

My name is Julianne Elam. I live in Rockville, Maryland. I've lived here for ten years, and love and am grateful to grow up here. I identify as a sibling and a high school student. I am also a Moco GND intern, a student-led internship focused on housing and Environmental Justice in Montgomery County.

Some of the initiatives that we urge Montgomery County to consider to fund are:

1. \$50 million to ensure all 4,723 households that asked for rental assistance receive an average grant of \$10,581.
2. \$9,475,427 to cover the costs of sheltering and housing of an estimated 642 current clients and 200 new clients in 2026, so that there is enough to fund everyone's exit out of homelessness.
3. \$13,735,903 to support both current clients and new individuals that experience the toughest conditions to exiting homelessness.
4. expanded moving assistance and specifically \$2.4 million to provide families who were kicked to the curb by the Sheriff's Office at least 6 months of storage to be able to recover and restart.
5. \$150,000 for the Montgomery County government to fund retrofits through nonprofits like Rebuilding Together, ensuring that all residents can live with dignity and safety.

As costs for rent and other rent-related household expenses rise, while the price for essential items has also risen, it is especially important to protect our most vulnerable. Everyone deserves the right to have a safe roof over their head, and should be given support if necessary to receive that. It is heartbreaking to have families and individuals evicted, and no one, especially a child whose parents cannot afford rent or have an alternative living situation, deserves to be homeless.

If the budget allocated funds toward the aforementioned initiatives those sturgeons with housing would be able to be supported and helped toward a safer, more stable future. Many have responsibilities beyond housing like taking care of children or other families and balancing work while constantly facing eviction. Having a stable livelihood from rent support allows our neighbors who are struggling to have less mental, emotional, and physical stress, safety, and time to support their family members and themselves.

Respectfully, I ask the Council to vote in favor of allocating \$5 million dollars to Emergency Rental Assistance. Thank you.