Homelessness in Montgomery County and Outreach to Wheaton Urban District

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Strategic Plan to End Homelessness

Vision: We envision a home for everyone in Montgomery County, where the experience of homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time only.

Mission: Through commitment and collaboration, we will create effective systems in our community to achieve our vision. We strive to be a leader in the work to end homelessness across our nation.

Our Programs

Making homelessness RARE	Making homelessness BRIEF	Making homelessness ONE-TIME ONLY
Preventing homelessness by providing:	***Rapidly connecting households to permanent housing by providing:***	***Ensuring households get the right intervention at the right time for the right duration through:***
• Covid Rent Relief Program • Emergency Financial Assistance • Short-term prevention case management • Energy Assistance • Shelter Diversion	• Housing location services • Short-term housing subsidy and intensive case management (Rapid Rehousing) • Permanent shallow rental subsidy • Housing focused emergency shelter and street outreach	• Coordinated entry and housing placement • Housing First permanent supportive housing • Healthcare for the Homeless • Connection to mainstream services (entitlements, behavioral health, childcare subsidies, workforce development, etc.)

Big, Bold Goals

01

End homelessness among Veterans by 2015. - Achieved!

02

End homelessness among chronically homeless individuals by 2019. - Achieved!

03

End homelessness among families with children by the end of 2020.

04

End homelessness among youth (ages 16-24) by the end of 2021.

05

End homelessness among seniors by the end of 2022.

06

End homelessness among everyone in Montgomery County by the end of 2023.

How do we get there?

Working Group	Goal	Baseline (12/15/2022)	1/1/2023	2/1/2023	3/1/2023
Youth	A fully operational Coordinated Entry System for Youth	No data for this measure but CES sub-committee is meeting regularly and this measure is on track.			
Families	An average length of time from ID to Move-in of 45 days	61	102	53	30
Seniors	Decreased the number of seniors entering homelessness by 50% (from 6 to 3)	6	3	8	2
Vulnerable Adults	An average length of time from Assigned to Housed of 45 days	48	No vulnerable adults housed	52	No vulnerable adults housed
Veterans	No more than 7 Veterans experiencing homelessness	10	11	11	11
Other Adult-Only Households	Housed 350 individuals (Cumulative from 12/15/2023. *Exits to housed destinations)*	Starting at 0	82 (+82 since baseline)	191 (+109 since prev month)	282 (+91 since prev month)

Montgomery County Homeless Continuum

Coordinated Entry

Common Intake and Assessment

Diversion

Prevention

Emergency Shelter

Rapid Exit

Transitional Housing

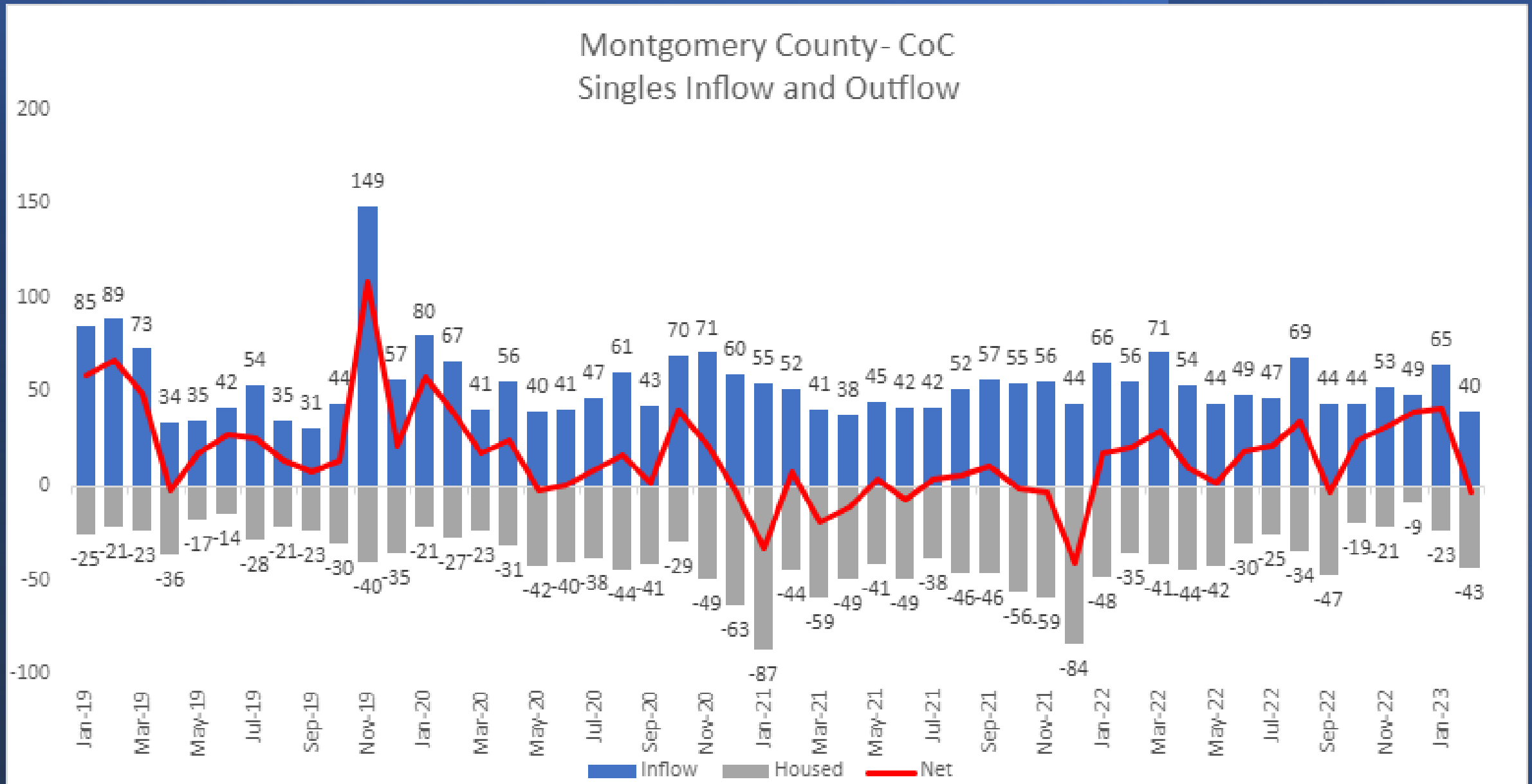
Rapid Rehousing

Community Based Permanent Housing

Market Rate
Subsidized
Shared

Street Outreach

Permanent Supportive Housing

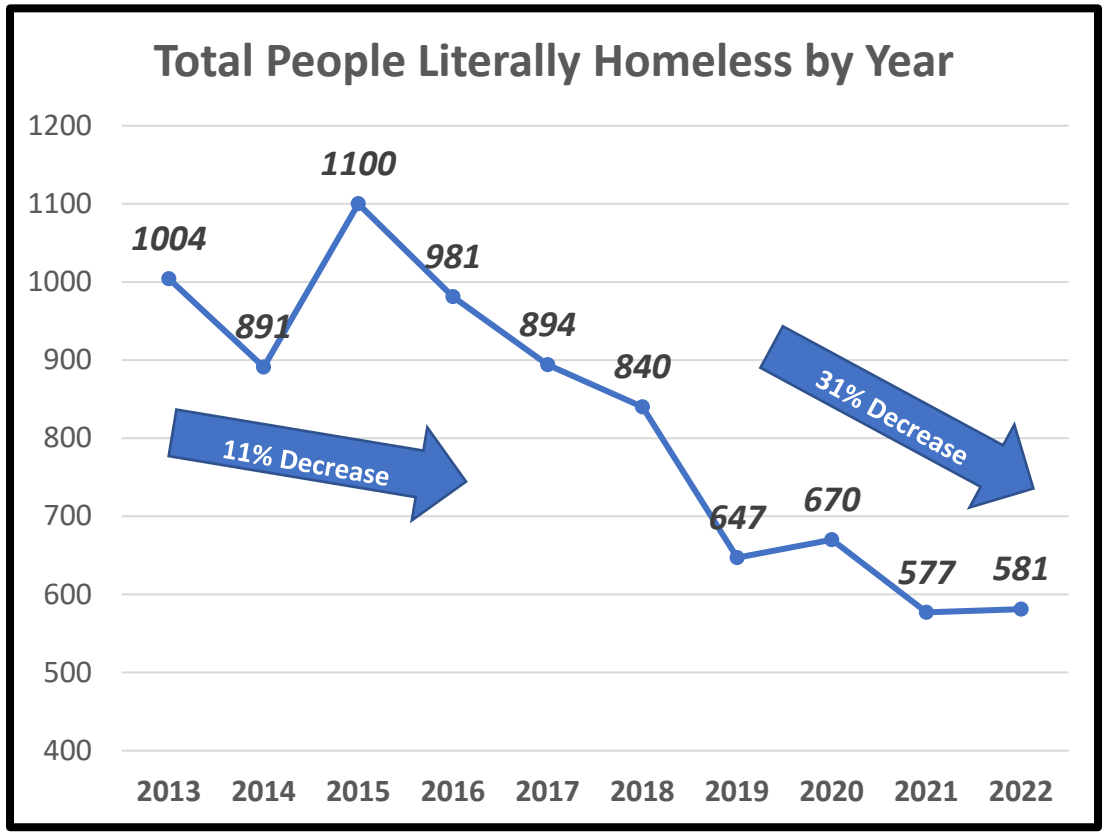

Montgomery County- CoC
Singles Inflow and Outflow
200
150
100
50
0
-50
-100
Jan-19
Mar-19
May-19
Jul-19
Sep-19
Nov-19
Jan-20
Mar-20
May-20
Jul-20
Sep-20
Nov-20
Jan-21
Mar-21
May-21
Jul-21
Sep-21
Nov-21
Jan-22
Mar-22
May-22
Jul-22
Sep-22
Nov-22
Jan-23
Inflow
Housed
Net

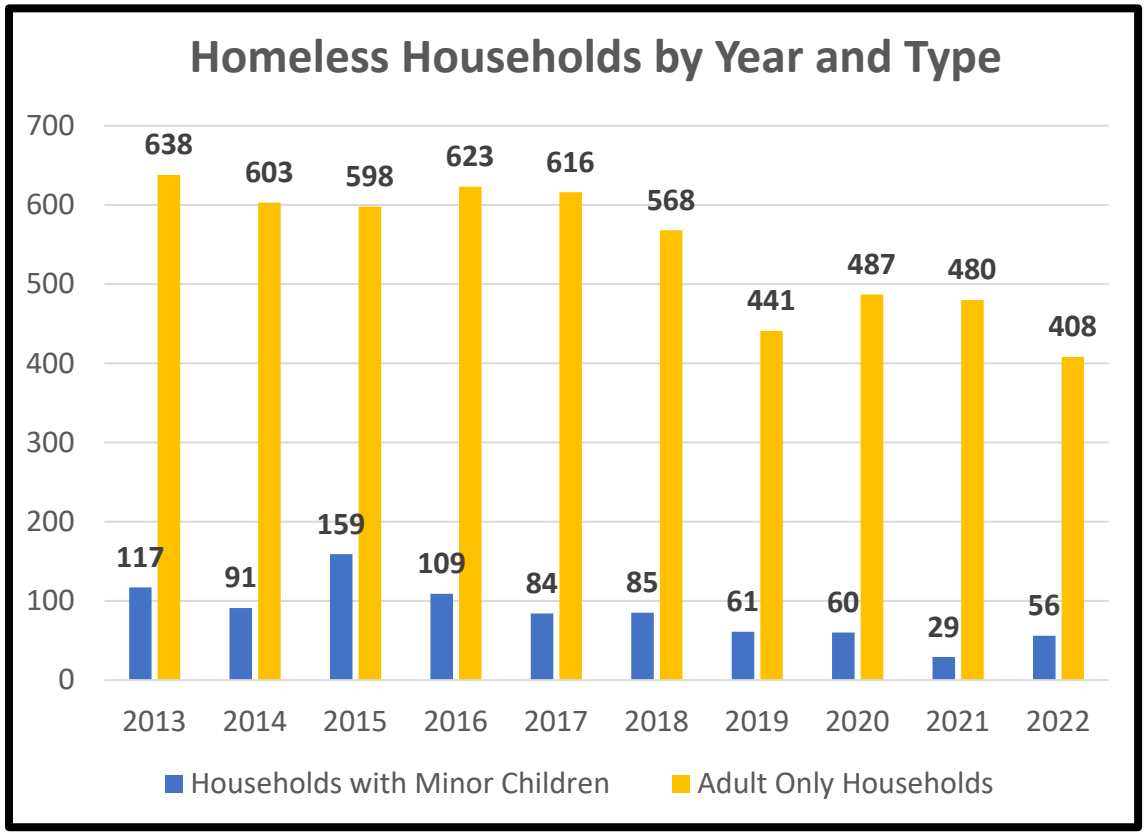
Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count: 10 Year Review

41% Decrease in Homelessness since 2013

36% Reduction in the # of Adult-Only Households

50% Reduction in the # of Households with Children





Montgomery County Emergency Shelters and Outreach Programs

Emergency Shelters

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S YEAR-ROUND AND WINTER INVENTORY OF BEDS			
	Year-Round Beds for Households w/o Children	Year-Round Beds for Households w/children	Total Beds
COVID19 Social Distancing Expansion of shelters, Seasonal, and Overflow	73	73	146
Year- Round Emergency Shelter Beds	323	113	436
Transitional / Haven Beds	53	23	76
TOTALS	449	209	653

Homeless Outreach Services

Outreach Provider	Hours of Operation	Service Areas
Every mind	9 am-5 pm - Rotating AM and PM	Up County - areas north of Randolph Road, Montrose Road, and Falls Road
Bethesda Cares	5 am-5 pm Rotating outreach hours extend to 11 pm	Down County - areas south of Randolph Road, Montrose Road, and Falls Road
City of Gaithersburg	On-call 24/7	Gaithersburg City Limits ONLY
Pathways to Housing	6 am-7pm	Downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton

Unsheltered "blitz" count

In addition to the Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count (PIT), Montgomery County typically conducts two more count of unsheltered households in the spring and fall. Due to the pandemic, counts were limited to annual fall count and the PIT.

A recent Blitz count was conducted in May 2022 and results are currently being calculated.

- Limitations
  - Possible duplication
  - Different to track those in unknown encampments, particularly in the more rural areas of the county as well as those sleeping in abandoned buildings
  - Certain populations including families with children and immigrants may not want to be found for fear of the consequences.
  - It is not always so easy to identify people as homeless. This is particularly relevant for young adults.

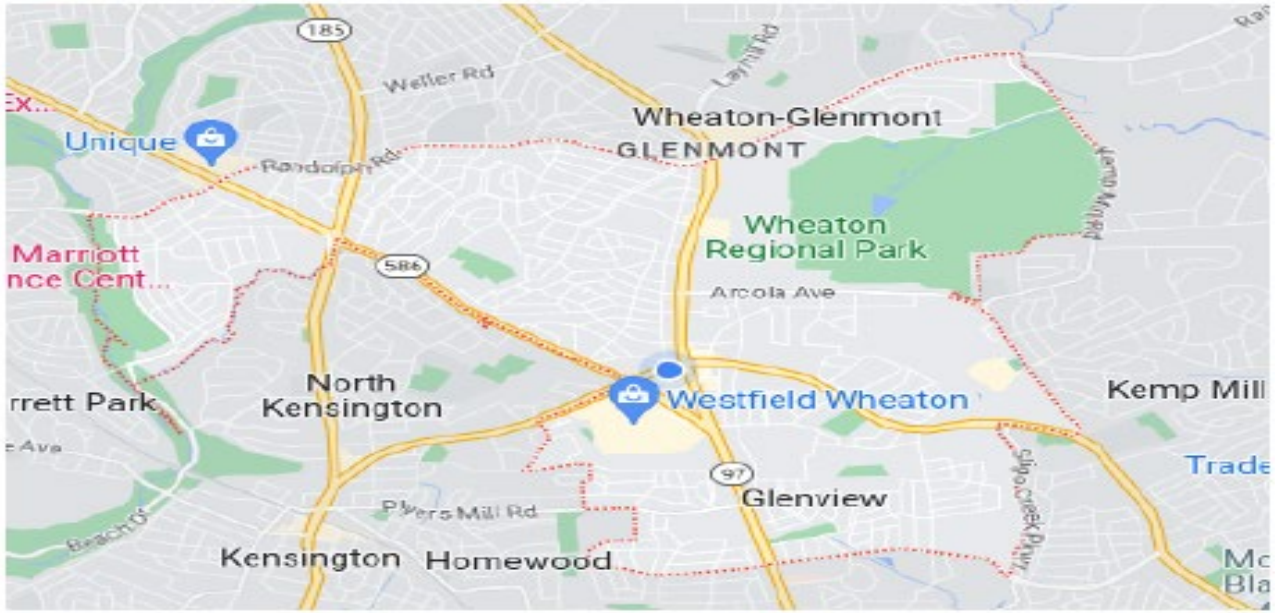
- Methodology:
  - Visual count occurs over a 3-day period from 11PM to 8AM.
  - Includes households known to outreach providers and observed unsheltered within 7 days of the count.

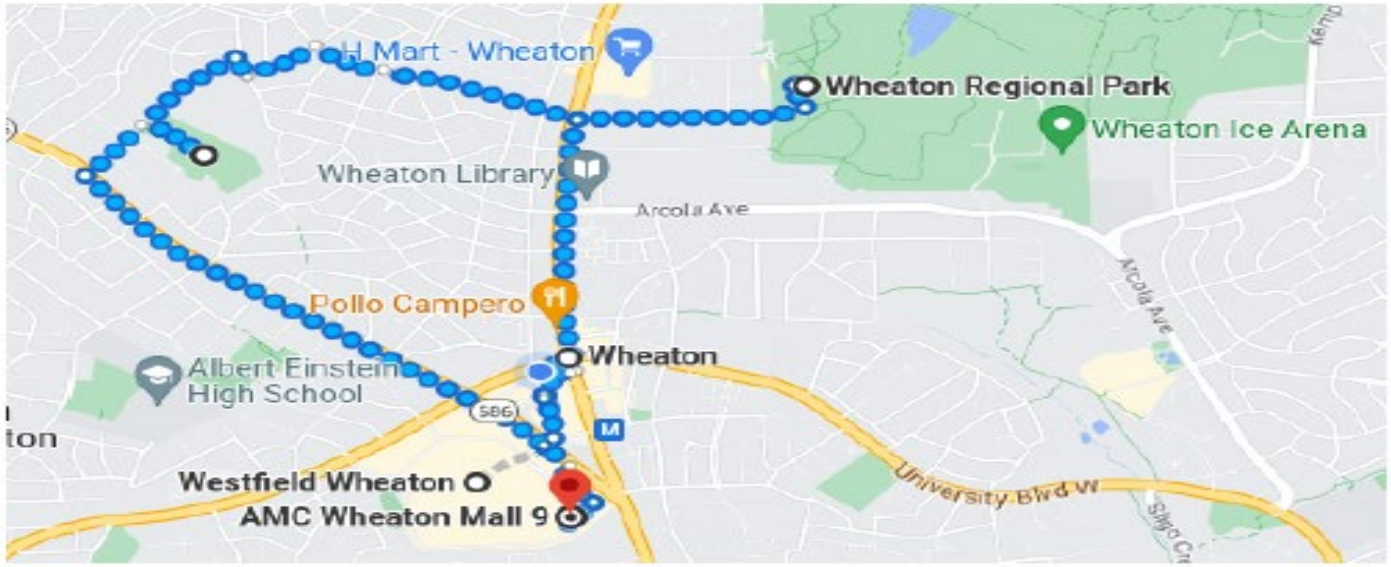
Unsheltered “blitz” count

Methodology	May 2019	September 2019	October 2020	May 2021	September 2021	June 2022
Areas covered	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide	Countywide
Number of Days	Three nights	Three nights	Three Nights	Three Nights	Three nights	Three nights
Time	11:00pm to 8am	11:00pm to 8am	11:00pm to 8am	11:00pm to 8am	11pm to 8am	11:00pm to 8am
Observation Method	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle	On foot and from Vehicle
Engagement	No	No	No	No	No	No
Total Unsheltered Count Results	137	165	114	58	88	84

Wheaton Specific homeless outreach services provided by Pathways to DC Montgomery County Programs

Wheaton Maps





Pathways Homeless Outreach

Dedicated canvassing hours

Monday : Silver Spring

Tuesday : Wheaton Library In-Reach (11am - 1pm)

Wednesday : Silver Spring Library In-Reach (11am-1pm)

Thursday : Wheaton-

Friday : Silver Spring/ Wheaton

Pathways to Housing DC

Project HOME Outreach Services

About Us

The mission of Pathways to Housing DC (Pathways) is to move people experiencing chronic homelessness and living with mental health challenges, serious medical issues, and/or co-occurring addictions from a life on the streets (or in shelters, psychiatric hospitals, and jails) directly into permanent homes without pre-conditions using the Housing First model.

Since 2017, Pathways has partnered with Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services to create a unique Housing First Integrated Behavioral Health team designed to serve individuals experiencing homelessness who have a primary substance use disorder. This work expanded in 2020 to include a street outreach team dedicated to providing intensive street outreach focused primarily in downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton. The street outreach team also works closely with property managers and businesses as they navigate complex issues related to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Pathways to Housing DC provides home, health, and hope to more than 3,500 individuals who are experiencing or at risk for homelessness in the national capital area.

Our Mission

Our Outreach staff works to build trust with those experiencing homelessness first by helping to meet some of their basic needs (including food, clothing, showers, laundry, transportation, identification, etc.). Then, they partner with each individual to access housing, employment, medical care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and other services. The approach is not about maintaining homelessness; it is about ending homelessness for those living on the street in downtown Silver Spring and Wheaton.

The Outreach team also responds to concerns about people experiencing homelessness in the area from police, other social service providers, business owners, workers, residents, and Montgomery County visitors.

Contact Us

6 AM-7 PM, Monday-Friday

For non-emergency referrals, please email us at PHOutreach@pathwaysdc.org. We will respond to your referral within one business day confirming the next steps to address community concerns.

For immediate outreach response, please call us at 301-569-2732. We will respond to the service call within 15 minutes and appropriately coordinate with appropriate services.

In the event of immediate danger of the client to themselves or others, please contact 911.

Montgomery County Homeless Information Line- If you want to support our neighbors in need in accessing services, you can also call 240-907-2688 for 24/7 support

When and Who to call?

Pathways to Housing DC **Homeless Outreach Services** 301-569-2732	**Police Matter** 911 *301-279-8000*	**EMS/ Crisis Center** 911 240-777-4000
• An individual who is sleeping outside, in need of shelter or emergency housing. • An individual who is a vulnerable person, who is looking for help. • Support unsheltered clients with immediate materials (food,clothes and hygiene products).	• Removal of a person, tent or encampment • Individual trespassing,sleeping on private property after business hours. • An individual who is actively fighting or making violent threats to others. An individual who has committed any crime, ie (indecent exposure, theft, robbery etc.	• An individual who is experiencing a mental breakdown and is in a stage of crisis. • An individual who is making statements to hurt themselves if any weapons are present call (POLICE) and advise that the individual has a weapon. • An individual who is experiencing any health related issue, ie (stroke, heart related, unconsciousness, etc

Montgomery County residents Make the Right Call by using:

- *9-1-1 only for emergencies,*
- *301-279-8000 only to report non-emergencies, and*
- *3-1-1 for general Montgomery County government information.*

IMPORTANT: 9-1-1 is equipped to accept text messages.
301-279-8000, 3-1-1, and 240-777-0311 ARE NOT equipped to accept text messages.

What you'll be asked when you call 9-1-1:

- The **location** of the emergency – the exact address, intersection, place name (for example shopping center, school, hotel, etc.)
- The **nature of the emergency** (what is going on right now, description of people and/or vehicles involved, **any weapons involved**, how long ago did the incident occur)
- If it is a **medical emergency** you will be asked questions about the patient's physical condition

- Your (the caller's) name and telephone number – a request to remain anonymous will be honored
- Whether you want an officer to respond to see you
- To be prepared to follow any instructions the call taker gives you. Call takers can provide step-by-step information about what to do until help arrives.

Questions?

Detailed reports and Printable Brochures

- https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Homelessness/Resources/Files/Documents/Annual%20Reports/2022-ICHAnnualReport%20.pdf
- https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Homelessness/Resources/Files/Documents/HomelessResouceGuides/Jan2023-FINAL-English-Homeless%20Services%20Resource%20Brochure-4%20Panel.pdf
- https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Homelessness/Resources/Files/Documents/HomelessResouceGuides/Jan2023-FINAL-Spanish-Homeless%20Services%20Resource%20Brochure-4%20Panel.pdf