



**Howard County Council  
Public Hearing Testimony  
April 16, 2017**

**Council Resolution 47-2018**

The Association of Community Services supports the Council's adoption of the Annual Action Plan for housing and community services. The Plan describes how federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME) funds will be expended. These combined funds are a critical source of revenue that complements the County's other investments in the Plan to End Homelessness and other initiatives that support the housing safety net for low income families, persons with disabilities and our community's seniors.

As the Plan states, "The largest obstacle to addressing the County's underserved needs are financial in nature; there is a need for additional federal, state and local funding to undertake additional housing and community development projects." As indicated by that statement and the extensive need articulated in the Annual Plan, the limited CDGB and HOME funds received by Howard County are insufficient to make major strides in reducing homelessness and helping to keep significantly more families stably housed. However, the 16 projects that will be funded, which range from eviction prevention to creation of three new affordable and accessible housing units, will make a difference to at least some.

Thank you for this opportunity to support both the Plan and the Department of Housing and Community Development that works diligently to ensure that these CDGB and HOME funds are not left on the federal table and therefore lost to the County.

Respectfully,

*Jackie Eng*

Jackie Eng, Chairman  
ACS Public Policy Committee