

# **Arundel Community Development Services, Inc.**

## **Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (“MPDU”) Program**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (“FAQ”)**

*Last updated: September 3, 2026*

### **FAQS FOR RENTERS**

#### **Background**

The following FAQs provide information about Anne Arundel County’s Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (“**MPDU**”) Program, created by the Housing Attainability Act, Anne Arundel County Council Bill 72-24, codified at Anne Arundel County Code Section § 17-12-101 through § 17-12-115 (as amended). The MPDU Program requires the inclusion of affordable units in most rental and for-sale developments with 10 or more units and provides density bonuses and other land use benefits and flexibility for housing development.

Anne Arundel County has named Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (“**ACDS**”) as the MPDU Administrator. The ACDS website includes a special MPDU section (the “**MPDU Website**”) that provides resources for landlords, developers, tenants, homebuyers and other interested parties regarding the MPDU Program:

<https://acdsinc.org/moderately-priced-dwelling-unit-mpdu-program/>

For any questions not addressed in this FAQ sheet, please check the materials on the MPDU Website or contact ACDS at [mpdu@acdsinc.org](mailto:mpdu@acdsinc.org) or OPZ at [Planning and Zoning Customer Support](#).

These FAQs will be periodically updated and posted to the MPDU website.

**For information on homebuyer eligibility and other details on development and rental community operations, see the separate FAQs for Developers/Builders/Property Managers and for Homebuyers on the MPDU Website.**



## General Program Questions

### **When will MPDU rental units become available?**

MPDU units are expected to become available for rent approximately 24 months after the MPDU law effective date of July 1, 2025. Anne Arundel County and ACDS have begun affirmative marketing and outreach promoting the MPDU opportunity to Anne Arundel County residents and employees who work in Anne Arundel County. Units will not all become available at once. New opportunities will be added over time as qualifying developments are constructed.

### **How many MPDU units are currently expected?**

As of September 2026, approximately 36 homeownership units and 147 rental units in the development pipeline. These numbers are expected to grow as additional qualifying developments are approved.

### **Where will MPDU properties be located?**

MPDU units will be created throughout Anne Arundel County as qualifying new developments are built. They will not be concentrated in one particular community. Developments currently in the pipeline include opportunities in several areas of the county, but locations will continue to change as new developments are approved. When a unit becomes available, applicants on the waiting list will receive information about the specific property, including its location, unit size and other relevant details.

### **Will there be MPDUs accessible to persons with disabilities?**

All MPDU developments must comply with applicable federal, state and local fair housing and accessibility laws, rules and regulations. The number of accessible MPDUs in any given development, whether rental or homeownership, will depend on the total number of units, both MPDU and market rate.

### **What are the rental rates for MPDUs?**

Rental rates for MPDUs will be set annually by ACDS. The maximum rental rate will be the amount affordable to a 4-person household earning 75% of AMI and paying 30% of their income for rent. As of July 1, 2026, the maximum monthly rent is \$2,503, which will be further adjusted by the number of bedrooms in a unit for each household. For more detail, see the "Program Policy Establishing Rental Rates and Housing Income Limits For Rental Moderately Priced Dwelling Units" available on the MPDU Website.

### **How long must rental MPDUs remain income-restricted?**

MPDUs in rental developments must be restricted for 40 years, measured from initial rental.

**Can a tenant sub-lease a rental MPDU to someone else?**

No, only the qualified tenant household may live in a rental MPDU.

**Is this a subsidized housing program?**

No. Private developers are required to provide a certain number of affordable rental or for-sale units within their development, but there is no additional subsidy to purchase or rent MPDUs.

**Will there be MPDU properties for residents age 55 and older?**

Yes. As of the date of these FAQs, there is one age-restricted development currently in the pipeline, but for homeownership, not rental. Future MPDU rental developments may be age-restricted. Whether a household member under age 55 can reside in a particular 55+ community will depend on the requirements of that specific development and applicable fair-housing rules. Any age restrictions will be identified when information about an available unit is distributed.

## **Eligibility and Other Program Requirements**

**Who is eligible to rent an MPDU?**

Households who meet the MPDU program's residency/Anne Arundel County employment requirements and income eligibility requirements, meet first-time homebuyer status requirements and agree to occupy the unit as their primary residence (more information about these requirements can be found below) are eligible to rent an MPDU. An MPDU Application Portal is expected to open in approximately mid-October, which will guide interested applicants through the steps to determine eligibility. Once eligibility has been confirmed, the applicant will be placed on the ACDS MPDU Rental Waitlist. Applicants must also meet the credit, rental history, background check or other screening requirements established by the individual property owner/ manager.

**What are the residency/employment eligibility requirements?**

To be eligible to rent an MPDU, at least one adult household member must be a resident of Anne Arundel County (including the City of Annapolis) or have been employed in the County (including the City of Annapolis) for at least six months prior to the date of application.

**Can a single person qualify?**

Yes. A one-person household may apply as long as the applicant meets the applicable program requirements. Available units will vary in size, including smaller apartments and townhomes that may be appropriate for smaller households.

**Can I qualify to rent an MPDU unit if I've owned a home before?**

Potentially. To qualify to rent an MPDU unit, you must have not owned an interest in a residential property within the last three years.

**What are the income limits for households to qualify to rent an MPDU?**

Households earning 75% or below of the Area Median Income (“AMI”), adjusted for household size are eligible to rent an MPDU. The income limits in dollar amounts are available on the MPDU Website, which amounts will be adjusted on an annual basis based on information published by HUD.

**Does Social Security or retirement income count as income?**

Generally, ongoing income such as Social Security may be included when determining household income. Other sources of income, including certain retirement distributions, investment income or recurring income, may also need to be considered. Some situations will require individual review based on the type of income, how regularly it is received and how long it is expected to continue.

**Can the MPDU Program be combined with other housing assistance programs?**

Potentially. Eligibility will depend on the requirements of the MPDU program and the other housing assistance program such as housing vouchers and family self-sufficiency programs.

**If a household qualifies for an MPDU Program in another jurisdiction, including the City of Annapolis, does that qualify that household in Anne Arundel County?**

No. Each rental and homeownership applicant must be qualified in accordance with the rules and requirements of Anne Arundel County's MPDU Program.

**How are bedrooms/unit sizes matched to household size?**

MPDUs will be prioritized to households on the waiting list in accordance with their housing needs. Generally, children of the same sex and married couples or adult partners will be presumed to share a room. For example, in a household of 5, consisting of two parents, two daughters and one son, the household would be prioritized for a 3 bedroom unit, and would likely only be eligible for a 4 bedroom unit if there were not larger households also interested in the MPDU. Some family configurations may require case-by-case consideration under applicable housing rules.

**When is the rental rate for a rental MPDU established?**

MPDU rental rates are updated annually, on or about July 1. When a property owner/manager is ready to lease an MPDU, the property owner/manager will send ACDS a Notice of Availability. The MPDU rental rate will be set on the date of the Notice of Availability and cannot be raised or lowered after that. So, for example, if a Notice of Availability is sent on June 15, but the unit is not leased before the next rental rate

updating, the rental rate is established as of June 15, regardless of any changes effective on July 1.

**How does immigration status affect participation in the MPDU Program?**

The County's law does not contemplate citizen status as part of the certification process, but lenders and landlords typically require a social security number or some other tax ID number as part of their approval process to obtain a mortgage or rental application.

**What assets are included in determining household income?**

Income or cash flow generated by a specific asset is included when calculating total household income.

**If I do not live or work in Anne Arundel County but I am a student at a college located in the County, am I eligible to rent an MPDU unit?**

No. You must live or work in Anne Arundel County to be eligible to rent an MPDU unit.

**I have a dependent child attending college and living on campus. Is this child included in my household size for determining income limits and unit size?**

Full-time college students over the age of 18 who are dependent household members can have most of their earned income excluded when determining household income and size for program eligibility.

**I have an adult household member attending college who works on campus to partially pay for tuition. Is this college student's income included in the household income?**

The same rule applies if the adult household member is a dependent child (above), whereas an adult member who is not a dependent contributes their entire income to the household total.

**Can I have a pet in an MPDU rental?**

This will depend on the rules of the individual apartment community. Because these are privately managed properties, pet policies may differ from one development to another and may include breed, size or other restrictions.

**When will ACDS update the Rent Limits?**

ACDS intends to update the rent limits annually on approximately July 1 of each year, with updates posted on the MPDU Website.

**Can an Owner/Landlord increase the rent on an MPDU unit?**

Yes, the rental rate on an MPDU unit may be increased when a new lease is entered into or a lease is renewed, so long as the rent charged remains below the Rent Limits established and updated annually by ACDS.

**How long can a tenant remain in an MPDU rental unit?**

The program does not establish a time limit requiring residents to leave after a certain number of years. The program is intended to allow residents to increase their income without automatically losing their housing. However, significant increases in household income could affect the amount of rent charged or other aspects of continued participation.

**If I need a co-signer or guarantor to qualify for a rental unit, is the co-signer/guarantor's income included in the qualifying household income limits?**

Only the income of members of the renter household are considered in qualifying for an MPDU rental, and the household's income must be adequate to pay the MPDU rent without a co-signer or guarantor.

**Who will collect my rent and manage the property?**

MPDU rental properties remain privately owned. Residents will work with the developer, property owner or property management company just as they would in another privately operated rental community. The private property manager will generally handle rent collection, repairs, leasing and property operations. ACDS's role includes verifying initial program eligibility and administering the MPDU waiting list

## **Applying and the Waiting List**

**When will the application portal open?**

As of the date of these FAQs, ACDS anticipates opening the MPDU application portal in mid-October 2026. Applicants should check ACDS's MPDU webpage for the official opening date and any updated instructions.

**Is the application online?**

Yes. The MPDU application will be electronic.

**Is an information session or orientation required for rental applicants?**

No. ACDS plans to offer informational sessions for prospective MPDU renters, but those sessions are expected to be optional rather than a condition of eligibility.

**Is there an application fee?**

No. There will be no fee to apply for the MPDU waiting list.

**Can I apply for both rental and homeownership MPDU units?**

Yes. An applicant who meets the qualifications for both programs should be able to pursue both. Because rental and homeownership will have separate application processes, the applicant will need to complete the requirements for each.

**Will certain groups receive preference on the waiting list?**

No special preference for particular protected classes or demographic groups is currently permitted under the MPDU law. ACDS is conducting broad affirmative outreach so residents throughout the county know about the opportunity, but eligibility and access to available units will be based on the established program requirements, waiting-list position and appropriate household-to-unit matching.

**Is placement on the waiting list a lottery?**

No. Applicants will be selected for available units based on the applicant's position on the waiting list. Household size will also be considered when matching applicants to available units.

**How long will I have to respond when a unit becomes available?**

Applicants will have three days from the date of the notification to submit an interest form for an available unit.

**How will ACDS decide who gets an available unit?**

Among applicants who express interest, ACDS will consider position on the applicable waiting list and whether the applicant's household size appropriately matches the available unit. For example, if a three-bedroom home is available, a larger household needing those bedrooms could receive priority over a smaller household, even if both expressed interest.

**How does a household apply to rent an MPDU?**

ACDS will manage all initial applications and conduct initial household eligibility screening through its MPDU Application Portal, which is expected to open in approximately mid-October 2026. Households that meet the minimum eligibility standards will be placed on a waiting list maintained by ACDS and will be notified when units become available. When a unit becomes available, households will work directly with owner/developer/property manager in applying for the rental unit.

**Does being on the waiting list mean I have to accept the first property offered?**

No. When an MPDU becomes available, ACDS will email people on the applicable waiting list with information about the property. Applicants who are interested will submit an interest form through the portal. You can decide whether the particular property is right for you based on its location, size, features and other information provided.

## Staying Informed

### **How will I know when new MPDU properties become available?**

ACDS will communicate with applicants on the waiting list as units become available. Because units will be added gradually over time, applicants should make sure their contact information remains current and monitor email communications carefully.

### **What should I do now if I am interested?**

Prospective applicants should learn as much as possible about the MPDU Program and its eligibility requirements; join ACDS's MPDU mailing or interested-parties list for updates; if pursuing homeownership, register for a required MPDU homebuyer orientation; review credit and overall finances; consider participating in homeownership counseling if not mortgage-ready; begin planning for down payment and closing costs; and watch for the announcement of the application portal opening.

### **We are a family currently in transitional housing and not receiving a housing voucher upon move out due to funding in Anne Arundel County and we are looking for LIHTC or MPDU units available for immediate move-in.**

MPDU rental units are priced slightly higher than Low Income Housing Tax Credits. However, ACDS and the County have a large portfolio of LIHTC properties we have been able to fund over the years - those are listed on our website (link - [Affordable Rental Communities](#)) and you can contact the properties to see if they have a waiting list. You can also search for affordable LIHTC financed units on **MDhousingsearch.org**. The County also has a housing portal that includes links to different housing resources: [Housing Resource Portal | Anne Arundel County Government](#) ([www.aacounty.org/housing-resource-portal](http://www.aacounty.org/housing-resource-portal))

### **Where can I get additional information?**

Visit the Arundel Community Development Services website, [acdsinc.org/mpduprogram](http://acdsinc.org/mpduprogram), for current MPDU information, orientation schedules, application updates and additional housing resources. Residents with questions about their individual circumstances should contact ACDS directly rather than relying on general program information, since eligibility may depend on household income, household composition, mortgage qualification and other individual factors. Please contact ACDS at [mpdu@acdsinc.org](mailto:mpdu@acdsinc.org).