

# FY27 HSP Application

Session #1: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 1 p.m.

Session #2: Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 12 p.m.



# Agenda

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- Welcome & Introductions
- HSP Grant Eligibility
- Available Funding
- Program Activities and Costs
- Match Funds
- CoC Level Application Process and Scoring
- Local Application Process and Scoring
- Application Timeline

# Homeless Solutions Program

Maryland DHCD's Division of Homeless Solutions leads the state's strategy, policy, and coordinated response effort to prevent and end homelessness. This includes administering the Homelessness Solutions Program (HSP), which provides over \$15 million in annual funding to Continuums of Care (CoCs) to deliver and organize homeless services in their local communities.

## **HSP prioritizes funding for projects that:**

- Divert households who are at-risk of becoming homeless through creative problem-solving, safe family/friend reunification and mediation, and homeless prevention
- Rapidly and effectively connect people experiencing homelessness with mainstream benefits, income, and permanent housing opportunities
- Serve especially vulnerable groups, such as unsheltered individuals, unaccompanied youth, domestic violence survivors, and individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs
- Implement evidence-based practices and demonstrate fidelity to best practice program models
- Deliver services in a safe, inclusive, equitable, and accessible manner

# Expected Funding Availability For SFY27

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However, \$2 million in funding from State Rental Assistance used to supplement awards in SFY2026, will not be available this fiscal year. As a result, initial budget estimates are reduced.

# Expected Funding Availability For SFY27

<b>Name</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Emergency Solutions Grant (FFY2026)	Federal - HUD	\$1,030,648
State HSP Funds (SFY2027)	Maryland	\$14,000,000
<b>Total Available Funds</b>		<b>\$15,030,548</b>

<b>CoC/LHC</b>	<b>FY27 HSP Award</b>
<b>Anne Arundel County</b>	<b>\$789,868</b>

# Changes to HSP in FY27

1. Project-based leasing, operating, and rental assistance costs are now allowable line items for permanent supportive housing projects. Tenant-based rental assistance for PSH is not eligible due to potential annual changes in state appropriations for HSP.
2. Direct cash transfer programs for highly vulnerable households are now eligible:
  - Unaccompanied youth
  - Returning citizens from incarceration
  - Pregnant or parents/caregivers/guardians with children under 5
  - Other subpopulations with high rental housing barriers
3. Flex funds for landlord incentives, removal of tenant housing barriers, and other essential costs are now eligible under this flexible expense line item. These funds are intended to mitigate unique barriers in progress towards housing stability consistent with client-centered best practices. Projects should establish policies that ensure these funds are reasonable in addressing barriers in stability, accessible for all clients, and documented. For example, individuals matched to a Housing Choice Voucher may have debt owed to the Public Housing Authority which will prevent them from being approved until resolved – a flex fund can provide flexible assistance to remove the barrier.
4. CoC/LHCs must continue to provide a 25% match for the HSP Grant. However, documentation of match is no longer required for the HSP application – compliance with match requirements will be evaluated through program monitoring. However, total operating budgets for all proposed projects must be entered into the detailed budget template in order to allow DHCD to evaluate match and leverage capacity.

# Program Activities and Costs

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- ✓ Homeless Prevention/Shelter Diversion
- ✓ Emergency Shelter
- ✓ Street Outreach
- ✓ Rapid Re-Housing
- ✓ Permanent Supportive Housing
- ✓ Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Administrative Support costs

*\*Youth activities follow the same reporting and budgeting structure as other HSP funded activities, and no longer require a separate application.*

# Program Activities and Costs

## Homeless Prevention / Shelter Diversion

Homeless prevention and shelter diversion programs assist households to remain in their permanent housing or relocate to other permanent housing when they are considered at-risk of becoming homeless. Eligible costs include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services. Because prevention programs are difficult to target strategically, DHCD highly encourages agencies to designing program that focus on shelter diversion, which can help ensure resources are used as strategically and cost effectively as possible.

## Emergency Shelter

Emergency shelter covers activities that connect people with immediate access to overnight shelter in order to respond to a crisis. Funding provided for Emergency Shelter can be used both to pay for the operations of the shelter, such as rent and utilities, as well as services provided by the shelter, including case management. **Please note that any shelter that accepts children is considered a "Family" shelter, and therefore must accept all families, regardless of the sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age of any members of the family.** "Women and children only shelters" are not eligible for funding through HSP.

## Street Outreach

Street Outreach is for services that are provided to currently unsheltered individuals and families, including engagement and case management.

## Rapid Re-Housing

Rapid Re-Housing assists homeless households who are unsheltered or staying in emergency shelter or motel paid for by government/charitable source, safe haven, or transitional housing to obtain permanent housing in a regular rental unit in the community. Eligible costs include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services. Note: RRH programs targeted to unaccompanied homeless youth may also serve households or clients meeting HUD categories 2 or 3 in their programs.

# Program Activities and Costs

<b>Permanent Supportive Housing</b>	Permanent Supportive Housing provides households with non-time limited subsidized permanent housing and supportive services. Eligible costs include case management services such as linking residents to supportive services such as job training, health care, budgeting counseling, parenting skills, substance treatment, etc, as well as staff costs for those who assist clients in applying for food, medical, and other benefits. Additionally, eligible costs include project-based leasing, operating, and rental assistance costs.
<b>HMIS</b>	HMIS funding helps cover the costs of data collection through an HMIS database. <b>All providers must be entering data into HMIS or, for victim services providers, a comparable database.</b> HMIS data entry at the service provider level should be billed to the service or activity category, and HMIS budgets should be set aside for lead agency costs or investments in software (e.g., comparable databases).
<b>Special Events</b>	This covers the Homeless Resource Day events that are intended to connect people with available services, and activities designed to support the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count.
<b>Administrative Support</b>	Administration Support Costs include funding used for staffing COC/LHC and Coordinated Entry personnel, Training and Technical Assistance, as well as conference and meeting costs. Funding in this category also supports initiatives to encourage development of Youth Action Boards and Lived Experience Committees. <b>An additional line item for administrative cost may be designated with a 10% cap to cover grant management and program monitoring expenses.</b> Additional guidance on this provision is outlined in the next section.

# Match Funds

- Matching contributions must be used to meet the HSP goals: reducing the number of people who become homeless, shortening the length of time people are homeless, and reducing the number of people who return to homelessness.
- Matching funds must be received and expended within the HSP grant year contract period (July 1, 2026 –December 31, 2027).
- Contributions cannot be used to meet multiple match requirements. This includes using match from a previous HSP grant - matching funds can only be counted in one year.
- Matching contributions may be obtained from any local or private source. No federal sources may be used, except funding provided by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) for the purpose of meeting HSP goals. Additionally, no state sources may be used, except funding provided through the Emergency Assistance Program (EAP), formerly known as the Homelessness Prevention Program. For federal and state sources, the grantee must ensure the laws governing any funds used as matching contributions do not prohibit those funds from being used to match HSP funds. Additionally, if HSP funds are used to satisfy the matching requirements of another federal program, funding from that program may not be used to satisfy the matching requirements of HSP.

Matching funds may include the following:

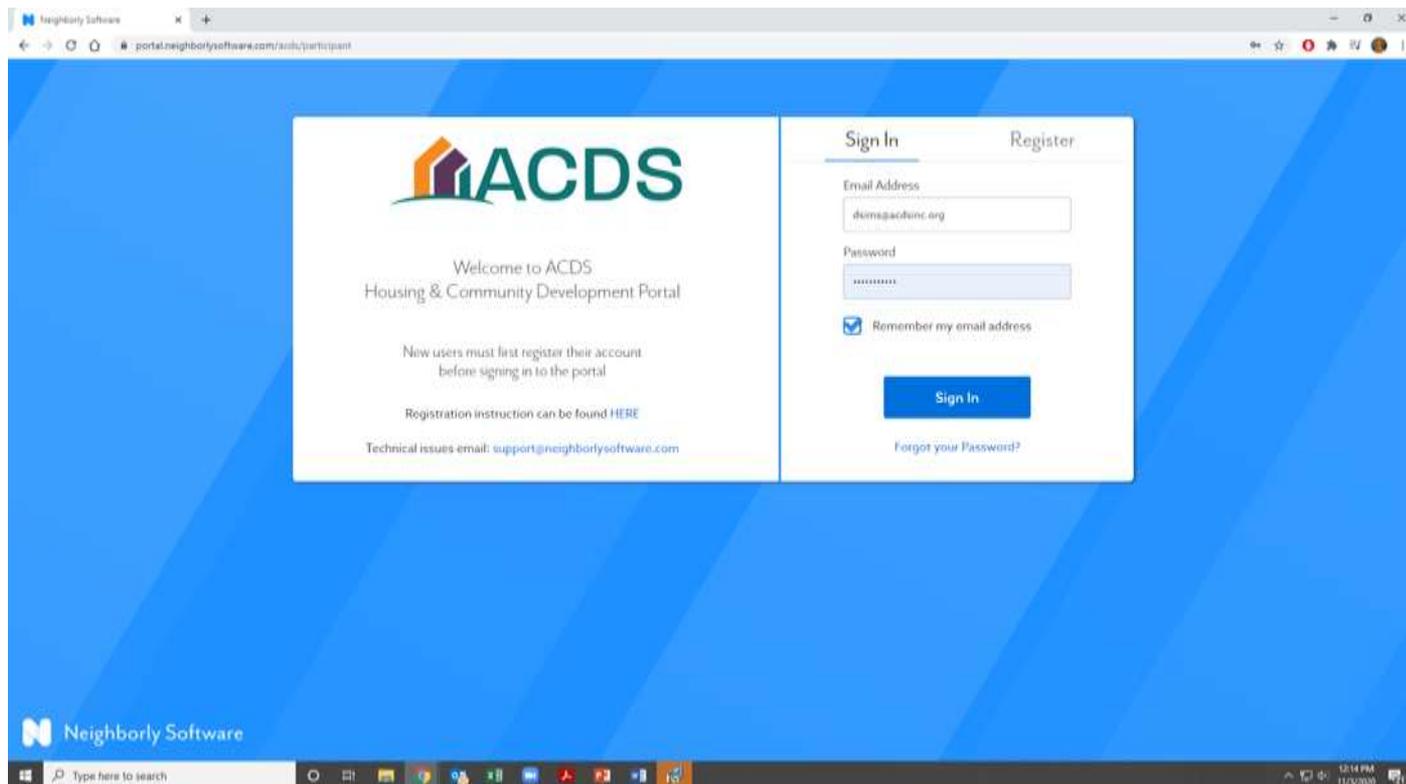
1. Cash contributions. Cash expended for allowable costs of the grantee/subgrantee.
2. Non-cash contributions. The value of any real property, equipment, goods or services contributed by the community / grantee towards meeting the HSP goals.

# Local Application Process

All applications will be submitted through ACDS's Neighborly Portal.

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/acds/participant>

*We strongly recommend that you use Google Chrome to complete the application.*



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ACDS Housing & Community Development Portal. The page has a blue background with a white central content area. On the left side of the content area, there is the ACDS logo (a stylized house icon) and the text "ACDS". Below the logo, it says "Welcome to ACDS Housing & Community Development Portal". Further down, it states "New users must first register their account before signing in to the portal" and "Registration instruction can be found HERE". At the bottom of this section, it provides the email "support@neighborlysoftware.com" for technical issues. On the right side of the content area, there are two tabs: "Sign In" (which is active) and "Register". Below the tabs, there are input fields for "Email Address" (containing "dum@acdfinc.org") and "Password" (with masked characters). There is a checked checkbox for "Remember my email address" and a blue "Sign In" button. Below the button, there is a link for "Forgot your Password?". The browser's address bar shows the URL "portal.neighborlysoftware.com/acds/participant". The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen.

# DHCD Application Review Process

All project-level applications will be subject to three reviews by DHCD:

1. A threshold review to ensure that the application is complete and that all grantee requirements have been satisfied.
2. CoC Performance Evaluation to determine whether the CoC demonstrates improvement, equity, and inclusion in the collaboration of resources, activities, and providers
3. A project level progress review to determine whether existing HSP funded projects are on track to meet spending and projected client numbers

Scored Category	Maximum Points
Prior HSP Grant Spending History	5
Prior HSP Grant Compliance History	5
HMIS Compliance & Data Quality	5
<b>Renewal Project Performance</b>	<b>50</b>
<b><u>HSP Application:</u></b>	
1. Strategy	10
2. Project Selection	20
3. System Performance	20
4. Coordinated Entry	10
5. Equity	10
6. Compliance and Quality	10
7. Youth Projects	5
8. RRH/PSH Projects	10
<b>Total Points Possible</b>	<b>160</b>

# Local HSP Project Scoring

Pass Threshold Review?	Yes	No	
	<i>If Yes, continue with scoring</i>	<i>If No, do not continue with scoring</i>	
	<b>Points Earned</b>	<b>Total Possible Points</b>	
	<b>135</b>	<b>135</b>	
<b>PROVIDER SCORE</b>	<b>65</b>		
<b>New or Renewal?</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>Renewal</i>	<i>New</i>	
<b>RRH or PSH?</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>Requested project is a RRH or PSH project</i>	<i>Requested project is not a RRH or PSH project</i>	
<b>Population Served</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	
	<i>Special Population Served</i>	<i>General Population Served</i>	
<b>Organizational Capacity and Experience</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
	<i>Organization has &gt;5 years of past grant management experience and the ability to operate solely on a reimbursement basis.</i>	<i>Organization has &lt;5 years of past grant management experience and the ability to operate solely on a reimbursement basis.</i>	<i>Organization has &lt;5 years of past grant management experience and may not have the ability to operate solely on a reimbursement basis.</i>

# Local HSP Project Scoring

<b>Prior HSP Spending</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
	<i>Spend FY24 and FY25 grants fully, is on track to spend full HSP26 grant</i>	<i>Spend FY24 and FY25 grants fully, is not on track to spend full HSP26 grant</i>	<i>Have not expended FY24, FY25, or FY26 funds fully</i>
<b>Prior HSP Compliance</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
	<i>Completed monitoring for FY24 and FY25 with no findings or concerns; or findings and concerns have been resolved</i>	<i>Completed monitoring for FY24 and FY25 with findings or concerns; only findings are unresolved</i>	<i>Completed monitoring for FY24 and FY25 with findings or concerns; concerns are unresolved</i>
<b>HMIS Compliance and Data Quality</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
	<i>Applicant enters data in HMIS timely with little to no errors</i>	<i>Applicant enters data in HMIS timely with a moderate number of errors</i>	<i>Applicant enters data in HMIS late with many errors</i>
<b>APR Project Performance Review</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>*NOTE: Calculation done in HSP Project Performance Tool document</i>	<i>Applicant has met all data benchmarks and goals set forth in their previous year's application</i>	<i>Applicant has met most data benchmarks and goals set forth in their previous year's application</i>	<i>Applicant has met few data benchmarks and goals set forth in their previous year's application</i>
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
	<i>Low risk provider</i>	<i>Medium risk provider</i>	<i>High risk provider</i>

# Local HSP Project Scoring

<b>PROJECT SCORE</b>	<b>70</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Community Partnerships</i>	8		
<i>Coordination with Existing Programs</i>	8		
<i>Match</i>	4		
<b>System Performance</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>Increase income, benefits, and employment</i>	7		
<i>Homeless Prevention</i>	4		
<i>Outcomes</i>	4		
<b>Equity</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion</i>	3		
<i>Lived Experience</i>	3		
<i>Planning and Capacity</i>	4		
<b>Housing First</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Reduce barriers to permanent housing</i>	3		
<i>Lack client conditions for program participation</i>	3		
<i>Accept clients regardless of income, substance history, and criminal justice system involvement</i>	4		

# Local HSP Project Scoring

<b>Youth Projects</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	
<i>Outcomes</i>	2		
<i>Engagement</i>	2		
<i>Overrepresented Groups</i>	1		
<b>RRH/PSH Projects</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Landlord Engagement and Retention</i>	4		
<i>Housing Navigation</i>	3		
<i>Policies and Procedures</i>	3		
<b>BONUS - Innovative System Transformation Project</b>		<b>5 possible bonus points</b>	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	<b>135</b>		

# Application Timeline

Application Posted and Budgets Sent (DHCD)	Friday	2/20/26
Local HSP Application Announcement	Wednesday	3/4/26
Local Application/Program Training (2 options because of short notice)	Tuesday, 1pm Thursday, 12pm	3/10/26 3/12/26
Local Application available on Neighborly	Friday, 10am	3/6/26
Local Applications due to ACDS	Friday, 12pm	3/27/26
Application Due to DHCD	Friday, 5pm	4/17/26

\*Application due in Neighborly Friday, March 27, 2026 at 12pm

# Reminders

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**Applications are due to ACDS by 12pm on Friday, March 27, 2026.**

- ▶ Please ensure all attachments are included.
- ▶ County application will be sent to DHCD by the deadline on Friday, April 17, 2026 at 5pm.

**Please ensure all data including performance and outcome data is up to date in HMIS for your programs.**

**Submit as many FY26 HSP invoices via Neighborly through end of March 2026 by Friday, April 4, 2026**

# Questions

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