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REGIONAL HOUSING LEGAL SERVICES RECEIVES \$28,500 PHILADELPHIA FOUNDATION GRANT TO SUPPORT NEEDED GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES

Regional Housing Legal Services (RHLS), headquartered in Glenside, was awarded a \$28,500 grant from the Richard P. Byler Special Interests Fund and the Henry Griffith and Anna Griffith Keasbey Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation to support general operating expenses. Announcement of the grant was made by Foundation President R. Andrew Swinney, whose Board of Managers approved the grant on November 9, 2010.

Mark Schwartz, Executive Director of RHLS, said, "As a non-profit legal services organization, RHLS relies on funding from sources that have been hit hard by the current recession. For this reason, we are especially fortunate to be given this new grant from The Philadelphia Foundation during a time when funds are very competitive. The grant helps to ensure that we are able to provide the same high-quality legal, policy, and technical support on affordable housing, community economic development, and utility issues that we have provided for more than 35 years," said Schwartz.

[RHLS](#) is a nonprofit law firm with unique expertise in affordable, sustainable housing and its related components — community and economic development, utility matters and preservation of home ownership. RHLS provides innovative project and policy solutions that help create sustainable communities offering decent, safe and affordable housing for lower-income Pennsylvanians.

RHLS was formed in 1973 to address landlord/tenant issues in what was then known as Lacey Park, a 110-acre development with 1200 homes established for World War II defense workers in Bucks

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County. Today, RHLS has grown to four offices throughout Pennsylvania. RHLS provides:

- legal and technical assistance to nonprofit organizations engaged in affordable housing and economic development projects;
- advocacy on public policy issues related to housing, economic development;
- policy and litigation advocacy on utility issues (through the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project);
- support to legal services agencies throughout the state on housing-related legal and regulatory developments; and
- assistance to individuals who are applying for HEMAP loans.

The Philadelphia Foundation, a public charity, is Southeastern Pennsylvania's leading center for community philanthropic engagement and is committed to improving the quality of life in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties through funds established by its donors. Established in 1918, The Philadelphia Foundation continues to help donors harness their generosity and vision by providing tools, knowledge and financial stewardship directed to maximize the strategic impact of charitable contributions. Grants from more than 775 charitable funds strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofits and support programs that are vital to the people of this region.

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