



# **BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

## **Mission Statement**

*The Budget and Appropriations Committee is responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are expended prudently and equitably. BA will exercise regular oversight of the funding and spending practices of City agencies, the City's budget, expenditures, loans, and other financial matters. The committee's areas of jurisdiction include all budgets & appropriations, taxation, financial services, consumer protection, audits, and the Comptroller's Office.*

**The Honorable Danielle McCray**

**CHAIR**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

**9:00 AM**

**CLARENCE "DU" BURNS COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

*26-0169*

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – M-R  
Office of Homeless Services – \$2,000,000*

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*Staff: Ethan Navarre (Ethan.Navarre@baltimorecity.gov)*

**BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE****The Honorable Danielle McCray  
CHAIR****Bill Hearing***26-0169**Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – M-R Office of Homeless Services – \$2,000,000*

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Purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to M-R Office of Homeless Services – Service 895 (Temporary Housing for the Homeless), to provide funding for rental assistance and supportive services through rapid re housing and homelessness prevention for homeless individuals and families in the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

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***REPORTING AGENCIES***

Mayor's Office of Homeless Services	Favorable
Department of Finance	Favorable
Law Department	Approved for Form & Legal Sufficiency

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***BACKGROUND***

This funding will enable Mayor's Office of Homeless Services to continue to provide rental assistance and supportive services to clients in the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program. In addition, these funds will be used to support our Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs that provides emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive services by homeless services providers.

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***FISCAL NOTE***

A supplemental appropriation of \$2,000,000 will increase the spending authority for the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services in Service 895 (Temporary Housing for the Homeless) for Fiscal Year 2026. This adjustment is necessary to incorporate unanticipated grant funding received from the State of Maryland.

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**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 26-0169  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: The Council President

At the request of: The Administration (Department of Finance)

Introduced and read first time: April 6, 2026

Assigned to: Budget and Appropriations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation –**  
3 **M-R Office of Homeless Services – \$2,000,000**

4 FOR the purpose of providing a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the  
5 amount of \$2,000,000 to M-R Office of Homeless Services – Service 895 (Temporary  
6 Housing for the Homeless), to provide funding for rental assistance and supportive services  
7 through rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention for homeless individuals and families  
8 in the City of Baltimore; and providing for a special effective date.

9 BY authority of  
10 Article VI - Board of Estimates  
11 Section 8(b)(2)(ii) and (c)  
12 Baltimore City Charter  
13 (1996 Edition)

14 **Recitals**

15 The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the State of Maryland's  
16 Department of Housing and Community Development in excess of the revenue relied on by the  
17 Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year  
18 2026.

19 That grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty when the Ordinance of  
20 Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated.

21 On April 1, 2026, the Board of Estimates recommended this appropriation to the City  
22 Council.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

**Council Bill 26-0169**

1       **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That  
2       \$2,000,000 shall be made available to M-R Office of Homeless Services – Service 895  
3       (Temporary Housing for the Homeless) as a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation  
4       for Fiscal Year 2026, to provide funding for rental assistance and supportive services through  
5       rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention for homeless individuals and families in the City  
6       of Baltimore. The source of revenue for this appropriation is the grant from State of Maryland's  
7       Department of Housing and Community Development in excess of the amount from this source  
8       that was relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the  
9       budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

10       **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is  
11       enacted.

# BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



## BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

26-0169

*Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – M-R  
Office of Homeless Services – \$2,000,000*

# Agency Reports



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Ernestina Simmons, Executive Director, Mayor's office of Homeless Services
<b>CC</b>	Mayor's Office of Government Relations
<b>DATE</b>	May 12, 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Bill Report-BILL 26-0169

**Position: Favorable**

**BILL SYNOPSIS**

*The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services is the collaborative applicant for the Continuum of Care. As a result, our agency receives direct funding from federal state and local government agencies to assist the City of Baltimore in providing services that includes rental assistance and supportive services for clients that are experiencing homelessness or were previously homeless.*

*In 2022, that State of Maryland allocated a one-time bonus award in the amount of \$2 Millions dollars to support our programs. This \$2 million allocation is intended to help individuals and families facing housing instability remain in or secure safe housing by covering rental costs and connecting them to essential support services. The funding enables local providers to deliver direct financial assistance while also addressing underlying challenges, such as income loss or barriers to stability, so households can avoid eviction, exit homelessness more quickly, and maintain long-term housing security*

**SUMMARY OF POSITION**

*This \$2 million funding will enable Mayor's Office of Homeless Services to continue to provide rental assistance and supportive services to clients in our HOPWA Program. In addition, these funds will be used to support our Emergency Solutions Grant Programs that provides emergency shelter, street outreach and supportive services by homeless services providers.*

*Operationally, it will require enhanced grant management, including oversight of sub-recipients, monthly invoicing, compliance monitoring, and data reporting to the state, which may place additional demands on fiscal and program staff. Programmatically, the funding strengthens existing homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts by allowing the agency to serve more households at risk of eviction or currently experiencing homelessness, aligning with its*

*broader goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. It also reinforces coordination between housing assistance and supportive services, ensuring clients not only receive financial help but are connected to resources that improve long-term stability. Overall, the funding supports scaling current initiatives while requiring disciplined administrative and compliance infrastructure to manage and track outcomes effectively.*

### ***FISCAL IMPACT***

*This funding will not impact the General Fund and does not require any additional staffing resources. It will strengthen the agency's ability to support households in the HOPWA program by providing critical rental assistance that helps prevent eviction and housing loss, ensuring clients living with HIV/AIDS remain stably housed while continuing to access supportive services that improve health and long-term stability. The funding will be administered both directly and as a pass-through to sub-recipients supporting HOPWA and Emergency Solutions Grant programs. Administrative costs are included within the award and will support existing staff managing grant-funded activities, with no need for new personnel, equipment, or additional procurement. The allocation is time-limited and will be fully expended by June 30, 2026, with no ongoing fiscal obligation or impact to the FY27 budget.*

### ***AMENDMENTS***

*No Amendments*



CITY OF BALTIMORE  
MAYOR BRANDON M. SCOTT

<b>TO</b>	The Honorable President and Members of the Baltimore City Council
<b>FROM</b>	Bob Cennane, Deputy Finance Director <i>Bob Cennane</i>
<b>DATE</b>	April 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2026
<b>SUBJECT</b>	26-0169 Supplementary Mayor's Office of Homeless Services Appropriation – Temporary Housing for the Homeless

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400

**Position: Support**

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 26-0169, Supplementary Mayor's Office of Homeless Services Appropriation – Temporary Housing for the Homeless, to increase the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriation of State funds by \$2,000,000 to Mayor's Office of Homeless Services Appropriation (MOHS), SRV0895 Temporary Housing for the Homeless.

**Background**

The revenue appropriated by this Ordinance represents a grant from the State of Maryland's Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. In Fiscal 2026, MOHS did not have an appropriation for unallocated State grant funds. However, MOHS received this grant for \$2,000,000 in State funds. This bill will make \$2,000,000 available to MOHS-Service 895 (Temporary Housing for the Homeless) for rental assistance and/or supportive services through rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention for homeless individuals and families in the City of Baltimore.

The Baltimore City Charter authorizes agency spending based on the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates. The Department of Finance recommends appropriation transfers and supplementary appropriations when an agency receives unanticipated revenue, such as grants, or implements new programs that could not have been anticipated at the time the budget was developed. This supplemental appropriation is required to meet the Charter requirements.

**Fiscal Impact**

MOHS requires supplemental appropriation due to a grant from the State of Maryland's Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. This supplemental appropriation of \$2,000,000 is necessary to accommodate these unbudgeted grant funds from the State of Maryland's Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

**Conclusion**

This supplemental appropriation is required to authorize agency spending beyond the amount enacted in the Ordinance of Estimates and is necessary to proceed to obtain these funds to continue to support to

homelessness prevention needs in Baltimore City.

**For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance supports City Council Bill 26-0169.**

cc: Michael Mocksten  
Nina Themelis

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CITY OF BALTIMORE

BRANDON M. SCOTT,  
Mayor



DEPARTMENT OF LAW  
EBONY M. THOMPSON,  
CITY SOLICITOR  
100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET  
SUITE 101, CITY HALL  
BALTIMORE, MD 21202

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May 7, 2026

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Baltimore City Council  
Room 409, City Hall  
100 N. Holliday Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: City Council Bill 26-0169 – Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation – M-R Office  
of Homeless Services – \$2,000,000

Dear President and City Council Members:

The Law Department reviewed City Council Bill 26-0169 for form and legal sufficiency. The bill provides a Supplementary State Fund Operating Appropriation in the amount of \$2,000,000 to M-R Office of Homeless Services – Service 895 (Temporary Housing for the Homeless), to provide funding for rental assistance and supportive services through rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention for homeless individuals and families in the City of Baltimore. The bill would take effect on its date of enactment. The award of funds is under the Emergency Rental Assistance grant operated by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

Council Bill 26-0169 identifies the revenue appropriated as “a grant from the State of Maryland’s Department of Housing and Community Development in excess of the revenue relied on by the Board of Estimates in determining the tax levy required to balance the budget for Fiscal Year 2026.” The grant could not have been expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates for Fiscal Year 2026 was formulated, and the bill has been recommended by the Board of Estimates to the City Council. The Council bill cites as authority for the supplementary appropriation Section 8(b)(2)(ii) of Article VI of the City Charter. This section provides that grants from private or governmental sources that could not be expected with reasonable certainty at the time the Ordinance of Estimates was formulated may be made available to the appropriate municipal agency for expenditure.

A supplementary appropriation must be recommended by the Board of Estimates and approved by the Mayor and City Council via an ordinance. The ordinance must identify the source of the funds and may only involve a “single program, purpose, activity or project.” City Charter, Art. VI, § 8(c). Since the bill meets these requirements, the Law Department approves it for form and legal sufficiency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michele Toth".

Michele Toth  
Assistant Solicitor

cc: Ebony Thompson  
Council President Cohen  
Ethan Hasiuk  
Shamoyia Gardiner  
Nina Themelis  
Ty'lor Schnella  
Aaron Degraffenreidt  
Hilary Ruley  
Jeff Hochstetler  
Ashlea Brown  
Desiree Luckey  
Ahleah Clark