The Mon Valley Providers Council

Presents

The Communicator

July-September 2021

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Program for High School Seniors

Human Services Center Corporation

Do you want your teen to have a set plan for after graduation? Do you want your senior to gain the skills and knowledge necessary to move on to a successful life after high school? Then the Human Services Center Corporation's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) may be a perfect fit!

ELP is a very successful workforce development and college readiness program for seniors attending East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, Penn Hills, West Mifflin Area, and Woodland Hills High Schools that is incorporated into the students' school day. Participants attend a weekly session during the school day where they are instructed in a curriculum specifically created for seniors to prepare them for success after high school. A variety of professionals present to the class throughout the year on their career fields and personal development as well as students are matched to job shadowing opportunities. Outside of the classroom, participants work one-on-one with a staff person to receive highly individualized attention and support in their pursuit of their goals. They create goal plans and refer to the plans throughout the year to stay on track. Plus, participants will have the chance to earn money periodically based on participation and goal completion throughout the school year and post-graduation.

There are limited spots available and your family must meet the designated requirements to participate. If you or your teen would like to hear more details about the program and/or apply, please call 412-829-7112 or visit our website at www.hscc-mvpc.org to complete an application. Spots fill up very quickly! Apply as soon as possible!

TCV Community Services

TCV Community Services continues to provide services for clients via Telehealth services, and in-person!

TCV Community Services is also open for referrals to Residential, IDD, and service coordination.

The Communicator is the official newsletter of the Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), an alliance of over 70 human service agencies serving more than 37 communities in the Mon Valley of Allegheny County. The MVPC is a program of the Human Services Center, a United Way Agency. To learn more about the MVPC, our member agencies, and their services, read this edition and visit our website at www.hscc-mvpc.org.

Human Services Center Corporation

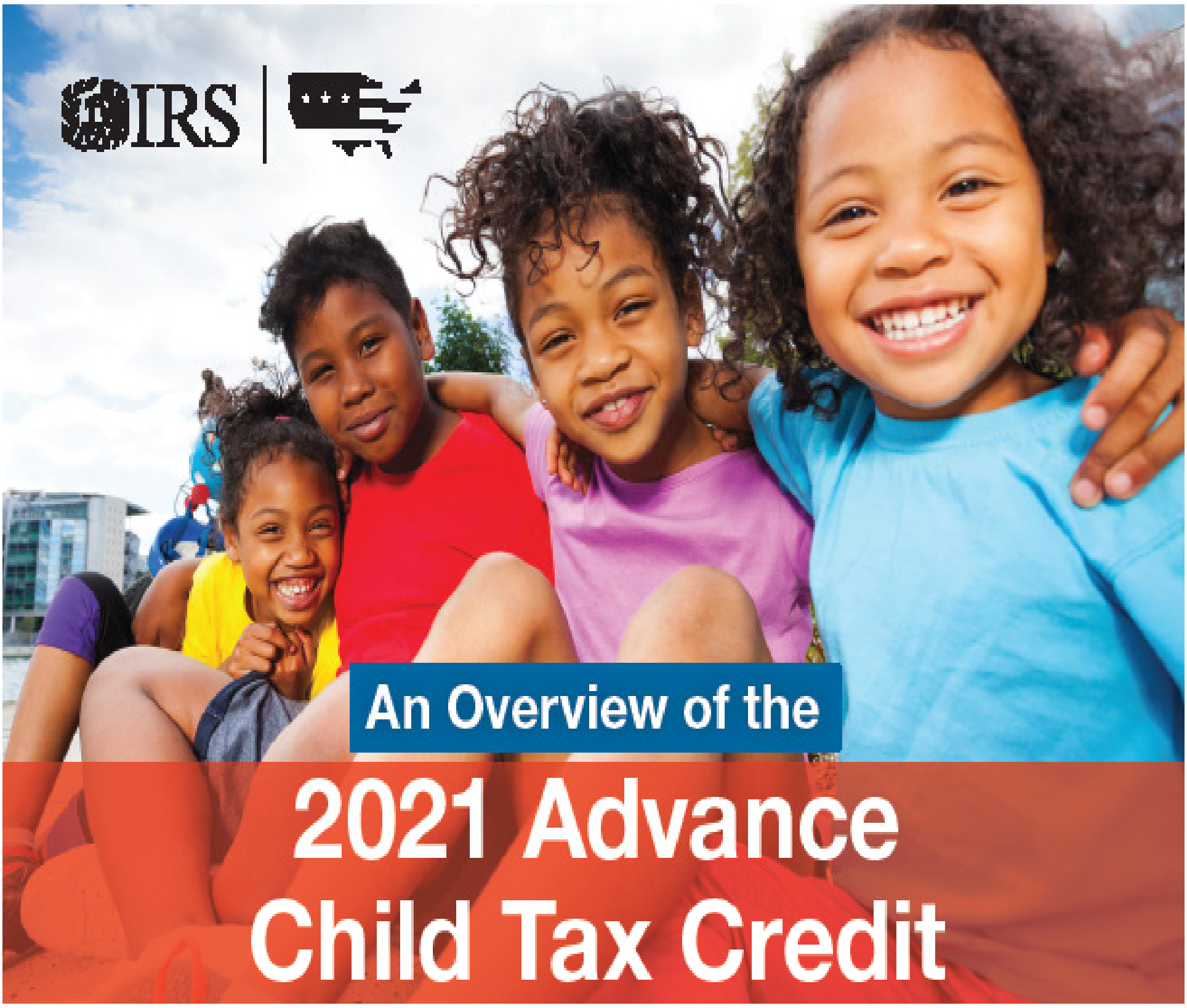
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania

IMPACT FUND AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania serves Allegheny, Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties

519 Penn Avenue, Turtle Creek, PA 15145
412-829-7112 • 412-829-4363 (fax) • www.hscc-mvpc.org
facebook.com/humanservicescenterturtlecreek

A copy of the official registration and financial information of the Human Services Center Corp. can be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



Payments start July 15

Filed already?

You don't need to take any action now if you've filed a 2020 tax return.

Haven't filed yet?

File your tax return as soon as possible. For people not required to file a tax return and who didn't file in 2019 or 2020, quickly register using the IRS Non-filer Sign-up Tool. You may qualify for the Child Tax Credit and Economic Impact Payments.

- Eligible families can receive advance payments of up to $300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to $250 per month for each child age 6 and above.
- Payments begin July 15 and will be sent monthly through December 15 without any further action required.
- You can benefit from the credit even if you don't have earned income or don't owe any income taxes.
- The tax credit includes advance payments for 2021 only.

The American Rescue Plan Act Advance Child Tax Credit provisions include:

- The maximum Child Tax Credit increased to $3,600 for children under the age of 6 and to $3,000 per child for children between ages 6 and 17.
- The credit includes children who turn age 17 in 2021.
- Taxpayers may receive part of their credit in 2021 before filing their 2021 tax return.

Eligible taxpayers who don't want to receive advance payment of the 2021 Child Tax Credit will have the opportunity to unenroll from receiving the payments.

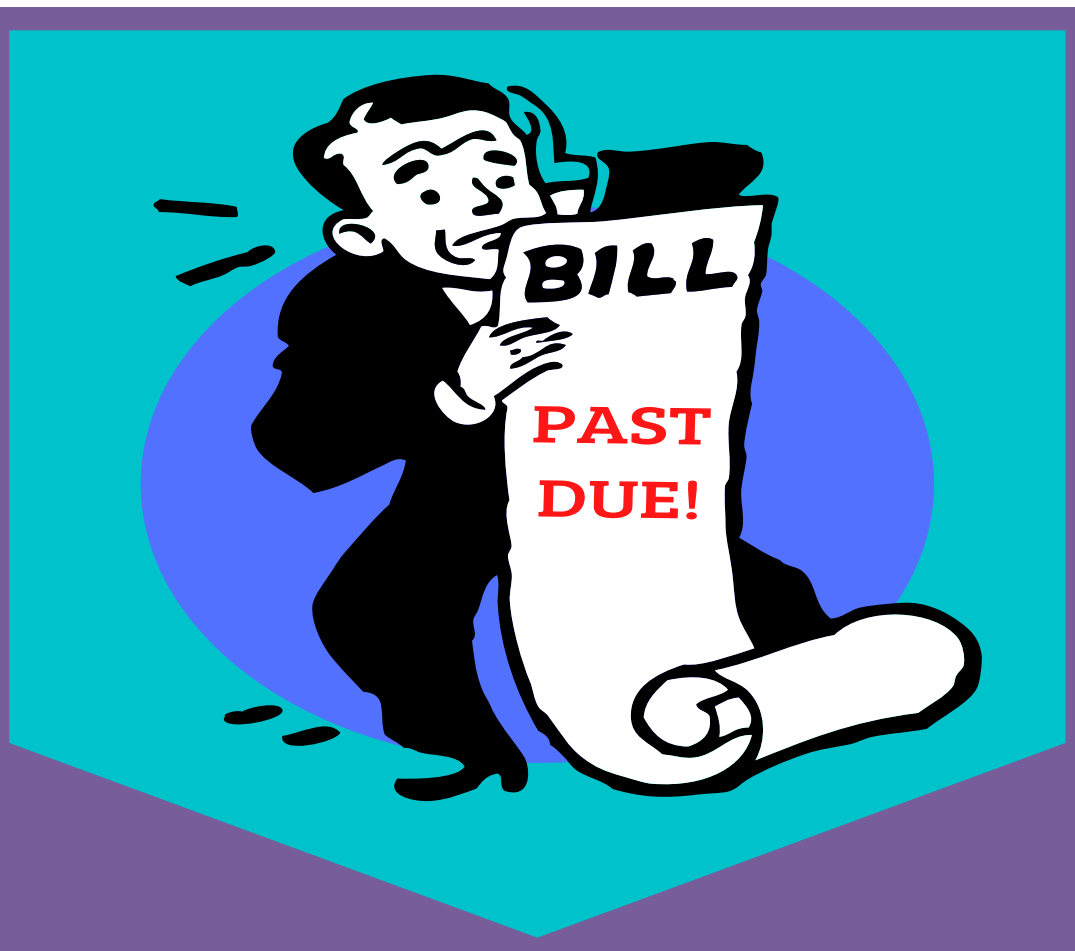
IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021

Publication 5534 (6-2021) Catalog 38425P Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service www.irs.gov

Get Supports to Gain Success

Do you know of any individuals that need help meeting their needs to achieve an education goal or obtain employment or better employment? Supports for Success, an intensive case management program of the Human Services Center Corporation in Turtle Creek, may be a good fit!

To participate, individuals must meet income eligibility, must have a goal of employment and/or education, and live within the Mon Valley. The program directly assists participants with creating a detailed goal plan, obtaining a credit report to work on improving their credit, creating a monthly budget to increase knowledge of money management, creating, updating, and maintaining a current professional resume to improve success in obtaining employment opportunities, finding adequate affordable housing options, finding employment or better employment opportunities, and more. For more information call or email Iris at 412-829-7112 or igrilho@hscc-mvpc.org.



Utility Assistance Webinar

Wednesday July 21 1pm – 2pm

Join us on Zoom to hear how Dollar Energy Fund can help you to pay for a gas, water, or electric utility bill.

RSVP **here**
Contact kgascoine@hscc-mvpc.org or (412) 436-9537 with questions

Human Services Center Corporation

Tobacco Free Adagio Health Programs

Adagio Health

Tobacco-related diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and stroke are the leading cause of avoidable disease and death in the United States. In Pennsylvania, smoking kills about 22,000 people per year. According to the American Lung Association, more than 17% of Pennsylvania adults smoke, and more than a quarter of Pennsylvania's high schoolers reported using tobacco products in the last 30 days, including vaping and Juul devices. Big Tobacco spends millions of dollars targeting their marketing efforts at communities of color, LGBTQIA people, veterans, youth, women, and those with mental illness.

Adagio Health wants to help Allegheny County residents go "tobacco free". As the regional primary contractor for the Pennsylvania Department of Health's Tobacco Prevention and Control program in Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Tobacco Free Adagio Health (TFAH) program provides cessation support, technical assistance for policy development, and youth education and programming.

Cessation services and nicotine replacement therapies support clients on their quit journey, and in 2020 TFAH began offering virtual cessation classes to protect against the spread of COVID-19. TFAH partners with tobacco users who wish to quit by supporting an individual's journey when they call the Pennsylvania QuitLine at 1-800 QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

Adagio Health supports businesses, organizations, and local governments in developing and strengthening tobacco-free policies that protect the health of people where they work, where they live, and where they play. Contact Grant Young, Adagio Health's Health Policy Coordinator at gyoung@adagiohealth.org or (412) 253-8162 for technical assistance in policy development and implementation.

TFAH's various youth programs and services in Allegheny County educate youth of all ages on the dangers of tobacco and nicotine addiction; empowering youth voice and developing fierce advocates for tobacco prevention and control. Tobacco Resistance Unit (TRU) groups hold fun events and celebrations around tobacco holidays such as Through With Chew Week, World No Tobacco Day, the Take Down Tobacco Day of Action. They also facilitate the Why Animals Don't Smoke curriculum, teaching younger children about the dangerous impacts of tobacco and nicotine on the body. For more information on Tobacco Free Adagio Health's work with youth please contact Hannah Cristofano at hcristofano@adagiohealth.org.

For fifty years, Adagio Health has been serving the healthcare needs of women and families throughout Western Pennsylvania. In 2018, the organization began an expansion that now includes 62 counties across the Commonwealth and seven counties in West Virginia. Adagio Health work in programs including family planning and reproductive health care for women and men, prenatal care, breast and cervical cancer screening, community education, tobacco prevention and control, and nutrition services are designed to address the social and economic factors that have profound impacts on individual and community health. Many of the 110,000 patients receiving services are women who are uninsured or underinsured. Services are provided through funding from foundations, the State and Federal government, and in partnership with a variety of local organizations and other funders. For more information, please visit www.adagiohealth.org or call 800-215-7494.

LEARN HOW TO MANAGE YOUR DEBT

Are you struggling to pay bills or wondering the best way to repay debts? Join us to learn from the Financial Empowerment Center how to create the best repayment strategy for your situation.

THURSDAY
AUGUST
26
1PM - 2PM
ON ZOOM

Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center

Human Services Center Corporation

RSVP & QUESTIONS

Online: Click here

Call: 412-436-9537

Email: kgascoine@hscc-mvpc.org

Now Enrolling for an Exciting Opportunity!

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services

Rainbow Kitchen Community Services Personal Paths Program is NOW Enrolling Individuals who want to improve their overall quality of life!

Some of the things the Personal Paths Program can help you with:

- Create a plan to reach your goals;
- Understand your strengths and what barriers stand in your way;
- Connect with appropriate community resources;
- Work on financial stability;
- Submit SNAP, TANF, LIHEAP, and Medical Assistance applications;
- Overcome roadblocks to employment or better employment opportunities;
- Provide support and guidance as you work to reach your goals!

If you are dealing with other challenges that are not mentioned above, please call Renee to discuss further program details and how we can help.

To join the Personal Paths Program, you must live in Allegheny County (outside the City of Pittsburgh) and be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (monthly household income for 1- up to $2127, a household of 2 – up to $2,873).

Call Renee TODAY at (412) 464-1892 or email renee.conte@rainbowkitchen.org to talk about enrolling!

This program is funded in part by a grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development.

LifeLaunch: Ignite Offers Second Chances to Young Adults

Goodwill of Southwestern PA

Looking for a fresh start? Start your next chapter today. If you are between 18 and 24, have been involved with the criminal justice system, and want to work toward a better future, Goodwill can help. Get free employment training and job placement in a variety of local industries.

The LifeLaunch: Ignite program is all about second chances. It can be hard to find a job when you have had a difficult past. Goodwill partners with local businesses that see people for the value they can bring and are willing to give them a second chance. Goodwill can provide training and employment assistance to prepare you for a good job so you can enjoy a bright future.

Here's what to expect when you contact Goodwill:

- An initial assessment to determine if the program is a good fit.
- An evaluation of your skills and interests.
- Job training to help you become ready for employment.
- Job seeking and support services to help you earn a good job.
- A host of services to meet your unique needs, such as counseling, housing, clothing, and transportation.

When you complete your training, you may:

- Begin an apprenticeship in your chosen field.
- Go back to school to earn certificates or a degree.
- Get a good job and start earning a paycheck.

More information is available at www.goodwillswpa.org/ignite, or contact Whitney Miles at 412-632-1742 or e-mail: whitney.miles@goodwillswpa.org.

The Goodwill LifeLaunch: Ignite Reentry Program is made possible with a $4.5 million grant award from the DOL's Employment and Training Administration, covering 93 percent of operating costs. Our local Goodwill organizations included in this grant are contributing leveraged funding valued at $324,762 to cover the remaining seven percent of operational costs.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT REPORTS WEBINAR

Join us to learn what credit reports are, why they're important, and how to read one.

Tuesday
September 21, 2021
1PM - 2PM
On Zoom

Human Services Center Corporation

Pittsburgh Financial Empowerment Center

To RSVP
Online: Click here
Call: 412-436-9537
Email: kgascoine@hscc-mvpc.org

21ST ANNUAL MON VALLEY HIV/AIDS AWARENESS WALK

Saturday, October 2, 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

More details coming soon!

Human Services Center Corporation

The HSCC's Emergency Assistance Program is currently OPEN! If you are a resident of the Mon Valley or Eastern Suburbs of Allegheny County and meet the following income guidelines, you might be eligible. Up to $1,000 is available per eligible applicant; funds are limited. An application does not guarantee assistance will be provided.

Household Size	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gross Income	$25,520	$34,480	$43,440	$52,400	$61,360	$70,320	$79,280	$88,240

Do you need help paying for an emergency expense?

For more information, visit https://hscc-mvpc.org/covid-19-resources/

NEED A JOB? UNDER-EMPLOYED? WE CAN HELP.

PA CareerLink® and seven local partners are helping eligible clients find employment through the career services expansion project.

Services at no cost to you!

- Individualized career coaching
- Job search assistance
- Resume and interview preparation
- Supportive services, including but not limited to:
  - Transportation assistance
  - Equipment and/or tools
  - Clothing & uniforms
- Educational services, including but not limited to:
  - Financial literacy courses
  - Post-secondary classes
  - Adult literacy courses

Subsidized childcare may be available during training and/or employment.
To see if you qualify, contact the Early Learning Resource Center: 412-350-3577

Pennsylvania CareerLink®

AmericanJobCenter

Am I Eligible?

To participate, clients must be:

- At least 18 years old;
- Eligible to work in the U.S.;
- A resident of the City of Pittsburgh or Allegheny County;
- Unemployed or underemployed; and
- Meet income eligibility.

PA CareerLink® offers a variety of free programs to help clients meet their employment and training needs.

Connect with a PA CareerLink® staff member (below) to learn more about your options.

Contact us to sign up.

Sabrina Clay
sclay@careerlinkpittsburgh.org
412-552-7031

Burke Poeting
Burke.Poeting@careerlinkpittsburgh.org
412-677-9973

Or, complete the referral form and PA CareerLink® will contact you:

https://bit.ly/35m8yd1

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request. Requesting accommodations in advance helps to ensure that reasonable accommodations are available at the time service is provided. Phone 866-317-5627; TTY 877-889-5621; www.careerlinkpittsburgh.com, click on "Reasonable Accommodations."

Services at the Human Services Center

The Westinghouse Valley Human Services Center, located at 519 Penn Avenue in Turtle Creek, provides a variety of services to residents in eastern Allegheny County communities and the Westinghouse/Turtle Creek Valley. Schedules may vary due to COVID-19.

- **The Braddock Carnegie Library – Turtle Creek Extension** is open to the public and has full access to the Carnegie Library system. Call 412-829-7112 for hours of operation.
- **Youth LIFE After-School Program** begins in September. Youth LIFE After-School Program serves 100 youth going into first through fifth grade. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **KOOL Summer Program** serves 150 youth going into first through fifth grade in the Fall. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **The Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)** is a workforce development and college readiness program for seniors in the East Allegheny, McKeesport Area, West Mifflin Area, Woodland Hills, and Penn Hills High Schools. For more information, contact 412-829-7112.
- **Supports for Success** helps individuals seeking to achieve self-sufficiency through employment and/or education by providing referrals and guidance. For more information, call 412-829-7112.
- **Free Tax Preparation** is available for individuals with low income. For more information, call 412-829-7112.

Tenant Agencies at the Human Services Center

Adagio Health Nutrition Services
412-925-0650

Allegheny County Health Dept. – W.I.C. Program
412-823-1333

Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Community School East
412-464-4043

Braddock Carnegie Library – Turtle Creek Extension
412-829-7112

Early Learning Resource Center
412-350-3577

Eastern Area Adult Services
412-824-6880

Healthy Start
412-247-4009

Human Services Center Corporation
412-829-7112

Learn "N" Play Development Center
412-829-0240

Mon Valley Providers Council
412-829-7112

Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
412-824-0006

TCV Community Services
412-824-8510

About the Mon Valley Providers Council

Our Mission: The Mon Valley Providers Council (MVPC), in collaboration with individuals, families, and groups in the Mon Valley communities, will define and address mutual issues and needs. Building upon the providers and communities, the MVPC will promote agendas and develop resources for collective action.

Who We Are: The MVPC, a program of the Human Services Center, is an alliance of human service and related organizations, which are based in or have a substantial service presence in the Mon Valley. The MVPC serves as a formal network for information and resource exchange among human service providers in the Mon Valley. The MVPC involves its member organizations in Working Groups which address crucial issues in the Mon Valley in the areas of Employment and Training, Health, Housing, and Youth. These four Working Groups involve the participation of over 70 dues-paying members and over 250 staff members of those organizations. Through these standing Working Groups, the MVPC promotes cooperation, coordination, and collaboration among its member and participating organizations in an effort to fill gaps in human services in the Mon Valley communities.

Staff: The MVPC is staffed through the Human Services Center. Current MVPC staff are:
Dave Coplan, Director
Bethany Dever, Program Assistant

Leadership in the MVPC: Steering Committee

Darla Poole, Chairperson, Auberle • **Eric Ewell**, Vice Chairperson, Penn State Greater Allegheny • **Kelleigh Boland**, Jefferson Regional Foundation • **Elli Dragisic**, McKeesport Hospital Foundation • **Devon Goetze**, Auberle • **Christine Zellefrow**, Mon Yough Community Services • **Tiffanee Heywood**, Goodwill of Southwestern PA • **Shari Holland**, UPMC McKeesport/Latterman Health Clinic • **Dean Jolin**, CCAC South • **Paula McWilliams**, Heritage Community Initiatives • **Mary Jo Guercio**, CCAC Southeast Campuses • **James Phillips**, TCV Community Services • **Lisa Scales**, Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank •**Bob Sukolsky**, AHN-Forbes Family Medicine • **Lynn Tatala**, AIU Project ELECT • **Laura Zinski**, Immediate Past Chair, Mon Valley Initiative • **Nancy Osterhus**, Ex-Officio Member

Communities Served by the MVPC

- Braddock
- Braddock Hills
- Chalfant
- Clairton
- Dravosburg
- Duquesne
- East McKeesport
- East Pittsburgh
- Elizabeth Borough
- Elizabeth Township
- Forest Hills
- Forward Township
- Glassport
- Homestead
- Jefferson Hills
- Liberty
- Lincoln
- McKeesport
- Monroeville
- Munhall
- North Braddock
- North Versailles
- Penn Hills
- Pitcairn
- Port Vue
- Rankin
- South Versailles
- Swissvale
- Turtle Creek
- Versailles
- Wall
- West Elizabeth
- West Homestead
- West Mifflin
- Whitaker
- White Oak
- Wilkins
- Wilmerding

2021 Membership Listing for the MVPC

Adagio Health
AHN – Forbes Family Medicine
Allegheny County Health Department
Allegheny Family Network
Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Community School East
Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Head Starts
Allegheny Intermediate Unit – Project ELECT
Allies for Health + Wellbeing
Auberle
Black Women's Policy Center
CADAprograms
Century Heritage Federal Credit Union
Clairton Family Center
CCAC – Boyce Campus
CCAC – South Campus
Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh & Allegheny County
Discovery House
Duquesne Family Center
Duquesne Family Support Center
East Allegheny Family Center
Eastern Area Adult Services
Every Child, Inc.
Family and Immigrant Connections Program
Family Resources
Forbes Hospital
Fund My Future
Goodwill of Southwestern Pennsylvania
Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank
Gwen's Girls
Healthy Start, Inc.
Heritage Community Initiatives
Heuer House
Highlands Family Center
Human Services Center Corporation
Jefferson Hospital
Jefferson Regional Foundation
Just Harvest
Just Mediation Pittsburgh
Lincoln Park Family Center
Literacy Pittsburgh
Macedonia FACE
McKeesport Family Center
McKeesport Hospital Foundation
Mental Health America of Southwestern PA
Mon Valley Initiative
Mon Yough Area Chamber of Commerce
Mon Yough Community Services, Inc.
Pantry Network of Eastern Suburbs
Penn State Greater Allegheny
PA CareerLink Allegheny East
Port Authority of Allegheny County
Rainbow Kitchen Community Services
Rankin Christian Center
Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh
State Senator Jim Brewster
State Senator Jay Costa
Steel Valley Family Center
Sto-Rox Family Center
Touching Families, Inc.
TCV Community Services
UnitedHealthcare
University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work
UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Family Care Connection in Braddock/Rankin/Turtle Creek
UPMC McKeesport
Veterans Leadership Program of Western Pennsylvania
Wesley Family Services
Wilkinsburg Family Center
Women for a Healthy Environment
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh