BALTIMORE REGIONAL HOUSING PARTNERSHIP



Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership

Quarterly Outreach Newsletter

"As years go by, the school lists get bigger and bigger. Any little bit, or a lot, anything helps. I am so appreciative. My kids and I appreciate the BRHP Back-to-School Drive."

- Deaierra J., BRHP Participant, during the 2026 Back-to-School Supply Drive. *(Quote edited lightly for clarity.)*

A Message from Our Executive Director



This past summer as more families in our region and around the country experienced tighter budgets and struggled to keep up with rising costs, BRHP continued contributing to brighter futures for parents and children alike.

Families' responses about the impact of our Summer Camp Assistance Program and experiencing their gratitude in-person at our annual Back-to-School Supply Drive was a refreshing reminder to me of the power of BRHP's endeavors to help families succeed. These efforts build strong foundations by giving children access to tools and experiences that support long-term growth and well-being. For those that donated to BRHP in support of one of these initiatives, your generosity helped us continue to meet the needs of the moment by investing in programs that build a child's confidence, learning, and development, leading to success in school and beyond for the children in our program.

With the start of the fall season, our focus turns increasingly to efforts to ensure widespread understanding of the new statewide protections for voucher holders that went into effect on October 1, 2026. Free webinars hosted last month with our partners, the Equal Rights Center and the Maryland Commission on Civil Rights, and a series of new fact sheets, provide details about new screening requirements that are designed to open access to quality housing while allowing relevant factors that impact tenancy to be fairly evaluated by housing providers. Details about the law and our new resources follow in the coming pages.

As another election season approaches, I have also been reflecting on the importance of advocacy and power of raising our voices. Voting is one of the most meaningful ways to shape our communities, yet barriers to the ballot and efforts to dilute voting power continue to limit opportunity and representation. With these issues already on my mind, I sat down earlier this month with voting rights advocates, policy leaders, and community organizers at our first community social. Together, we explored how voting rights and political representation shape the communities we call home and shared valuable information about key voting deadlines and upcoming ballot measures in Maryland.

We must continue to exchange our ideas and concerns and empower others to exercise their rights, especially amid increasing efforts to silence political participation. By doing so, we protect the values we hold dear and strengthen the communities to which we belong.

With resolve,
Adria Crutchfield

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)



Giving the Gift of Brighter Futures:

BRHP's Summer Camp Assistance & School Supply Drive

In June, donor and BRHP contributions helped provide more than $17,000 in funding to send 51 children from our program to Y in Central Maryland locations in the region to experience a summer of fun and connection.

From first-time trips to museums to building new friendships, splashing in the pool to competing in team sports, this summer was one to remember as kids experienced the many joys of camp. BRHP makes this annual investment because studies show that youth thrive when families have access to enriching opportunities that foster meaningful relationships with peers, support positive development, strengthen connections to schools and communities, and help prepare young people for independence and adulthood.

In August, we distributed over 750 bookbags filled with supplies, along with more than 130 books, to elementary, middle, and high school students in our program. The Baltimore County Library System Catonsville and White Marsh branches and the Howard County Library System Elkridge Branch served as distribution locations, helping make school supplies more accessible to families across the region.

Together, these community partnerships and investments help ensure that children in our program have the tools and support they need to be prepared for the learning that awaits them this school year. We were only able to do this with volunteers and supporters like you. When we invest in children, we give them more than supplies and experiences. We give them the confidence to dream and grow.



Photos include families and children in the BRHP program at the 2026 Back-to-School Supply Drive distributions.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

Summer Camp Memories and School Preparedness: Hear Directly from our Families



Want a peek into what our Back-to-School Supply Drive is all about? Watch this short video to see what the children in our program are most excited about as they head back to school.

"We've never actually had a chance to go inside and to see what type of programs the YMCA had, and so BRHP gave me that opportunity to allow my family to go to the summer program. They would come home and say, 'Wow, I met a new friend,' So just seeing those smiles on their faces, you know, that was just the joy of it,"

- Mikesha G., Baltimore Housing Mobility Program Participant *(Quote edited lightly for clarity.)*



"Camp is definitely expensive, so being able to have the assistance, you know, with someone to help pay for them to be able to go to camp definitely meant a lot. They [my children] got to do a lot of things they love to do."

- Shantell W., Baltimore Housing Mobility Program Participant

"The babies got to bond. It was a little financial freedom for me for the week. It was more of a relief."

- Jasmine B., Baltimore Housing Mobility Program Participant



Hear from one parent as they share their experiences navigating today's economy and how BRHP and the Back to School Supply distribution has supported them during challenging times.

ICYMI In Case You Missed It

Keeping up with New Voucher Holder Protections

New protections for Marylanders who use housing vouchers and other income-based housing subsidies took effect on October 1, 2026 following the passage of HB 315/SB 335 in the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session. The changes affect how housing providers may use income and credit information when screening applicants and create new opportunities for tenants to have positive rental payments reported to consumer reporting agencies.



The Equal Rights Center, Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership, and Maryland Commission on Civil Rights hosted two informational webinars in September to help housing providers, voucher holders, and other housing professionals understand the new requirements. Several new resources are also available:

- **BRHP fact sheets on HB 315/SB 335** explain the new limits on using credit and income screening to deny applicants with housing subsidies, positive rent-reporting options for tenants, and steps landlords should take to comply with the law.
- **The Equal Rights Center's new SOI Frequently Asked Questions** provide additional guidance about the source of income protections that took effect October 1 and what they mean for Marylanders who use housing vouchers.
- The **2027 Maryland Tenants' Bill of Rights** from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development summarizes important renter rights under federal and state law, including updates based on legislation that went into effect October 1, 2026. Maryland landlords must attach the current state-issued Tenants' Bill of Rights to every residential lease.

The passage of HB 315/SB 335 reflects years of advocacy on behalf of families who use housing vouchers and are frequently denied housing because of screening criteria unrelated to their ability to pay rent. By limiting these barriers, the law creates a fairer housing search process and helps voucher holders access a broader range of housing opportunities in communities that best meet their needs.

ICYMI In Case You Missed It

Introducing the Housing Mobility Navigators

We are excited to share an important update about how BRHP supports participants and their families. The role previously known as Housing Mobility Counselor is now Housing Mobility Navigator.

While the name has changed, BRHP's commitment to supporting participants throughout their housing journey remains the same. Our Housing Mobility Navigator is here to help prepare residents for a successful move, search for housing in opportunity areas, connect with helpful community resources, and adjust to their new home and neighborhood.

The Housing Mobility Navigator is just one way that we support families during their housing journey as we work to help them access and successfully transition to safe, healthy, and economically vibrant communities.

Voice, Representation, Opportunity: A BRHP community social about voting rights and access

On October 1, we welcomed community members and partner organizations to discuss how representation and access at the ballot box shape opportunity, belonging, and community power. At a time of significant debate over elections, when our participation in democracy matters more than ever, panelists and attendees explored what meaningful civic participation looks like in practice.



BRHP Executive Director Adria Crutchfield moderated an important conversation with voting rights leaders State Senator Charles Sydnor (Maryland, D-44); Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland, Joanne Antoine; Policy Director of the Legal Defense Fund, Demetria McCain; and Executive Director of the ACLU Maryland, Dana Vickers Shelley. Together, the group discussed challenges facing voters, possible changes to the electoral system on the horizon, and the impact of redistricting on political representation.

During the discussion, Demetria McCain highlighted how proposed changes to the 2030 Census, including proposals that could exclude some noncitizens from population counts used for congressional apportionment and eliminate race and ethnicity questions, would lead to discounting communities' needs. She raised a call to action to attendees to share their perspective during the political process, reminding the audience, "They are going to hear from us. Trust. But let them hear from everyday folks like those of you who are here in the audience. It's huge."

Audience members joined the discussion, asking questions about engaging with candidates running for elected office and reflecting on the barriers they face weighing in on the decisions that affect their lives. The dialogue highlighted both the challenges voters experienced and practical ways voters can stay informed and engaged during the election season and beyond.

Encouraging attendees to participate in the upcoming election, Dana Vickers Shelley shared, "In Maryland, I'm saying to folks, vote early. Go to community sessions that your legislators are having, understand what they are about, ask them questions, and fill out your ballot. Vote where it's most convenient. Think of your ballot as your go bag. Be prepared."

As the conversation closed, panelists emphasized the importance of making a voting plan and taking advantage of Maryland's many voting options.

BRHP is grateful for the panelists, partner organizations, and everyone who joined us to contribute their perspectives and make this conversation possible. This event highlighted the connection between participation, representation, and opportunity, while providing attendees with practical information about voting and civic engagement beyond elections. Political voice can influence access to housing, transportation, education, employment, and other opportunities that shape quality of life. At the same time, where people live can affect their access to political power and whether their interests are reflected in the decisions that impact their communities. For BRHP and the families we serve, these issues are deeply intertwined, making conversations like this especially important. The event was a reminder of the power of civic engagement to help create communities that are more representative, responsive, and inclusive.



















Photos include panelists of Voice, Opportunity, Representation including Joanne Antoine, Adria Crutchfield, Demetria McCain, Sen. Charles Sydnor, and Dana Vickers Shelley, along with audience members.

What's Happening

2026 General Election Information



The 2026 General Election is around the corner and your voice matters. Voters will have the opportunity to help shape the future of their communities by casting ballots on federal, state, and local candidates including members of the U.S. Congress, Maryland General Assembly, and local county councils. Ballot questions also allow voters to weigh in on important issues like statewide redistricting reform and local ballot questions that have a direct impact on programs and services, like Baltimore City's Baby Fund ballot question that would create a new funding support for young families with newborns. Register to vote, check your voter registration status, update your information, and learn more about the candidates and ballot measures by visiting the Maryland State Board of Elections.

KEY ELECTION DATES	
October 22-29	Early voting, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
October 27	Deadline to request a mail-in ballot delivered by mail or fax
October 30	Deadline to request a mail-in ballot online to print at home
November 3	Election Day and the deadline to return a mail-in ballot

Remember: You can still register in-person during early voting or at your assigned polling place on Election Day with proof of residence.

Property Partner Incentives

Do you own rental property in an opportunity area in Anne Arundel or Howard County and want to list it with BRHP to possibly lease to our families searching for homes?

Don't miss out on your chance to participate in the Property Partner Incentive Program, designed to increase our property listings in these opportunity areas. For more information about our Property Partner Incentive Program and to see if you qualify, click here.



Members of the BRHP team at the Mobility Works Training Institute and Practitioner Gathering.

Mobility Works: Training Institute and Practitioner Gathering

On October 6-7, BRHP joined housing mobility professionals from across the country in Cleveland, Ohio for Mobility Works' annual Training Institute and Practitioner Gathering providing an opportunity to connect and collaborate with new housing mobility practitioners.

This interactive two-day event explored key topics that support successful mobility programs, including trauma-informed pre- and post-move services, mobility-oriented Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) administration; landlord outreach, recruitment, and retention; participant leadership; and the historical and policy context of housing mobility.

BRHP left the event with new insights, practical strategies, and strengthened connections that will help to advance our work supporting families in accessing communities of opportunity. For more information about Mobility Works, visit the Mobility Works' webpage.

What We're Reading

Rich and poor kids should grow up next to each other



Affordable housing policy should give poor families a chance to live in high-opportunity neighborhoods. With the opportunity to grow up in class-integrated communities, the benefits of cross-class friendships, better education, and upward mobility are achievable.

Read more at: The Argument

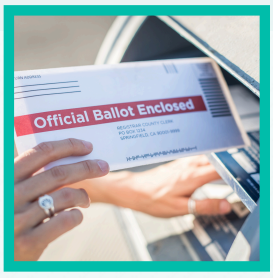
Maryland Supreme Court allows redistricting question on ballot



The Maryland Supreme Court ruled that voters will have a say on changing the state constitution's rules on congressional redistricting. State lawmakers voted to change the constitution to make clear that congressional districts can be drawn without taking into account compactness, natural boundaries, and city and county lines. Voters would need to approve the amendment in the November election for it to take effect.

Read more at: The Baltimore Banner

Supreme Court blocks sweeping mail ballot restrictions for midterm elections



The Supreme Court blocked the Trump administration from moving forward with new restrictions on mail-in ballots for the upcoming midterm elections. The ruling leaves intact election procedures and prohibits changes that could have had significant impacts for millions of voters who use mail in ballots.

Read more at: The Washington Post

Van Hollen, Young Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Boost Housing Mobility Vouchers, Increase Families' Access to Affordable Housing



U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Todd Young (R-Ind.) reintroduced their bipartisan Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act, legislation to create 250,000 housing mobility vouchers. The bill pairs rental assistance vouchers with evidence-based mobility support services to help families find affordable housing in opportunity areas.

Read more at: Van Hollen Senate

WE'RE HIRING!



-BRHP staff at the City of Baltimore's Federal to Future Career Transition Expo

We are always seeking new talent to add to our dynamic team, and are looking for the listed opportunities:

- **Housing Mobility Rental Assistance Associate**
- **Housing Inspector**
- **Housing Mobility Navigator**
- **Housing Mobility Navigation Supervisor**
- **Wealth Building Coach**

Start your journey with us today! Click here to explore all of our available career opportunities.

OUR MISSION

The Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership 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 has been opening pathways to better futures for over 10 years. BRHP currently assists over 4,300 low-income families with 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.

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