

Project HOME Policy Priorities (2017-18)

	Local	State	Federal
<i>Housing</i>	Double the Philadelphia Housing Trust Fund	Enhance the role of PA Housing Finance Agency in overseeing housing and community development, retain Brian Hudson as leader	Fully fund Homeless Assistance Grants; prioritize recovery housing within HUD
	Coordinate funding among city/state/federal agencies; coordinate and plan for housing and services together with PHA	Preserve and expand use of Medicaid as a crucial resource for providing services to people in permanent supportive housing	Include affordable housing construction and preservation in infrastructure investments
	Implement Coordinated Entry and quickly transition people out of shelter (especially those who have been there longest); expand and improve services	See Housing as Health (under Medical Care, below)	Protect and strengthen Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
	Provide housing for homeless young adults, including those who are LGBTQ and/or aging out of foster care	Require all healthcare organizations – including hospitals, managed care organizations, clinics, and others – to collect homeless status as a condition of reimbursement	Continue to fund Housing Choice Voucher program at current rate of \$18.86 billion
	Implement both new and proven recovery housing models; help people who are addicted and homeless to connect to housing and employment; evaluate boarding homes		
<i>Opportunities for Employment</i>	Explore and replicate promising practices from other places to connect people quickly to employment	Increase the statewide minimum wage (demonstrated to correlate with an increase of jobs in states that have increased)	Promote full employment and ensure that incomes are adequate for people to meet their basic needs; increase the federal minimum wage
	Maintain and expand Benephilly services to all Philadelphians under 125% poverty; include voter registration, tax services, and links to financial/homeownership counseling	Support expansion of Apprenticeship System including concurrent vocational certification	Increase the number of federally-supported job slots for people with disabilities and those re-entering the workforce
		Use tax credits and other tools to incentivize hiring of economically disadvantaged individuals	Modernize the federal disability system to allow people with disabilities to continue to work Promote targeted employer tax breaks and expanded public services to promote better access to jobs for economically distressed areas and individuals

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<i>Medical Care</i>	Local	State	Federal
	Support roll-out of addiction-related services such as Medication-Assisted Treatment, Narcan access and training, and new programs for recovery including sobering stations and safe injection sites	Expand and continue Housing as Health and Medicaid waiver efforts to utilize Medicaid to pay for pre-tenancy and tenancy-sustaining supports	Protect lifesaving health programs like Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, and parity for behavioral health services; resist block granting or imposing a “per capita cap” on Medicaid.
	Create new recovery housing (see Housing, above)	Learn from and implement additional Opioid Centers of Excellence and other recovery-focused programs	Promote approval of federal Medicaid 1115 Demonstration Waivers, 1915 Home and Community Based Services Waivers, and other cost-effective innovations
	Require all healthcare organizations to record homelessness status as part of demographics	Implement Health Empowerment Zone	
<i>Education</i>	Increase access to career-connected education	Implement a fair funding formula for schools throughout Pennsylvania	Improve the quality of publicly-subsidized early childhood education
	Support BELL (Building Early Links to Learning) to connect children in shelter to high-quality early learning programs	Expand access to Pre-K for all Pennsylvania children under age 5	
	Improve quality of publicly-subsidized early childhood education (local, state, and federal)	Improve teacher preparation programs, especially for educating students with multiple barriers	
		Increase the funding cap for the Neighborhood Assistance Program from the current \$18 million to \$36 million	
<i>Other</i>	Evaluate frequent-user or other high-cost user initiatives in any or all of the above areas/systems	Reinstate cash assistance to people with temporary disabilities	Protect earned benefits and other critical safety net programs
			Improve food and nutrition for children, elderly persons, and families.
			Reform the criminal justice system to give people meaningful opportunities to reclaim their lives.

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