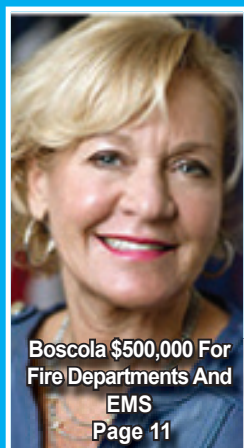



 Thank You for Your  
Service, Howard!  
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 Congratulations to our  
Newest Eagles  
Page 6

 Boscola \$500,000 For  
Fire Departments And  
EMS  
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 Lafayette Follows NCAA  
Ban On Trans Athletes In  
Women's Sports  
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## Celebrate Black History Month At Sigal Museum

By Sarah White

EASTON, PA (February 11, 2025) - Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society (NCHGS) is celebrating Black History Month with two upcoming Sigal Museum events. Join us for: "Somewhere in the red, white, and blue is you."

Dr. Karen Britt, Professor of Business/Economics at Northampton Community College, an Adjunct Faculty member at Muhlenberg College, and the founder of Juneteenth Lehigh Valley

Join prominent members of Easton's Black community for an afternoon of insight, story-sharing, and inter-generational conversation.

Panelists will speak about their experiences growing up in Easton, from the 1960s to the present, and the changes they saw in their neighborhoods, their educational experiences, and their social lives.

All members of the community are invited to share their own experiences following the panel discussion.

"'Growing Up Black in Easton Through the Decades' is part of a larger series preparing for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence," notes Sarah White, Community Engagement Coordinator. "As we continue to grapple with the meanings of democracy, freedom, and equality, this event gives us an opportunity to come together, explore commonalities, and celebrate how our differences make us a fuller, more vibrant community."

Join Curator of Exhibitions Tim Betz for a deeper examination of enslavement and abolition in colonial Northampton County in this virtual lunchtime program.

What was daily life like as an enslaved person in the county? How did the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery in 1780 affect enslaved men, women, and children, and what are their stories?

**02.16.**  
→ **2025**
**2:00 PM**  
**Sigal Museum**
*A Community  
Conversation*

**Growing Up  
Black in Easton  
Through the  
Decades**

## Valley Youth House Secures \$5.4 Million in Federal Funding to Support Youth and Families Experiencing Homelessness in Pennsylvania

By Sarah Pammer

Bethlehem, PA - Valley Youth House is excited to announce it has secured over \$5.4 million in Fiscal Year 2024 funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support 12 projects across eight Pennsylvania counties. These critical funds will provide essential housing and other services to transition-age youth (ages 18-24), families, and children experiencing homelessness.

With a combined capacity to house over 300 individuals at any given time, these programs offer a lifeline to some of the region's most vulnerable populations. Services include Rapid Re-housing and Transitional Housing, along with comprehensive support such as rental assistance, case management, mental health counseling, and resources for educational and employment advancement.

"Our goal is not only to provide immediate shelter but to equip individuals and families with the tools they need to achieve long-term stability," said Harrison Fertig, Director of Grants and Foundations at Valley Youth House. "Through these HUD-funded programs, we are helping young people increase their income, connect to vital benefits, and ultimately secure permanent housing."

In 2023, these programs served at least 362 adults over the age of 18, as well as their minor children. The long-term impact of these initiatives is measured by participants' ability to maintain stable housing upon program exit, whether by assuming full responsibility for their rental unit or transitioning to other appropriate housing.

This funding reflects Valley Youth House's ongoing commitment to addressing homelessness in Pennsylvania and ensuring that individuals and families have the support they need to build brighter futures.



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