



# Services and Supports to Help you Move into Housing



February 2024

## Market-rate housing (with or without roommate)

Most people leave shelter to live in a rental unit in a neighborhood they have chosen. It is most affordable to share rent with others so we encourage you to consider a roommate. The Allegheny County Continuum of Care can offer the following supports in your effort to move into a rental unit:

- Access to housing search tools, specific to affordable units throughout the county
- Support looking for a job or a better paying job
- Support accessing public benefits
- Covering housing application fees
- Paying for first month's rent and the security deposit
- Providing basic furnishings (e.g. bed, table, kitchen items)
- One month of rent paid after 3 months in a shared unit with a roommate
- Possibly eligible for a one-year Shallow Rent Program (for individuals with some income such as SSI/SSDI but not enough for full rent)

## Living with friends or family

Families and friends can be a vital support when faced with housing instability. Individuals often leave shelter to live with kin, including with relatives they haven't seen in many years. The Allegheny County Continuum of Care can offer the following supports in your effort to find and/or reconnect with family or friends that could offer you a place to live with them:

- [A Second Chance](#) is an organization that has a long history of helping people to find and reconnect with kin.
  - They can provide mediation if needed and will work to develop a plan that makes sense for you and your family.
  - They can provide supports to your family or friends to make the transition easier.
  - If your family is not local, they can also work with you on a transportation plan to return to them if that is your preference.

## Community-based subsidized housing & Population-specific long-term housing program

Both of these pathways are excellent long-term plans for many people as they provide sustainable, low-cost housing. For most people, however, this is not a short-term path out of shelter and should be considered a secondary plan. We encourage you to apply to all of the subsidized housing and population-specific programs to which you are eligible but make a short-term plan – such as renting a space with friends – for the immediate future. The Allegheny County Continuum of Care can offer the following supports in your effort to apply to these housing programs:

- Help reviewing all the subsidized housing and program options for which you are eligible
- Support accessing any personal documents you are missing
- Support filling out housing applications

