



**Social Determinants of Health
July- December 2017 Update
Cecil County Community Health Advisory Committee
January 18, 2018**

Goal 3.1 Reduce the burden of poverty in Cecil County to improve the overall health of Cecil County residents.

Objective 3.1.1: By October 30, 2016, research existing and new or innovative anti-poverty programs/ initiatives for implementation in Cecil County.

Strategies:

1. Get information on the anti-poverty program recently presented at the BHA Child/Adolescent Conference.
2. Identify & research existing anti-poverty programs in the county.
3. Investigate Carroll County’s program model.
4. Review all options as a group.

Status: On hold - *Bridges to Opportunity* and *Open Table* are two anti-poverty models that communities have implemented at the local level and have been selected for further review. The next step is to determine local agency interest in implementation.

Goal 3.2: Reduce the prevalence of homelessness in Cecil County to improve the overall health of the community and its residents.

Objective 3.2.1: By June 2018, expand services and interventions for homeless individuals/families to decrease prevalence of homelessness in Cecil County by 10%. Services/interventions will be based on three tiers including 1) emergency /immediate assistance, 2) intermediate/ short-term assistance, and 3) longer term assistance geared toward those experiencing chronic homeless.

Strategy 1: Related to all tiers, implement a county-wide coordinated assessment system for efficient linkage to services and housing options for all.

Status: Progressing – Received some technical assistance from a HUD contracted TA provider in November on how to put coordinated entry in place for transitional housing projects. Coordinated entry for chronically homeless individuals/families is already in place.

Strategy 2: Related to all tiers, participate in technical assistance from HUD to develop a by-name list to end veteran’s homelessness.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.....	410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5160
ALCOHOL AND DRUG RECOVERY CENTER.....	410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION.....	410-996-5168
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS.....	410-996-5113	MENTAL HEALTH AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS SERVICES.....	410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES.....	410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY.....	800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL.....	410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL.....	410-996-5550 EXT 4680

Status: Complete -Technical assistance has ended and the by- name list is in place. It is reviewed on a bi- monthly basis by the Ending Veterans Homelessness Subcommittee. Primary federal benchmarks are that 1) veterans are re-housed within 90 days of becoming homeless and 2) every veteran is offered shelter immediately upon identification (via shelter, voucher, etc.).

Strategy 3: Related to all tiers, seek funding for, or develop case management/ housing search services whose sole eligibility criteria is that of being homeless.

Status: Progressing - As part of Maryland's HealthChoice §1115 Waiver Renewal, the State recently offered local governments the opportunity to request matching federal funds for the Assistance in Community Integration Services (ACIS) Pilot. The goal of the ACIS Pilot is to improve health outcomes for at-risk Maryland Medicaid beneficiaries by providing tenancy support services and housing case management services. Eligible individuals would be Medicaid recipients who have had 1) four or more emergency department visits or hospital admissions within a year or two or more chronic health conditions, and who also meet one of the following two criteria: 1) will experience homelessness upon release/discharge from an institutional setting or 2) are at risk for going into an institutional setting. The CCHD submitted an application and received notice of award in December. Funding will be used to support a full time case manager. Recruitment for the position is currently underway.

Strategy 4: Explore the possibility of a multidisciplinary meeting to review those at risk of homelessness or those with complex housing needs.

Status: On Hold – there are several multi-disciplinary meetings that occur already throughout the county and it has not been determined yet if housing would fit into one of those or if there should be a separate meeting.

Strategy 5: Related to tier 1, create the availability of 24 hour resource assistance to people experiencing homelessness including emergency shelter during extreme weather events.

Status: Complete – The Paris Foundation has partnered with law enforcement to create an after-hours funding source for emergency housing situations that occur during non-business hours of human service agencies. Additionally, the freezing weather plan has been updated to operate under a code blue system. After hours assistance is available through the Department of Social Services on-call staff.

Strategy 6: Related to tier 1, establish liaisons between law enforcement and provider agencies.

Status: Progressing - While there are not official liaisons, Meeting Ground, Paris Foundation, and the Health Department all have contacts to work through in the various police departments regarding issues related to homelessness. CCHD has worked especially closely with representatives from Elkton Police Department and the Sheriff's office to conduct outreach when encampments are being cleared.

Strategy 7: Related to tier 2, establish a community furniture bank to assist those transitioning from homelessness back into stable housing.

Status: Progressing – Alicia Hamilton, board president of Found in Faith Ministries, presented her experience establishing the furniture bank in Harford County to a group of Cecil County agency representatives. A committee of individuals will be established to work on the issue in Cecil County.