

Anne Arundel County

LEGAL SERVICE ASSISTANCE

- ❖ Contracting with an **experienced housing attorney Lisa Sarro**, formerly the Supervising Attorney for the Anne Arundel Legal Aid Office, to work with Eviction Prevention Program caseworkers to accomplish three main objectives:
 - (1) establish an intake process for EPP clients who need help with the legal system, provide information, legal assistance and referrals as needed;
 - (2) negotiate agreements with landlords on behalf of **Arundel Community Development Services, Inc. (ACDS)** to maximize the eviction prevention benefits of the Program; and
 - (3) provide training and support for EPP caseworkers to understand the legal process and be able to make appropriate referrals.
- ❖ Contracting with **Community Legal Services, Inc.** to provide the Tenant Representation Project in Anne Arundel County. Attorneys will be staffed at the District Court house (or set up virtually) to provide same day legal representation and/or will help client facing eviction pre-court date. The Grantee will hire a temporary, dedicated Anne Arundel attorney and also utilize their network of pro bono attorneys, who will receive a small stipend for each docket. This program will serve households earning up to 80% Area Median Income and will help immigrants without documentation.
- ❖ Contracting with the **Fair Housing Action Center of Maryland**, which is housed at the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition – to fund additional staff specifically for the Center’s **Tenant Intake Line**. FHAC staff will provide information about tenants’ rights, the eviction process as well as referrals to eviction prevention programs and legal assistance services.
- ❖ Contracting with **Maryland Legal Aid** and their Annapolis Office to provide legal assistance, including assistance for tenant-landlord cases, for very low income County residents seeking legal assistance.
- ❖ **ACDS** and our partners will continue to work with and refer clients to existing resources, including the Conflict Resolution Center and the Self-Help Centers.
 - ❖ **The Anne Arundel Conflict Resolution Center** provides community mediation and can serve as a way for landlords and tenants to work out disputes and payment settlements before, or instead of, going to court. This process is free and does not take additional funding to support.
 - ❖ **Self-Help Centers**, which are staffed by a subsidiary of Maryland Legal Aid, serve the District Courts located throughout Maryland including Anne Arundel County. They do not provide legal representation but help clients navigate the legal process and guide them to prepare the right documentation necessary for self-representation in court.