

News & Views

PUBLICLY SPEAKING

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Since the very beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) has mobilized to keep our residents, staff, and communities safe and healthy. Although people are beginning to venture outside again, we are still on alert, responding to the evolving challenges of living in pandemic and connecting residents with the resources and services they need to thrive.

Our staff has worked diligently to provide high quality services to our residents since the onset of COVID-19. They're conducting health check-ins, helping residents find employment, delivering fresh food, and connecting with vital resources to include the internet access federal benefits such as the Emergency Broadband Benefit. Every day, our dedicated staff finds new and innovative ways to serve our residents and the greater community. The COVID-19 pandemic may have brought a variety of unexpected challenges, but we remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission.

That mission has always been about more than providing people a place to sleep. It's also about lifting them up and supporting them – providing a "Place to Live and Path to Launch."

From our innovative digital services to our eviction prevention programming, the HACP met residents where they are and helped them overcome the daily challenges they face. The first half of 2021 has been no exception. Whether it's hosting an online event to connect residents to more resources, expanding our efforts with 412 Food Rescue to eliminate food insecurity, or bringing healthcare directly to communities with partners like the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy and Northside Christian Health Center, we're using every possible tool to build support systems for residents and put them on the path to self-sufficiency.

Over the course of the last month, one such effort took center stage: the nationwide effort to get people vaccinated. The HACP has been "playing our part", by working with groups across the city to make access to vaccinations easy for our residents and staff. We're proud of the work we've done to connect people with vaccine appointments, bring vaccines directly to peoples' doorsteps, and promote health and safety in our communities. It's been a monumental challenge, but the HACP and our many partners have assisted by providing supportive resources.

The HACP and our local partners are not the only ones being at the forefront of solutions. Federal support has routinely been extended in a variety of forms. The Emergency Broadband Program is connecting people with the critical internet connection they need in our online world. The expanded Child Tax Credit is giving people financial relief in a challenging time and improving outcomes for young children. Rental assistance is making its way into the hands of people who have faced financial hardship the past year. We're thankful for the programs, support and other forms of assistance that are being made available, and we're working hard to make sure our residents know about all the resources available to them.

It's been a busy couple of months for the HACP, and we're proud to share all the work we've been doing with you. That work will continue, and the HACP will keep doing everything we possibly can to serve our residents and help them build more satisfying lives.

Caster D. Binion
Executive Director

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Summer 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Vaccination Efforts Bring Together HACP, Health Organizations, and Community Groups **2**

HACP, City of Pittsburgh, URA, and Community Groups Unveil New Liberty Green Park in Heart of Larimer **3**

HACP and 412 Food Rescue Expand Deliveries and Eradicate Hunger **4**

WiFi on Wheels CyberBus Set to Bring Digital Programming and Classes to Neighborhoods All Across the City **5**

2021 ConnectHomeUSA Digital Inclusion Convening Brings Together Housing Professionals and Residents to Bridge the Digital Divide **6**

HACP and ACHA Partner to Help Families Overcome Barriers to High-Opportunity Neighborhoods **7**

2021 KaBloom Landscaping Challenge Takes Root in HACP Communities **8**

The Heinz Endowments Grant Allows HACP to Maximize Resident Engagement in Glen Hazel **9**

HACP Continues Launching a Path to Self-Sufficiency for Residents with \$377,268 FSS Renewal Grant from HUD **10**

Child Tax Credit Benefit **11**

HACP Creative Arts Corner **12**



Vaccination Efforts Bring Together HACP, Health Organizations, and Community Groups

2021 began with the approval of various COVID-19 vaccines, and questions abounded. Which vaccine should I get? Is it safe to get a vaccine? Where can I get a vaccine appointment? Am I even eligible to be vaccinated? HACP stepped up during this critical time, not only connecting residents with credible vaccine information, but also with vaccines themselves.

Once it became clear that vaccines would be rolled out en masse, HACP went to work engaging residents and making the vaccination process as easy as possible. They called all residents aged 62 and up and coordinated transportation with partners like ACCESS Transportation and St. Clair Hospital. Getting vaccinated was as easy as getting on the shuttle, getting your shot, and coming home. People didn't even have to get off the bus.

As vaccination efforts continued, HACP developed a tried-and-true policy to ensure residents knew about vaccination opportunities and could easily get vaccinated if they chose to.

"We worked to implement a system," said Brandy Weatherspoon, Director of Resident Initiatives for HACP, "that way we could spring into action as soon as we knew about a vaccination event."

As various public health partners informed HACP of available vaccines, staff compiled a list of residents that would be eligible to be vaccinated at that event. After determining the eligible residents, they made phone calls, went door-to-door, and did everything they could to ensure interested residents were signed up to be vaccinated. On the day of the event, HACP staff reminded residents about their vaccination appointments and arranged transportation to get residents where they needed to be.

"Everything was about ease of access," said HACP Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge, "there were so many things out there to confuse residents, and we wanted it to be easy and simple for them."

In addition to bringing residents to vaccination clinics, HACP worked with partners like the Northside Christian Health Center, Allegheny Health Network, and Bethany Church Ministries to bring vaccines to residents. Pop-up vaccination clinics came to communities across the city, making getting vaccinated as easy as walking out your front door. People could get vaccinated at Outdoor Senior Movie Nights, 412 Food Rescue deliveries, Choice Neighborhood Initiative community meetings, and more. From Murray Towers to Finello Pavilion to other neighborhoods across the city, these pop-up vaccination clinics helped vaccinate residents who may not have had the opportunity otherwise.

"Working with partners like Northside Christian Health Center and Hilltop Pharmacy to bring the vaccine to people's doorsteps has been monumental," Ms. Sandidge said, "it's helped narrow health disparities and get people vaccinated who were daunted by the process. Those are big wins."

HACP's community partnerships also made it possible to vaccinate staff, furthering the statewide and national vaccination efforts and getting the HACP community one step closer to normal. In all, HACP and its partners have worked together to vaccinate hundreds of people.

These efforts continue. HACP is working with its health and community partners to bring more pop-up clinics to Community Day events this summer, and will keep making the health and safety of residents a priority.



The mood was cheery among Caliguiri Plaza residents on the way to their second vaccine dose.



A vaccination site at Murray Towers in Squirrel Hill made getting vaccinated quick and easy.

HACP worked with Bethany Community Ministries and Allegheny Health Network to bring a pop-up vaccination site to Finello Pavilion.





The new community park includes a new playground for kids and families to enjoy.



HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion welcomed the new Liberty Green park as a critical investment in the community.

HACP, City of Pittsburgh, URA, and Community Groups Unveil New Liberty Green Park in Heart of Larimer

This spring, the HACP, City of Pittsburgh, Urban Redevelopment Authority, Larimer Consensus Group, and many other community organizations gathered to celebrate a very welcome addition to the Larimer Choice Neighborhoods footprint: the all new Liberty Green community park.

Community members have been advocating for a safe, high-quality recreational area for years. Now, with Liberty Green open and children playing, their wishes have come true. Built on 3.2 acres of green space, the \$6.5 million park development is the city's newest super-playground and largest play area for multiple age groups.

"It's an incredible public space and a true community asset," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "Liberty Green is a very innovative, high-quality playground where children and families can build lasting memories, but also because it's the culmination of community advocacy and collaboration. That's a beautiful thing."

Construction on Liberty Green began in 2019, following an extensive two-year community engagement process that ensured the plan would be based around residents' needs and values. They made clear their desire for an open space that offered recreation and reflected their commitment to green and sustainable development.

The final result does just that, featuring 14,500 square feet of play space for age groups spanning from toddlers to pre-teens situated along a feature plaza, assembly space, open lawn, play mounds, and a playground with wheelchair-accessible equipment. Liberty Green also has an innovative green infrastructure stormwater management system that can manage 4 million gallons of water from the park and surrounding streets annually, as well as 82 newly-planted

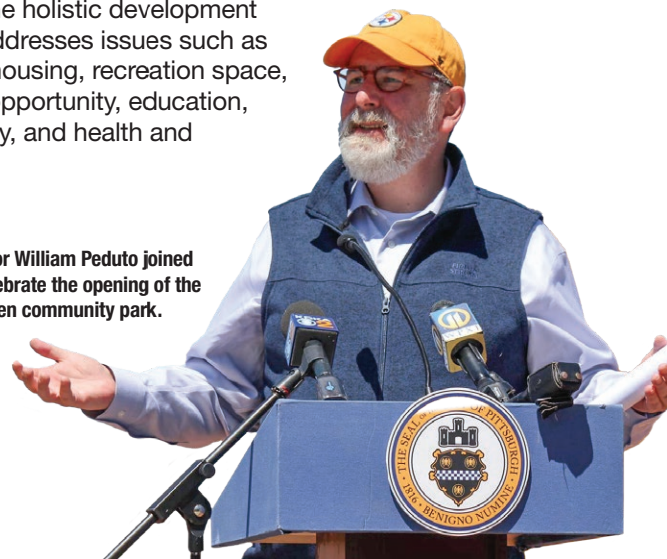
trees, and a River Roots community-driven art component that will be completed by the fall.

"Liberty Green is so much more than just a park," said Mr. Binion, "it's an investment in the well-being of the Larimer and East Liberty communities. It's an avenue to lift up residents, meet their stated needs, and improve their quality of life. And it's only one piece of the puzzle."

The completion of Liberty Green marks another step forward in the Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhood Initiative's critical community improvement activities. Launched in 2014 following the award of a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Choice Neighborhood Initiative aims to implement a resident-driven redevelopment of the Larimer/East Liberty community.

Since its launch, the collaborative initiative has added 247 new units, with an additional 87 under construction or planned. The holistic development plan also addresses issues such as affordable housing, recreation space, economic opportunity, education, public safety, and health and wellness.

Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto joined residents to celebrate the opening of the new Liberty Green community park.





HACP and 412 Food Rescue

Expand Deliveries and Eradicate Hunger

Early this fall, HACP staff gathered at the entrance to Murray Towers, awaiting the arrival of the bright green 412 Food Rescue truck. As they unpacked the truck, HACP staff and 412 Food Rescue team members got to work on the inaugural delivery of a new food delivery system currently being piloted by the two organizations. They unloaded dozens of grocery bags from the back of the truck and placed them on tables outside the main entrance, as residents made their way outside to grab free groceries.

The scene at Murray Towers has been a common occurrence at many HACP communities over the past five years. Since their partnership with HACP began in 2016, 412 Food Rescue has conducted nearly 7,000 food deliveries for HACP communities, totaling 1.4 million pounds of food – the equivalent of 1.1 million meals.

“This is a big step forward for our collaboration,” said Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer at the HACP. “Working with 412 Food Rescue, we’ve already eliminated the need for emergency food assistance in our communities. They’ve been there to help families in crisis since day one.

With this new initiative, we’ll be able to serve every community on a regular basis ensuring that food insecurity is eradicated within HACP housing.”

Allegheny Dwellings, Arlington Heights, Finello Pavilion, Manchester Commons, Murray Towers, and Pennsylvania-Bidwell will now have regularly-scheduled food deliveries, connecting an additional 500-plus low-income families to fresh, healthy food.

The new expanded partnership will also give residents the opportunity to get involved and develop their leadership skills. 412 Food Rescue plans to hire a full-time, year-round driver and assistants to operate the food distribution truck, and up to three part-time HACP “Resident Leads.”

“Our partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh exemplifies the transformative power of truly accessible food assistance. By bringing good food within reach, we can effectively end hunger in whole communities. This is a life-changing service, and we’re excited to expand it,” said Leah Lizarondo, co-founder and CEO of 412 Food Rescue.



HACP staff members teamed up with 412 Food Rescue deliverers to bring fresh food to Murray Towers residents as part of their expanded partnership.



Executive Director Caster D. Binion passes out grocery bags to residents in Squirrel Hill's Murray Towers.

“Working with 412 Food Rescue, we’ve already eliminated the need for emergency food assistance in our communities.”



HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion and 412 Food Rescue co-founder and CEO Leah Lizarondo celebrated the beginning of a new chapter in their collaboration.

WiFi on Wheels CyberBus Set to Bring Digital Programming and Classes to Neighborhoods All Across the City

The HACP is pleased to announce a new collaborative program with the Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation and the STEM Coding Lab that will bring the new WOW (WiFi on Wheels) CyberBus to HACP communities in early 2022. Equipped with 10-15 laptop computers with internet access and a flat screen monitor, the WOW CyberBus is a mobile computer lab that will expand access to digital resources and allow for more remote instruction in HACP's digital literacy classes.

"My Bus Stops Here Foundation has worked over the past few years to help close the digital divide for inner-city communities in Pittsburgh," said Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis. "COVID-19 really exposed this issue even more, so I knew we had to do something more impactful, and the CyberBus is the next bus stop on that journey to create an equal opportunity for all."

Mayor William Peduto added, "I'd like to thank The Bus Stops Here Foundation, STEM Coding Lab and HACP for their partnership and supporting our citywide vision to improve digital access and equity. Initiatives like WOW CyberBus, HACP's digital programs to teach adults and youth technology and the City's Rec2Tech to train young people in coding and other tech skills provide important investment in our people. It allows them to cultivate their technology skills, stay connected and opens opportunities."

The WOW CyberBus will become an educational community asset, serving children and families throughout the city with crucial programming designed to activate the next generation of digitally literate professionals. In hosting classes for both adults and school age children, the programming will help parents learn computer skills and empower them to help their children become responsible, skilled digital citizens as well.

The WOW CyberBus was made possible in part by a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

"There is a broad team of people and organizations committed to enhancing digital access and literacy in Pittsburgh," said Sam Reiman, director of the Richard King Mellon Foundation. "We are committed to supporting their efforts. And we are grateful to Jerome Bettis for contributing so meaningfully and effectively to this important work."

"We set out to bridge the digital divide in 2017 when we formally launched ConnectHomePgh with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Pittsburgh," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "2020 has only reinforced the critical need for

Coming soon to your neighborhood!



Rolling into HACP communities in 2022, the HACP's very own WOW! CyberBus! HACP, the STEM Coding Lab and the Bus Stops Here Foundation will be bringing WiFi on Wheels – fully mobile STEAM & Digital Learning directly to HACP households in early 2022. This program is made possible by generous support from the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (CARES Act funding).

households of all income levels to have Internet access, and this support from our partners will allow us to scale up our programs and bring us closer to that goal."

To supplement the parent programming, STEM Coding Lab will provide computer science instruction to HACP youth, ages 5 and up, that highlights the varied career pathways students can take to compete for a computer science career, as well as the fun, hands-on experiences needed to generate youth excitement in the profession.

STEM Coding Lab's Executive Director, Casey Mindlin, stated that "There are over 20,000 available jobs in computer science in Pennsylvania today, carrying an average salary of \$89,000 per year. The work of STEM Coding Lab is rooted in a commitment to preparing our youth, who too frequently learn in under-resourced environments, to compete for those jobs. The CyberBus is a perfect way to carry computer science learning outside the four walls of the classroom and inject it into communities that continue to be harmed, through no fault of their own, by the digital divide."

The CyberBus will operate weekdays from 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and will travel to a different neighborhood each day. Morning hours will be reserved for parents who want to learn or hone their computer skills, work on their GEDs or learn how to start their own business. Staff and volunteers will be there to assist them in meeting their needs. The WOW CyberBus anticipates serving 5-8 parents each day or approximately 25-40 per week. Afternoons will be reserved for students, and each day two afternoon computer classes will be taught.

2021 ConnectHomeUSA Digital Inclusion Convening Brings Together Housing Professionals and Residents to Bridge the Digital Divide

The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare the necessity of digital literacy and access to digital resources in our online world. It also revealed the deep disparities in access, making clear that bridging the digital divide has never been more important. As a part of ConnectHomeUSA, a movement to help HUD-assisted housing residents get online, HACP has been on the frontlines of addressing this divide.

Over the past year, HACP ramped up its efforts to eliminate these disparities, and any barriers to access that residents may face. From providing WiFi services to purchasing laptops for students, HACP has developed cutting-edge programs to give residents the digital skills and resources they need.

“We’ve prioritized our efforts to bridge the digital divide for years,” said HACP Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge, “but the past year brought a sense of urgency to these efforts and required the entire Authority to mobilize and provide residents with access to essential digital services. We all know very well that in order to work or learn from home, a reliable Internet signal and suitable device are the most basic requirements and our goal was to ensure that any HACP household in need would be provided with these services.”

HACP hasn’t been alone in these efforts: housing authorities and other organizations across the country have been working to get their residents online and make sure they have access to the resources and opportunities the digital world offers. To share their successes, and connect residents with even more resources, HACP, the Allegheny County Housing Authority, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development hosted the 2021 ConnectHomeUSA Digital Inclusion Convening.

“There are thousands of people who are not connected to the internet, who do not have access to the three legs of the stool: digital literacy, a device with keyboard, and reliable internet,” said Knowledge Build Hudson, HACP’s Government Relations Liaison and Special Projects Coordinator and one of the organizers of the event. “It was important to heighten everyone’s awareness of this and help find solutions. The hope was that each attendee would share things with other people and get the word out about all these different resources.”

The day-long digital event brought together public housing officials, digital inclusion experts, and public housing residents from across the region. They gathered to discuss best practices in digital inclusion over two sessions, swapping success stories and sharing critical resources with the residents in attendance.



The 2021 ConnectHomeUSA Digital Inclusion Convening brought together housing officials to swap best practices in bridging the digital divide.

“The main goal was to highlight digital equity resources in the Greater Pittsburgh area by connecting Housing Authorities and residents,” said Mr. Hudson. “We wanted to connect residents to resources to broaden their pathway to self-sufficiency, and to connect Housing Authorities to resources that they may not have known about.”

The second session was dedicated to programming and resources for residents. Residents in attendance were able to ask questions, learn about services that could help them, and take information home to their families and neighbors, increasing the reach and impact of the event.

“It’s important to let people know that HACP provides opportunities for all of our residents to increase their access to the internet, digital literacy classes, and devices with keyboards,” said Mr. Hudson, “We have those resources, and they also exist in their communities, whether that’s the Carnegie Library, the Best Buy Teen Tech Center, or others.”

More information about the 2021 ConnectHome Digital Inclusion, including agendas and PowerPoints, can be found on HACP’s website at hacp.org/chusa21.

“It’s important to let people know that HACP provides opportunities for all of our residents to increase their access to the internet, digital literacy classes, and devices with keyboards.”

HACP and ACHA Partner to Help Families Overcome Barriers to High-Opportunity Neighborhoods

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has granted the HACP and the Allegheny County Housing Authority (ACHA) funds to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Mobility Demonstration Program. The two Housing Authorities received \$4,089,540 to help families overcome barriers to high-opportunity neighborhoods with high-performing schools and ample resources. HACP also received \$249,419 to expand its voucher program to more eligible families.

Research shows that growing up in a low-poverty, high-opportunity neighborhood improves educational and health outcomes, giving children access to more opportunities and combatting intergenerational poverty. Adults that move to these areas also see health improvements, with reductions in obesity and diabetes and improvements in mental health.

“Where you live matters,” said Marsha Grayson, Chief Operations Officer at HACP, “it’s more than just an address on an envelope. Where you live determines what resources you have access to, what opportunities you have access to, and so much more. It really has a big impact. That’s why we’re doing everything we can to make it easier for people to move into low-poverty areas. This grant from HUD and partnership with ACHA will make a big difference in those efforts.”

Currently, the HCV program gives families the ability to use their voucher to live in an opportunity-rich community. However, many families continue to face barriers and challenges that keep them from accessing these areas, such as the inability to pay high security deposits, inadequate time to find a landlord, lack of landlord participation, or a limited awareness about neighborhood amenities. These barriers hold families back and prevent them from breaking the cycle of poverty.

The HACP is supplementing its partnership with ACHA by working with researchers from Penn State University. Together, they are examining the housing market in Pittsburgh, common challenges voucher-holders face, and how to improve the HCV experience in the Pittsburgh area. This research includes a Community Advisory Board and a Landlord Focus Group to solicit input from both tenants and landlords on how HACP can improve HCV outcomes.

“From hiring mobility counselors to help voucher holders, to working with Penn State on critical research, to partnering with the Allegheny County Housing Authority, we’re very serious about eliminating each and every barrier people face in securing high-quality, affordable housing in the neighborhoods they want to live in,” said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. “With this grant, that work will continue to advance.”

Sexual Harassment is Illegal. Fair Housing is Your Right. ***You should never have to choose between your home and being sexually harassed.***

If your landlord, rental manager, or any one else with control over your housing:



***Commented on
your body or looks***



***Threatened to evict
you unless you
had sex***



***Touched you
without your
consent***

RENT

***Asked for sexual
favors in exchange
for renting to you***



***Asked for sexual
photos of you before
making repairs***



***Talked about sex,
showed you porn,
exposed self***

Even if you said “yes.”

***Even if you have a
criminal history.***

***Even if you have been
evicted.***

***Even if you wee behind
on your rent.***

***This may be
sexual
harassment.***

***Contact the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.
You can reach us by email at fairhousing@usdoj.gov.
You can call us at 1-844-380-6178. TTY: 202-305-1882***



2021 KaBloom Landscaping Challenge Takes Root in HACP Communities

In late May, the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) hosted its 2021 KaBloom Challenge. The annual event saw staff and resident volunteers convene at Mazza Pavilion, Morse Gardens, Northview Heights, and ten other low-income public housing communities in a friendly competition to create the best outside floral arrangements. The landscaping event, which occurred around bouts of rain, is part of HACP continuous efforts to provide high-quality living spaces and build vibrant, active communities. All across the city, participants worked together to improve their

community and make memories with their neighbors. The winning team received a contract to bring additional flower-planting services to their community next year.

“Getting into the community and working together with residents to build a better community is what HACP is all about,” said Chief Community Affairs Officer Michelle Sandidge, “KaBloom is about more than just planting flowers, it’s about energizing people to come together, get involved and beautify their communities.”



Staff at Caliguiri Plaza in Allentown joined residents in an attempt to win the 2021 KaBloom Challenge.



Caliguiri Plaza residents took the lead and planned out their planting.



Resident leaders and Site Management at Pressley Street High Rise joined together on an impressive beautification project.

The Heinz Endowments Grant Allows HACP to Maximize Resident Engagement in Glen Hazel

The HACP received a \$45,000 grant from The Heinz Endowments to engage residents and develop a utilization plan for the revitalization of the Glen Hazel Recreation Center. These efforts will support ongoing community development in both Glen Hazel and Hazelwood and ensure stronger connections between Glen Hazel and Greater Hazelwood.

Glen Hazel is a 45-building, 225-unit community, formerly managed as low-income public housing. In 2018, HACP converted the community to project-based rental assistance through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD) program leveraging funds for renovations and modernization. Since then, HACP has completed interior renovations to all units in both the high rise and family community.

"The RAD conversion catalyzed critical renovations in Glen Hazel, but that wasn't the end of our work there," said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. "We're committed to improving the quality of life in Glen Hazel, and that means revitalizing the recreation center in alignment with the needs of Glen Hazel residents."

A 15,000-square foot building in the heart of the community, the Glen Hazel Recreation Center currently hosts after-school/summer programs for youth, food distributions, a multi-use gymnasium, and a maintenance shop. Further investments in the recreation center will maximize the reach of the center of the community.

Planned efforts currently include numerous "green" features, such as new windows, energy efficient electrical systems, and advanced energy technologies, as well as interior design features needed to make the entire building fully accessible to persons with disabilities.



"It's great to hear the news about a partnership with Heinz and the HACP in Glen Hazel. This is an important step to bringing new resources to the community and revitalizing an important cornerstone in the neighborhood," City Councilman Corey O'Connor said.

By hiring a third-party firm to conduct a survey of residents' needs, host a series of resident meetings, and establish a resident advisory group for the revitalization, HACP will engage residents by surveying residents' needs, hosting meetings, and creating a resident advisory group. Once complete, HACP will develop a utilization plan based on residents' wants and needs. This generous grant from The Heinz Endowments makes those efforts possible.

"This is their community. It's an opportunity for the residents to determine their programs, their future," Mr. Binion said. "It is absolutely critical that residents not only have the opportunity to give their input, but shape the revitalization plan according to their own vision and their own needs. And that's what we're going to do."



HACP Continues Launching a Path to Self-Sufficiency for Residents with \$377,268 FSS Renewal Grant from HUD

In December, the HACP received an FSS Renewal Grant in the amount of \$377,268 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), allowing HACP to continue supporting our residents in their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. Since then, the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS) has hosted a number of events to help residents reach their personal self-sufficiency goals.

The FSS Program is a long-standing program offered by HACP through the Resident Self-Sufficiency Department. FSS provides residents with the assistance, resources, and skills that they need to reach financial independence, home ownership, or other personalized self-sufficiency goals. The program is offered to residents during lease up, and is available to all HACP residents who have not utilized the program before.

By working with other HACP programs and collaborating with partner organizations, the FSS programs offer residents a wide range of services: education assistance, job training, job searching, and more. The program is flexible, meeting residents where they are to help them develop their own path to self-sufficiency.



“FSS is HACP’s core service coordination program,” said Michelle Sandidge, HACP’s Chief Community Affairs Officer. “It’s available to residents at any time, and we have a system in place that’s proven to help them achieve their goals. We were ecstatic to receive this Renewal Grant to keep this work going.”

Residents interested in participating in the FSS Program can contact the FSS Program Manager, Sharrell Price, by emailing sharrell.price@hacp.org or calling 412-643-2898.

What you should know about the Emergency Broadband Benefit

What is it?

The EBB is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. It provides discounts on internet service and a discount for one laptop, tablet, or desktop. Households that receive federal benefits may be eligible.

How do I apply?

There are three ways to apply for the EBB.

1

Contact your internet provider directly

2

Apply online at [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

3

Print and mail an application

For more information, call 833-511-0311 or visit [fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)

Get up to **\$300 per month** per child with the 2021 Child Tax Credit!

Raising kids is expensive. Help is here.

You can receive this benefit whether or not you filed taxes.

If you **did** file 2020 taxes this year or 2019 taxes last year, or if you used the IRS's "Non-Filer Portal" to get a stimulus check, you don't have to do anything! The IRS will automatically send you a monthly payment starting July 15, 2021.

If you **did not** file taxes, no worries! You are still eligible! Just fill out a simple form to receive your Child Tax Credit Benefits by visiting **ChildTaxCredit.gov**

Here's what you'll need to apply on ChildTaxCredit.gov:

- Social Security numbers for you and your children
- A reliable mailing address
- An e-mail address
- Your bank account information (if you want to receive payments as direct deposits)

The full Child Tax Credit is \$3,000 to \$3,600 per child.

You will receive half in monthly payments and the other half when you file taxes in 2022.

These benefits do not affect your eligibility for federal, state, and local benefits, including housing.



Learn more at ChildTaxCredit.gov



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Executive Director

Caster D. Binion

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Follow HACP on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HACP1>

PRRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT #248



GO REMOTE

The Creative Arts Corner offers remote learning via Zoom classes, providing students with video tutorials as well as live Zoom lessons on how to utilize an iPad to complete a range of multimedia projects. Focusing on how to use specific apps on the iPad, along with catering to individual students to enable them to continue creating projects based on their interests.



JOIN US

Nathan Williams, Studio Coordinator
nathan.williams@hacp.org
2305 Bedford Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219
(412) 643-2907 - Bedford Studio
www.hacp.org



MOBILE STUDIO

Take high quality digital photos and videos using DSLR cameras and Adobe Premiere software. Learn how to play various type of instruments including digital keyboards, synthesizers, drum machines and samplers. The HACP Creative Arts Corner mobile lab provides hands on experience using state of the art Audio and video equipment.



WHAT WE DO

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh's (HACP) Creative Arts Corner offers an audio/visual training program that's free for all HACP Residents. CAC students are provided with a unique opportunity to cultivate their creative strengths in a state of the art studio environment, learning how to:

- Write, record and produce your own songs and video project, while gaining a better understanding of the music and film industries.
- Compose and contribute to broadcast quality productions using professional techniques and equipment.
- Take and develop high-quality digital photographs using SLR cameras and software like Photoshop. Use graphic design software to turn ideas into reality.
- Explore new marketing and distribution strategies that help develop one's brand both on social media and physical merchandise.
- Expand one's talents and skills in an intimate, collaborative environment, gaining the skills and confidence needed to accomplish your goals.

With facilities in Bedford Dwellings, Northview Heights Estates, and mobile labs in HACP resident. CAC program participation provides students an opportunity to get hands-on with exciting new technologies and attain valuable and applicable skills.



CREATIVE ARTS CORNER

HACP