



DHS News

Newsletter of the Allegheny County
Department of Human Services



Month/Year

County resident wins state self-sufficiency award

An Allegheny County resident, "Rhonda," recently received a 2019 Self-Sufficiency Award at the annual Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) conference. CAAP is a statewide group that champions policy issues of importance to low-income citizens.

A few years ago, Rhonda lost her job after nearly two decades with a large company. She struggled to find new employment, and, over time, had depleted her accounts and maxed out credit cards to provide for her basic needs.

Rhonda was referred to a case management program for extra help to achieve her employment and financial goals. She worked with a supports specialist to address her immediate needs, and began receiving food, utility and transportation assistance.

Just a few months after enrolling in the program, Rhonda found full-time employment as an administrative assistant, making over 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Now, Rhonda has paid off her credit cards and other balances, invested in a retirement plan, raised her credit score by 80 points, and achieved a monthly savings goal.

During her journey to improved stability and economic security, Rhonda stated "I knew my worth and would not give up."

"Rhonda is a shining example of the great results that come out of the Community Services Block Grant," said John Litz, planner in the Office of Community Services (OCS). "We are so proud of what she has been able to achieve."

Information about self-sufficiency services can be found on the [DHS website](#).