

Housing Authorities

Adams County:	717-334-1518
Bedford County:	814-623-1477
Berks County: Reading:	610-370-0822 610-775-4814
Blair County: Altoona (Blair County):	814-695-7548 814-949-2000
Centre County:	814-355-6750
Clearfield County: DuBois:	814-765-2485 814-371-2290
Cumberland County:	717-249-0789
Dauphin County: Harrisburg:	717-939-9301 717-232-6781
Franklin County:	717-263-4200
Fulton County:	717-485-4041
Huntingdon County:	814-542-2531
Lancaster County: Lancaster City:	717-394-0793 717-397-2835
Lebanon County:	717-274-1401
Mifflin County:	717-248-2624
Schuylkill County: Pottsville:	570-385-3400 570-628-2702
York County:	717-845-2601

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Philadelphia Regional Office: 215-656-0500
(Adams, Berks, Centre, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin,
Juniata, Lancaster, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, Schuylkill &
York Counties)
Pittsburgh Regional Office: 412-644-6428
(Bedford, Blair, Clearfield, Fulton & Huntingdon Counties)

MidPenn Offices

ALTOONA 171 Lakemont Park Blvd. Altoona, PA 16602 Phone: 814-943-8139 800-326-9177	LANCASTER 38 N. Christian Street, Ste. 200 Lancaster, PA 17602 Phone: 717-299-0971 800-732-0025
BEDFORD 232 East Pitt Street Bedford, PA 15522 Phone: 814-623-6189 800-326-9177	LEBANON 513 Chestnut Street Lebanon, PA 17042 Phone: 717-274-2834
CARLISLE 401 E. Louther St. Suite 103 Carlisle, PA 17013 Phone: 717-243-9400 800-822-5288	LEWISTOWN 3 W. Monument Sq., Ste. 303 Lewistown, PA 17044 Phone: 717-248-3099 800-326-9177
CHAMBERSBURG 230 Lincoln Way E., Ste. A Chambersburg, PA 17201 Phone: 717-264-5354 800-372-4737	POTTSVILLE 315 N. Centre St., Ste. 201 Pottsville, PA 17901 Phone: 570-628-3931 866-638-0606
CLEARFIELD 211 E. Locust Street Clearfield, PA 16830 Phone: 814-765-9646 800-326-9177	READING 501 Washington Street, #401 Reading, PA 19601 Phone: 610-376-8656 800-299-6599
GETTYSBURG 128 Breckenridge Street Gettysburg, PA 17325 Phone: 717-334-7624	STATE COLLEGE 3500 E. College Ave., Ste. 1295 State College, PA 16801 Phone: 814-238-4958 800-326-9177
HARRISBURG 213-A N. Front Street Harrisburg, PA 17101 Phone: 717-232-0581 800-932-0356	YORK 29 N. Queen Street York, PA 17403 Phone: 717-848-3605

This pamphlet contains general information and not specific legal advice. Although the information is believed accurate at the time of preparation, individual situations may require individual analysis, such that it may be advisable to consult with a lawyer. June 2010



MidPenn Legal Services



Public and Subsidized Rental Housing



Pennsylvania
LegalAid Network, Inc.

What is Public Rental Housing?

Public housing is housing owned and run by the government through a local housing authority. To live in public housing you must meet certain eligibility requirements.

In public housing your rent and utilities are generally less than in private housing. Rent in public housing usually is no more than 30 percent of your income. However, effective October 1, 1999, tenants can choose to pay a flat rate.



What is Subsidized Rental Housing?

Subsidized housing is when the government, through the Housing and Urban Development Section 8 program and other agencies, such as Rural Development, pays part of your rent. Subsidized housing can include projects and complexes where the rent is subsidized, as well as Housing Choice vouchers (section 8) for privately owned rental units.

To qualify for these programs you must have a low or moderate income. Tenants usually pay no more than 30 percent of their income.

How do I Apply?

To apply for public or subsidized housing contact your local housing authority or the Department of Housing and Urban Development. (See back panel.)

To apply for privately owned subsidized housing, contact the project directly.

There are usually waiting lists to get into the public and subsidized housing programs. If you are denied admission, you have a right to get a written notice that explains why. You also can ask for a meeting.

Can I be Evicted?

You can be evicted from public and subsidized housing for:

- Not paying your rent;
- Violations of the lease
- any criminal acts that threaten the health and safety of the other tenants or disturbs the peace, including drug-related activity.

Otherwise, the landlord must have good cause to evict from public and subsidized housing, except that tenants with Section 8 vouchers can be evicted at the end of the lease term if the landlord chooses.

To evict you the landlord or housing authority must give you a written notice. If you are being evicted for not paying your rent, you should receive a 10 day notice. If the eviction is because of a threat to health or safety a "reasonable" notice is required. Pennsylvania law requires a 15 day notice for evictions for reasons other than nonpayment of rent.

Victims of domestic violence may have extra protection against eviction.

Changes in your Income?

Tenants in public housing must report changes in their income! Usually, a tenant will report their income to the housing manager once a year and the manager will change the rent as needed. But, if the source of your income changes (you lose your job, you start getting child support, etc.), you must report the change at once so your rent can be adjusted. These changes must be reported within 10 days.

If your income goes up and your rent does not, you may be asked to pay a large amount of back rent all at one time. So, if you think your rent has not been adjusted correctly, talk to your manager.

Changes in your Family?

Reporting changes in your household size is just like reporting changes in your income. Read your lease to find out what the requirements are.



If someone leaves the household and your rent is based on part of their income, you should report that right away so your rent can be decreased.

You must obtain approval before the addition of any person to the household.

If you have a complaint or disagreement with the housing authority, you have the right to request a grievance hearing.