

Community Wellbeing In Anne Arundel County: How Data Can Help Us Build Stronger Communities

September 25, 2025

Advocacy

Using the CW Index to support the case for community investment (in recreational space, affordable childcare, etc.)

You are advocating for your community to have additional funding for child care spots, and want to use the CW Index to provide supporting data.

Step One: Navigate to the **Access** tab on the left-hand side of the screen.

Step Two: Navigate to the **Child Care** tab on the bottom of the screen.

Step Three: Note the **county-wide average** number of children per childcare spot in the bottom left of the screen (5.7).

Step Four: Click the **magnifying glass** in the upper right hand corner of the map. Enter the address/city/area you are advocating for. For this example, let's look at Northeast Middle School.

Step Five: Determine the area you are interested in advocating for. If it is just the one census tract around Northeast Middle School, click on that **census tract** and note the updated number of children per childcare spot: 11.5. If you would like to advocate for a larger area, perhaps Green Haven into Stoney Creek Park and to the shore, use the **lasso tool** in the top left hand corner and select all census tracts in the area you are advocating for. The average number of children per childcare spot in this area is 8.9, which is higher than average.

Grant-writing

Using the CW Index to substantiate need for grants (for after school programs, mental health centers, etc.)

You are applying for a grant that provides funds for low income zip codes in the county. Your organization works in zip code 21225. You need to substantiate that need.

Step One: Navigate to the **Prosperity** tab on the left-hand side of the screen.

Step Two: Navigate to the **Income** tab on the bottom of the screen.

Step Three: Note the **county-wide average** median household income in the bottom left of the screen (\$124.5K).

Step Four: Look for areas of the county that appear **light green** (indicating lower median household income).

Step Five: Click on the **stack of boxes** in the top right corner (layers button), then select the **Zip Codes** layer.

Step Five: Use the **lasso tool** in the top left corner to capture an average for the zip code 21225 (\$80.1K).

[Click here to visit the CW Index!](#)

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Serve community members

Using the CW Index to better understand your community's needs

You are involved in a community organization (PTA, HOA, church, etc.) and want to know more about the area you serve. You're not sure what you're looking for, you just want to know more about your area relative to the rest of the County.

Step One: Navigate to the [View the data side by side](#) tab on the left-hand side of the screen.

Step Two: Click on your [census tract](#) in each of the maps. For the purposes of this example, we'll use Census Tract 7515 which is just south of Maryland City in the North West part of the county.

Step Three: Note the raw value of your census tract and compare it to the average raw value for the county at the bottom of the screen. You can repeat this for each of the tabs at the bottom (Safety, Health, and Access)

Prosperity		County Average	Census Tract 7515	Comparison
Homeownership		74.6%	67.4%	Below average
Median Household Income		\$124,500	\$81,623	Below average
Housing Cost Burden	Renter	44.1%	77.1%	Above average
	Owner	17.2%	16.4%	Below average
Poverty		14.7%	32.8%	Above average
Educational Attainment		93.6%	87%	Below average

After completing the comparison of your census tract against county averages, you notice that your census tract has a below average rate of owners who are cost burdened. However, you also notice that your housing tract has a lower median household income, lower homeownership rate, and lower educational attainment at a high school level compared to the County overall.

You could repeat these steps to learn more about your census tract in terms of health, security, and access (in general, your census tract appears to do well with vehicle access, grocery store access, and broadband access. Your census tract has a high portion of residents who could benefit from translation services, physical health supports, and income/wealth building support.)

If you wanted to dive deeper into any of these metrics or see how the area around your census tract performs, you can use the tabs on the left (Prosperity, Safety, Health, and Access) to do so. You could also learn more about the demographic makeup of your tract by layering other data over top using the box in the top right corner of each map. In doing so, you might notice that your census tract is home to many Hispanic/Latino residents.

[Click here to visit the CW Index!](#)