

DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



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ARIA program provides opportunity, hope for local families

Since October 2017, the Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Children, Youth and Families (CYF) has partnered with Familylinks to offer ARIA, a rental assistance program for families that are facing both homelessness and parental drug addiction.

ARIA program participants are referred to the program by CYF caseworkers. To participate in the program, families must be CYF-involved with unstable housing and have a current need for drug and alcohol treatment as well as the desire to participate in a treatment program.

Once enrolled, the ARIA program helps the client to find stable housing in the community and connects the family to resources that include treatment, case management, and supportive services for any involved children. ARIA program participants also receive rental assistance on a sliding scale for up to one year. Over time, the amount of rental assistance decreases as the family becomes more self-sufficient and gains the ability to afford housing on their own.

“For parents and caretakers struggling with addiction, it’s nearly impossible to get clean without stable housing,” said Crystal Kostich, CYF resource specialist. “The ARIA program allows for families to put the issue of housing aside and focus all of their energy on the recovery process.”

Currently, the ARIA program is at full capacity with 21 families enrolled. To learn more, or to refer a family to the ARIA program, please contact Crystal Kostich at 412.664.8990 and Crystal.Kostich@alleghenycounty.us.