



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ALWAYS INSPIRING

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 18, 2019

**Contact:** Elaine Plunkett  
412-350-6897  
[Elaine.Plunkett@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:Elaine.Plunkett@AlleghenyCounty.us)

Mark Bertolet  
412-350-3439  
[Mark.Bertolet@AlleghenyCounty.us](mailto:Mark.Bertolet@AlleghenyCounty.us)

## **Human Services Selected for Kresge Foundation’s Next Generation Initiative**

**PITTSBURGH** – The Department of Human Services (DHS) announced today that it was selected by the Kresge Foundation to take part in its Next Generation (NextGen) Initiative, a two-year national collaborative project that also includes a \$500,000 cash award. DHS will join nine other private nonprofit and public human service organizations in working to improve the social and economic mobility of families with low incomes.

“DHS has always recognized that having programs that relieve social and economic stress is paramount in helping to build strong families,” said Marc Cherna, DHS Director. “We are honored to be invited by the Kresge Foundation to join the national conversation in creating new approaches that will help move families up and out of poverty.”

The NextGen initiative is designed to support organizations committed to person-centered, outcomes-based, data-driven work that advances racial equity using two-generation, whole family approaches. The collaboration hopes to create solutions that go beyond traditional human services delivery methods and move toward new ways to break the cycle of poverty.

“Over the next two years, this dynamic group of leaders will have the opportunity to learn from each other and national experts around the country and develop a network that collectively works to transform the sector and transform lives,” Joelle Jude-Fontaine, Kresge Human Services senior program officer, said.

Funding from the grant will help the county in its efforts to promote social and economic mobility strategies that increase the quantity, quality and reach of participant-led initiatives, throughout DHS and in its Family Support Network and Office of Community Services.

###

Marc Cherna, Director

**Department of Human Services – Office of Community Relations**

101 Human Services Building | One Smithfield Street | Pittsburgh, PA 15222

[www.alleghenycounty.us](http://www.alleghenycounty.us)

---

**Follow us:** [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [twitter](#) | [vimeo](#)