



Housing Partnership of Chester County

The Cornerstone of Successful Homeownership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Housing Partnership Heightens Focus on Southern Chester County

May 10, 2023, Downingtown, PA—The Housing Partnership of Chester County (HPCC) was fortunate to secure an American Recovery Program Act grant to hire and train a bilingual housing counselor hired in mid-April. This bilingual housing counselor along with the HPCC's HUD-certified housing counselor will extend the agency's footprint into Southern Chester County. Among the programs and services provided are down payment and closing cost assistance of up to \$20,000 for first-time homebuyers. In addition, there are programs to assist homeowners to repair and stay in their homes.

To underscore its new commitment to the residents within Southern Chester County, HPCC has made several first-time applications to funders in that region. HPCC was awarded \$1,000 by the Kennett Square Mushroom Festival to assist with its Outreach Program for residents living in the Kennett Square area, the organization announced today. The grant comes from proceeds from the 2022 Mushroom Festival. HPCC also received almost \$3,000 from the United Way of Southern Chester County to support its Fuel Assistance Program. After outlining its various programs and services at a recent meeting of the Longwood Rotary, HPCC will apply to augment these two awards.

"We are very pleased to receive these grants," said Ken Hutton, HPCC Executive Director. The Mushroom Festival grant will help the agency provide convenient Outreach Programs in and around Kennett Square on budgeting, credit counseling, and first-time home buying. "These programs teach real-life, practical skills that bridge the divide between struggling and thriving. We will help neighbors learn to manage their money; understand and improve their credit; and negotiate the turbulent waters of first-time homebuying." The United Way grant, in partnership with Taylor Oil & Propane, will assist qualifying residents residing in Southern Chester County with up to \$500 worth of support for their fuel bills. Mr. Hutton observed, "Local fuel costs rose a staggering 45% over last year. This program will support residents who are up to 200% above the Poverty Income Guidelines. As part of this program, Taylor Oil will distribute a folder containing information on the other programs which HPCC offers."

In addition, HPCC recently partnered with the Kennett Area Community Services, State Representative Christina Sappey, and 23 other local charitable nonprofits to bring awareness to the passage of the Fair Housing Act 55 years ago. It also held a Housing Fair with a local Avondale realtor to bring awareness of the housing services available through HPCC. Finally, HPCC will soon

be presenting at the Kennett Area Senior Center to share information about its two grant programs impacting senior citizens—Access and Home Maintenance.

The Housing Partnership of Chester County is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit corporation established in 1988 and headquartered in Downingtown, PA. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for low-to-moderate income people of Chester County by providing the tools to secure and maintain decent affordable housing. Over the past years, HPCC has coordinated over 400 first time homebuyers' settlements, representing more than \$3 million in financial assistance, and completed over \$5.6 million in repairs for homeowners in Chester County. HPCC also provides free financial literacy programs for all ages.

For further information, please visit our website at www.housingpartnershipcc.com or call us at 610-518-1522.