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February 18, 2026

Appropriations Committee
Health & Social Services Budget Subcommittee
121 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: BRHP Support for DHCD FY 2027 Operating Budget with full funding for
Community Schools Rental Assistance Program**

Chair Shetty and Members of the Health & Social Services Budget Subcommittee:

We strongly urge your support for the Department of Housing and Community Development's FY 2027 Operating Budget with additional funding to protect vulnerable Maryland families against eviction.

BRHP is a non-profit organization that expands housing choices for low-income families who have historically been excluded from housing in well-resourced neighborhoods by helping them access and transition successfully to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities. As the Regional Administrator for the Baltimore Housing Mobility Program, BRHP currently provides over 4,300 low-income families rental assistance in the form of Housing Choice Vouchers coupled with counseling support for families as they move from areas of concentrated poverty to areas of opportunity in Baltimore City and the five surrounding counties.

DHCD funds are a vital lifeline for our work in the Baltimore region, creating essential projects and programs for low-income Maryland families. We urge the committee's support for the following programs in the DHCD operating budget.

New Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program

The FY 2027 budget includes \$5.0 million in general funds for a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, including resources to support one position at DHCD and \$4.9 million in grant funding for rental assistance and wraparound services.

PSH provides housing without time limits paired with voluntary supportive services for individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness. DHCD anticipates serving approximately 200 households and will award funds to local community-based providers who will deliver rental subsidies and supportive services while DHCD coordinates outcomes statewide.

BRHP is glad to see the recognition from DHCD about the importance of supportive services for struggling families. Expansion of PSH directly supports BRHP's mission by reducing housing instability for participating families and strengthening Maryland's continuum between homelessness prevention and long-term stability.

Single-Family Housing Program

The FY 2027 budget includes approximately \$13.7 million for single-family housing operations within the Division of Development Finance. This funding supports DHCD's homeownership infrastructure, including administration of the Maryland Mortgage Program and related down payment and closing cost assistance. Investments in the administration of single-family operations promote long-term asset building for families transitioning from rental subsidy and ensure sustained access to stable homeownership pathways.

Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP)

In FY 2026, the State will spend \$11.1 million to help families with children avoid eviction through the Community Schools Rental Assistance Program (CSRAP). While the need is far greater, only \$5 million is allocated to CSRAP in the Governor's FY 2027 budget.

In FY 2026, CSRAP received over 4,500 applications requesting \$31 million during the eight short weeks that new applications were accepted. The application portal is now closed due to the overwhelming demand. CSRAP is a gamechanger for families who are lucky enough to receive assistance. [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.

This funding is especially critical to BRHP because housing stability is foundational to the success of the families we serve. When families avoid eviction, they can remain

in high opportunity neighborhoods, areas with stronger schools, safer environments, and greater access to employment. Eviction not only disrupts a family's housing stability but also undermines the long-term economic mobility that BRHP works to help families achieve. Ensuring that CSRAP is fully funded helps to prevent setbacks that push families back into cycles of poverty and displacement.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to maintain critical funding for the new PSH program and Single-Family Housing operations and to increase the FY 2027 CSRAP allocation to \$25 million to stop nearly 6,000 families from becoming homeless.-Family Housing operations

Sincerely,

Adria Crutchfield
Executive Director