



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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## County Receives Top Designation from U.S. Housing & Urban Development

**PITTSBURGH** – County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced today that Allegheny County has been granted Unified Funding Agency status by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to aid in the county's efforts to reduce homelessness. The designation allows the county to have control over how it spends the funding provided through the annual Continuum of Care grant, so that money can be regularly reallocated among programs, rather than awarded to each program in one lump sum.

"This is a significant recognition for the work that we have already done to help house the most vulnerable residents of the county," said Fitzgerald. "With this designation, HUD is acknowledging our fiscal responsibility, giving us the oversight of the total award, and ensuring that every dollar we receive can be put towards populations and situations where the need is greatest."

Most of the funding that the Department of Human Services (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 DHS Director Marc Cherna. "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.

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Marc Cherna, Director  
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