Project HOME State Policy Priorities, 2019

Housing
- Restore General Assistance as part of a strategy of homelessness prevention (Support HB 1709/SB 799)
- Create a State Housing Tax Credit (Support SB 30)
- Preserve and expand use of Medicaid as a crucial resource for providing services to people in permanent supportive housing

Opportunities for Employment
- Increase the statewide minimum wage (demonstrated to correlate with an increase of jobs in states that have increased)
- Expand Apprenticeship System including concurrent vocational certification through the Department of Labor & Industry.
- Use tax credit regulations and other tools to incentivize hiring of economically disadvantaged individuals
- Provide mandatory education to SSI recipients and providers about allowable income limits and incentives to increase employment among people receiving SSI

Medical Care
- Oppose legislation (SB 675) that will cut patients off from Medication Assisted Treatment and protect access to buprenorphine as a treatment for opioid use disorder
- Oppose work requirements for Medical Assistance and SNAP benefits
- Learn from and implement additional Opioid Centers of Excellence and other recovery-focused initiatives.
  - Continue to fund and expand peer recovery specialists
  - Expand MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment Suboxone, Vivitrol, and Sublocade) group visit model
  - Uphold trauma-informed harm reduction approach is key to retention

Education
- Fully fund schools based on the fair funding formula throughout Pennsylvania
- Expand access to early childhood education for all Pennsylvania children
- Improve teacher preparation programs, especially for educating students with multiple barriers

OTHER:
- Increase TANF, SSI State Supplemental Payments, and other critical safety net programs to adjust for cost of living
- Increase the value of the credits awarded under the Neighborhood Partnership Program and Special Program Priorities Program to 90 percent (from the current 75-80 percent)

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