

News & Views

PUBLICLY SPEAKING

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) is undergoing an exciting period of transition, with opportunities to innovate, expand and excel throughout our organization, our housing communities and our city.

For one, I'm extremely excited to report that our staff is presently setting up and preparing to open the doors to our new central office at 412 Boulevard of the Allies. This effort will consolidate The HACP's office along with City Planning, the Urban Redevelopment Authority and other partner organizations under one roof providing the City of Pittsburgh residents with a true "one stop shop" for municipal services.

Change is abound in our housing communities as well. The HACP is in various stages of neighborhood-wide revitalization efforts as part of our participation in the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods Program. We are currently moving full speed ahead toward the completion of the Larimer/ East Liberty Choice Neighborhoods Initiative; while in the planning phases for wholesale redevelopment in Allegheny Dwellings and Bedford Dwellings.

Meanwhile, the HACP continues to find new ways to meet our residents where they are and help them connect them with a place to live and path to launch. We are very proud of the initial results from our innovative new CyberBus program, which is brining digital literacy and STEM education directly to HACP communities.

We're also pleased to have the opportunity to reconvene with residents and stakeholders during a series of "Listening Post" meetings, coming to each HACP community throughout spring and summer of 2023. We look forward to seeing you in person, hearing your questions and concerns and sharing exciting updates on new programs and services available to your community.

Caster D. Binion
Executive Director



HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion and the HACP staff are hitting the streets to connect with residents this spring and summer. From March – July 2023, we're hosting "Listening Post" meetings in each of our communities. Most recently, the HACP team met with residents from Northview Heights and Carrick Regency.

Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh
Spring 2023

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The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation and STEM Coding Lab Announce **WOW CyberBus Project to Boost Digital Literacy**

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), The Jerome Bettis Bus Stops Here Foundation and STEM Coding Lab are excited to announce that the WOW (WIFI on Wheels) CyberBus has arrived and is actively serving HACP communities! The WOW CyberBus is a mobile classroom equipped with computers and internet access that will allow for remote instruction in STEM education, computer science, financial literacy, and business development for students and parents in HACP communities and the greater Pittsburgh area.

“This is an opportunity that we’re very grateful for,” said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. “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. However, the pandemic has further reinforced the critical need for households of all income levels to have Internet access and this support will allow us to scale up our programs and bring us closer to that goal.”

HACP has been actively working toward a goal of “bridging the digital divide” for the last decade plus. The Authority’s computer learning program has grown from a few small community-based computer labs, to a full-scale mobile computer lab program launched roughly five years ago in conjunction with HACP’s participation in ConnectHomeUSA and ConnectHomePgh. Our WOW CyberBus represents the continued evolution of HACP’s digital learning initiatives.

The “New Normal” requires us to rethink our standard approach to education and our efforts to mitigate the digital divide. HACP envisions the “CyberBus” becoming an

educational community asset by providing out-of-school time classes to both students and their parents. The CyberBus’s programming will aid parents in their learning of computer skills, and empower them to be able to help their children become responsible, skilled digital citizens as well.

Mayor Ed Gainey said, “I’d like to thank The HACP, The Bus Stops Here Foundation, and the STEM Coding Lab for their partnership and for supporting our citywide vision to improve digital access and equity. Initiatives like the WOW CyberBus, HACP’s digital programs to teach adults and youth technology train young people in coding and other tech skills. These programs allow individuals to cultivate their technology skills, stay connected, and stay prepared for new opportunities.”

To supplement programming, STEM Coding Lab will also provide computer science instruction to our 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 excitement in the profession. Research shows that learning computer programming improves student creativity, mathematical skills, metacognition, spatial skills, and reasoning skills. HACP believes the CyberBus will help activate the next generation of digitally literate professionals.

The WOW CyberBus has been made possible by generous grants from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, The Heinz Endowments, CNX Foundation and additional support provided through the City of Pittsburgh Mayor’s office and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HACP Takes on Challenge of Ensuring Zero Rent-Related Evictions

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) has committed to supporting residents through periods of hardship brought upon by the unprecedented challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Specifically, HACP has set an aggressive goal of preventing any and all rent-related evictions.

Eviction prevention has been a long term priority for the Authority; however, in 2019 HACP engaged with partner organizations to launch a pilot program in Homewood North designed to assist residents with financial hardships, loss of employment, illness or other unforeseen circumstances by providing supportive services and allowing residents to rebound from hardships and catch up with outstanding rent payments.

“The pilot was rolled out shortly before covid started impacting residents and their ability to pay rent,” said Anthony Ceoffe, real estate asset manager for HACP low income housing portfolio. “It gave us the ability to set the tone for what responsible stewardship looks like in making sure the residents had access to every avenue possible for rental assistance and eviction prevention.”

During the years of the Covid pandemic, the eviction prevention program helped ensure that HACP residents were able to access the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds (ERAP) to use as an eviction deterrent.

“I am very proud to say that through the work of both site managers and the eviction prevention coordinators, Ursuline Support Services and HACP was able to disperse over 1 million dollars to families throughout the authority. This ensured that families could remain in their home, especially during the pandemic because it was such uncertain times,” said Ceoffe. “Our executive director, Mr. Caster Binion, has been very generous in the fact that he has waived any administrative or late fees incurred during the entire length of the pandemic, even still today. We have not taken legal action against any HACP resident for rent related reasons.”

In order to further enhance eviction prevention services for residents, HACP recently initiated a partnership with Ursuline Supportive Services focused on supporting families at risk of facing eviction in the Homewood North community.

“When we initially sat down and had this conversation, the thought was, how do we address those residents that are at risk for eviction and what did we want to focus on?” said Karen Tobin, director of independent support services for Ursuline. “It was about getting our hands around the profiles of different residents, working with other financial providers, and learning how HACP was addressing it.”

HACP further broadened the scope of its eviction prevention efforts by joining a collaborative cohort that included the McKeesport and Allegheny County housing authorities, The Pittsburgh Foundation, Just Mediation Pittsburgh, Rent Help Pittsburgh, and the Allegheny County Department of Human Services.

The partnership began in October 2022, where so far, 22 mediations have been completed with HACP families, 17 of which resulted in signed agreements with residents, and 15 of those families were awarded rental assistance through the family eviction prevention fund and the housing stabilization fund for a total of \$34,000. The program provides residents the opportunity to enter into formal repayment agreements, and to work collaboratively with Just Mediation Pittsburgh and the resident to find the best outcome and solutions for maybe some issues that weren't specific to rent.

“I think that the HACP has really set the trend for what responsible stewardship looks like, when we are talking about eviction prevention and keeping folks in their homes. With our mission, and especially as a move to work authority, we certainly been able to utilize the resources made available to us through the residency self-sufficiency program and the resident services team to ensure that HACP families have complete access to all available resources to them and to keep their families safely in their homes,” said Ceoffe.

The program has been widely successful since its start in 2019. The eviction prevention program was directly responsible for accessing over 1 million dollars in rental assistance payments to over a dozen of HACP families.

“I believe that this will be a tool that HACP and residents will continue to utilize, and help solve any rent issues,” said Michelle Ralston, Senior Director of Asset Management for HACP. “This is a program that really can be far reaching and has many positive aspects. We strongly encourage our residents to be proactive in reporting difficulties with rent payment – don't put it off and don't be afraid to report hardships. We want to work with you to keep you safely housed and put you on a path to succeed,” said Ralston.

Tobin also believes that the program has been very successful thus far, and that the relationships formed are able to bring out other opportunities for residents. “It allows EPP to be a very viable vehicle between the residents, their needs, and HACP management,” she said.

Although the federal eviction moratorium has passed, HACP has made the organizational decision to ensure that families were given ample amount of time to recover and work collectively with the agency to resolve any issues with their tenancy. HACP strongly encourages residents experiencing hardship that impacts their ability to pay rent to contact their site manager and work together, proactively, to find a mutually beneficial solution.

“I think that the HACP has really set the trend for what responsible stewardship looks like...”

Bridging the Digital Divide:

HACP's WOW CyberBus Travels from Pittsburgh to Phoenix to Empower Communities

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) and Pittsburgh Steelers legend Jerome Bettis were in Phoenix, Arizona, this February to celebrate Super Bowl LVII and promote digital literacy through our collaborative new effort – the WOW CyberBus.

During the visit to Arizona, the CyberBus Team promoted digital learning during Super Bowl promotional activities and during site visits with the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Housing Department. The Pascua Yaqui Tribe is a federally recognized Native American tribe located in southern Arizona. The community consists of over 1,400 tribal members and their families, many of whom lack access to technology and the internet.

“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,” says Pro Football Hall of Famer Jerome Bettis. “My partners and I are thrilled to be able to introduce our CyberBus and programming to the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Housing Department during Super Bowl week.”

The CyberBus team provided the Pascua Yaqui community with hands-on training to community members on how to use computers, access the internet, and use various software applications. Rounding out the CyberBus's Arizona agenda were site visits at Marcos De Niza High School and the Guadalupe Library.

“The CyberBus serves as a reminder of the important role that technology plays in modern society. We're using this program to bring technology directly to residents of communities that don't have equitable access to broadband and modern devices,” said Byron Wright, HACP Computer Programs Manager.

“Technology has the power to bring people together and create opportunities for growth and innovation. However, we need to recognize that not everyone has equal access to these benefits. The CyberBus helps to address these disparities and ensure that everyone has the chance to participate in the digital age.”

Participants at the events were offered tours of the CyberBus and an introduction to the Housing Authority's Digital Literacy curriculum & Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) learning mechanisms. Participants were equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to begin their journey with digital learning, including: Samsung Galaxy Tablets and Free Internet Access (via the Affordable Connectivity Program).



W.O.W CYBER BUS

The **HACP W.O.W CyberBus** in partnership with **STEM Coding Lab** and **The Bus Stops Here Foundation** operate an afterschool program Monday through Friday from 2 to 6 P.M. at the following locations:

Arlington Heights Monday 2-6 P.M.	Bedford Dwellings Tuesday 2-6 P.M.	Homewood North Wednesday 2-6 P.M.	Northview Heights Thursday 2-6 P.M.	Northview Heights Friday 2-6 P.M.
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The **CyberBus** will also operate during the day time to provide classes at HACP Senior High Rises and Family Communities* on the following days and times:

Arlington Heights Monday 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Carrick Regency Tuesday 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Pressley Street Wednesday 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.	PA Bidwell Thursday 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.	Mazza Pavilion Friday 10 A.M. - 12 P.M.
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*These locations may change based upon the CyberBus' ability to fit and/or park at these locations. A test run will be completed to ensure these locations will be able to accommodate the CyberBus.

For more information, contact: [Bvron Wright](#) / Bvron.Wright@hacp.org / [412-643-2901](tel:412-643-2901)



THE BEDFORD DWELLINGS CREATIVE ARTS CORNER IS BACK!!!

YOUTH CLASSES: MONDAYS 2 - 6 P.M. | ADULT CLASSES THURSDAYS 2 - 6 P.M.

Looking for Housing Authority Residents with an interest in learning the basics of Digital Media. Students will gain skills required for careers in Media & Entertainment. A career in Media & Entertainment can often be high-paying, involve travel, and — most of all — be fun!

Learn How to Operate:

Audio Recording Software
Digital Still Photo Cameras
Musical Instruments
HD Video Cameras

Lessons Will Cover:

Audio Recording & Production Techniques
Basic Lighting for Video & Photo Shoots
Editing Video Using Adobe Premiere Software
Working with a Green Screen for Video

Don't pass up on the opportunity to learn these skills

COMPLETELY COST FREE in one of the most well-equipped, publicly-funded studios in the city. Students will have opportunities to work on personal projects throughout the program: Music Videos, Talk Shows, Documentaries, Music Projects, Graphic Design, etc.

Creative Arts Corner,
Bedford Envision Center
2305 Bedford Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Call [412-643-2907](tel:412-643-2907) for
information or check us
out at www.HACP.org



HACP Supports Parents & Caregivers Through Virtual Parenting Program



Parents at the graduation ceremony are pictured in front of the Bedford EnVision Center with HACP staff including Michelle Sandidge, Caster D. Binion, and Mungereza Mayende.

Being a parent is a full time job that comes with many obstacles and responsibilities. Whether you are a single parent, or raising a child in a two parent household, the job becomes a challenge. But, it can become easier with just the right amount of support.

The old term “it takes a village to raise a child”, has been an ongoing quote that many people use when it comes to raising a family. The village is described as the people around you for help and support, such as other family members, friends, godparents, and even close members in the community.

Part of that village also comes from the people who help support housing. The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh has been helping families of low income apply and live in affordable residencies in different communities for them and their children. Low income families look for support within housing for resources to help support their families. One of those resources is a virtual parenting class offered to its residents.

Mungereza Mayende is the clinical coordinator and referral manager for HACP, in the Residential Self Sufficiency department. She developed the idea of having a virtual parenting class for parents who may have been struggling with some parenting skills, or want to enhance their current parenting skills.

“I do the assessments and evaluations, and then I refer them to the many services, resources, or providers that we have,” Mayende explained. “According to the assessment, I will be able to know what the person needs.”

After speaking with management at HACP, Mayende was able to get funding for the program from the Highmark Whole Care Foundation. Shortly after the planning stage, the classes started.

The parenting program consists of six courses held on a weekly basis. The first cohort of classes started in August 2022, and the next began in November 2022. Students represent a diverse group of parents and caregivers, such as single mothers, grandmothers, great grandmothers and aunts. The class was also joined by single father Khayran Malik Hayes.

“I’m the only man in this whole situation, so coming here really helps me a lot. I’m learning and getting information from the mothers,” said Hayes.

Some topics covered by the program include computer literacy, cooking tips, and financial literacy. On the second day of classes, The Center of Victims hosted a course on the quality of parenting. Another week, the class was joined by Greg Austin, a chef from 412 Food Rescue. He discussed healthy food options for families while staying on a budget.

"Be creative when cooking," Austin advised. "There's times where it's going to be harder than others. Find out what foods work best for you."

At the end of each session, the parents were gifted a \$25 gift card to Giant Eagle. "We're trying to make it exciting where we give them gift certificates and a goodie bag of things to help equip them as parents", said Mayende. "We will also provide additional information on good housekeeping, first aid, CPR, nutrition, and other helpful resources".

The parents were also encouraged to engage in Q&A sessions. When asked what they would like to learn from the program, the parents answered: positive interactions between themselves and their children, appropriate disciplinary measures, ways to promote the relationship between parents and teachers, and encouraging kids to be able to study and learn different habits. Parents also asked where they can find resources on child nutrition, as well as financial literacy.

"These classes are a good way to break the cycle to avoid the mistakes or pitfalls that may come from the way you were raised and how you would want to raise your children differently", said Mayende. "You want to create a different environment in your household raising your kids. If the parents are equipped and doing better, it means they can coexist better".



Mungereza Mayende, clinical coordinator and referral manager, and Caster D. Binion, executive director, pose with a parent and her baby at the virtual parenting class graduation ceremony.

With the financial support provided by Highmark Wholecare, 23 residents graduated from the parenting class on November 1, 2022. The second cohort of the virtual parenting program was launched in February 2023 and due to the high level of interest, HACP will be hosting a third cohort in fall 2023. Topics of discussion will include mental health awareness, positive parenting, financial literacy, nutrition and wellness and more.

For more information on how to participate in the next cohort for 2023 classes, please contact HACP Clinical Coordinator Mungereza Mayende at: mungereza.mayende@hacp.org.



A Friendly Reminder From



HOUSEHOLDS DESIRING PETS MUST:

- Obtain written approval from HACP
- Pay a pet deposit
- Adhere to all guidelines pertaining to pet ownership, including but not limited to, those relating to control of the animal, disposal of pet waste, registration, shots, neutering and spaying, and licensing.

The HACP reserves the right to remove all pets that pose a threat to the safety of other residents or HACP staff.

CONTACT ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

DAILY OPERATIONS

Monday - Friday
7 A.M. - 3 P.M.
3 P.M. - 11 P.M.

Weekends & Holidays
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday
7 A.M. - 3 P.M.

EMERGENCY HOURS

Monday - Friday
11 P.M. - 7 A.M.

Saturday & Sunday
5 P.M. - 9 A.M.

CATS

Cats are legally allowed to roam free in the City of Pittsburgh, but are required to have a collar with identification. If you have found a friendly cat without identification, animal control officers will pick it up if it is contained, i.e. pet carrier, cage, humane trap. Animal Care and Control is not able to respond to calls regarding loose cats that are not contained. HACP can provide humane traps for residents needing to capture a cat on their property.

To discuss trapping, call Animal Care and Control during office hours.

DOGS

In the City of Pittsburgh, dogs are not permitted to run unleashed in public or on other people's property. If you encounter a loose dog, please call the Animal Care and Control office. The safety of our residents is one of our primary concerns. If you feel that you are in imminent danger from a loose dog, call 911.

HACP Joins the Community Builders, Hazelwood Initiative, Inc., & Partners to Celebrate Ground Breaking for Gladstone Residences

Historic, adaptive-reuse project will convert former school into 51 mixed-income homes



The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) proudly joined non-profit codevelopers The Community Builders (TCB) and Hazelwood Initiative, Inc. along with additional development partners, to celebrate the groundbreaking of Gladstone Residences. Located on a six acre site in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of Hazelwood, the historic, adaptive reuse project will transform the former Gladstone School building into 51 architectural affordable unique apartments and amenity spaces

“The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh is pleased to contribute toward the revitalization of the former Gladstone School and the opportunity to bring sorely needed affordable housing units to Hazelwood. The adaptive reuse of the Gladstone School is the type of development initiative that our organization gets excited about and we look forward to providing Pittsburgh families with access to the top-notch affordable housing this building will offer,” said Caster D. Binion, executive director of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh.

Gladstone Residences will feature four studios, 39 one-bedroom and eight two-bedroom apartments. 43 of the units will be affordable to households at or below 60% of the area median income (AMI), including 20 apartments that will include housing vouchers provided by the HACP. Six units will be fully ADA accessible.

Amenities will include on-site management suite, a top-floor lounge with a skyline view, historic auditorium/community room, resident flex space for events and small group activities, a health and wellness room, and an outdoor patio. Gladstone Residences will be an all-electric development certified under Enterprise Green Building Communities 2015.

Sonya Tilghman, executive director of the Hazelwood Initiative, emphasized the importance of the project to the community, saying, “Gladstone School was a neighborhood institution that connected multiple generations in Hazelwood until it closed

in 2001. Now it can be a source of neighborhood pride again and stand as a major step forward in maintaining affordability in this community.”

In partnership with the City of Pittsburgh’s Department of Planning, the Hazelwood community completed its Greater Hazelwood Neighborhood Plan in 2019. This plan was formally adopted as a part of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, with a focus on ways to strengthen and improve the community while proactively preparing for future growth and change.

The November 21 groundbreaking event, “Marked a milestone in Hazelwood’s redevelopment as Gladstone Residences broke ground, paving the way for 51 Pittsburgh families to move into new quality, mixed-income homes,” said Juan Powell, TCB Mid-Atlantic regional vice president of development. “We’re thrilled to offer life-long residents of Hazelwood the opportunity to live and thrive in their community, regardless of income. We look forward to expanding housing options in Pittsburgh by providing more first-class affordable and mixed-income housing in the future.”

The adaptive reuse of Gladstone Residences will be possible through funding provided by the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, federal and state historic tax credits administered through the National Park Service and Hazelwood Initiative. The residential redevelopment of the historic property will be financed in part by PNC Bank’s investment in a combination of federal low income housing tax credits and federal and state historic tax credits.

SOTA Construction will lead construction of Gladstone Residences with design by the architectural firm Rothschild Doyno Collaborative.

Quality Choices Abound in HACP's City-Wide Redevelopment Efforts

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) is actively engaged in the redevelopment and revitalization of three traditional Low Income Public Housing communities – Hamilton-Larimer, Bedford Dwellings and Allegheny Dwellings – through participation in the federal Choice Neighborhoods Initiative operated by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Provided below is an update on each of the three “Choice” revitalization initiatives which will result in the transformation of not only HACP communities, but entire city neighborhoods.

Allegheny Dwellings

In December 2020, HUD awarded a \$450,000 planning grant to the Fineview Citizens Council (FCC) and the HACP toward redeveloping the Allegheny Dwellings community. The planning area also includes the surrounding communities of Perry Hilltop, Charles Street Valley, and California-Kirkbride.

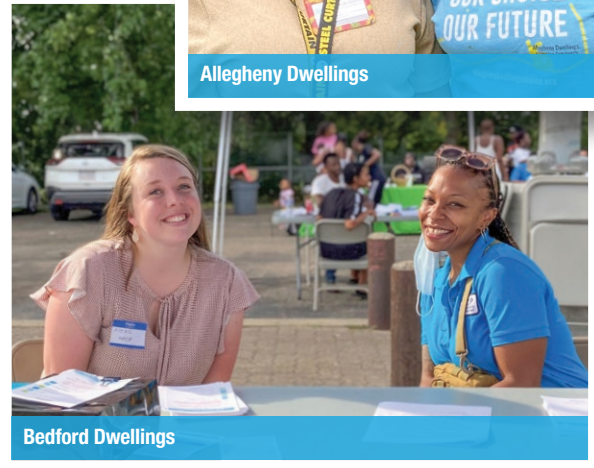
The first phase of redevelopment was completed in 2019 with the construction of the mixed-income community Sandstone Quarry. Community meetings were held throughout the fall of 2022, attended by residents, the HACP, Community Ambassadors, and Task Force members. Residents provided feedback on their priorities and discussed the strategies that have been put together through the planning process. They also reviewed the latest Housing Plan.

As of January 2023, the Our Choice, Our Future Transformation Plan was submitted to HUD. This marks the end of the planning process for redevelopment. If accepted, the next stage of redevelopment will be applying for Choice Initiative Planning Grant for \$50,000.

To read the Transformation Plan, visit alleghenydwellingschoice.org.

Bedford Dwellings

Bedford Dwellings is one of the first public housing developments in the country, and the oldest continually occupied public housing community in Pennsylvania. As of 2023, Bedford Dwellings represents HACP next major community revitalization initiative. In January 2023, the HACP applied to HUD for a Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant worth \$50 million. The application emphasizes street-level activation, homeownership support, home rehabilitation, and expanding neighborhood parks and recreational areas. If funding is awarded, the HACP will be able to replace the 411 affordable units at Bedford Dwellings with a mixed-income community through additional on-site units consisting of other affordable units, as well as market-rate housing units.



HACP staff, residents and community partners have been holding frequent community events to engage residents in the Choice Neighborhood planning process. This includes recent events in Bedford Dwellings and Greater Allegheny Dwellings.

Phase 1 redevelopment activities could begin construction as soon as this year. The first half of Phase 1, Phase 1A, will focus on the Reed-Roberts area and will consist of 123 units. Replacement units will be installed on the lower portion of Bedford Dwellings along Somers Drive. In addition, a dedicated senior building, a family building, and townhomes will be built. Phase 1B is dedicated to redeveloping the city's edge. 110 units will be installed, consisting of 42 replacement units, 50 additional affordable units, and 18 market-rate units.

For more information on the redevelopment of Bedford Dwellings, visit: bedfordconnect.org.

Larimer/ East Liberty

HUD awarded a total of \$30 million funding to the Larimer/ East Liberty Choice Neighborhood Initiative in July 2014. The revitalization of the community includes the construction of 334 units of mixed-income housing, neighborhood improvements and quality of life upgrades for residents, and the construction of several parks: Village Green, Larimer Playground, and Liberty Green.

Phases 1 and 2 were completed in 2016. This included the construction of 235 Cornerstone Village apartments and townhomes, which is located on the corner of East Liberty Boulevard and Larimer Avenue. Phase 3 began in 2021 with the renovation of Larimer School. Phase 3 will consist of 84 apartment units, 34 of which will be housed in Larimer School. 75% of units will be affordable to families making 20-60% of Pittsburgh's area median income. This redevelopment will help the bolster the affordable housing supply in the Larimer/ East Liberty neighborhoods of the East End.

For more on the Larimer/East Liberty Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, visit: www.ura.org/pages/larimer-east-liberty-choice-neighborhood-initiative.

HACP & Partners Celebrate Relaunch of the Calvin M. Hall Public Safety Center

The Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone 1, City of Pittsburgh, The Buhl Foundation, and One Northside, formally relaunched the Calvin M. Hall Public Safety Center in Northview Heights during an Open House event held in October 2022.

The Northview Heights (NVH) Public Safety Center was opened to the community in 2018 and served as a model for relationship-based policing. Designed to improve community safety through a deliberate community-policing approach focused on proactive policing strategies and ongoing collaborative problem-solving between the public and law enforcement, the multi-use public safety center space serves as both a Zone 1 police substation and a community hub.

“We have seen first-hand the powerful change that can happen when residents and police work together to take a proactive community approach to safety,” said HACP Executive Director Caster D. Binion. “The Housing Authority welcomes the opportunity to continue to partner with the Buhl Foundation, One Northside, Bureau of Police Zone 1, and Mayor Gainey. We are excited to support Commander Malloy in launching his Zone 1 Cares initiative.”

The Calvin M. Hall Safety Center was made possible through a substantial investment of Housing Authority dollars to create a state-of-the-art facility to focus on resident engagement and community safety. The Zone 1 officers working out of the safety center volunteered for this post and are committed to the tenants of relationship-based policing.

The Safety Center will result in tangible change, improve the quality of life for the residents of Northview Heights residents, provide community-based programming, advance relations between police and the community, and make officers’ jobs safer and more rewarding as they focus on community outreach and connecting with people. This approach to police-community relationships is informed by both police officers’ and resident feedback through the One Northside Initiative and Pittsburgh’s Zone 1 Police.

Efforts have been underway in Northview Heights since November 2021 to re-engage residents, and onboard new officers following the safety center’s COVID shut down in March 2020. As a part of the relaunch, 13 NVH residents have volunteered to serve as building captains to help engage residents, share information and rebuild community-based programming.

“The Northview Heights Public Safety Center is a physical manifestation of the City’s commitment to the right policing,” said Mayor Ed Gainey. “Building a safe city requires deep community partnerships that focus on providing person-centered support as detailed in our Plan for Peace. The residents of Northview Heights, Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Zone 1, City of Pittsburgh Housing Authority, and Buhl Foundation’s One Northside initiative have exemplified this type of partnership with the relaunch of the public safety center in one of our communities in need.”

Community Day Held in Northview Heights October 29, 2022

A resident-planned community day was held on October 29 in Northview Heights that featured free food, accessed a coat drive, and joined in on a “Trunk or Treat,” balloon animals and face painting. During the community day, residents and officers paid tribute to Calvin M. Hall, the Zone 1 Police Officer fatally shot while off duty in July 2019.



Clean Slate E3 Issues Largest Allocation of Scholarships, 2023 Applications to Open Soon

Clean Slate E3, the nonprofit affiliate of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), and its partner organization, NEED, have empowered HACP students with scholarships for post-secondary education for the 2022-2023 academic year. In summer of 2022, HACP issued scholarship funds to 23 new recipients and nine returning students, totaling 32. This is by far the largest group in the program's 13 year history and a total commitment of over \$500,000 for over four years.

HACP has been a prominent supporter of students who wish to further their education. The Clean Slate E3 Scholarship has provided opportunities for those who need the extra funding for college; and the continuing efforts and long-standing commitment to these students has been a rewarding experience for all.

"We want to make sure that we provide the best support for our HACP students", said Michelle Sandidge, Chief Community Affairs Officer for the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh. "This is the largest distribution in the history of the program and we're over the moon about it. HACP, Clean Slate E3, and NEED are deeply committed to helping students reach their full potential and we're extremely proud to be able to broaden the scope of our program this year. None of this, of course, would be possible without the contributions provided by the HACP and the charitable donations of dozens of local and national partner organizations."

Through the years, the Clean Slate E3 Scholarship Program has been made possible by charitable donations provided by employees of the HACP, as well as major donations from organizations that include, but are not limited to, The Heinz Endowments, the Pepsi Bottling Group, Highmark Wholecare, Paramount Pictures, McAuley Ministries, and PNC Bank. The scholarship is available to all residents of the Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh, including students who reside in low-income public housing or whose households participate in the Housing Choice Voucher Program.



Clean Slate E3 will accept scholarship applications from 2023 high school graduates beginning March 1, 2023.

Interested students can learn more about the program on the HACP website at: <https://hacp.org/programs-services/scholarship-fund>, or by emailing CleanSlateE3@gmail.com.



A cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 is required for both graduating high school seniors and college students applying for annual scholarship renewal. First-time applicants must submit a formal letter of acceptance from the institution of their choosing, while returning students must provide proof of full-time enrollment status in an accredited college, university, community college, or an accredited trade or technical school. Applicants are required to provide copies of a variety of documents, including a complete high school transcript. Returning applicants must submit their most recent transcript and their schedule for the upcoming school year.



Drivers Education Program Currently Enrolling HACP Residents

The HACP Resident Employment Program has launched a driver's education program in partnership with the Rogers School of Driving. The program is now open and actively enrolling any HACP resident at least 19 years of age with a current Pennsylvania Driver's Permit.

Job Searching/Resume Assistance

HACP Residents seeking assistance in resume writing and interviewing skills are encouraged to contact the HACP Resident

Employment/Section 3 for support. The Resident Employment Program is also excited to announce a three-part Employment Awareness Series, to be held in late spring 2023. This series will feature sessions on preparing for work, acing your job interviews, and mental wellness.

For information about participation in Drivers Education or the Employment Awareness Series, contact Lloyd Wilson, Jr., Section 3 Coordinator, at 412-643-2761 or Lloyd.Wilson@hacp.org.



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Executive Director

Caster D. Binion

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