



Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development

**Community Schools Rental Assistance Program
SFY2025/SFY2026 Request for Applications**

Application Deadline: May 1st, 2025 – 4pm

Contents

Request for Applications Notice	3
Program Overview	4
Program Oversight	4
Funding Availability.....	4
Performance Period	4
Priority Jurisdictions.....	5
Eligible Uses of Funds.....	5
Eligible Applicants	6
Application Submission Guidelines	7
Key Dates	7
Application Package Requirements & Checklist	7
Scoring Criteria and Preferences.....	8
Appendix	9
County-Level School and Housing Stability Data	10
ENOUGH Grantee Jurisdictions.....	11

Request for Applications Notice

The Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD” or “the Department”) seeks applications from qualified organizations to administer housing stability financial assistance to eligible families through the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (“CS RAP” or “Program”). The Department anticipates awarding a total of \$10 million in FY25 and FY26 funding to grantees, contingent upon the final FY26 state budget adopted.

The statutory authority and requirements for the program are codified in [§9.9–104.1 of the Education Article](#). The purpose of this program is to provide emergency rental assistance to eligible student households enrolled in Maryland community schools who are experiencing housing instability and homelessness.

In addition to being enrolled in a community school, eligible student households must meet one of the following additional housing status criteria:

1. Be housed in a rental property, where at least one household member is at risk of homelessness or housing instability, as evidenced by past due rent or utility notices, unsafe living conditions, or other evidence determined by the Department, OR
2. At least one member qualifies for assistance under the federal McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The Department may establish additional family eligibility or prioritization criteria based on income, housing stability, or other relevant factors.

Eligible uses of financial assistance under the program include prospective rent (including security deposit), rental arrears, prospective utility assistance, utility arrears, relocation expenses, and fines or fees associated with rental or utility payments (including late fees). The Department will develop additional criteria and program guidance regarding eligible uses of funds.

Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to qualified organizations. All program information, including the application prioritization and scoring criteria, are included in this request for applications. Organizations must use the application template provided by the Department for their submission. Proposals not using the required application template will not be reviewed or considered for funding.



There will be a virtual information session about the program on April 9, 2025 at 12pm.



All completed applications for the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program are due no later than 4pm on May 1, 2025.

If you have questions, please contact: homelessness.dhcd@maryland.gov.

Program Overview

Program Oversight

Maryland DHCD's Division of Homeless Solutions leads the state's strategy, policy, and coordinated response effort to prevent and end homelessness. The division administers over \$50 million annually in federal and state funding to local nonprofit and government grantees providing services to low income and homeless households in their community. These programs include a wide variety of prevention programs, such as legal services, housing counseling, eviction prevention, emergency rental assistance, safety net programs, and economic mobility programs in addition to homeless services such as shelter, street outreach, and permanent housing.

The division also includes the state's new Office of Tenant and Landlord Affairs, which publishes an annual Tenant Bill of Rights, outreaches to and educates tenants and landlords about their rights and responsibilities under Maryland law, oversees Right of First Refusal implementation (tenant opportunity to purchase), and coordinates with enforcement agencies to address property owner and manager violations of state rental laws.

The Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP) funding will be administered by the Homelessness Solutions Program team within the division. DHCD will be partnering closely with the Maryland State Department of Education and Governor's Office for Children in the implementation of the program, and will support all grantees in establishing partnerships at the local level with community schools.

Funding Availability

The Department anticipates awarding a total of up to \$10 million in state funding to several grantees through this application, which includes \$5 million from FY25 appropriations and an estimated \$5 million for FY26 appropriations. As of the application publish date, Maryland's FY26 budget has not been finalized or adopted – final funding awarded through the competitive round is contingent on the program appropriation approved in the final state budget and any required restrictions.

The Department reserves the right to allocate funds in part or whole, according to program operational needs, objectives, and funding priorities. DHCD reserves the right to reject or cease processing any award for the program.

Performance Period

State Budget Year	Application Due	Anticipated Performance Period
FY25 Funds	May 1, 2025	July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025
FY26 Funds	May 1, 2025	July 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026
FY27 Funds	Spring/Summer 2026	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

DHCD anticipates awarding a combination of FY25 and FY26 funds to each grantee selected under this request for applications, with a requirement to expend FY25 funds first. Award recipients that currently administer a rental assistance program or are capable of implementing a program earlier than July 1,

2025 may be approved to charge eligible costs incurred prior to the grant agreement start date as pre-award costs.

Starting with FY27 awards, renewal project applicants or new applicants should expect to apply for funding in the late spring/summer each year, with a performance period start date of October 1.

DHCD may establish progressive spending deadlines or performance targets for grantees as necessary to ensure that financial assistance is distributed in a timely manner to eligible families, or reallocate funds based on application pipeline and demonstrated community need.

Priority Jurisdictions

Due to the limited funding available and anticipated community need, applications proposing to serve the following Maryland counties will be prioritized for awards first:

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

These priority jurisdictions were selected for the first competitive round based on their:

1. Number of community schools and enrolled students
2. Number of students enrolled that meet the definition of homeless under McKinney-Vento laws
3. Number of renter households paying more than 50% of their income on rent (severely housing cost-burdened)
4. Number of ENOUGH Act communities selected for Track 3 or 2

These data points and many more are available for each county in the appendix, to support organizations in developing their applications.

Eligible Uses of Funds

The Department will provide a detailed program policy guide to each award recipient during the grant agreement execution process. The policy guide will establish clear guidance for accepting applications and evaluating household eligibility, prioritization of households, outreach requirements to community schools, participant data collection and reporting, financial management of the grant, recordkeeping, non-discrimination requirements, and accessibility and reasonable accommodation requirements for disability, language, and other common program barriers.

Applicants receiving awards may use grant funding for two primary activities:

1. Provision of financial assistance to or for a household for one of the following eligible costs: prospective rent (including security deposit), rental arrears, prospective utility assistance, utility arrears, relocation expenses, and fines or fees associated with rental or utility payments

(including late fees); and

2. Reasonable program administration expenses up to 10% of the total grant. Administrative costs include typical program management and financial management expenses, as well as costs to conduct community outreach or marketing of the program in conjunction with community schools.

Please note that case management or other types of supportive services are not eligible costs under the grant. Applicants that are able to demonstrate leverage and match funding, especially for administrative costs or supportive services costs, will be prioritized in the scoring and selection process to support development of holistic program models and services for households served.

Eligible Applicants

Organizations must be a nonprofit, local government agency, or quasi public-private organization to be eligible to apply for program funds. Applicants must also meet the following minimum criteria:

- In Good Standing with the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation
- Have an active and compliant charity registration status with the Maryland Secretary of State (nonprofit or quasi only)

Application Submission Guidelines

Key Dates

April 3, 2025	Request for applications published
April 9, 2025	Applicant information session from 12-1pm via zoom – Registration Link
May 1, 2025	Application submission deadline – all application packages due no later than 4pm to homelessness.dhcd@maryland.gov . Mailed application materials will not be accepted.
Mid-May 2025	Award notifications and grant agreements issued
July 1, 2025	Grant performance period begins (pre-award costs may be requested and approved on a case-by-case basis)

Application Package Requirements & Checklist

- 1. Application Narrative (submit in Word format)**
- 2. Project Budget Workbook (submit in Excel format)**
- 3. Supporting Attachments (submit in PDF format as separate documents/attachments)**
 - ☐ W-9 with address and EIN that matches your [state vendor registration](#)
 - ☐ Agency Organizational Chart
 - ☐ Most Recent Single Audit or Independent Financial Audit
 - ☐ Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (nonprofits only)
 - ☐ Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter (nonprofits only)
 - ☐ Certificate of Good Standing from [Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation](#) (nonprofits only)
 - ☐ Copy of Charity Registration Status from [Maryland Secretary of State website](#) (nonprofits only)
 - ☐ List of Board of Directors (nonprofits only)
 - ☐ Leverage and match documentation (if applicable)
 - ☐ FY26 Annual Budget

Scoring Criteria and Preferences

Category	Scored Factors	Points
Proposed Service Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which proposed service area aligns with 8 priority jurisdictions • Ability to serve a regional or multi-county area 	15
Organizational Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization history, leadership, and expertise • Organization financial management and capacity • Audit findings and compliance with federal and state funding • Leverage and match resources 	20
Expertise and Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience partnering with or working in community schools • Experience administering direct financial assistance programs • Experience providing or partnering with organizations working in housing stability and/or eviction and renter protections • Experience serving vulnerable and marginalized populations and implementing an equity-centered program • Alignment with ENOUGH initiatives in proposed service areas 	50
Proposed Program Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the organization proposes a high-quality, cost-efficient, and robust plan for program services 	15

To ensure that program funds reach as many eligible households as possible, the Department will award maximum points in the applicable scored factors above for applicants that demonstrate the following:

- Capacity and interest in serving a regional or multi-county area
- Ability to leverage other funding sources or partnerships to provide case management, supportive services, legal services, or other housing-related costs that are not otherwise covered by the grant

The Department intends to select a maximum of one applicant to serve any particular county.

Appendix

County-Level School and Housing Stability Data

County	# Community Schools	# McKinney-Vento Homeless Students (2022-2023)	# Renter Households	% Households that are Renters	Households Paying More than 50% of Income on Rent	% Renters are Severe Housing-Cost Burdened	Households Paying More than 30% of Income on Rent	% Renters are Housing Cost-Burdened	Total FY24 Failure to Pay Rent Eviction Filings	ENOUGH Act Community
Allegany County	14	74	8,210	30%	2,872	35%	2,852	35%	751	Track 1
Anne Arundel	38	1186	55,337	25%	24,263	44%	26,671	48%	25,219	Track 2
Baltimore City	150	4744	129,160	52%	48,958	38%	70,086	54%	75,880	Track 3
Baltimore County	91	2547	110,001	33%	46,896	43%	56,362	51%	111,207	Track 1
Calvert County	1	146	4,613	14%	2,884	63%	2,003	43%	752	N/A
Caroline County	8	126	3,355	28%	1,565	47%	1,619	48%	398	Track 1
Carroll County	2	163	10,738	17%	5,691	53%	4,892	46%	1,057	N/A
Cecil County	9	535	9,778	25%	4,608	47%	3,705	38%	3,430	N/A
Charles County	10	906	11,960	20%	7,174	60%	4,542	38%	4,933	Track 1
Dorchester County	11	151	4,170	32%	1,840	44%	1,977	47%	926	Track 2
Frederick County	9	1069	23,553	24%	10,369	44%	11,804	50%	5,096	Track 2
Garrett County	5	70	2,471	20%	1,065	43%	664	27%	147	N/A
Harford County	16	479	19,811	20%	10,059	51%	11,359	57%	10,556	Track 1
Howard County	8	488	33,289	28%	13,724	41%	18,346	55%	13,534	N/A
Kent County	3	66	2,528	30%	1,132	45%	1,247	49%	228	N/A
Montgomery County	53	1826	132,827	34%	54,587	41%	71,411	54%	36,901	Track 2
Prince George's County	129	1049	128,169	38%	55,061	43%	65,209	51%	86,326	Track 2
Queen Anne's County	1	208	3,591	19%	2,306	64%	1,719	48%	317	N/A
Somerset County	7	107	2,713	32%	1,369	50%	1,381	51%	880	N/A
St. Mary's County	3	271	11,346	28%	4,612	41%	5,976	53%	2,665	N/A
Talbot County	2	233	4,402	27%	2,457	56%	1,881	43%	242	N/A
Washington County	18	833	20,436	35%	6,778	33%	9,121	45%	6,253	Track 3
Wicomico County	23	579	16,114	40%	5,398	33%	8,213	51%	6,349	N/A
Worcester County	6	210	5,496	23%	3,247	59%	2,639	48%	655	N/A
Total	617	18,066	754,068		318,915		385,679		394,702	

ENOUGH Grantee Jurisdictions

CB= "Community Quarterback" or the lead agency

Track 3 (Implementation)

Community QB	Community	County
1) Cherry Hill Strong	Cherry Hill	Baltimore City
2) Park Heights Renaissance Inc.	Park Heights	Baltimore City
3) San Mar Family & Community Services	South End, Hagerstown	Washington

Track 2 (Planning)

Community QB	Community	County
1) Anne Arundel LMB	Pumphrey / Brooklyn Park	Anne Arundel
2) Child First Authority	Druid Heights / Upton and Westside	Baltimore City
3) Elev8 Baltimore, Inc.	Sandtown Winchester / Harlem Park	Baltimore City
4) South Baltimore Community Land Trust	Brooklyn and Curtis Bay	Baltimore City
5) The Central Baltimore Partnership, Inc.	Greater Greenmount	Baltimore City
6) The Y in Central Maryland	Waverly	Baltimore City
7) Dorchester LMB	Cambridge / South Dorchester	Dorchester
8) Frederick LMB	Route 40 The Golden Mile	Frederick
9) CHEER	Long Branch	Montgomery
10) Identity, Inc.	Central Gaithersburg	Montgomery
11) Latin American Youth Center	East Riverdale / Adelphi	Prince George's
12) United Communities Against Poverty	District Heights and Suitland	Prince George's

Track 1 (Partnerships)

Community QB	Community	County
1) City of Cumberland	South Penn and John Humbird	Allegany
2) One Annapolis, Inc	Bay Ridge Gardens	Anne Arundel
3) Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council	Greater Mondawmin	Baltimore City
4) Tendea Family Inc.	McElderry Park	Baltimore City
5) Urban Strategies Inc.	Perkins Somerset Oldtown	Baltimore City
6) We Our Us	Upton Druid Heights	Baltimore City
7) Community Assistance Network	Essex	Baltimore County
8) Caroline LMB	Federalsburg	Caroline
9) LifeStyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.	Waldorf	Charles
10) Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford and Cecil Counties	Edgewood	Harford
11) CASA, Inc.	Langley Park	Prince George's
12) Prince George's Dept. Social Services	Hillcrest Heights	Prince George's