

Justice is within our reach



Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc.

Impact 2021

1,446 cases closed



632

expungements obtained

\$309,316

in back benefits recovered

351

evictions prevented or delayed

148

obtained or preserved public benefits

\$263,647

in illegal costs to tenants avoided

Legislative Highlights

Family Investment Program: Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA)

HPRP wrote and saw passage of HB 1313, Maryland's most significant TCA legislation in the 25 years since welfare reform. The bill ended Maryland's harsh practice of terminating a family's entire cash benefit for not complying with work participation, which disproportionately impacted Black families who were sanctioned at higher rates. The law became effective July 1, 2021. HPRP monitored implementation of the bill, petitioned the agency to change their regulations to comply with the law, and advocated for the reinstatement of nearly 300 cases that closed unlawfully even after the new law went into effect. HB1313 is a big step toward supporting the needs of families with young children who are experiencing crisis.

College Tuition Waiver for Homeless Youth & Foster Care Recipients

HPRP's Homeless Youth Initiative led efforts to pass SB155/HB216, which expands eligibility for free college tuition at public colleges and universities in Maryland for students experiencing homelessness; removes barriers to ongoing tuition waiver eligibility; mandates a tuition waiver appeal process; requires all public colleges and universities to provide a liaison to assist students with experiences of homelessness or foster care; and provides an on-campus housing priority for students experiencing homelessness. This legislation builds upon legislation led by HPRP in 2014 which first established the tuition waiver for homeless students.

181 veterans served

\$1,412 average monthly income increase per veteran

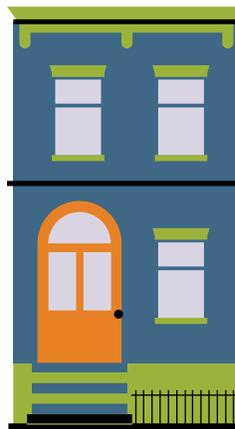


J.W., a 56-year-old U.S. Army Veteran who served in the First Gulf War, was exposed to smoke from burning diesel and human waste, causing severe asthma. Through the advocacy of his HPRP pro bono attorney, the federal government acknowledged that the asthma was caused by the veteran's service. He received about \$50,000 in back benefits and now has a steady income of \$1,300 a month and free medical treatment for his asthma.

The Eviction Crisis

104,000 households in Maryland are still behind on rent

33% of allocated rent relief funds in Maryland have been distributed as of February 2022



Many tenants are wrongfully threatened with eviction, both formally and informally (such as landlords removing doors or changing locks). HPRP's attorneys represent clients in cases ranging from simple failure-to-pay-rent situations to complex appeals involving subsidized housing. In addition to covering ongoing housing cases, HPRP attorneys are on-site at the Baltimore City Rent Court several times weekly and Montgomery County Rent Court weekly, advising tenants facing imminent eviction and offering same-day representation.

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