



## Housing and Services Resource Center

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### Affordable, Accessible Housing Options for Older Adults

#### *Aging and Housing Partnership in Pennsylvania*

**NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania** (NWNEPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community development organization working to create stable, vibrant communities by amplifying the voices of residents and providing guidance, assistance, and financial support. The **Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging** (LCAAA) is an innovative AAA that seeks to enhance opportunities for older adults to be empowered. The two agencies have worked together for years to assess and respond to people's needs within the community. Together they developed NWNEPA's **Aging in Place** program.

#### *Programs*

The LCAAA, through the advisement and funding of Pennsylvania Department of Aging, began offering two unique shared housing models, **SHARE**, Shared Housing and Resource Exchange, and the **Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO)**. NWNEPA is the designated housing partner for both programs. For SHARE, NWNEPA identifies homeowners interested in sharing their homes with home seekers in exchange for rent, help around the house, or a combination of both. For ECHO, NWNEPA manages the cottages owned by the LCAAA. These small, manufactured residences are temporarily placed in the side or rear yard of an older adult's friend or family member or elsewhere in a community setting as a subsidized affordable housing option.

More recently, the two have begun to tackle abuse and neglect issues facing older adults by adapting child advocacy center models for elder abuse and mistreatment. The innovative **Senior Advocacy Center** will offer transitional housing resources and

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education to older adults who are victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The goal is to have the center opened in fall 2023. It will be the first in the state and will offer a one-stop center with physical exam and clinical services, four shelter rooms, wraparound and personal care services.

### *Partnership Best Practices*

- Continue to build partnership. Meet at least weekly (sometimes daily) to address needs in communities and explore new and innovative approaches and opportunities to break down barriers for older adults.
- Prioritize the other agency’s referrals.

### *Lessons Learned*

- Go back to reassess community needs regularly, as they may have changed.
- One agency can help to build trust among participants and provide an introduction to the services provided by the other agency in a friendly way.

### *Formal Agreements*

The partnership operates under contract for services between NWNPEA and LCAAA which NWNPEA applies for through a county-wide request-for-qualifications process. Supplemental programs, such as SHARE and ECHO are contracted under memorandums of understanding (MOUs) that identify roles, responsibilities, and fiscal information required by each organization.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>State/Local</b>	<b>Other</b>
Elder Cottage Housing Opportunity (ECHO)		X	X
Shared Housing & Resource Exchange (SHARE)		X	
Senior Advocacy Center		X	X

### *Contacts*

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