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NMTCC AND MCIU CAREER CONNECTIONS PARTNER FOR YOUNG ADULT CAREER TRAINING

North Montco Technical Career Center (NMTCC) is proud to partner with Montgomery County Intermediate Unit's Career Connections to expand access to high-quality career training for young adults (18–24 years old). Through this collaboration, Career Connections participants can take advantage of NMTCC's industry-driven evening Machining and Welding programs, designed to prepare students for in-demand careers while offering the flexibility to balance work, family, and other commitments. Together, NMTCC and Career Connections are helping young adults gain the skills, credentials, and confidence needed to build successful careers and meet the workforce needs of the region.

Businesses: The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is seeking local manufacturers to host paid interns through a Pennsylvania DCED-funded grant. Participating businesses can interview and select candidates, receive up to 200 hours of grant-funded support from Montgomery County residents interested in manufacturing careers, and use the internship as an extended working interview with the opportunity to hire successful

interns at the conclusion of the program. It's a no-cost opportunity to strengthen your entry-level workforce while helping build the next generation of local manufacturing talent. Contact Dan Chominski at Dchominski@mcui.org or fill out the linked interest form on the flyer and we will be in touch!

Interns: Are you 18–24 years old and interested in launching a career in manufacturing? The Montgomery County Intermediate Unit is offering paid manufacturing internships and training scholarships through a Pennsylvania DCED grant for Montgomery County residents. Participants can earn money while gaining up to 200 hours of hands-on experience with a local manufacturer, receive scholarship opportunities for manufacturing training programs, and potentially transition into full-time employment—all with no prior experience required. Fill out the linked interest form on the flyer and someone will be in touch with next steps!

Interest forms for Students and Businesses

<https://forms.gle/2ycBQaMgpRjt9wvYA>
(Students interested in training opportunities)

<https://forms.gle/w4q6m22u5R9xDr7AA>
(Businesses interested in hosting an intern)

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING PLAN HINGES ON 'AFFORDABLE' NEW BUILDS

By Julia Kramer, The Center Square

Despite Pennsylvania's growing economy, many workers are struggling to find affordable homes near new job opportunities as housing costs continue to rise faster than wages.

In places like Sharpsburg, a small borough five miles north of Pittsburgh, nearly one in five households lives below the poverty line, making the region's median home sale price of \$260,000 out of reach.

"Over one million households in Pennsylvania are spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing," said Lt. Gov. Austin Davis during a press conference in the borough last month. "And more than 50 percent of the commonwealth's housing stock is over 50 years old, making it increasingly expensive to maintain."

"[There] is a mismatch between the cost of housing and wages that we've seen both with homeownership and rental units," Lena Andrews Executive Officer of ACTION-Housing said.

As of March, the median home price in Pennsylvania was \$300,000, and current renting costs average at \$1,575 per month. In contrast, household income in Pennsylvania levels at \$77,545.

A shortage of 185,000 homes is predicted by 2035, with the shortfall most impacting low-income families, seniors, and those with disabilities. The Housing Action Plan, announced in February, is the state's first comprehensive housing project. It proposes a \$1 billion Critical Infrastructure Fund to build new affordable homes while bringing down housing costs in existing neighborhoods.

"Pennsylvania's first-ever Housing Action Plan is a critical step forward," Sara Innamorato, the Allegheny County executive, said. "Because one solution to high housing costs is straightforward: we need to build more homes."

As funding for housing from Washington, D.C., is limited, Innamorato stressed the importance of local resources to meet the need.

"It's really difficult to work with them [the federal government] on this issue of affordability, especially affordable housing, so we really need those state and local partnerships to be successful," she said.

However, those at the conference also discussed the reality that funding alone is not enough.



PHOTO: COMMONWEALTH MEDIA SERVICES

Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Austin Davis speaks during an event in Sharpsburg on May 11, 2026.

"Communities that have affordable housing right now are overwhelmed with affordable housing," said Richard Stephenson, Allegheny County Housing Authority executive director. "What we need to do is get affordable housing into areas we are not in, opportunity areas."

Often, housing efforts focus on providing larger community options, but Stephenson highlighted the effectiveness of using individual homes, which offer opportunities to break generational cycles of public housing dependency. These homes, under Section 8, are made affordable through vouchers and are available for tenants to buy and own. Once purchased, these homes provide tenants with a stable investment that renting cannot.

Andrews agreed with Stephenson's comprehensive approach to meeting housing needs, especially regarding eviction.

"Usually when someone's facing eviction, there are other needs besides just the rental assistance," she said. "You can need legal, or mediation, or housing navigation, or connection to other services."

Andrews explained that the Allegheny Stabilization Housing Collaborative provided many of these additional services to successfully stabilize 1,900 households and help families get back on their feet. Bringing the conversation back to the Housing Action Plan, Andrews said that "the minute they are created [these policies], people really, really benefit from them."

"We want to make sure every community has every opportunity to succeed," David said in closing remarks. "We know we have a lot of work to do, but we are committed to getting that work done."