

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



July 2018

DHS receives top designation from U.S. Housing & Urban Development

Allegheny County Department of Human Services (DHS) was recently granted Unified Funding Agency status by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), allowing greater control over how DHS spends the funding provided through HUD's annual Continuum of Care grant. Under the Unified Funding Agency status, the money can be regularly reallocated among programs rather than awarded to each program in one lump sum.

Most of the funding that DHS receives for housing and homeless programs is provided annually through HUD's Continuum of Care grant. Often, this funding is project-based, and comes with restrictions as to how it can be spent. Very few of the 388 jurisdictions nationally receiving Continuum of Care funding are given the ability to regularly reallocate their annual award.

"As a Unified Funding Agency, we can help more people, and that's really what this is about," said Marc Cherna, DHS director. "We've been fortunate for the past several years to get the maximum Continuum of Care funding that we've applied for, which is, in itself, a recognition by HUD of the effectiveness of our Department. Now, we can evaluate and adjust our spending to ensure that more money goes toward programs that people are using the most."

The designation will take effect with the awarding of the 2019 Continuum of Care funding, which is expected to be announced later this year. This past January, DHS received \$17.8 million in Continuum of Care funding for 2018.