

Systemic Advocacy

HPRP elevates the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness by engaging in legislative advocacy initiatives each year that address the root causes of homelessness.

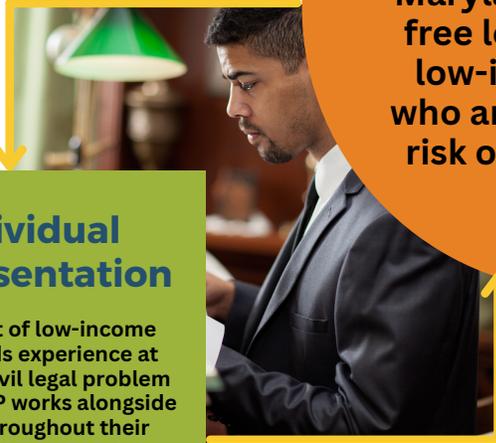


Our Mission

To end homelessness in Maryland by providing free legal services for low-income persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Our focus areas include:

Housing
Economic Benefits
Veterans Benefits
Workforce
Expungement
Youth Homelessness



Individual Representation

71 percent of low-income households experience at least one civil legal problem a year. HPRP works alongside clients throughout their cases, which can last days, months, or even years.



Community Education

HPRP conducts Know Your Rights presentations and community legal clinics at shelters, soup kitchens, and other locations where clients are already gathered to reduce transportation barriers.

FY2022 Impact (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

- Closed 1,659 cases impacting 596 households (1,095 individuals)
- Opened 540 cases
- Prevented or delayed evictions and other housing issues for 256 households, affecting 631 individuals
- Obtained or preserved benefits for 176 households (395 individuals), including disability, cash assistance, and food stamps
- Recovered \$357,792 in total back benefits for our clients and \$56,069 in total monthly benefits moving forward
- Obtained expungement of criminal records in 1,038 cases to increase housing and employment opportunities
- Provided written and oral testimony on 22 bills focused on renters' rights, funding the statewide access to counsel program, and overhauling the current eviction process in MD during the 2022 MD General Assembly.
- Spearheaded the creation and dissemination of an implementation guide, sample tuition waiver application, and online forum for higher education professionals to increase awareness of the Tuition Waiver Law (HB 261/SB 155).
- Drafted and co-led advocacy on two Temporary Cash Assistance Reform Bills (HB 1041/SB 829 and HB 1043/SB 828) that passed and moved Maryland's TCA program in an antiracist and trauma-informed direction.
- Drafted and co-led advocacy on the Trans Health Equity Act (HB 746/SB 682) to modernize Maryland's Medicaid law by tying coverage of gender-affirming care to current and nondiscriminatory medical standards. We were unable to get the bill to a House floor vote but will continue this effort in 2023.
- Launched the Montgomery County Criminal Diversion Program, a new community-based criminal diversion docket for persons experiencing homelessness.