

# THE INSIDE STORY



## Web Site Links Residents to Human Services

In June 2006, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato unveiled HumanServices.net, a county database of 3,000 social service and related agencies. The web site, located at [www.humanservices.net](http://www.humanservices.net), connects users to information on 10,000 programs, and is designed to assist human service professionals, teachers and counselors, as well as individuals who are seeking services for themselves or family members.

HumanServices.net is a groundbreaking approach to information sharing in the public sector. The site integrates information from the DHS database of County-contracted human service agencies, with information from the United Way's *HelpConnections* database, as well as other local and national organizations, including 3 Rivers Connect, the United States Department of Education, United States Geological Survey, Port Authority of Allegheny County, A+ Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and Allegheny County food pantries. The information is collected into one distributed system called the Information Commons, and it can easily be modified and updated by any of the groups whose data is included. This eliminates the lag time and high costs associated with centrally-controlled databases.

HumanServices.net searches for programs by neighborhood, zip code, school district or bus route, and search results are displayed on a map with convenient driving directions or public transportation instructions.

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