

Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) September 3rd, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Format: Virtual Only

1. Welcome and Introductions, Assistant Secretary Danielle Meister, DHCD

- Assistant Secretary Meister welcomed ICH members and guests

2. Vote to Approve the May 2026 Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made; motion seconded; all in favor. Motion passed: No issues or changes reported to the May 2026 meeting minutes.

3. HUD CoC Program Funding, Danielle Meister

- The 2026 HUD Continuum of Care (COC) program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) included changes that could result in a \$25 million reduction in permanent housing across Maryland, affecting about 1,400 households.
- The NOFO is now on hold since the court ruled that HUD did not issue a lawful NOFO due to lack of proper notice and comment procedures, leading to the NOFO being vacated. The team is now waiting for the outcome of HUD's appeal.
- CoC project funding remains at risk as both awards and project-level grant agreements from HUD are delayed and nonprofits do not have the reserves to cover large gaps in grant agreements and funding.

4. ICH Action Plan Development (45 minutes), 12:00-12:45, Suzanne Korff and Danielle Meister

- DHCD is launching the planning process to create a five-year ICH action plan to prevent and end homelessness in Maryland through an intensive four month planning process with an anticipated launch in January 2027. The plan will drive outcomes around five major goals including:
 - prevention through targeted eviction prevention and diversion,
 - housing-focused outreach and shelter services,
 - permanent supportive housing opportunities,
 - housing stability through wraparound services, and
 - strengthening the homeless response system.
- State Agency partner engagement in the plan development will primarily be structured through population-specific committees, chaired by DHCD and partner agency leadership, with DHCD staff assigned to each committee to align coordination and reduce the burden for partner agency staff. The planned committees include:
 - Older adults and people with disabilities
 - Veterans
 - Families with children, and
 - Unaccompanied youth.

- DHCD is conducting a statewide investment scan to understand current funding for homelessness prevention and housing programs across state agencies, local governments, and philanthropy. DHCD has developed a draft survey tool that would collect detailed information about existing programs, funding sources, and eligibility criteria to identify opportunities for better coordination and leveraging of resources.
- The team plans to distribute the surveys by September 15th for a 30-day completion period.
- Amy Kleine shared how Baltimore Funders Together to End Homelessness approached a similar task for the City, and the resulting impact of a more coordinated philanthropy strategy on homelessness

5. Impacts of HR1 on Homelessness and SNAP Participation, Department of Human Services

Assistant Secretary Larry Handerhan

- New regulations introduced under H.1., have impacted enrollment in Maryland's SNAP program. Approximately 36,000 people have lost benefits due to new work requirements and immigration status changes, including over 11,000 individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Various exemptions to work requirements remain in place, including for individuals with disabilities, those receiving UI benefits, and caregivers of children under 13.
- DHS announced a new state policy exempting individuals experiencing chronic homelessness from work requirements, if they meet the following DHS definition:
Chronic homelessness (DHS): A person experiencing chronic homelessness is an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence, including locations such as a homeless or domestic violence shelter; outdoor or makeshift locations; vehicles; RV-type structures without active utilities or sewer or septic hookups; or other places not designed for, or ordinarily used as, regular sleeping accommodations for human beings. This includes environments without access to toilets or where basic hygiene or stable sleep cannot be maintained.
- DHS is developing an action transmittal and training materials to implement this policy change, which will make Maryland the second or third state to adopt this approach.
- DHS is also developing a two-page guide on volunteer opportunities and following up with data from a survey of time-limited participants about workforce support needs.
- The [HR1 SNAP Impact Dashboard](#) tracks the number of individuals across Maryland who have lost SNAP benefits since November 2025.

6. ICH Member Updates and Initiatives

- **Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Vouchers, Danielle Meister**

FYI Program Overview, Eligibility & Requirements

- Authorized under the Family Unification Program
- Age: Youth is 18-24 at the time of voucher eligibility determination
- Foster care status: Left foster care, or will leave foster care within 180 days
- Homelessness: Youth is homeless or is at risk of becoming homeless at age 16 or older
- Referral: Child welfare must prioritize and refer eligible youth to the PHA, and either directly provide case management services or secure an

MOU/contractual commitment from partners

- Up to 3 years of rental assistance, with potential to extend additional 2 years
- Case management must be provided for a minimum of 3 years

- DHCD and DHS Child Welfare are partnering to expand uptake and utilization of the FYI voucher program. These efforts seek to build on the opportunities presented by a new HUD Notice (July 2026), which expanded the FYI voucher program in the following ways:
 - Allows PHAs to apply on non-competitive basis for incremental vouchers (\$25 million nationwide)
 - Removes the cap on the number of FYI vouchers that a PHA can request each Federal fiscal year, subject to availability of funding
 - Revises the definition of “at risk of becoming homeless”
 - Removes the utilization threshold submission requirement for the award of new vouchers to PHAs currently administering FYI and/or FUP vouchers
 - PHAs must request vouchers and submit a formal MOU/Partnership Agreement with child welfare and other supportive services
- The primary challenge to accessing additional FYI vouchers is the requirement to provide three years of case management services given that Child Welfare Case Management ends at age 21. DHS has surveyed local DSS’ to determine their interest and case management capacity, and DHCD has committed to:
 - identify targeted PHAs for engagement based on local prevalence of youth aging out of foster care and unaccompanied youth homelessness
 - explore partnerships with HUD or HSP funded youth providers to determine capacity to provide case management services for recipients of FYI vouchers.

○ **Community Schools Rental Assistance Program, Gina Rendina, Deputy Director, DHCD Division of Homeless Solutions**

- The Community Schools Rental Assistance Program has an FY27 budget of \$12,135,759.
- The program revised distribution formulas based on community school student enrollment data. See the following page for details:

FY25/26 and FY27 Community Schools Rental Assistance Funding		
County	FY25/26 Awards	FY27 Award
Anne Arundel	\$850,000	\$950,000
Baltimore City	\$3,500,000	\$2,685,759
Baltimore County	\$1,800,000	\$2,300,000
Frederick County	\$750,000	\$300,000
Montgomery County	\$1,300,000	\$1,900,000
Prince George's	\$750,000	\$3,000,000
Washington	\$600,000	\$500,000
Wicomico	\$450,000	\$500,000

- **Maryland Supportive Housing Forum, Jillian Fox, Corporation for Supportive Housing**
 - The Corporation for Supportive Housing, DHCD and the Weinberg Foundation are collaborating to organize a statewide [Supportive Housing Forum](#) in Baltimore Maryland, October 12th and 13th.
 - The 2026 Maryland Supportive Housing Forum will bring together more than 300 leaders, practitioners, and partners from across the state for two days of collaboration, learning, and innovation in Baltimore.
- **Older Adult Homelessness Film Screening and Panel Discussion, Amy Kleine, Weinberg Foundation**
 - Maryland Philanthropy Network's Housing Funders and Aging Innovations Groups are partnering to organize a screening of the documentary No Place to Grow Old, followed by a panel discussion on addressing the escalating numbers of at-risk and homeless older adults.
 - The screening and discussion will be held at the Parkway Theatre on 5 W North Ave, Baltimore, MD 21201 on Tuesday, October 6th from 9:30 AM-12:30 PM. [Registration is free, but required to attend \(linked here\).](#)

7. Public Comment

- No other comments

8. Adjourned at 1:32 PM

- Next Meeting: December 3, 2026, 10:30-12:30 Annapolis Historic Post Office (in person only)