

Community Help Center is a New and Innovative Emergency Shelter Program in Cambria County

Since 1978, [The Women's Help Center](#) has been focused on helping individuals experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness in Cambria County through a variety of programs and services. Together with Behavioral Health of Cambria County (BHoCC) and Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania (Magellan), the Women's Help Center opened the Community Help Center on June 2, 2025, as a one-of-its-kind emergency shelter program in Cambria County.

Unique details of the Community Help Center:

- Staff are individuals with lived experience and a history of a behavioral health diagnosis who have completed an intensive training to become a Certified Peer Specialist (CPS).
- The CPS staff have the expertise and experience to guide individuals looking for housing, along with a variety of health and life goals.
- This program is an adult peer led shelter and is the only one currently in Pennsylvania providing emergency shelter to adults requiring care for a behavioral health diagnosis.
- There are two locations for this program in Cambria County. Each location has limited capacity.
 - The Cambria House (formerly the Martha and Mary House) at 899 Bedford Street, Johnstown provides housing for men only.
 - The Women's Help Center at 809 Napoleon Street, Johnstown provides housing for women only.

"We have seen the need for housing and emergency housing grow and were looking for a way to meet this growing need. We are honored to have been selected to provide this essential service and work closely with Magellan and BHoCC to make this a reality. Adding the CPS staff is tremendous, and we truly have an opportunity to make an incredible impact on so many lives," said Roxann Tyger, Executive Director of The Women's Help Center.

"With encouragement and help from the staff and their daily needs met, people can truly start to rebuild their lives and get back on a path to success. This can significantly improve their well-being and increase their chances of finding stable housing," added Tracy Shultz, Director of Cambria County Service Operations, Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania.

Referrals can be made by calling the 24-hour hotline at 814-536-5361 or stopping in at The Women's Help Center at 809 Napoleon Street in Johnstown.