

**Project HOME Federal, State, and Local Policy Priorities
September 2021**

Project HOME Local Policy Priorities - Philadelphia

<p>Housing</p>	<p>Create new housing for young adults who are homeless, including those who are LGBTQIA+ and/or have been in foster care.</p>	<p>Advocate for Office of Homeless Services to prioritize accessible, recovery-focused housing.</p>	<p>Strengthen and expand the Housing Trust Fund (HTF), with half of all money for households earning 30% or less of Area Median Income (AMI), adding \$35M annually from expiring tax abatements, and maintaining required community representation on the oversight board.</p>	<p>Advocate for the Philadelphia Housing Authority to increase supply of Project Based Vouchers (PBV), Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD), Move On vouchers, and other supports for affordable housing development.</p>	<p>Require that all eligible publicly-held land be transferred into the Land Bank; create a strategy to acquire tax-delinquent property; and dedicate Land Bank land for community benefit such as affordable, accessible housing and community gardens.</p>
<p>Opportunities for Employment and Income</p>	<p>Maintain or expand programs to increase access to public benefits (including the Federal child tax credit for families who do not file tax returns) and educate the public on connection between work and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/ Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).</p>	<p>Fund skills training to improve access to living wage jobs.</p>	<p>Expand supports like stipends for unemployed workers in job trainings, childcare for job-seekers and programs for temp and gig workers.</p>	<p>Expand job slots for people with lived experience of recovery, homelessness, mental health conditions, and incarceration, including expanding training and ongoing supports for Certified Peer Specialists.</p>	<p>Evaluate New Normal Jobs Initiative, specifically upskilling Home Health Aides and PowerCorpsPHL on the basis of jobs gained, wages, and retention and publicize outcomes.</p>

(Continue reading for the rest of the local, state, and federal 2021 policy priorities...)

Continuation of Project HOME local priorities...

<p>Medical</p>	<p>Create new recovery housing and treatment on demand (see Housing, above).</p>	<p>Advocate for the city health department to close racial disparities among people with substance abuse and include more substances than opioids; address disparity of response to addiction crisis among Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.</p>	<p>Require all healthcare organizations to record homelessness status as part of demographics.</p>	<p>Advocate for a city emergency preparedness plan for people experiencing homelessness informed by a debrief on COVID-19.</p>	<p>Improve practice of integrating behavioral health support in emergency crisis response system which disproportionately harms BIPOC communities by: addressing racial disparities in policing, behavioral health treatment and crisis response; pairing emergency medical with behavioral health support to respond to people in crisis (including 302/involuntary commitment and 911 calls); and increasing the number of mobile behavioral health teams.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Increase access to career-connected education.</p>	<p>Support Building Early Links to Learning (BELL) to connect children in shelter to high-quality early learning programs.</p>	<p>Improve quality of publicly-subsidized early childhood education (local, state, and federal).</p>		
<p>Other</p>	<p>Evaluate frequent-user or other high-cost user initiatives in any or all of the above areas/systems.</p>	<p>Research and implement best practices to reduce the use of police response especially considering the over-policing of BIPOC communities.</p>	<p>Invest in building safer communities through: community-based grants to expand evidence-based anti-violence programs; school-based and youth-centric violence prevention programs; and reopening parks and recreation centers and reinvigorating community resources in high-violence areas.</p>		

Project HOME State Policy Priorities - Pennsylvania

Housing	<p>Increase funds for Pennsylvania Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement Fund (PHARE) to support building more affordable housing.</p>	<p>Preserve and expand services funding for people in permanent supportive housing (PSH) through innovation because housing is healthcare.</p> <p>[Note: see also Housing as Health under Medical Care, below]</p>			
Opportunities for Employment and Income	<p>Provide mandatory education to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients and providers about allowable income limits and incentives to increase employment among people receiving SSI.</p>	<p>Expand Apprenticeship System including concurrent vocational certification through the Department of Labor & Industry.</p>	<p>Use tax credit regulations and other tools to incentivize hiring of low-income individuals.</p>	<p>Increase safety net and income supports (General Assistance, universal basic income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), SSI State Supplemental Payments) as part of a strategy of homelessness prevention and peg to indicator for cost-of-living adjustment.</p>	<p>Expand Pennsylvania’s free ID program by subsidizing driver’s licenses for people who are living on low-incomes and/or experiencing homelessness.</p>

Continuation of Project HOME state priorities...

<p>Medical</p>	<p>Expand and continue Housing as Health and Medicaid waiver efforts to utilize Medicaid to pay for pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining supports, and to increase access to peer and community behavioral health workers in programs like Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).</p>	<p>Learn from and implement additional Opioid Centers of Excellence and other recovery-focused initiatives; expand peer recovery specialists; uphold trauma-informed harm reduction approach; expand Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) group visit model, including Suboxone, Vivitrol, and Sublocade.</p>	<p>Expand Medicaid reimbursement to teeth preserving procedures (crowns and root canals) to address racial and socioeconomic disparities in dental care, which impacts nutritional health, mental health, and employment.</p>	<p>Protect the ability to bill for telehealth (both video and telephone visits).</p>	<p>Expand and strengthen state loan repayment programs for healthcare workers in underserved communities.</p>
<p>Education</p>	<p>Fully fund schools based on the fair funding formula throughout Pennsylvania.</p>	<p>Expand access to early childhood education for all Pennsylvania children.</p>	<p>Improve teacher preparation programs, especially for educating students with multiple barriers.</p>	<p>Expand free tuition in Pennsylvania for anyone that has aged out of foster care (without an age limit).</p>	
<p>Other</p>	<p>Increase the value of the credits awarded under the Neighborhood Partnership Program and Special Priorities Program to 90 percent (from the current 75-80 percent).</p>	<p>Support legislation around common sense gun safety policies.</p>	<p>Protect the right to vote for and increase political power of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.</p>		

Project HOME Federal Policy Priorities

Housing	<p>Strengthen Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program by: increasing LIHTC by 50% and tax credit basis by 50% for Extremely Low Income targeted development; amending the Opportunity Zone section of the tax code to allow for gap-filling in LIHTC developments; and creating a pilot for supportive services in LIHTC deals that would be administered by states to LIHTC allocation agencies.</p>	<p>Increase funding for: federal rental assistance and public housing programs; new operating support/rent subsidies (Project Based Vouchers (PBVs) & Rental Assistance Demonstration (RAD)) to reduce homelessness and move more families out of poverty; and Homeless Assistance Grants.</p>	<p>Prioritize a range of options to meet diverse needs, including accessible housing for people with disabilities and recovery-oriented housing, within Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and within Continuum of Care guidance for states and localities.</p>	<p>Exponentially increase funding for the Housing Trust Fund.</p>	<p>Expand LIFE/PACE funding for older adults and people with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness so that these individuals can remain in independent living settings instead of higher levels of care; provide for participation of additional providers.</p>
Opportunities for Employment and Income	<p>Change Social Security Code and modernize the federal disability system to allow people with disabilities to continue to work, reducing financial penalties for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) recipients who work part-time.</p>	<p>Increase federally supported job slots for people with disabilities and those re-entering the workforce.</p>	<p>Promote targeted employer tax breaks and expanded public services tied to the creation of new entry level living wage jobs for low-income individuals.</p>	<p>Increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour or more.</p>	<p>Identify and measure the impacts of the Federal Child Tax Credit on family and child well-being to support and inform future Universal Basic Income pilots with lessons learned.</p>

Continuation of Project HOME federal priorities...

Medical	Protect 340B , the federal pharmacy program that allows health clinics to purchase medication at discounted prices, and ensure the continued use of 340B savings to provide more comprehensive care to more underserved patients.	Protect the ability to bill for telehealth (both video and telephone visits).	Expand and strengthen the National Health Services Corps to provide loan repayments for healthcare workers in a variety of community health settings.	Monitor and advocate for effective and strategic roll out of new federal 988 crisis hotline to address people in behavioral health crisis.	
Education	Create a federal program building on Pennsylvania’s to provide free higher education tuition for people who have spent time in foster care.				
Other	Increase the marginal tax rate for high income earners.	Improve food and nutrition for children, elderly persons, and families.			

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