



You can
BE THE KEY
to end homelessness in Chester County

BE THE **VOICE**

BE THE **CHANGE**

BE THE **SOLUTION**

BE THE **RESOURCE**



BE THE KEY is the public engagement initiative for Decade to Doorways

About Us

The Decade to Doorways Partnership is a community based collaborative that strives to end homelessness in Chester County by actively promoting access to safe housing without discriminatory prerequisites or conditions. The Partnership views housing as a foundation for progress and success.



Progress

In 2011, the Chester County Board of Commissioners recognized that ending homelessness is essential to preserving and optimizing the quality of life for all residents in Chester County. Their recognition led to the development of Decade to Doorways as the county's strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Since the inception of Decade to Doorways, the community has made significant progress towards accomplishing this task. Decade to Doorways has targeted valuable resources to our neighbors in need by housing them without preconditions.

The 2010 Annual Point in Time Count, a one night census of people experiencing homelessness, was 745. In 2019, 517 people were counted, representing a 30% decrease over nine years.**

Challenges

Chester County is cited as one of the wealthiest counties in the Commonwealth with a median household income of \$99,119/year.* Despite the affluence, there are still many people in need. In 2018, 23,816 renters paid 30% or more of their household income towards housing costs.*

Federal, state, and local resources alone have not proven effective at eliminating homelessness.

In spite of the tireless efforts of our Coordinated Entry System there is still substantial work to be done.

BE THE KEY!

You are the critical link to achieving the meaningful and realistic goal of ending homelessness in Chester County. Increased funding to support the Decade to Doorways' Coordinated Entry System and its network of providers will ensure that ending homelessness in our community is an achievable goal. Be The Key to this success!

* Based on most recent U.S. Census data from 2018 utilizing: U.S. Census 2013 & 2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (published in 2014 and 2019)

** 2010 and 2019 Annual Point in Time Count Reports, Chester County Department of Community Development



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The Faces of Homelessness in Chester County

Decade to Doorways is focused on preventing and ending homelessness for those who are in emergency shelter, transitional housing, and on the street. As part of this overall goal, Decade to Doorways is committed to assisting people in the most need, specifically individuals who are chronically homeless.



“

When I was on the street, it was so hard, nobody believed in me... It's not that you are on the street because you use drugs or you have a bad history... It was so hard for me and to find good people and for people to believe in you and that's what happened. My goal is to write my book. The name of my book will be 'Process,' because this whole situation was a process that God gives you to see how strong you are.

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I want a better life for my children. I want them to know that it's important to stay positive through life's ups and downs.

”



“

Everything became too overwhelming for me and I just wallowed in pity. Actually lost my mind on drugs and alcohol and wasn't focused on paper work and doing the things I needed to do. When I first got the keys to my house, I didn't care about anything. I didn't care that I didn't have any covers or pillows to sleep on, cups, forks, or food... I was just so happy to be in my own space.

”

“

I had no money saved. I had no family in the area. My only option was to crash on a friend's couch. I was working part-time and I had no idea how I was going to be able to afford a place of my own. I am grateful for the assistance I received because it relieved a lot of stress from my life, making a negative and scary situation easier for me to deal with.

”





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BE THE **VOICE**

Share message

You can be an Advocate of ending homelessness by becoming the Voice in promoting this countywide effort.

Be the Key in your circle of influence by taking these simple steps:

- Educate yourself on the state of and solutions to ending homelessness.
- Review the most recent Chester County data at www.decadetodoorways.org/data.
- Visit the National Alliance to End Homelessness at www.endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions.
- Help us share the message within your community:
 - Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DecadetoDoorways.
 - Subscribe to the Decade to Doorways digital newsletter at www.DecadeToDoorways.org.
 - Invite the Decade to Doorways Speakers' Bureau to present to your group. For more information please contact Rob Henry, Decade to Doorways Administrator at 610-344-4723 or by email at RHenry@chesco.org.



BE THE **CHANGE**

Volunteer

The Decade to Doorways Partnership includes a collaborative of organizations providing outreach, emergency, transitional, and permanent housing to prevention, diversion, and Housing Stability Services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Chester County.

Each providers' needs are dynamic and ever-changing. Volunteer opportunities may include collecting donations, support with coordination of events, group volunteer opportunities to assisting essential operations of an organization such as cleaning, bookkeeping, overnight shelter stays and more.

For more information on how you may volunteer your time, talent or financial resources, please contact the organizations directly.

For contact information please refer to the Decade to Doorways Partner Directory.



BE THE **SOLUTION**

Housing

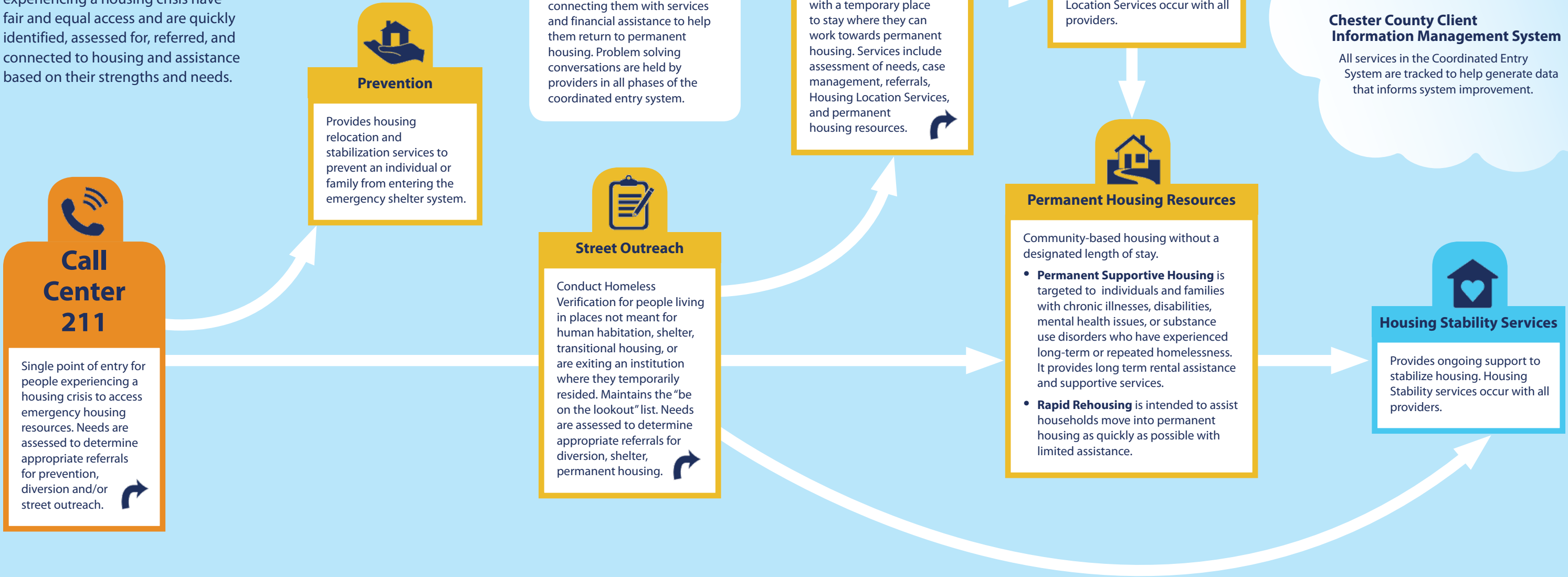
For Developers interested in creating new, affordable housing in Chester County, the Chester County Department of Community Development provides resources to support the development of affordable housing. For more information, please contact: Dave Norwood 610-344-6933 or by email at CCDCD@chesco.org

For Landlords interested in providing affordable housing in Chester County, the following financial assistance is available:

- **PAhousingsearch.com** is a free resource for landlords to list available apartments at any time. For more information, visit www.pahousingsearch.com.
- **The Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) Program** provides rental assistance to low-income families which they can use throughout the community. For more information, visit www.haccnet.org/landlords.php.
- **The Project Based Housing Choice Voucher Program** attaches rent assistance to housing units. Eligible tenants only receive housing assistance if they live in a unit that has a Project Based Voucher. For more information, visit www.haccnet.org/project-based-voucher.php.
- **The Continuum of Care Permanent Supportive Housing Program** provides rental assistance and supportive services for people with a disabling condition experiencing homelessness. For more information please contact: Open Hearth Inc., 610-792-9282, visit www.openhearthinc.org.
- **The Rapid Re-housing Program** is a time limited rental assistance and supportive service program designed to support families and individuals experiencing homelessness to stabilize within permanent housing. For more information please contact:
Human Services Inc.: 610-429-3033
Housing Authority of Chester County: 610-436-9200

Decade to Doorways Coordinated Entry System

Coordinated entry is a process developed to ensure that all people experiencing a housing crisis have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing and assistance based on their strengths and needs.



Partners

Call Center 211 <ul style="list-style-type: none">United Way of Chester County	Diversion <ul style="list-style-type: none">Human Services Inc.United Way of Chester County	Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none">Act in Faith of Greater West ChesterHuman Services Inc.Kennett Area Community ServiceNorth Star of Chester CountyOxford Area Neighborhood Services CenterPennsylvania Home of the Sparrow	Street Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none">Human Services Inc.	Emergency Shelters <ul style="list-style-type: none">Community, Youth and Women's AllianceDomestic Violence Center of Chester CountyFriends AssociationGood Samaritan ServicesOpen Hearth Inc.Safe Harbor of Chester CountyW.C. Atkinson Memorial Community Services Center	Housing Location Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Housing Authority of Chester CountyHuman Services Inc.North Star of Chester CountyOpen Hearth Inc.Oxford Area Neighborhood Services CenterPennsylvania Home of the Sparrow	Permanent Housing Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none">Housing Authority of Chester CountyHuman Services Inc.Open Hearth Inc.	Housing Stability Services <ul style="list-style-type: none">Act in Faith of Greater West ChesterFriends AssociationHandi-Crafters Inc.Housing Authority of Chester CountyHuman Services Inc.Kennett Area Community ServiceNorth Star of Chester CountyOpen Hearth Inc.Oxford Area Neighborhood Services CenterPennsylvania Home of the Sparrow



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Give money

The Decade to Doorways Coordinated Entry system is a community wide network of services designed to prevent and end homelessness in Chester County. In order to shift from a system that manages homelessness, to a system that diverts, prevents and rapidly re-houses.

The goal of the Decade to Doorways initiative is to end homelessness by 2022. In order to end homelessness in our community it is imperative that public and private partnerships are encouraged to raise the financial support necessary to sustain this long term endeavor. The following systems gaps have been identified:

Emergency Shelter Organizational Capacity

In 2018, 41% of persons served in emergency shelters had a disabling condition upon entry. The most prevalent condition reported was mental health at 31% and 24% had multiple conditions.** In order to effectively serve this population, highly skilled case management is invaluable to meeting the complex needs to successful housing placement. According to Glassdoor,“ the average salary for a clinical social worker in Philadelphia is \$53,033 a year.”The emergency shelter partners within Decade to Doorways can all benefit from investments made to support highly skilled case management staff.

Financial Assistance to Prevent and Divert Households

Funding for prevention and diversion can be the key to stopping people from becoming homeless. Helping people avoid a traumatic and costly shelter stay is as simple as providing one time rental or utility assistance, mediation/short term case management, or assist with transportation to work. The prevention and diversion partners within Decade to Doorways will benefit from this type of financial assistance.

Temporary Shelter Stay for High Risk Households

Decade to Doorways is committed to housing women with infant children, pregnant women, frail elderly or any other highly vulnerable person when shelter space is unavailable. This consists of offering people hotel/motel stays until shelter or housing becomes available. Your assistance will ensure that no highly vulnerable person remains unsheltered in Chester County.

Affordable Permanent Housing

The high cost of housing makes it difficult for people to find a place that they can afford to live. On average, a worker earning the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/ hour must work 105 hours every week to afford a modest one-bedroom rental in Chester County.*** The lack of affordable housing creates a bottleneck that leads to lengthier periods of homelessness. The Chester County Department of Community Development provides resources to support the development of affordable housing. For more information, please contact: Dave Norwood 610-344-6933 or by email at CCDCD@chesco.org.

Rapid Re-Housing Program Organizational Capacity

With 262 people served and 91% of people obtaining permanent housing, Rapid Rehousing programs are the most prolific and effective housing programs in Chester County.** Increasing the capacity of these programs directly increases our ability to house people and end homelessness. Gaps in the current Rapid Re-Housing programs total up to \$110,000 annually. Rapid Re-housing providers include the Housing Authority of Chester County and Human Services Inc.

Housing Crisis Access Site– Southern Chester County

According to the most recent data, Southern Chester County (Route 1 corridor) accounted for 65% of the entire county’s unsheltered population and yet just 6.8% of clients accessed Decade to Doorways Coordinated Entry System.* By establishing a Housing Crisis Access Site staffed with a Housing Crisis Navigator in this region, Decade to Doorways will be better able to engage with and serve those facing an emergency housing crisis. Estimated investment for initial startup is \$100,000.

Landlord Mitigation Fund

To end homelessness it is critical to incentivize landlords to rent to people with a history of homelessness, limited income, poor rental, or credit history. The Landlord Mitigation Fund will help to cover lost rent and damage beyond the security deposit. Estimated annual investment to the Decade to Doorways fund is \$20,000.

Direct donations

to the Decade to Doorways partners are strongly encouraged. To invest in the system gaps that have been identified please contact the Chester County Community Foundation at 610-696-8211. Please reference the Decade to Doorways fund. You may also visit www.chescocf.org/fund/decade-to-doorways. You can designate your donation to a specific purpose in the comment section.

** Decade to Doorways 2018 Data Review















*** National Low Income Housing Coalition 2019 Out of Reach Report













* 2019 Point in Time Count Report

** Decade to Doorways 2018 Data Review

Decade to Doorways
Partner Directory

Direct donations to the Decade to Doorways partners are strongly encouraged.

								
	Call Center 211	Diversion	Prevention	Street Outreach	Emergency Shelters	Housing Location Services	Permanent Housing Resources	Housing Stability Services
Act in Faith Serves Individuals and Families (484) 324-8492 www.actinfaithgwc.org								
Community, Youth and Women’s Alliance Serves Families (610) 384-9592 www.facebook.com/people/Cywa-Coatesville/100010953990259								
Domestic Violence Center of Chester County Serves Individuals and Families (610) 431-1430 www.dvcccpa.org								
Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children Serves Families (610) 431-3598 www.friendsassoc.org								
Good Samaritan Services—Emergency Shelter Serves Single Men (610) 933 9305—Phoenixville www.goodsamservices.org								
Handi-Crafters, Inc. Serves Individuals and Families (610) 384-6990 www.handi-crafters.org								
Housing Authority of Chester County Serves Individuals and Families (610) 436-9200 www.haccnet.org								
Human Services, Inc. Serves Individuals and Families (610) 429-3033 www.hsi-cmhs.com								

								
	Call Center 211	Diversion	Prevention	Street Outreach	Emergency Shelters	Housing Location Services	Permanent Housing Resources	Housing Stability Services
Kennett Area Community Service Serves Individuals and Families (610) 925-3556 www.kacsonline.net								
North Star of Chester County Serves Families (610) 696-5675 www.northstarofcc.org								
Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center Serves Individuals and Families (610) 932-8557 www.oxfordnsc.org								
Open Hearth, Inc. Serves Individuals and Families (610) 792-9282 www.openhearthinc.org								
PA Home of the Sparrow Serves Single Women and Families (610) 647-4940 www.homeofthesparrow.org								
Safe Harbor of Chester County Serves Individuals (610) 692-6550 www.safeharborofgwc.org								
United Way of Chester County 211 Serves Individuals and Families 211 www.unitedwaychestercounty.org								
W.C. Atkinson Community Service Center Serves Single Men (610) 380-6193 www.wcatkinson.org								



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Doorways**
Preventing and Ending Homelessness in Chester County

 **Chester County
Department of
Community Development**
Investing in the future



 **CHESTER COUNTY
Planning
COMMISSION**

Special thanks to the
Chester County Planning Commission