

Thank You,

for Preventing More Homelessness by Funding the
Community Schools Rental Assistance Program!



July 13, 2026

The Honorable Governor Wes Moore
100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Senate President Bill Ferguson
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
State House, H-107, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk
Delegate Ben Barnes, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
State House, H-101, State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Moore and General Assembly Leadership,

The undersigned community-based groups, school leaders, and advocates want to thank you for supporting the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP). **Your leadership in increasing the FY 2027 CSRAP budget from \$5 million to \$11 million will mean that approximately 5,000 families with children will avoid eviction and homelessness.**

As you know, Maryland is facing a housing affordability crisis. While homelessness declined nationwide, Maryland experienced a 17% increase in homelessness. Marylanders, especially families with children, are struggling to make ends meet. We must keep our kids in school and out of shelters. **CSRAP is the only dedicated, state-supported eviction prevention funds program and a critical component of any comprehensive housing affordability strategy.**

CSRAP has been a game-changer for parents like Lex, a single father who faced eviction after having to quit his job to take care of his terminally ill wife. His ACE (Access to Counsel in Evictions) attorney learned that his daughter attended a community school and referred him there for help with past due rent. CSRAP funds allowed Lex and his daughter to stay in their home as they mourned their loss and until he was able to find employment and begin paying rent again. In FY 2026, the demand for eviction prevention funds was so high that the State was only able to meet 32% of the requests. CSRAP received over 4,500 applications requesting \$31 million during an eight-week application window. 70% of FY 2026 applicants were families headed by Black mothers making less than \$59,000 annually. Maryland's history of discriminatory policies means that Black and brown Marylanders are more likely to be at risk of eviction, and CSRAP helps mitigate this historical wrong.

Investment in CSRAP yields long-term cost savings to the state. A Maryland study found that every dollar spent on eviction prevention funds yields \$2.39 to the State. Eviction prevention funds reduce state-funded safety net expenses for sheltering and educating students as well as health care and foster care costs for persons who experience homelessness. Eviction prevention funds decrease incarceration rates and increase employment and income stability.

Students cannot learn if they don't have a consistent and secure place to sleep. Students facing eviction are six times more likely to be chronically absent and four times more likely to not complete high school, and students who experienced housing insecurity were more likely to have a lower GPA as well as poorer mental health outcomes. Further, fewer than 25% of children experiencing homelessness graduate from high school. CSRAP directly addresses this critical need at the intersection of education and housing stability.

CSRAP's early success also highlights the importance of a collaborative, cross-sector approach to tackling the greatest challenges facing Maryland residents. We want to thank the Department of Housing and Community Development, State Department of Education, and the General Assembly including CSRAP bill sponsors Sen. Shelly Hettleman and Del. Vaughn Stewart, and the Senate and House budget committees for this collaborative approach.

Thank you again for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you on implementation and expansion.

Regards,

Advance Maryland
Arundel House of Hope
Beyond the Boundaries
CASH Campaign of Maryland
Catholic Charities of Baltimore
Chesapeake Physicians for Social Responsibility
Community Development Network of Maryland
Community Legal Services
Cornerstone Franciscan Ministries
Disability Rights Maryland
Health Care for the Homeless
Jews United for Justice
Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services
Maryland Access to Justice Commission
Maryland Center for Community Schools
Maryland Center on Economic Policy
Maryland Family Network
Maryland Out of School Time Network / Maryland Coalition for Community Schools
Northeast Catholic Community, Peace & Justice Committee
Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
Progressive Maryland
Public Justice Center
Racial Justice Circle
Renters Alliance
Shore Legal Access
Strong Schools Maryland

cc:

Secretary Jake Weissmann, Dept. of Budget and Management
Secretary Jacob Day, Dept. of Housing and Community Development
Dr. Carey Wright, State Superintendent of Schools
Tony Bridges, Deputy Legislative Officer, Governor's Legislative Office
Sen. Shelly Hettleman & Del. Vaughn Stewart