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# Parenting Youth Living in Intergenerational Households

— Supporting Legal, Social, and —  
Emotional Needs

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# Social/Emotional Issues in Intergenerational Households

- ★ Strengths based
- ★ Teen parents adaptable, flexible, fun
- ★ Other family members as gatekeepers
- ★ Inclusivity
- ★ Red Flags/Potential Pitfalls
  - SSI/SNAP/Utilities/Taxes/IPV

# Parenting Youth may be Eligible for...

TANF

SNAP

CCIS/ELRC

WIC

SSI

Medical Assistance (will not be covering)

# TANF & Intergenerational Households

**Teens may be eligible for TANF when pregnant or parenting  
Minor for TANF purposes**

- ★ Under 18 and unmarried

**Adult supervised living arrangement**

- ★ Exemptions apply

**Supervising adult must apply for and receive TANF on behalf of minor parent**

**Time limited**

**Work requirement**

- ★ Good cause exemptions

**Income eligibility**

# SNAP & Intergenerational Households

## **“Minor” defined**

- ★ Under 22 and living with parents
- ★ Under 18

## **Mandatory household members**

## **What can SNAP be used for?**

- ★ NOT diapers
- ★ Yes formula

# CCIS/ELRC

## **Categorical eligibility if:**

- ★ TANF recipient
- ★ Fulfill income requirements and are in education program

**Teen parents and families experiencing homelessness are prioritized and not waitlisted if funds are available**

# WIC

**Highest income threshold**

**Nutrition for parents when pregnant or breastfeeding/chest feeding**

**Nutrition for child until age 5**

★ No diapers

**Does not require proof of citizenship**

**Recent transition to EBT system**

**No published state rules**



# SSI Transition

**Age 18 redetermination**

**Different standards for adult and child SSI**

**New Trump administration proposals**

# Common Benefits Issues

**Citizenship status**

**Verification issues - collateral contacts**

**Homelessness/Unstable housing**

**Family support for benefit recipient**

# Common Causes of Housing Instability

Shortage of affordable housing and public housing for renters

Family homes threatened by mortgage and real estate tax burdens

Income insecurity and rising values in City lead to eviction/foreclosure and debts

Health-harming housing conditions including lead and mold

Family conflict in intergenerational homes

Public housing occupancy rules around increased household size

# Promoting Housing Stability for Renters

**Identify lease-signer in inter-generational homes to ask for concerns**

**Offering assistance BEFORE eviction lawsuit is filed is most impactful**

- ★ Document repair requests and conditions supporting rent withholding
- ★ Promote open communication with landlord around late rent
- ★ Refer to Fair Housing Commission for retaliation, discrimination, DV protections, Good Cause

**Proactive response to Notices from Landlords can help avoid record of court filings**

- ★ Pre-filing Mediation programs now available
- ★ Also an option for family conflicts

# What to Do If Landlord Files for Eviction

**If client receives notice of a court date, attendance is essential!**

- ★ There will be opportunity to negotiate before seeing Judge
- ★ If Landlord lacks proper license and certificate, they will not be able to collect or evict

**Seek legal help in advance - Community Legal Services or other legal aid provider**

- ★ Lawyer of the Day at Court has some limited availability
- ★ Right to Counsel is on its way!

# What to Do if Eviction Process is Already Underway

**Legal Eviction Process takes minimum 21 days from court hearing to eviction date**

Client should receive Notice of Judgment by mail. If they missed the hearing, they **MUST** take immediate action!

- ★ Need to file a Petition to Open Default Judgment as soon as possible - contact CLS or other legal resource
- ★ Most likely to succeed if filed within 10 days

**Pay and Stay option within 21 day eviction period**

- ★ If every cent of judgment is paid by eviction date, client should be allowed to continue living there

**Lock-out without formal court process is ILLEGAL**

- ★ Police should be called to intervene
- ★ They will just need to see evidence of residence, then will demand proof of landlord

# Health-Harming Housing Conditions

**Severe enough housing conditions can support full or partial rent withholding or deductions for repairs**

- ★ Lack of heat, non-working appliances, infestations, electric hazards
- ★ Multiple issues are most likely to be upheld by a court
- ★ Documentation is essential! Written requests, photos, putting rent in escrow is best practice.

**Renters can seek inspection by L&I and/or PHA/Section 8 to document code violations**

- ★ Fair Housing Ordinance protects against retaliation

**Some common health-harming conditions are NOT currently protected by Philadelphia Code**

- ★ Mold
- ★ Bedbugs

# Risks of Unpaid Utility Bills

## Utility shut-offs can have important consequences

- ★ Health risks - medical devices, refrigeration, heat
- ★ Lack of utilities in a home may be treated as a child welfare issue

BenePhilly can help assess eligibility for assistance programs with each utility

- ★ LIHEAP closes at the end of March
- ★ Shutoffs resume April 1

Seek a medical certificate from providers where shut-off is imminent for home with young children.



# New Lead Law Protections

## **Huge victory for protecting Philadelphia's children!**

- ★ Enforceable beginning October 2020, roll-out process not yet determined
- ★ Lead-safe certificates based on lead dust testing will be required for every new lease
- ★ Does NOT need to be a child under 6 on lease

## **Violation of lead law is a defense against non-payment of rent**

- ★ Also basis for countersuit seeking back rent, up to \$2K statutory damages and attorneys' fees
- ★ Does not require a child with elevated lead levels, just a violation of law's requirements

## **Lead and Healthy Homes program addresses households with child testing over 10**

- ★ Results will be reported by child's health care provider to City

# Resources for Assisting Renters

Tenant's Union (TURN) workshops

Phillytenant.org - self-advocacy resources

Good Shepherd Mediation Program

Valley Youth House Synergy Project Hotline for ages 18-24: 1-888-HOUSE-15

Community Legal Services intake (if suit is already filed)

Right to counsel is coming! Watch for public education events on this

# Special Issues for Public/Subsidized Housing

PHA Right-sizing - occupancy rules based on family composition

- ★ Must report changes in family composition or income promptly
- ★ Essential to follow re-certification procedures

Not subject to City's lead law, though federal regs apply

Grievance Hearings available to resolve problems with PHA

Good Cause requirement for Eviction applies with Section 8 vouchers

Special Protections for Victims of Domestic Violence

# Challenges in Family Owned Homes

## **Risk of loss due to mortgage foreclosure or overdue property taxes**

Save Your Home Philly Hotline - 215-334-HOME - refers to housing counselors

LOOP program for real estate tax payment plans

Homeowners can reduce taxes with homestead exemption & State programs for senior or disabled homeowners through state

## **Challenges in Fixing Health-Harming Housing Conditions**

Homeowner can pursue City assistance programs (Basic Systems Repair; Restore, Repair, Renew)

Lead & Healthy Homes program will assist where child's level is over 10

# Questions?

Thank you!

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