

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 88A – Social Services Administration**

131.

The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) An increasing number of individuals AND FAMILIES in the State are homeless and lack proper nutrition and adequate services;

(2) Current State-operated programs do not adequately address these problems; and

(3) As a result, there is a lack of quality emergency public and private housing, nutrition, and service programs available for these individuals AND FAMILIES.

132.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) "Homeless individual" means an individual who:

(i) Is in need of housing or emergency shelter and proper nutrition;

(ii) Cannot be placed immediately in other available housing, nutrition, and service programs; and

(iii) Is a resident of the State at the time the application for housing is made.

(2) "HOUSING CRISIS" MEANS A SITUATION INVOLVING A FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL WHO IS:

(I) THREATENED WITH THE IMMEDIATE LOSS OF HOUSING OR OTHER SHELTER;

(II) WITHOUT RESOURCES TO MEET AN IMPENDING EVICTION; OR

(III) OTHERWISE AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS.

[(2)](3) "Shelter, nutrition, and service program" means facilities or programs that offer and provide:

(I) [services] SERVICES of food or shelter and may include linkage to multiple service components, centralized decision making regarding placement, case management, transportation, and follow-up services for homeless individuals AND FAMILIES; AND

(II) HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES FOR FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS IN A HOUSING CRISIS.