

Testimony of Rockville City Councilmember Marissa Valeri
February 10, 2026
FY 2027–2032 Capital Improvements Program

Good evening. My name is Marissa Valeri, and I am a City Councilmember here in Rockville. Prior to becoming a Councilmember, and most importantly, I was a first-time mom walking her son to his first day of kindergarten at Twinbrook Elementary in 2013.

I implore you to stand for real equity and justice and include Twinbrook Elementary in the MCPS CIP budget this year.

I have seen the challenges Twinbrook faces from all aspects, and I am at a loss as to why Twinbrook Elementary is continually passed over for capital investment.

My son could not drink from the water fountains back in 2013, and children today still can't. The pipes are original to the building, which was built in 1952 – 73 years! It is not ADA accessible at all. And there are reports of mold festering in corners of the school, unmitigated, and evidence of rat infestation.

MCPS promotes a vision of equity and inclusion that it does not seem to follow itself when it comes to prioritizing capital improvements.

Twinbrook Elementary has:

- 89.1% minority enrollment
- A 70.91% FARMS rate¹ - most likely artificially low due to the fears of the community right now.
- A 43% ELD rate and
- There is no Linkages to Learning program. The second largest municipality in the County has exactly ONE Linkages program.

¹<https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/SchoolandCommunityNutrition/Documents/Free%20and%20Reduced%20Data/FARMSSY2022-2023.pdf>

In Twinbrook as a whole:

- 49% of children age 5 – 17 live in poverty²
- 41% of the Latino population live in poverty³
- And there is 35% food insecurity rate.

In FY23 Twinbrook Elementary distributed 122,000 pounds of food received from the Capital Area Food Bank.

The Twinbrook community – who is most in need of support and services - has a school that hasn't been significantly invested in by MCPS for 40 years. A school that, for the vast majority of children, is a literal lifeline to food, safety, and a path forward to break the cycle of poverty. A school that is not safe, not clean, and does not ensure accessibility nor supports the learning environment.

Please step up and show MCPS what it means to live the stated values of justice, equity, and inclusion. Set the children of Twinbrook up for success. And commit to investing in Twinbrook Elementary, in our wonderful neighborhood, through a CIP beginning this budget year.

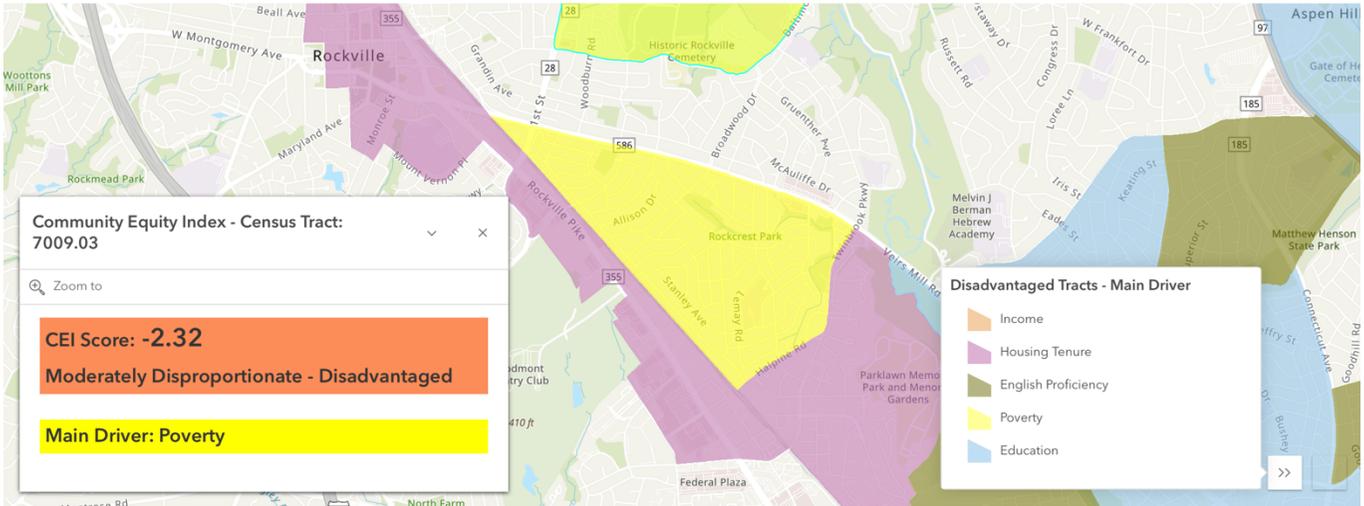
The children **cannot** wait any longer.

Thank you.

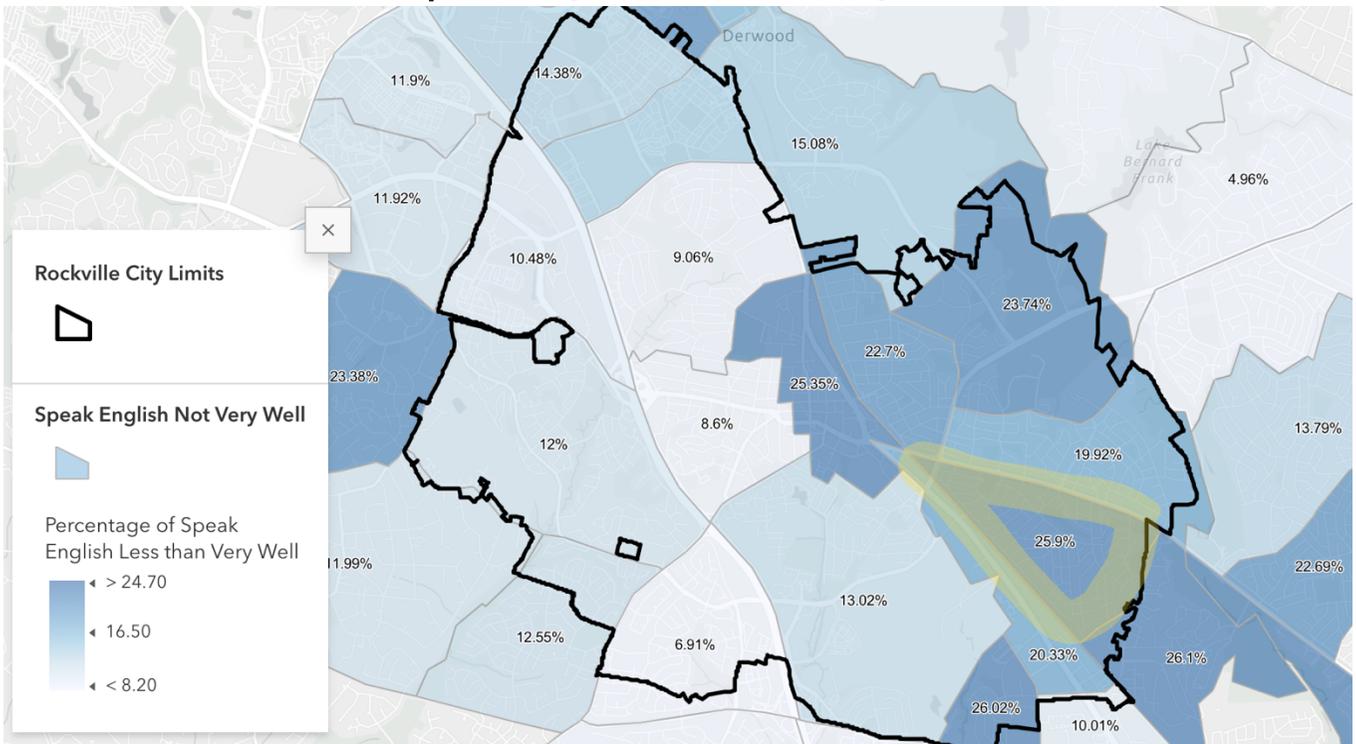
²US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

³US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

Montgomery County Community Equity Index⁴



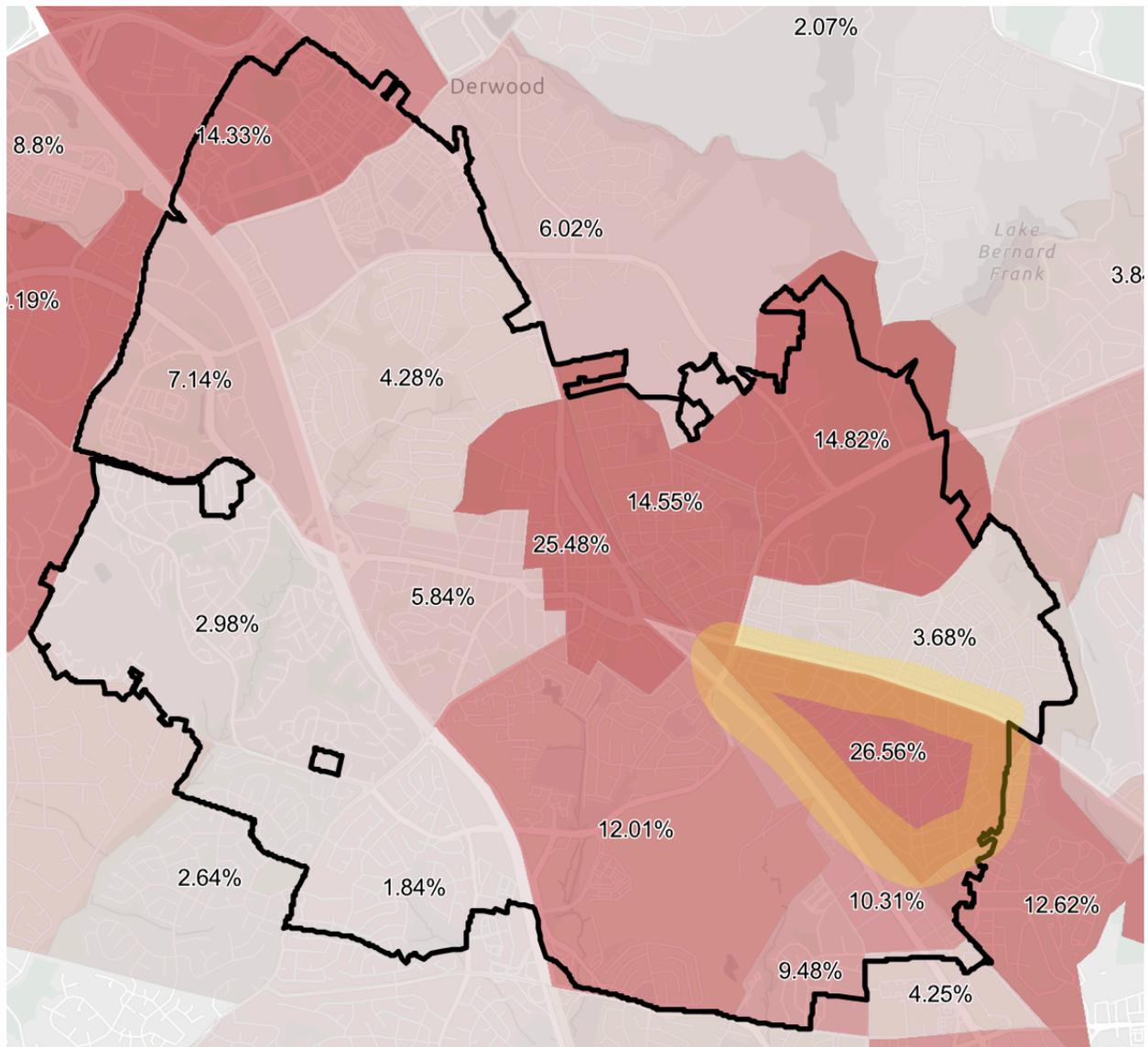
Speak English Less than Very Well⁵



⁴ <https://community-equity-index-mncppc-mcplanning.hub.arcgis.com>

⁵ US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

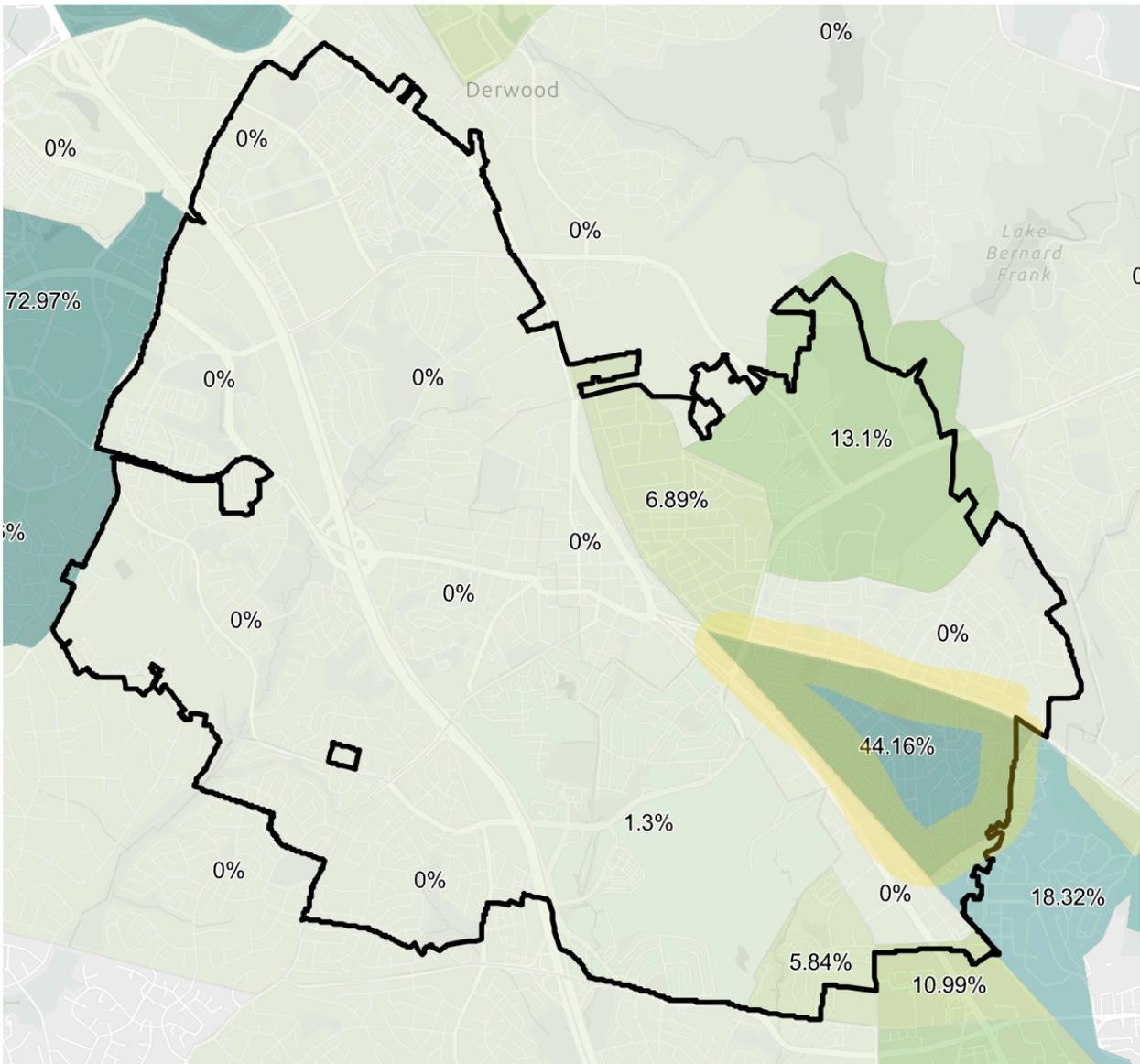
Poverty By Race⁶



Total Population	6,131
Population Below Poverty	1,177
Percentage of Total Population Below Poverty	19.20
Total Non-White Population	4,220
Non-White Population Below Poverty	1,121
Percentage of Non-White Population Below Poverty	26.56
Percentage of White Population Below Poverty	2.93
Percentage of Hispanic Population Below Poverty	41.16
Percentage of Black or African American Population Below Poverty	8.17
Percentage of Asian Population Below Poverty	9.88
Percentage of Other Race Population Below Poverty	65.86

⁶ US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

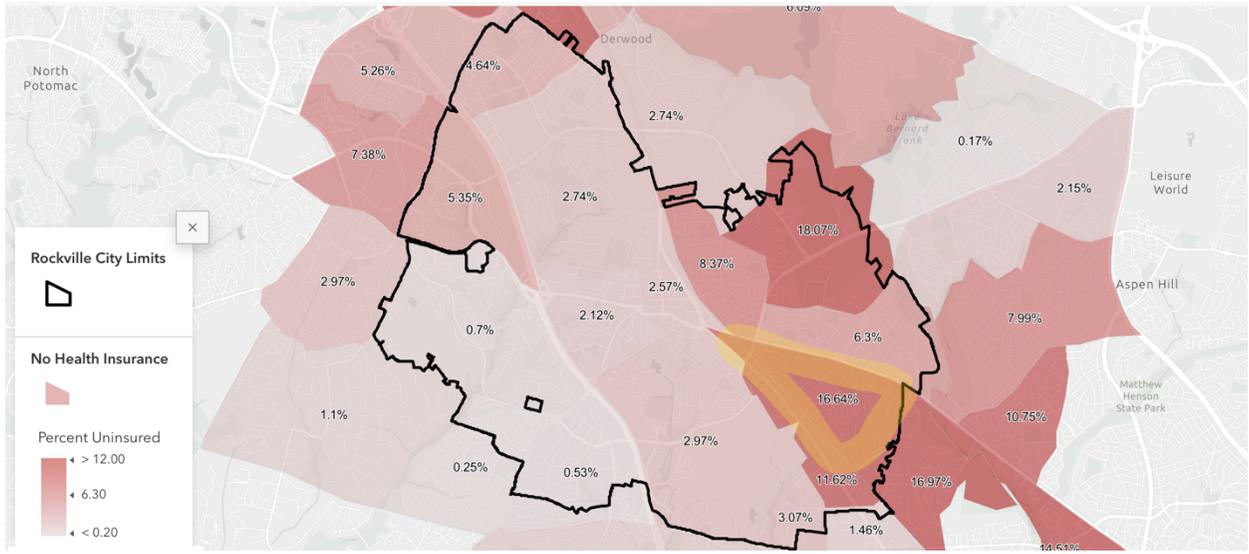
Poverty By Age⁷



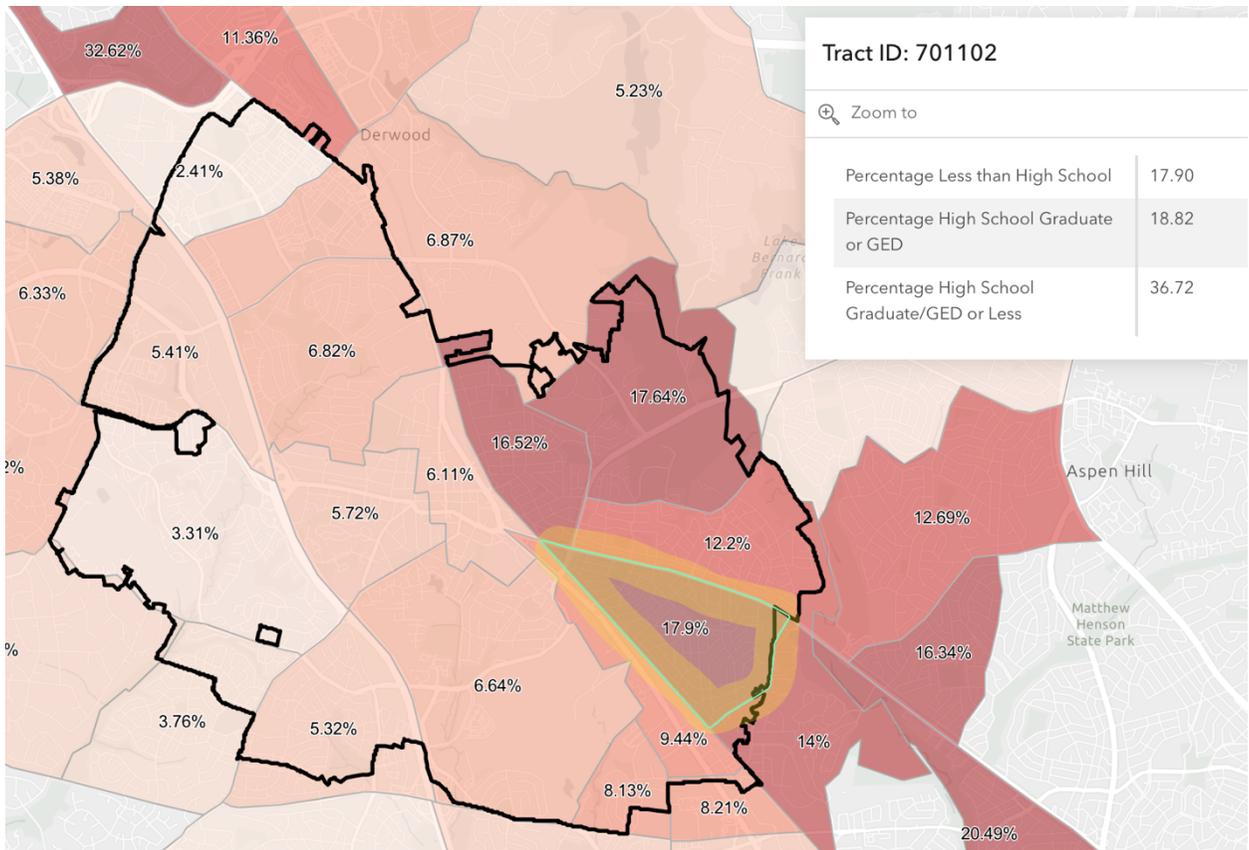
Percentage Poverty under 5	44.16
Percentage Poverty 5 to 17	49.19
Percentage Poverty 18 to 34	22.23
Percentage Poverty 35 to 64	12.36
Percentage Poverty 65 or older	1.32
Percentage of Total Population Below Poverty	19.20

⁷ US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

No Health Insurance⁸



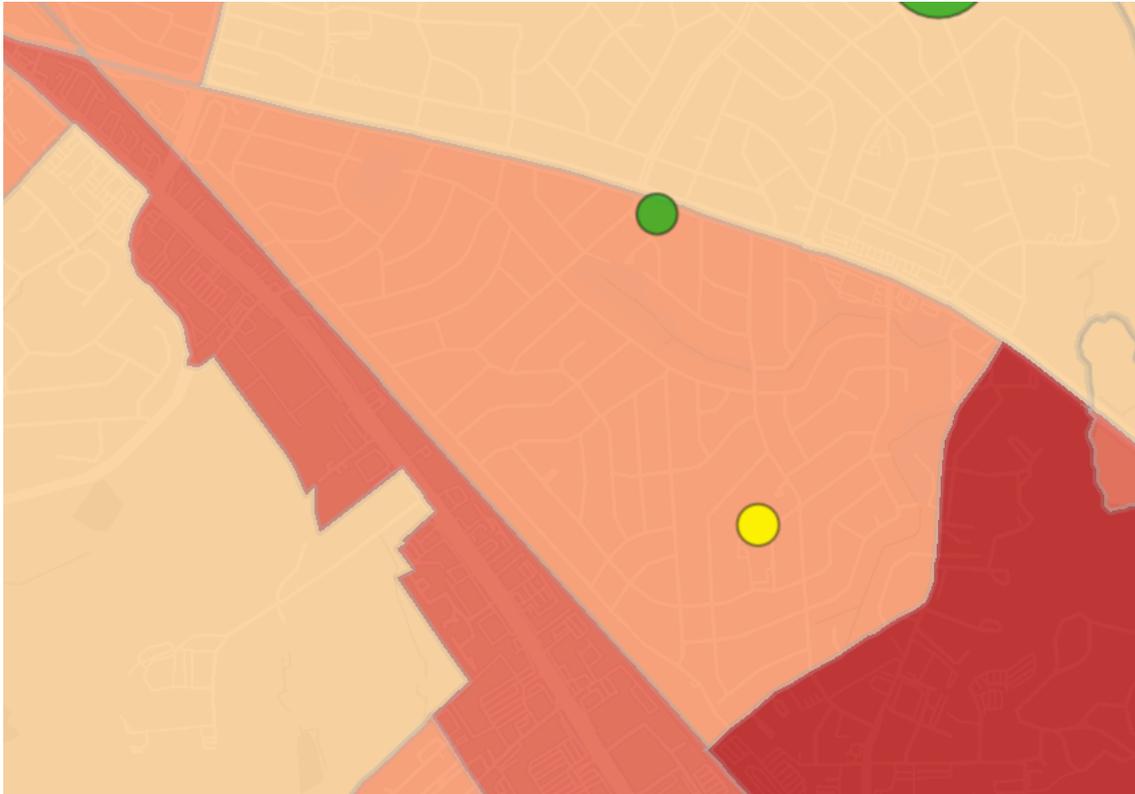
Education Level⁹



⁸ US Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year estimates and 2020 Decennial Census

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Food Insecurity¹⁰



Twinbrook Elementary School

Direct Distributions

In FY25 (from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), Twinbrook Elementary School distributed **30,539 meals** (or **36,647 pounds**).

Living Faith Lutheran Church

Partner Network

In FY25 (from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025), Living Faith Lutheran Church distributed **23,132 meals** (or **27,758 pounds**).

¹⁰ Capital Area Food Bank Hunger Heat Map

https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c2f0c87adc39429ab2139c00b22f5804/page/Map#data_s=id%3AdataSource_8-1985bb6bc59-layer-12%3A167