

My name is Janan Ghavami. I live in Clarksburg, Maryland. I've lived here for about 3 years. I identify as a Middle Eastern woman and am a member of the Green New Deal Student Internship.

I am writing to urge Montgomery County to fund \$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.

In Montgomery County, Maryland, statistics show that from Jan. 2024 to Dec. 2024, the county has evicted 1,31 households, greatly leading to the growing percentages of homelessness in the area. Because of these active evictions, Montgomery County has seen a 28% increase in homelessness.

These statistics aren't gonna get any better unless the county acts and sets forth procedures to help with the growing issue of homelessness. Safe and stable housing is key to an individual's life. Depriving them of the basic necessity of having a place to call home is damaging not only to them but also to their families. Lack of housing stability not only leads to the obvious issue of being homeless but also affects one's ability to enroll their children into school and look for employment.

Respectfully, I ask the Council to vote in favor of funding roughly \$9.5 million to cover the costs of sheltering and housing so that everyone has the opportunity to find a new home and exit homelessness. Thank you.