Montgomery County Housing Committee

 **Notes**

Wednesday March 16th 3:00 – 4:30 on Zoom

**In attendance**: Sarah Basehart, Sabria Still, Lauren Silverstone, John Bogasky, Larry Bram, Rick Callahan, Tigest Alemu, Rolando Santiago, Jillian Copeland, Steve Keener, Diane Dressler, Fred Swan, Chelsea Hayman, Tim Wiens, Terri Bradford

1. Chelsea Hayman, Director of Housing Policy and Programs, Maryland Department of Disabilities, Chelsea.hayman@maryland.gov
	1. New funding for the Weinberg Apartment Program
		1. They have received additional grants from the foundation for additional rental units for people with disabilities for LIHTC projects. Income requirements are 10-30% of AMI, must have SSI or SSDI, and be between 18-62 years old. 2020 grants were specifically for:
			1. Adults with IDD that have an aging caregiver and people experiencing homelessness.
			2. Foster care youth with disabilities aged 18-21 who are aging out of foster care and/or experiencing homelessness.
		2. Units are in Baltimore metropolitan region or Washington metropolitan region. There are a couple on the waitlist currently but Chelsea would like to get more qualified people on the list. Individuals must have a case manager to get on the list.
			1. People not having a case manager can be directed to one.
			2. Suggestions on how to get information out: reach out to schools to get youths who are transition age. Make sure information is not just in English. Special Olympics might be able to provide some leads. MIH provides resources to people that call and aren’t in the DDA program yet. Statewide presentation. Reach out to housing opportunities commission. Outreach to the housing authorities.
		3. There are 50 units on the program. Construction has not started yet. Funding will go through in a year or two.
	2. New DDA Rent Subsidy Program
		1. Registry will open in May. Waitlist is together. DDA is working on outreach so people can learn about the program. It will be a subsidy program targeting people 18 and over with IDD. It will act like a voucher (but not exactly). Rent payment is based on 30% of AMI. Priority categories from highest to lowest:
			1. Folks who are currently receiving rent money from DDA.
			2. People who are homeless. Homeless definitions: Actually homeless, risk of homelessness in next 2 weeks, youth who are living with family or friends temporarily but don’t have a notice to leave in the next 2 weeks, families with children/youth living with family or friends temporarily, people fleeing domestic violence, and people who are living temporarily with family/friends not at immediate risk of homelessness.
			3. Living with aging parents 55 or older.
			4. People transitioning from group homes. to independent living
			5. Everyone else who doesn’t fit the other categories.
		2. It is important that nonprofits advocate to make sure that this program grows over time.
2. New MIH work
	1. Three new full-time positions
		1. Director of Housing
		2. Director of Communications
		3. 2nd Community Living Coordinator focused on Baltimore Region
	2. New Communications work
		1. Parent friendly information to navigate affordable housing resources
		2. A State-wide legislative advocacy page
		3. Technology
3. Next meeting
	1. In person at Main Street apartments May 18th 3:30 – 5:00 pm with hybrid option for those unable to attend.
	2. Agenda ideas: tour of Main Street