closing costs assistance. A maximum of \$10,000, or 10% of the purchase price (whichever is less), will be provided. Note: The loan will be made payable when the house is resold, refinanced for more than the original purchase price, ceases to be a full-time, permanent residence of Borrower, or when the mortgage has been paid in full. Each participating bank will provide the mortgage financing.

## **State College Community Land Trust**

420 West College Avenue State College, PA 16801 Phone & Fax:  
(814) 867-0656 Office Hours: M - F: 10am-2pm

<http://scclandtrust.org/>

The State College Community Land Trust (SCCLT) is a non-profit housing assistance organization. The SCCLT helps income-qualified individuals and families purchase a home in the Borough of State College. The SCCLT helps to reduce the cost of buying a home by "splitting" the ownership of the property between the SCCLT and the individual homeowner. The SCCLT holds the land permanently in trust, which allows the prospective homeowner to apply for a mortgage based only on the cost of the house. This effectively reduces the cost of purchasing your first home by as much as 30%.

## **State College Borough**

Program: State College Borough First Time Home Buyer Program

243 South Allen Street State College, PA 16801

814-234-7109; M-F 8:00am – 5:00pm

<http://www.statecollegepa.us>

The State College Borough FTHB program offers mortgage and closing cost assistance to both moderate and lower income families in the State College Borough; this typically translates into a home at a monthly cost equal to or lower than your current rent.

# COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**Housing is often the first of many needs people may encounter during a difficult time. Food, utilities, medical care, legal services, etc. can often be needs that are addressed once a housing unit has been located. Or the housing is suffering because the other areas are the greater need. We acknowledge that other help may be needed for you to maintain your home. The resources listed below are a starting point for you to contact in hopes of finding resources to meet your needs.**

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

### **Centre County Assistance Office (CAO)**

2580 Park Center Blvd., State College, 16801

814- 863-6571; 1-800-355-6024; M-F 7:30am to 5pm

<http://www.state.pa.us>

[www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)

Centre CAO determines eligibility for entitlement programs funded and administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (DPW). An application, available at the office or mailed out upon request, must be filed. Eligibility is based on need as determined by income and resource guidelines. If eligible, benefits include cash assistance, medical assistance, food stamps, nursing home care, emergency shelter grants, special allowances monies for employment, medical transportation monies, and the energy assistance program. Centre CAO helps individuals seek, accept, and maintain employment. Applications also may be printed or, in some cases, filed on the Internet at

### **Centre County Children and Youth Services (CYS)**

Willowbank Bldg., 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823

814- 355-6755; M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm; for emergencies when closed 1-800-479-0050

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

CYS identifies and resolves problems in the family when there is concern for the safety and well-being of a child. In cases of suspected abuse or neglect, CYS investigates and takes necessary



steps to protect the child. A child may be placed outside the family if parents cannot or will not provide adequate care and there is no feasible alternative within the family.

**Centre County Mental Health/Intellectual Disabilities/Early Intervention-Drug & Alcohol (MH/ID/EI-D&A)**

**Summit Park** 3500 E College Ave, Suite 1200 State College, PA 16801

814-355-6786; M-F 8:30am-5:00pm

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

Centre County Mental Health (MH) identifies, evaluates, treats, and refers adults and children/adolescents with mental illness, behavioral health needs, or emotional disorders. Centre County Intellectual Disabilities and Early Intervention (ID & EI) identifies, evaluates, and refers infants, adults and children/adolescents with an intellectual, learning and/or developmental disorder. Centre County Drug and Alcohol provides identifies, evaluates, treats, and refers adults and children/adolescents with substance abuse disorders. The office also provides crisis intervention services. If you would like information, please call (814) 355-6786.

**Centre County Office of Adult Services**

Willowbank Bldg., 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823

814- 355-6768; M-F 8:30am to 5:00pm

<http://centrecountypa.gov>

The Centre County Office of Adult Services is an office of County Government. It is responsible for services to low-income adults, ages 18 through 59, including the disabled population and low-income families. The office works on behalf of individuals and families requiring assistance to meet their basic needs. Efforts are focused on improving their lives and protecting those at their highest vulnerability. The office strives to connect people to the available resources in our community. Services are provided throughout the county by a network of agencies that work together. Individual case management to homemaker services to food pantries, to basic needs assistance are all solutions to the

needs of our residents in Centre County that we make every effort to meet.

### **Centre County Office of Aging**

Willowbank Bldg., 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-6716 or 1-800-479-0050 (after hours); M-F 8:30am -5pm  
<http://centrecountypa.gov>

The Office of Aging assists individuals age 60 or older to remain in the community or, if necessary, in a more protected environment. The Office of Aging is the designated agency to provide preadmission assessment for adults aged 18 and older who are seeking placement in a long-term care facility or who are seeking assistance through the Attendant Care Waiver or the Aging Waiver. The agency provides protective services to older adults and may place an individual in a safer environment if a thorough investigation indicates need for protective services. The Office of Aging also provides health insurance counseling for persons with Medicare.

### **Centre County Office of Transportation**

486 Old Curtin Rd., Milesburg PA 16853. Mailing address: 420 Holmes St., Bellefonte, PA 16823  
814-355-6807; M-F 8:00am to 5:00pm  
<http://centrecountypa.gov>

Provides door-to-door service to individuals of human service agencies, patrons who are Medical Assistance eligible, persons with disabilities, and the general public (for a fee) who are residents of Centre County. Reservations are required by 1:00pm at least one working day in advance (preferably as soon as possible). Persons needing accessible vehicles are encouraged to make reservations as soon as possible. This is a shared-ride service that primarily serves destinations in Centre County. Passengers (MA individuals) may be reimbursed for securing their own ride if the transportation office is unable to meet their needs, and out of county medical trips are available to these individuals through a third party. Also offers a home-delivered meal delivery to individuals who qualify.

## **CHARITABLE AGENCIES & SERVICES**

Charitable agencies, which are directly accessible, provide services often needed by people seeking to provide basic needs. Each agency has unique community connections so may be able to offer unique information, ideas, and referrals.

### **Catholic Charities**

213 East Bishop Street, Bellefonte PA 16823  
814-353-0502; M-F 9:00am – 4:00pm Evening hours by appointment only

Catholic Charities can provide emergency financial assistance for basic needs including shelter and utilities. They offer counseling services (individual, martial, family) and pregnancy support. Services are for Centre County residents. Catholic Charities serve all who seek help without regard to religious affiliation.

### **Central Pa Community Action**

\*Bellefonte: 109 W. Bishop St. Bellefonte PA 16823  
814-355-7501; Mon.-Thur.7:30-4:00 with a 1/2 hr. lunch around noon.

Services include: Pa WorkWear, various utility programs and Housing counseling for First Time Homebuyers.

\*Penns Valley: 337 E Aaron Square Aaronsburg, PA 16820  
814-349-5850; Mon.-Thur. 7:30-4:30 with an hour lunch from 12-1:00pm

Services include Food Bank, various utility programs and a Thrift store.

\*Philipsburg: 14 S. Front St. Philipsburg, PA16866  
814-342-0404; Mon.-Fri. 8:00-4:30 with an hour lunch from 12-1  
Services include Food Bank & various utility programs. The Philipsburg office also serves Clearfield Co. for a variety of programs.

All offices can be reached directly or by calling 1-800-822-2610  
[www.cpcaa.net](http://www.cpcaa.net)

## **Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Rental Assistance Program**

Centre County government, Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition and Central PA Community Action have partnered to provide Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Rental Assistance Program. This program assists homeless and near-homeless individuals and families with security deposits, rental assistance, case management and budget counseling. To participate, income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or lower than 50% of the county median income. An individual or family can receive assistance for 3 months (rental and security deposit) up to a year. Assistance is capped at \$2,000 for individuals and \$2,500 for families. Preference is given to residents of Marcellus Shale hosts and bordering municipalities. Referrals or questions are being accepted at the following Central PA Community Action Offices: Aaronsburg- 349-5850, Bellefonte- 355-7501 and Philipsburg- 342-0404.

## **Centre County CAN HELP**

132 The Meadows Dr., Centre Hall, PA 16828  
Toll free 1-800-643-5432; Available 24/7

CAN HELP, a Crisis Intervention service provided by The Meadows Psychiatric Center/Universal Community Behavioral Health in collaboration with Centre County MH/ID/EI/D&A provides mental health crisis intervention, supportive counseling, referrals to other agencies, and mental health and drug & alcohol education. Services are accessible by telephone, walk-in assessment, or mobile crisis intervention in the community. Can Help Counselors are also available to offer brief grief support and crisis debriefings.

## **Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM)**

2520 Green Tech Drive, Ste. D, State College, PA 16803  
814- 231-4043; M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm by appointment  
<http://www.cvim.net/>

CVIM is a nonprofit corporation whose primary mission is to serve the health and wellness needs of neighbors without insurance who live in Centre County. CVIM provides free primary and preventive medical and dental care to uninsured residents of Centre County. In addition, the organization may provide referrals to specialists and other social services. People who utilize services are treated with respect and dignity from the moment they enter the door to the end of their visit. Individuals may call to schedule an appointment to find out whether they qualify for services.

### **Community Help Centre**

141 W. Beaver Ave., State College, PA 16801

Crisis calls and assistance 24/7: Crisis line 814-237-5855 or toll free 1-800-494-2500; Walk-in hours M-F 9am to 6pm

<http://www.communityhelpcentre.com/>

CHC provides information and referral services for anyone who isn't sure where to turn for help. The Community Help provides trained staff for emotional support and short-term crisis intervention counseling is offered 24/7, every day of the year. CHC also provides Basic Needs Case Management for those in need of assistance with rent, utility, medical needs, and meeting other basic needs. Other emergency services include: food bags when food banks and pantries are closed and referrals for emergency shelter. Drop-in hours are M - F from 9:00am - 6:00pm.

### **Interfaith Human Services (IHS)**

2100C East College Ave., State College, PA 16801

814-234-7731; Office Hours: M-F 9am-4pm

<http://www.ihs-centrecounty.org/>

Interfaith Human Services, Inc. (IHS), a registered non-profit organization in Centre County, Pennsylvania, is a long-standing collaborative effort of faith communities whose purpose is to address many unmet social and economic needs for low-income residents. IHS offers several financial care services, including: money management, third party payee services, and budgeting classes. IHS also provides emergency assistance on behalf of

clients, coordinates the Rental Assistance Program, collects and distributes free furniture & appliances, and manages seasonal heating assistance through the Centre County Fuel Bank.

**MidPenn Legal Services**

3500 East College Avenue, Suite 1295, State College, PA 16801  
1-800-326-9177; M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm

<http://midpennlegal.org/>

MidPenn provides free legal information, advice and/or representation in civil cases to income eligible residents of Centre County. The type of cases handled *may* include, but are not limited to: public benefits, domestic violence, eviction, mortgage foreclosure, custody, debt collection, employment, unemployment compensation, Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability.

**Salvation Army Corps**

2603 E College Ave, Suite G, State College, PA 16801  
814-861-1785; M-F 9am-5pm

[www.salvationarmystatecollege.org](http://www.salvationarmystatecollege.org)

This agency provides short-term financial assistance. Also, a case manager reviews the individual's budget to determine eligibility for other programs and make referrals.

**The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA)**

2081 W. Whitehall Road, State College, PA 16801  
Downtown Pass Sales Office: 108 E. Beaver Avenue, State College, PA 16801  
814-238-CATA(2282)

[www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com)

**CATABUS**

CATA provides fixed-route community transportation through its **CATABUS** bus system. The 18 routes that comprise the system connect all of the Authority's participating municipalities with Downtown State College and the Penn State Campus, and are complemented by fare-free Downtown/Campus circulator LOOP

and cross-Campus LINK services. The current cost per one-way trip is \$1.50 and a Half-Fare program is available to those who qualify. Seniors age 65 and over with a Senior Transit Identification Card and children under 40 inches tall ride free. Schedule, route and pass information is available at [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) or by calling CATA's office.

### **CATARIDE**

CATA provides curb-to-curb transportation, primarily for senior citizens persons age 65 and over and persons whose disabilities prevent their use of the CATABUS system with its CATARIDE service. An application and certification are required for participation at reduced fare. Applications and scheduling and fare information are available at [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) or by calling CATA's office.

### **CATACOMMUTE**

CATACOMMUTE is comprised of a family of transportation services that includes the Rideshare, Vanpool and Guaranteed Ride Home programs, regional commuter bus service, and other services designed to provide long-distance commuters with easy and economical commute alternatives. Information on these services is available at [www.catabus.com](http://www.catabus.com) or by contacting CATA's Commuter Services Manager at (814) 238-CATA(2282) ext. 134.

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY EFFORTS**

### **Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition**

(PO Box 499, Lemont, PA 16851; 380-9311)

Email: [ccaffordablehousingcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:ccaffordablehousingcoalition@gmail.com)

[www.ccaffordablehousingcoalition.org](http://www.ccaffordablehousingcoalition.org)

The Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition is a diversified group whose mission is to inform the community of the value, need, and availability of affordable housing for all residents. The vision of the Centre County Affordable Housing Coalition is to be a collective and coordinated voice providing leadership, education and information on affordable housing resources, and to

promote housing opportunities within our local communities. If you are interested in more information, please contact the Coalition.

**Meeting Information:** The Affordable Housing Coalition meets the third Wednesday of each month at the Calvary Baptist Church in State College. Meetings last approximately 90 minutes.

**Meeting Time:** Third Wednesday of month, 2:30pm

**Meeting Location:** Calvary Baptist Church, Social Room, 1250 University Drive, State College, PA 16801

### **Centre County Council for Human Services, Inc.**

The Centre County Council for Human Services is a collaboration of human service agencies, businesses, faith based organizations, policy makers, foundations and interested individuals working to create an integrated and efficient approach to solving the issues facing the community. In addition to hosting monthly meetings and yearly trainings, the Council publishes the *Centre County Directory of Human Services*, a handbook of the services available from member organizations, and a monthly informational newsletter, the *Centre Exchange* which are available online at [www.theccchs.org](http://www.theccchs.org)

**Meeting Time:** First Wednesday of month, 12:00pm, excluding July and August

**Meeting Location:** Calvary Baptist Church, Social Room, 1250 University Drive, State College, PA 16801

### **Community Safety Net of Centre County**

The Community Safety Net (CSN) is a group of human service organizations that provides basic needs to Centre County residents, through a collaboration of services and a common desire to effectively respond to the urgent needs of the community.

Meeting Emergency Needs in Centre County in the following areas: Housing Assistance; Safety & Shelter; Supplemental Food; Metered Utility Assistance; Job Readiness; Life Skills Education; Heating & Weatherization Assistance.





## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Sincere Appreciation to**  
LINK to Access and Disability  
Resources  
1-800-753-8827

**Printing By**  
Colonial Press  
814-466-3380

We hope that you have found this booklet to be helpful. If your organization would like to be included in the next edition, please contact 814-355-6768.

*We welcome new participants!*

## FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS IN CENTRE COUNTY

### CALL 211 FOR ALL HUMAN SERVICE NEEDS

#### CRISIS SERVICES (24 hours/7 days, unless noted)

Police Services . . . . .	911
CAN HELP . . . . .	1-800-643-5432
MNMC Hospital, ER. . . . .	814-234-6110
Community Help Centre . . . . .	1-800-494-2500
Women’s Resource Center . . . . .	814-234-5050
MH/ID/EI (M-F 8:30am to 5pm) . . . . .	814-355-6786

#### AGENCIES

Catholic Charities. . . . .	814-353-0502
Central PA Community Action . . . . .	1-800-822-2610
Centre County Assistance Office (CAO). . . . .	814-863-6571
Centre County Children and Youth Services . . . . .	814-355-6755
Centre County Office of Adult Services . . . . .	814-355-6768
Centre County Office of Aging . . . . .	814-355-6716
Centre County Office of Transportation . . . . .	814-355-6807
Centre County Youth Service Bureau. . . . .	814-234-2100
Centre Volunteers in Medicine . . . . .	814-231-4043
Housing Transitions, Inc.. . . . .	814-237-5508
Interfaith Human Services . . . . .	814-234-7731
MidPenn Legal Services. . . . .	1-800-326-9177
Salvation Army . . . . .	814-861-1785