

Community Schools Rental Assistance Program Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Community School Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP)?

CSRAP is a state-funded rental assistance initiative that supports housing stability for families with children enrolled in Maryland community schools.

What are the eligibility requirements for this program?

Each household must demonstrate all of the following:

- At least one student in the household is enrolled in a community school in a participating jurisdiction,
- You are experiencing homelessness or at risk of housing instability (i.e. a past due utility or rent notice, an eviction notice, unsafe or unhealthy living conditions)
- You are responsible for paying rent or utilities in a qualifying rental unit.

Where can I access program assistance?

DHCD awarded grants to nonprofit organizations serving eight counties in Maryland. Those counties include:

- Anne Arundel County
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- Frederick County
- Montgomery County
- Prince George's County
- Washington County
- Wicomico County

For a list of local organizations providing assistance and information on how to apply, visit:

[Community Schools](#)

If my county is not listed as a participating county, can I still receive assistance from an agency located in another county?

Unfortunately, no. Assistance can only be provided to households that have a student enrolled in a community school in the county where they are requesting assistance.

So if my child is enrolled in a public school, can our household receive assistance if we meet the other criteria?

Unfortunately, no. Eligible households must be enrolled in a *community school* within the jurisdiction being served. Please check with your school staff or the DHCD website if you are unsure if your child's school is considered a community school.

How do I apply for assistance?

Applications can be obtained from the local agency supporting your county. Links to those agencies are available on DHCD's website. If you are unable to complete the application online, you can also reach out to the agency and request a paper copy of the application.

What documents will I need to submit with my application?

Proof of student's community school enrollment, proof of rental agreement, invoice or proof of missed rent or utility payments.

Will I need to show proof of citizenship in order to receive assistance?

No, proof of citizenship is not required. Eligibility is based on renter status and community school enrollment, not immigration status.

Can this program help cover my past due utility bills, including water?

Yes, this program can provide assistance with past due rent and utility bills, including water.

Can this program pay for my future rent or utility bill?

Yes, if eligible, a household may receive up to 3-months of prospective rent and/or utility assistance at a time. A recertification may be required after 3 months to determine continued eligibility.

Am I able to receive assistance more than once?

Yes, eligible households are able to receive repeat assistance, contingent on availability of program funds and qualifying circumstances.

Is there a cap on the amount of assistance my household can receive?

Assistance is provided based on need and availability of funds, per the local providers. The maximum length of assistance a household can receive is 15 months.

What if my lease is expired? Am I eligible for assistance?

Yes, as long as your landlord is able to verify that you are still residing in the rental property.

If I live in subsidized housing, am I able to apply for assistance?

Yes, voucher holders and those living in subsidized units are able to apply for assistance. You will only receive assistance from the program for the portion of rent that you legally owe as the tenant.

If I am subletting a house or room, am I eligible for assistance?

Yes, as long as the lease holder is able to verify you are renting the space *or* you are able to show a history of rent payments.

If a student's household is receiving assistance for prospective rent or utilities, then the student transfers to a school that is not a community school, will assistance be terminated?

Eligibility is determined based on your enrollment status at the time of application for assistance. Assistance for the household will be available until the household recertifies eligibility.

Are households enrolled in Judy Centers, that are attached to a community school, eligible for assistance?

Yes, as long as that household meets all other eligibility criteria.

What if I am living place-to-place, or in an emergency shelter? Are their assistance options for me?

Yes, the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program can provide assistance to eligible households with relocation costs, such as security deposits, application fees, and prospective rent

I am an unaccompanied minor, and I have fallen behind in rent I pay for couch surfing. Am I eligible for assistance?

Yes, as long as the lease holder can verify occupancy and missed payments, and you attend a community school in a participating jurisdiction, you are eligible for assistance.

My apartment is no longer liveable, but I cannot afford to move into a new place right now. Can this program help me?

Yes, as long as other eligibility criteria are met, this program can assist with relocating to a new rental unit if the unit is no longer habitable or poses a safety risk.

What role do community schools play in CSRAP?

Community school staff involvement may vary by county. In general, school staff may help identify eligible families, coordinate referrals, and support outreach and engagement.