



The Honorable Josh Shapiro
Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro,

Pennsylvania must be a place where marginalized individuals and families receive the support they need to live independently and thrive in their communities. Far too often, however, we are leaving people behind. Individuals with disabilities, older adults, survivors of domestic violence, families involved with child welfare, and those exiting the justice system are most at risk of experiencing housing instability and homelessness. Counties and local jurisdictions are utilizing all means at their disposal to address housing needs, but there are still gaps. State-level change is needed to enhance resources and to scale housing solutions.

The lack of coordination across critical state agencies and between state and local entities remains one of the most significant barriers to ending homelessness in Pennsylvania. To address this, we are asking you, Governor Shapiro, to establish a Pennsylvania Interagency Council to Prevent and End Homelessness to enhance collaboration amongst agencies and to execute a statewide plan to end homelessness.

Over the course of 2022 and 2023, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) and Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS) [conducted listening sessions with more than 300 individuals representing 120+ organizations and more than 50 counties across the state](#) to identify the most critical policy changes needed to address homelessness and create more housing. One of the four policy priorities identified was [the creation of an interagency council to enhance collaboration](#).

Interagency councils are only as effective as the plans to address homelessness in front of them. This is why we are asking not only for the formation of the council, but also calling on you to task them with conducting a needs assessment and creating of a statewide plan that provides a pathway to preventing and ending homelessness and scaling access to affordable and supportive housing across the state.

With the recent release of the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report, it is estimated that there are more than 12,500 individuals experiencing homelessness across Pennsylvania. But homelessness is solvable with greater coordination of state resources and funding. With better resource coordination and funding through an Interagency Council, alongside an aligned statewide plan to address housing needs across the state, Pennsylvania could be the first state to effectively end homelessness.

By taking action to create an Interagency Council to Prevent and End Homelessness, you, Governor Shapiro, will demonstrate to me and Pennsylvania's everywhere that you want our state to thrive. Thank you in advance for your support.