HOUSING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES
Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) provides a variety of housing services for persons age 60 and older, who live in Philadelphia. These include:
- Minor home repairs and modifications for low-income Philadelphia homeowners, age 60 and older, through the Senior Housing Assistance Repair Program (SHARP)
- Home repairs and/or modifications for the consumers of PCA's long-term care programs and some other community agencies
- Participation in studies on home modifications and other housing issues
- Support for housing counselors working with seniors
- Publication of materials concerning housing issues

ADVOCACY
PCA advocates to increase the supply of safe, affordable and appropriate housing for seniors in Philadelphia. PCA's staff works cooperatively with other aging, housing, governmental and civic organizations to address these issues and to develop ways to increase resources and optimize current programs and funding. For information on advocacy, call PCA's Housing Dept. at 215-765-9000, ext. 5217.

HOUSING TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS
PCA maintains a database of housing resources on its website, www.pcaCares.org. Information can be found through a keyword search or in "Search for Services," where resources are searchable by general category or specific topic.

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging (PCA) is the first place where older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities can turn for information and services to help maintain or improve the quality of their lives.

Established in 1973, PCA is a private, non-profit, nationally-recognized Area Agency on Aging. PCA contracts with more than 200 community organizations to deliver services aimed at helping older Philadelphians and adults with disabilities achieve their maximum levels of health, independence and productivity. Through its work, PCA touches the lives of more than 100,000 individuals each year.

PCA is funded primarily through the Older Americans Act, Medical Assistance and the Pennsylvania Lottery, through the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

Philadelphia Corporation for Aging is a registered Pennsylvania Home Improvement Contractor, #029520.
SHARP provides up to $1,550 worth of minor repairs and up to $850 for modifications to the homes of low-income elderly homeowners in Philadelphia, to improve the home’s safety, security and energy efficiency.

**Home modifications can include:**
- Adapting existing bathroom fixtures: installing grab bars, tub benches and hand-held showers
- Installing hand railings
- Installing intercom systems

**Minor home repairs can include:**
- Repair or installation of exterior doors
- Installation of dead bolt locks on exterior doors
- Installation of smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms
- Repair or replacement of wooden basement steps
- Repair of leaky faucets and toilets
- Installation of shut-off valves
- Replacement of door bell systems
- Replacement of electrical switches, receptacles and fixtures

A Housing Service Coordinator and Inspector will perform a complete walk-through of the home, and the homeowner will be given a contract to sign, before work begins. SHARP has its own crew of experienced mechanics, and parts and labor are guaranteed for one year.

**Please note:**
A SHARP staff person will always call the applicant before coming to the house.

No housing employee is permitted to recommend contractors or to perform private work for consumers. No lien is ever placed on the property.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR SHARP**
To receive services, applicants must be Philadelphia homeowners, age 60 or older, whose homes are structurally sound and where all utilities, including the central heating system, are functioning. SHARP services will not be provided to any homeowner more than one time in a five-year period.

Applicants who meet these requirements, and whose gross household income is at or below 200% of the Federal poverty level, can receive SHARP services at no cost.

Those whose gross household income is above 200% of the poverty guideline can now be served with cost-sharing, on a sliding scale based on income.

To apply for SHARP services, call the PCA Helpline at 215-765-9040 or 215-765-9041 (TDD). SHARP is not an emergency service; applicants are served chronologically; first come, first served.

SHARP is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging.

**HOME REPAIR AND MODIFICATION SERVICES**
PCA’s Housing Department also serves as a home repair and modification contractor for individuals receiving long-term care services in their homes through PCA. These include participants in the Family Caregiver Support Program; the Aging Waiver; In-Home Support Program; and Options.

The individual’s service coordinator can submit requests for modifications or repairs, and the Housing Department does the work.

Services can range from minor bathroom modifications, such as grab bars; to installing first floor half-baths, wheelchair lifts, ramps and stair glides. Each program has its own guidelines for eligibility and scope of services.

Agencies interested in contracting with PCA’s Housing Dept. may call 215-765-9000, ext. 5217.