



MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE

REIA #26-48 Homeless Solutions Grant

Requesting Agency/Department(s)	Dollar Amount
Department of Health and Human Services	\$1,346,171
Funding Source	
State Grant	

Finding

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESJ) finds that *Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-48, Homeless Solutions Grant*, advances racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County as the funds will largely support individuals with the greatest expressed needs who are experiencing housing-related crises. Due to historical and structural barriers in housing, employment, and healthcare access, Black and Hispanic/Latino populations are disproportionately represented among the homeless population. The Homelessness Solutions Program (HSP)¹ helps communities across Maryland prevent and end homelessness by providing technical support and funding to Continuums of Care (CoCs) and Local Homeless Coalitions (LHCs), which work together to help connect people to housing programs, shelters, and other services. Funds provided by this supplemental request will enable investment in essential services such as rental assistance and case management, which help to reduce barriers to housing, and improve outcomes for those most affected by systemic inequities, including those who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

Background

Purpose

The purpose of SA #26-48 is to provide funding for homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, street outreach, maintenance, staffing, administration, and operation of homeless shelters and post-shelter transitional units. This also includes costs for case management and client services and

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-48 Page 2

assistance to sheltered persons to facilitate their transition to permanent housing and independent living.

Additional Background Information

As previously noted, the State funding provided by SA #26-48 finances and provides technical assistance to CoCs, local and regional organizations responsible for coordinating homelessness services.² The Montgomery County Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) is governed by the Interagency Commission on Homelessness (ICH). The CoC Lead for Montgomery County is the Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH) division of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Montgomery County CoC provides a full range of services to people experiencing homelessness, including:³

- Prevention and Diversion Strategies
- Outreach and Engagement
- Emergency and Transitional Shelter
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

The Montgomery County CoC applies six primary strategies to its work. These include:⁴

1. Reducing Racial Disparities Across the System;
2. Building and Supporting Strong and Adaptable Programs;
3. Building and Supporting Affordable Housing Solutions within the Homeless Continuum;
4. Coordinating Effectively Across Other Systems of Care;
5. Increasing and Diversifying Funding; and
6. Educating and Advocating for Change.

Relevant REIAs and Other Assessments

ORESJ has conducted REIAs since 2021. The following REIAs are relevant to supplemental appropriation #26-48.

- REIA #25-42 Services to End and Prevent Homelessness (SEPH), The Short-term Housing and Resolution Program SHARP, Shelter Services Expansion, Rental Assistance Program (RAP), and Housing Stabilization Services (HSS) Eviction Prevention Program
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/25-42.pdf>
- REIA #24-72 Amendment to the FY24 Operating Budget and Amendment to Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget Resolution 20-184 Section G, FY24 Designation of Entities for

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-48 Page 3

Non-Competitive Contract Award Status: The Montgomery County Government, Department of Health and Human Services, Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, Shelter Services, Overflow and Security expansion

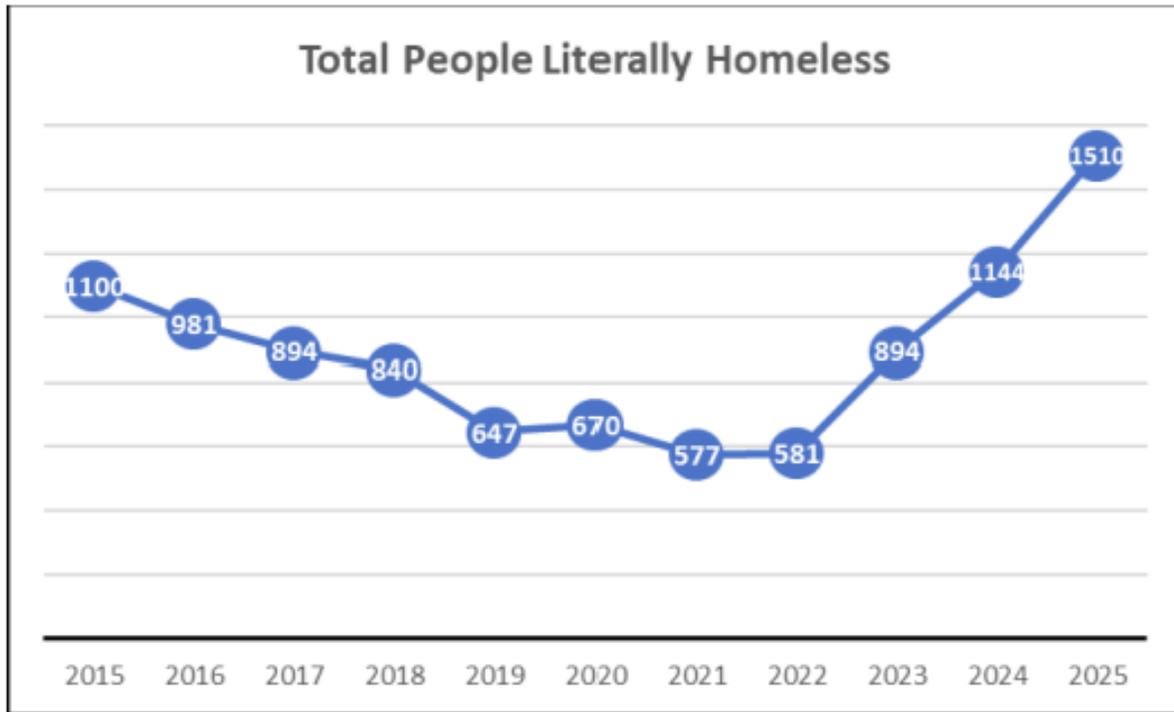
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-72.pdf>

- REIA #24-14 Implementation of the Rent Stabilization Bill
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/24-14.pdf>
- REIA #23-86 FY23 Operating Budget American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief Fund – Homeless Children and Youth Grant
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ore/Resources/Files/23-86.pdf>

Analysis

Demographic Profile

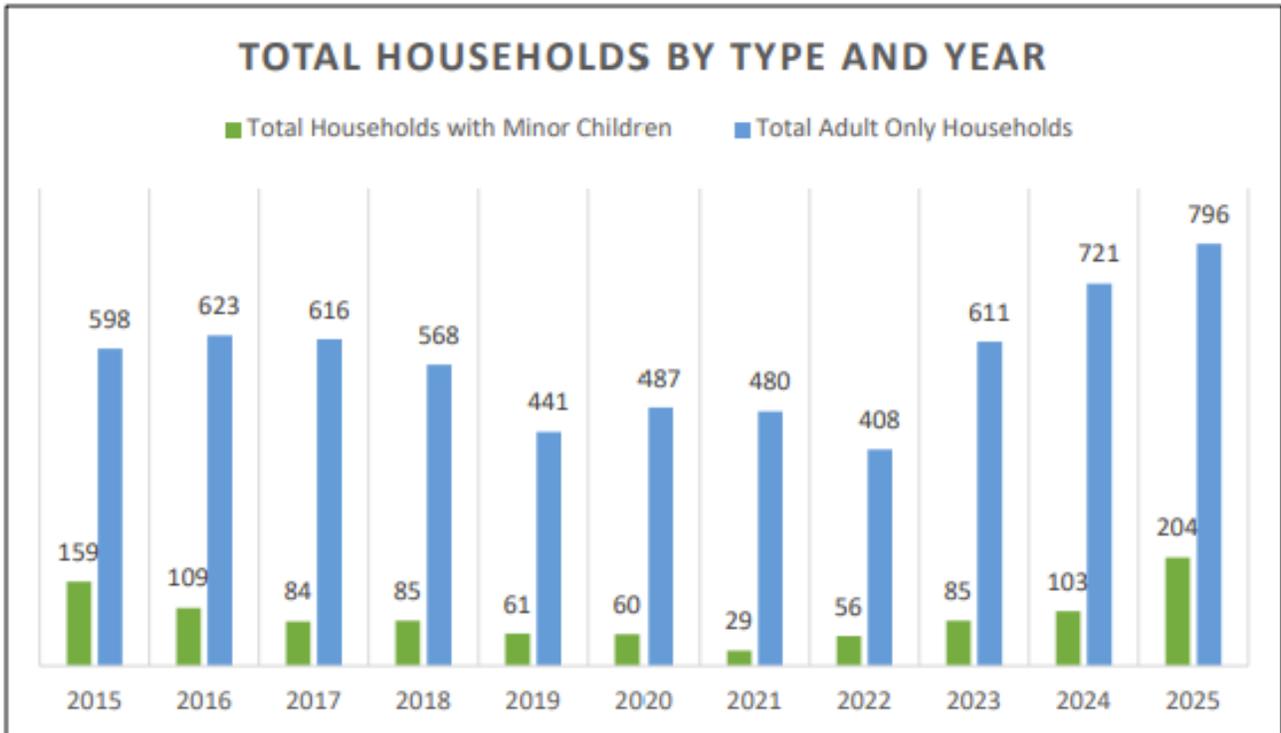
On January 29, 2025, Montgomery County conducted its Point-In-Time (PIT) survey, a critical effort that enables the County to identify unsheltered individuals and families experiencing homelessness and subsequently direct essential resources and services to those in need. Shelter and housing partners also provided a count of the people served in their programs on the same night. Data collected from the 2025 PIT revealed 1,510 unhoused individuals that night, an increase of 32% from 2024.⁵ The *Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness* identified numerous factors contributing to the increase in homelessness, including a lack of affordable housing in the County, continually increasing rents, inflation, and the end of Covid-era Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds, which has led to increased evictions.⁶



Data Source: Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

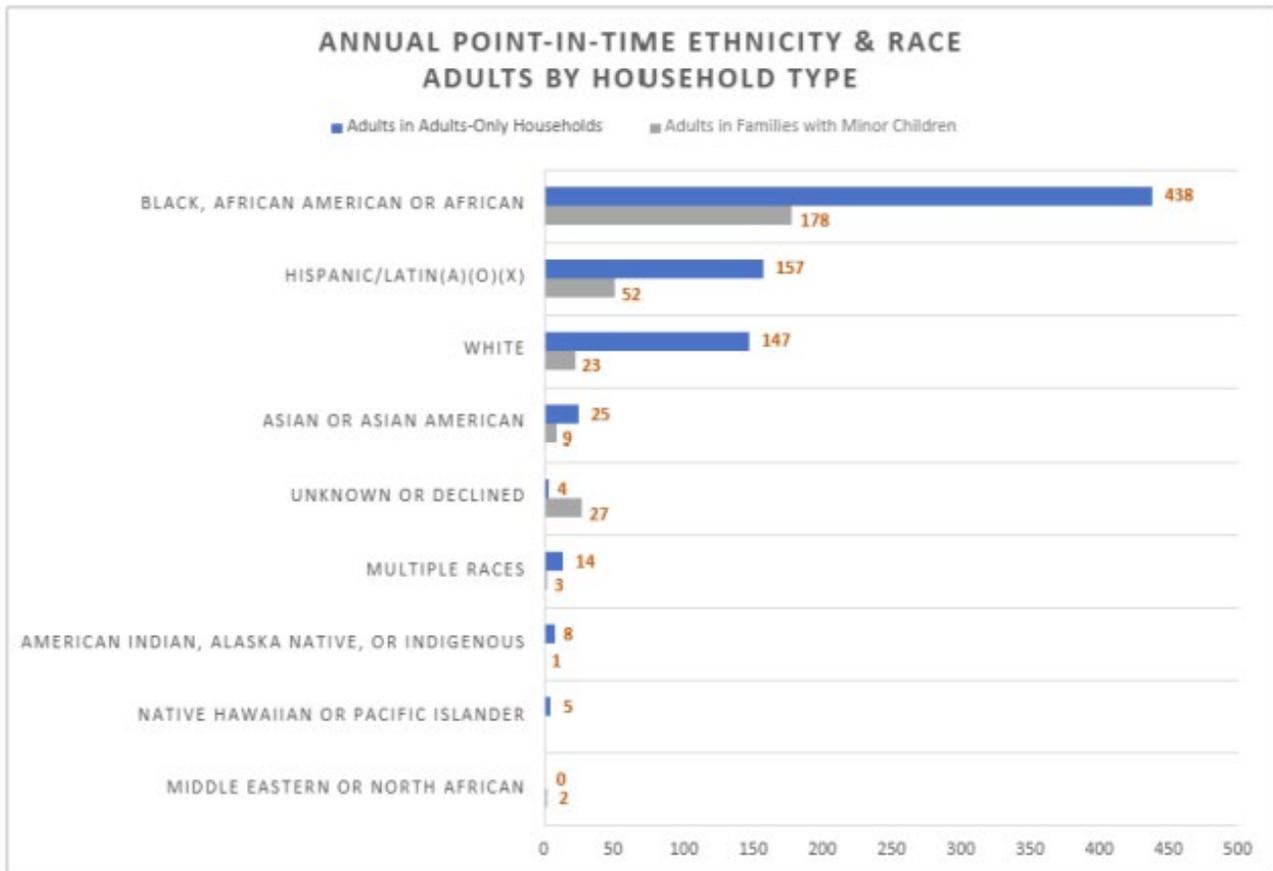
<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>

The end of Covid-era federal funding has also had a particularly adverse impact on families since the pandemic. The 2025 Montgomery County PIT revealed the number of homeless households increased to 204 from 103 the previous year, representing a 98% increase, with the average household size comprising a family of four.⁷ Leading up to and during the COVID pandemic, there was a significant decrease in family homelessness, with the eviction moratorium being in effect and federally funded COVID-19 Rent Relief Programming being available. The end of these preventive measures, coupled with the economic impact of the pandemic, has resulted in a drastic increase in family homelessness over the past three years.



Data Source: Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness
<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>

The 2025 Montgomery County PIT also demonstrated a disproportionately high representation of homelessness by those who identify as BIPOC. On the night of the PIT, 56% of individual adults counted identified as Black, African American, or African⁸, despite these groups representing only 19% of the County’s population⁹. Overall, 84% of individual adults counted identified as BIPOC.¹⁰



Data Source: Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>

ORESJ Research & Analysis

As the *Homelessness in Metropolitan Washington: Results and Analysis from the 2025 Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness* notes, across the Metropolitan Washington region and nationally, federal resources (particularly those with proven benefits for alleviating poverty) are becoming increasingly scarce. The addition of the ever-increasing costs of living along with goods and services makes it extremely difficult for individuals and families to make ends meet. This is especially true for low-income BIPOC families who face the most significant barriers to well-being and are acutely susceptible to disparate outcomes. While funds from the requested *Homeless Solutions Grant* represent an opportunity to address housing instability for

Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) Supplemental Appropriation (SA) #26-48 Page 7

those with the greatest expressed needs, as with recent supplemental requests coming from DHHS, Montgomery County may need to consider providing a dedicated funding stream extending beyond this request to meet the ever-increasing needs of its most vulnerable residents. Specifically, the County will need to make strategic investments in addressing the needs of its BIPOC residents, particularly those who identify as Black and immigrant individuals and families, as ongoing racial disparities make it imperative to focus on addressing the root causes of structural racism that lead to inequities such as those in housing¹¹.

Caveats

This REIA has been conducted with the best available information at the time of writing, including department responses to the Racial Equity and Social Justice template and research conducted by ORESJ Policy Team Analysts. While the assessment examines specific racial equity and social justice impacts of the funding request, it cannot fully address all systemic inequities that affect the communities in question, nor do we seek to examine impacts outside the scope of the funding request. We recommend using this assessment as a starting point for discussions about the program's impact on advancing racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County.

References

¹ <https://dhcd.maryland.gov/HomelessServices/Pages/GrantFunding.aspx>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ORE/Resources/Files/JUPITERRACIALEQUITYPROFILE.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/05/14/homelessness-in-metropolitan-washington-results-and-analysis-from-the-annual-point-in-time-pit-count-of-persons-experiencing-homelessness-featured-publications-homelessness/>

¹¹ Ibid.