

Five Steps to Avoid a Housing/Utility Crisis in Butler County

1. Contact Your Home Heating Provider

Public Utilities: Universal Services can help with payment plans and other options.

Allegheny Power:	800-207-1250	Columbia Gas:	800-537-7431
Duquesne Light:	888-393-7600	Dominion Peoples:	800-400-9276
Penn Power:	800-207-9276	Equitable Gas:	800-654-6335
PA American Water:	800-474-7292	TW Phillips:	866-276-4055

Deliverable fuels: Can't afford the minimum delivery? Some providers allow you to pick up smaller quantities.

Call your fuel provider for information.

Terminations and Formal Complaints: Call the PUC Consumer Hotline at 1-800-692-7380.

2. Register and/or Determine Eligibility for Assistance Programs

Contact the Assistance office at **724-284-8844** or visit www.compass.state.pa.us to determine eligibility for:

- Food Stamps
- Medical Assistance
- Cash Assistance
- Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Child Care Assistance
- Transportation Assistance (for employment)

3. Examine Your Family Resources

Finances:

What non-essential expenses can you avoid in order to pay utilities?

Consider financial counseling through Butler County Community College.

724-287-8711 x8323 deb.mcallister@bc3.edu

File your taxes and check eligibility for free filing assistance through (VITA) and take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit. Even if you don't need to file a return...

You can get the tax credit! **Call 1-877-605-2260**

Transportation: Consider shared travel and explore transportation alternatives.

Shared Ride www.commuteinfo.org **1-888-819-6110**

The Bus www.thebusbutlerpa.com **724-283-0445**

BART for Seniors/Disabled **724-282-6060**

Employment:

Register at CareerLink. **724-431-4000** www.tricountycareerlink.org

Contact Labor Ready. **724-284-9675** www.laborready.com

Contact Butler County Community College for New Choices/New Options Program or Keys Program.

724-287-8711 x8393 debbie.swartzlander@bc3.edu

Contact CCIS for child care assistance. **724-285-9431**

Contact CareerLink or Assistance Office for transportation to work options. **724-431-4000**

Extended Family Assistance: Have you explored extended family assistance or asked for help from your family or your church community?

Food:

Do you know where your local Food Cupboard is? **1-877-605-2260** www.communityassetspa.org

Do you know where to get Hot Meals? **1-877-605-2260** www.communityassetspa.org

If you are a Senior, visit the Senior Centers for hot meals. **724-283-9002**

Explore delivered meals through Aging Services or Meals on Wheels. **724-285-3815**

Health Care and Medication:

Contact the new Community Health Clinic if you are employed and uninsured.

724-841-0980 www.butlerhealthclinic.org

Contact the United Way for Prescription Discount Cards or download cards at www.familywize.com

1-877-605-2260

Call the Partnership for Prescription Assistance to determine what medications might be free or reduced at **1-888-4PPA-NOW** or www.pparx.org

Alternative Housing:

Contact the Housing Counseling Agency for budgeting help, credit reports, and rental and homeownership counseling at www.housingauthority.com

4. Weatherize Your Home

Do you have draft dodgers to cover doorways? To learn more about making them:

1-877-605-2260 www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Draft-Dodger

Have you covered windows with plastic, blankets, lined drapes?

Have you caulked cracks in windows, doors, and plumbing?

5. Have an Emergency Plan in the Event Your Home Becomes Unsafe or Uninhabitable

Call the American Red Cross for assistance in developing your plan.

724-283-2810 info@ButlerRedCross.org www.butlerredcross.org

If you are in a homeless situation or in jeopardy of becoming homeless, call Catholic Charities at **724 287-4011**.

FINALLY...IF YOU FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE OR SAFETY...CALL 9-1-1.