

FY25 BUDGET PRIORITIES

BALTIMORE
RENTER
SOLIDARITY
COALITION

FOR THE SAFETY, FAIRNESS, AND AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING FOR BALTIMORE'S RENTING FAMILIES



ALLOCATE AT LEAST \$2 MIL TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY'S RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN EVICTIONS (RTC) LAW

- Baltimore City included \$1.6 million in the FY24 budget for tenant's right to counsel.
- The right to counsel law (Art. 13 Sec. 6A) **requires full implementation** for all covered individuals to obtain legal representation by April 1, 2025. Continued funding for right to counsel is essential for achieving full implementation.
- The City's RTC law covers legal proceedings that are **not covered by the state law** including representation in rent escrow cases that address conditions threatening life, health, and safety.
- The \$2 million should include funding set aside for renter outreach and education by community-based groups.



\$2.5 MIL. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR DHCD HOUSING SAFETY INSPECTIONS

- City housing inspections through 311 are the City's first response to negligent landlords that allow threats to life, health, and safety to persist throughout the City. They are also critical to auditing private landlord licensing inspections.



\$15 MILLION FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO PREVENT EVICTIONS

- Baltimore City allocated \$8 million for emergency rental assistance in FY24. In budget hearings for FY24, the Mayor's Office of Children & Family Success testified that the city required \$58,000 per day based on the need, a rate which would require \$15 million/year.
- A financial setback such as a job loss, the unexpected death of a primary earner, or lost wages due to a serious medical issue **does not have to result in a catastrophic eviction.**
- Yet, DHCD routinely reports that they only have a fraction of available positions filled in part due to below-market salaries. Additional funds should be allocated for salaries, training and professional development for inspectors. **The City should allocate all necessary resources to recruit, retain, and train housing inspectors.**