



Allegheny Link 1-866-730-2368

Who We Serve:

- ▶ Individuals in a housing crisis (regardless of age or disability)
- ▶ Parents & Caregivers w/Children ages 0 up to 6
- ▶ People living with any disability of any age
- ▶ People age 60 and over
- ▶ Professionals & Caregivers

What We Do:

- ▶ Information & Referral
- ▶ Public Benefits Eligibility Screening & Counseling
- ▶ Application Assistance (when appropriate)
- ▶ Self-Sufficiency Case Management for individuals working towards self-sufficiency through employment
- ▶ Person Centered Counseling
- ▶ Follow Up to ensure needed services are received

Aging and Disability Resources

In 2005 the Allegheny Link was established to simplify and streamline access to long-term living services and supports. The Allegheny Link offers a one-stop resource that provides information referrals/assistance, person-centered counseling, eligibility screening for public and privately funded services and supports, assistance with completing applications for these services and general short-term service coordination in an effort to help individuals and families maintain their independence, dignity and quality of life.

Coordinated Entry for Homeless Programs

In March 2015 the Allegheny Link began providing coordinated entry and assessment into the Allegheny County Homeless Continuum of Care. This includes assisting individuals who are in a housing crisis with programs to prevent evictions and/or resources to complete a housing search for more affordable or safer housing. We also provide information on accessing shelter and pre-screening & assessment for longer term programs, such as permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, for those who are street homeless in our community.

Link to Home Visiting Programs

In January 2016 the Allegheny Link began providing coordinated screening and referral services for home visiting programs offered within Allegheny County that benefit children ages 0 up to age 6 and pregnant women. This includes all of the Family Support Centers, Healthy Start, Early Head Start and Head Start, the Maternal Child Health Programs at the Allegheny County Health Department, and WIC. These voluntary programs provide parents and caregivers with needed support, opportunities for socialization for both parents and children, guidance on developmental concerns, prenatal counseling, etc.

How to Contact the Link: Monday – Friday 8A to 7P

Web www.alleghenylink.com

Phone 1-866-730-2368

Walk In 1 Smithfield St, 2nd Fl Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Email alleghenylink@alleghenycounty.us

Allegheny Link Coordinated Entry Process for Homeless Services

The mission of the Allegheny Link is to simplify and streamline access to services and supports. Below are general guidelines and steps followed by the Link in the Coordinated Entry process of those in a housing crisis.

Who we help

The Coordinated Entry process is designed to help those who do not have a safe place to stay for the night. This is someone who is sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter or safe haven or someone fleeing domestic violence.

How we help

When a household (single individual or family) contacts the Link regarding a housing crisis the following occurs:

- 1) Service coordinators assess the household's eligibility for services using the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).**
 - VI-SPDAT is a triage tool that can help to quickly assess the health and social needs of households who are homeless and match them with the most appropriate support and housing interventions that are available.
 - VI-SPDAT potentially narrows the list of providers who can provide services to serve an individual by identifying factors such as income, disabilities, court restrictions and other circumstances.
- 2) Based on the results of the VI-SPDAT, coordinators then counsel the individual about the program type(s) or interventions for which they are eligible.**
- 3) Service coordinators then ask permission to share the individual's information with providers.**
- 4) If permission is granted, coordinators place individuals on the Homeless Program Waitlist**

Clients should remember

- Update the Allegheny Link at least every 30 days on current housing situation
- Update the Allegheny Link whenever contact information changes to ensure contact can be made when a vacancy is available
- Single individuals in need of emergency shelter can reach out to the Link via email, phone call, or by walking in Monday-Friday 8A to 7P for information on their shelter options. Access to these shelters is coordinated directly at the shelter.

For those not eligible for immediate placement

Service coordinators assess the individual for other needs including:

- Affordable housing resources
- Home Visiting Programs for parents who are pregnant or with children up to age 6
- Pre-screening of public benefits
- Food assistance
- Transportation
- Health insurance and/or Prescription assistance

