



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

Anne Arundel County Community Plan for Children, Youth and Families

FY2027-FY2030



About Our Community Plan

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank our partners for their input in helping us create our Community Plan for Anne Arundel County.

PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Partnership for Children, Youth and Families Board is composed of public and private community representatives who share the responsibility for overseeing a community-based, interagency, and family-focused service delivery system for children, youth, and families. The board includes community leaders as well as representatives required by statute from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health, Department of Juvenile Services, Anne Arundel County Mental Health Agency, Anne Arundel County Public School System, and the Department of Social Services.

To view the full list of members, [CLICK HERE](#).



ATTENDEES OF
48

Community of
Hope Meetings

ATTENDEES OF
42

Brooklyn Park
Collaborative
Meetings

GUIDING COALITION

OVER **200** INDIVIDUALS

representing 30+ agencies and
non-profit partners across Anne
Arundel County

181 FOCUS GROUPS AND
KEY INFORMANT PARTICIPANTS

including community members,
parents and caregivers, early
educators, health care
professionals, volunteers,
community partners, and others

SPOKE WITH
1,500

Brooklyn Park residents (Brooklyn
Park Community Needs
Assessment)



A Message from Leadership

Anne Arundel County's FY2027-FY2030 Community Plan for Children, Youth and Families is based on qualitative and quantitative data collected by the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families for [Poverty Amidst Plenty VIII](#) - our 2025 community needs assessment. The report identifies four neighborhoods in the county with multiple negative social determinants of health, including poverty, limited job opportunities, lack of available transportation, unhealthy housing, and few recreation and leisure opportunities. In these areas, the population is disproportionately African American and Latino, setting a geography and color of poverty for our county.

The four areas: 1) Brooklyn Park/North County, 2) Laurel, Meade, Severn/West County, 3) Lothian/South County, and 4) public and subsidized housing in Annapolis, have been our focus since 2014. We call these areas our Communities of Hope. In each one, we are collaborating with neighbors, partners, and decisionmakers to ensure our communities are places where children and families are healthy, happy, safe, and have real opportunities to build wealth.

The ENOUGH Initiative, a place-based approach to poverty and wealth building introduced by Governor Wes Moore, complements our work in

each Community of Hope by offering resources and technical support, an excellent example of state and county government and local residents working together to address inequities.

In Brooklyn Park, we are piloting a model to move families from crisis to flourishing by blending ENOUGH Initiative and O'Neil Foundation dollars. The resulting Flourishing Families initiative focuses on economic stability and wealth building, with plans to replicate the model across all four Communities of Hope pending the results of the pilot.

The FY2027-FY2030 Community Plan was co-created by the Partnership's Board and Guiding Coalition, along with thousands of residents who raised their voices to help shape strategies for making Anne Arundel County the best place for ALL. I am proud to present this plan on behalf of the Partnership for Children, Youth and Families, the Anne Arundel County Executive, and the many residents who gave their time and energy to make it happen. This plan is data-driven, progressive, and full of hope for the future.

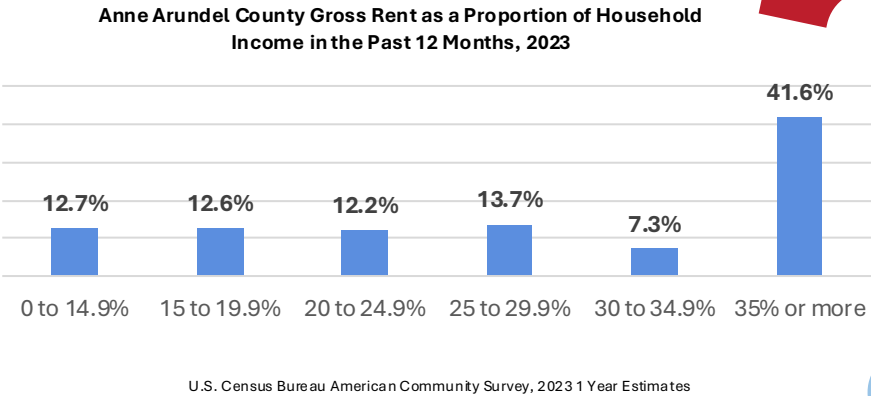


A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P M Brown".

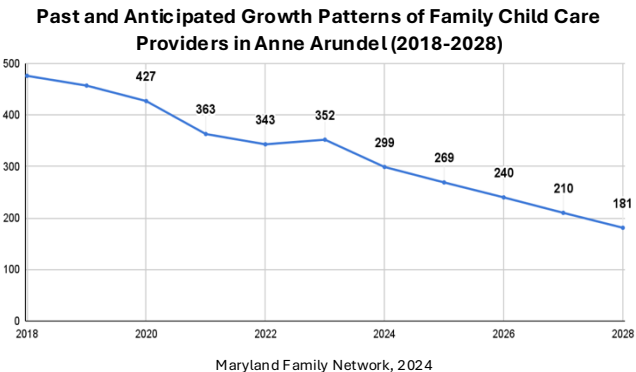
Pamela Brown, PhD
Executive Director, Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth and Families

Systemic Needs

1 AFFORDABLE HOUSING



2 CHILDCARE



Early Childhood Annual Wage Rate Information	
Public School Teacher Salary (AA County) ¹	\$75,294
Public Teacher Salary Average MD ¹	\$79,420
Non Public School Teacher Salary Average (National) ²	\$67,201
Family Child Care Provider (County) ³	\$38,172
Child Care Center Director (County) ³	\$40,263
Center Senior Staff/Teacher (County) ³	\$31,309
Center Aide (County) ³	\$22,084

1. Average Teacher Salary MSDE Sept 2023
2. National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) 2022-2023 Year
3. MFN's 2022 Statewide Survey of Family Childcare Providers and Childcare Centers
Maryland Family Network, 2024

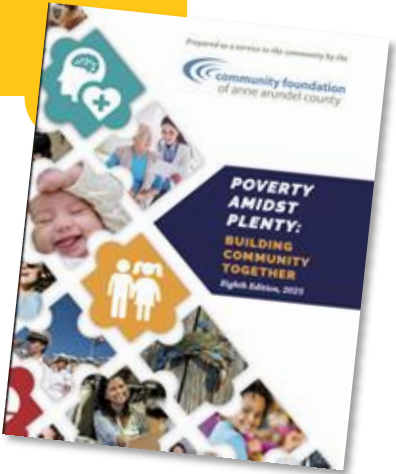


County Executive Pittman's vision
for Anne Arundel County:
The Best Place For All.

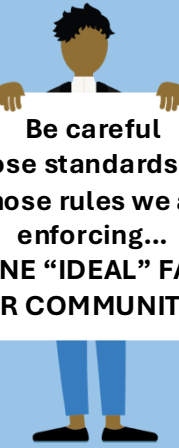


3 TRANSPORTATION

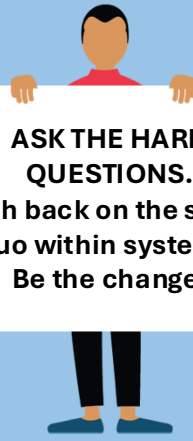
Transportation continues to be a significant challenge for low-income residents. Although 70% of residents drove alone to work in 2024, more than 4,000 walked to their jobs, underscoring gaps in reliable and affordable transit options. Participants in the Poverty Amidst Plenty Needs Assessment identified transportation as one of the top three barriers to economic mobility. Even for families who own a vehicle, the rising costs of gas, insurance, and repairs often make consistent use unsustainable. As one participant shared, “I have a single mother trying to work, and she doesn't have enough money to put gas in her car.” While the Department of Transportation has expanded call-and-ride services and added a connector in Brooklyn Park, countywide service remains limited to five buses without extended hours, leaving critical access gaps.



Guiding Principles and Priorities for Collective Action



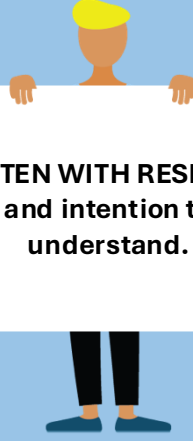
Be careful
whose standards and
whose rules we are
enforcing...
**NO ONE "IDEAL" FAMILY
OR COMMUNITY.**



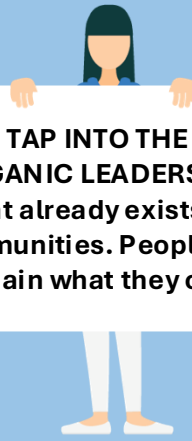
**ASK THE HARD
QUESTIONS.**
Push back on the status
quo within systems.
Be the change.



**ENSURE AUTHENTIC
REPRESENTATION.** Don't
do anything
about us, without us.



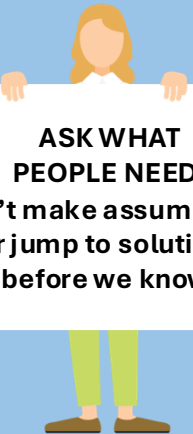
LISTEN WITH RESPECT
and intention to
understand.



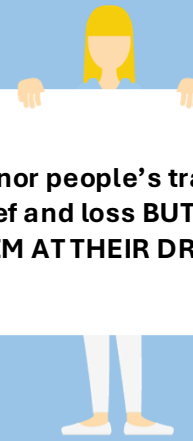
**TAP INTO THE
ORGANIC LEADERSHIP**
that already exists in
communities. People will
sustain what they own.



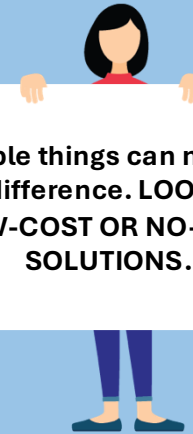
**FOCUS ON BUILDING
TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS**
and commit to showing up
and following up.



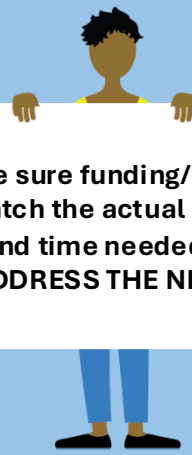
**ASK WHAT
PEOPLE NEED.**
Don't make assumptions
or jump to solutions
before we know.



Honor people's trauma,
grief and loss **BUT MEET
THEM AT THEIR DREAMS.**



Simple things can make a
big difference. **LOOK FOR
LOW-COST OR NO-COST
SOLUTIONS.**

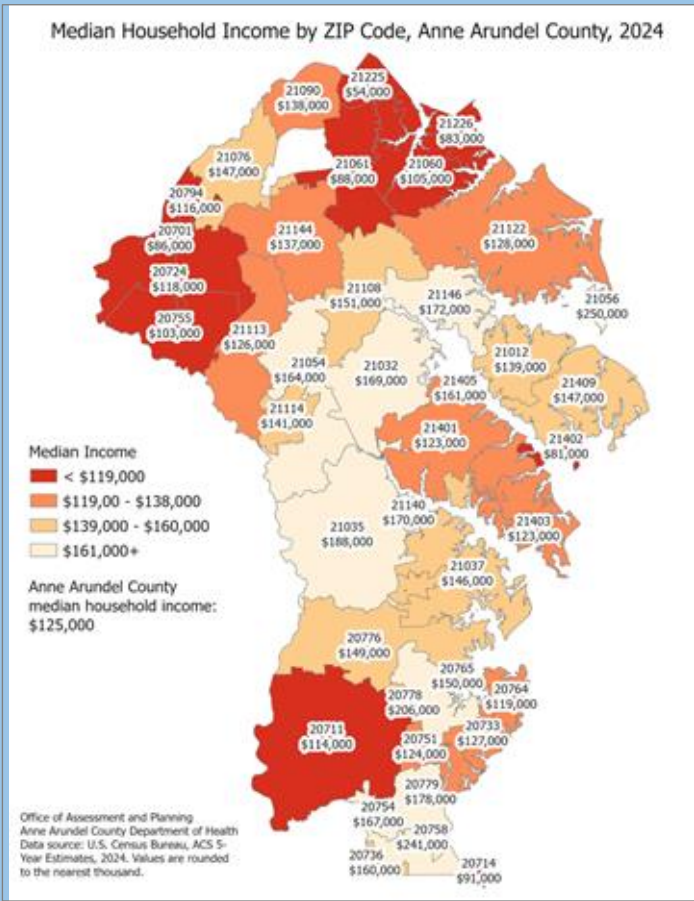
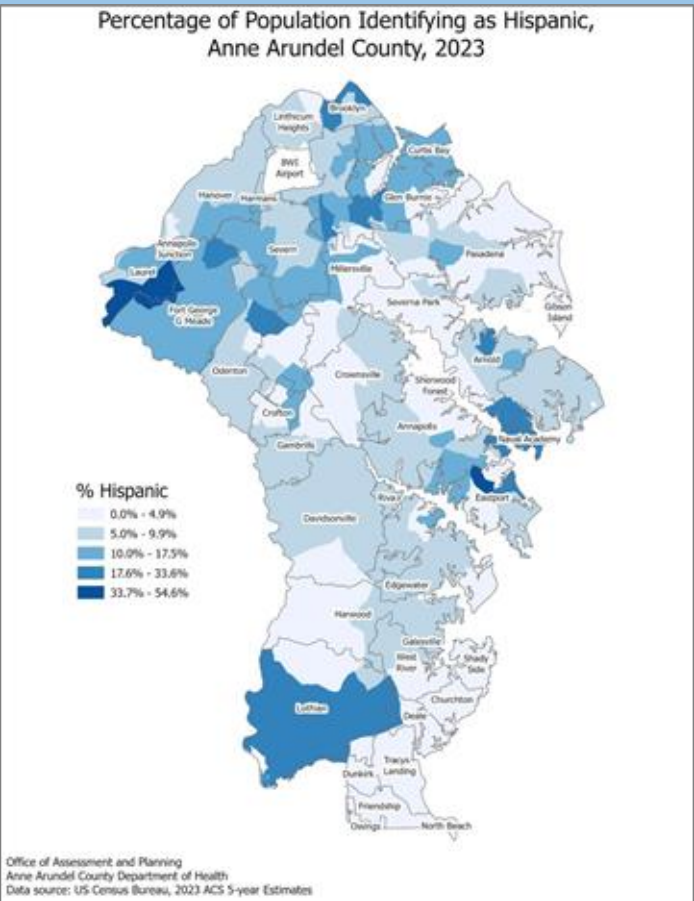
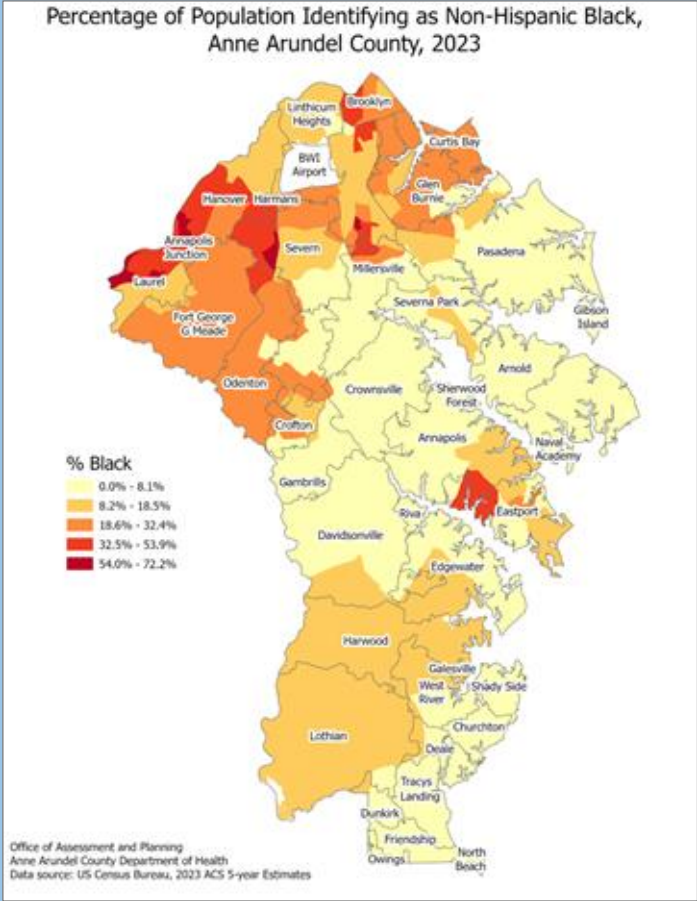


Make sure funding/ grants
match the actual need
and time needed to
ADDRESS THE NEED.



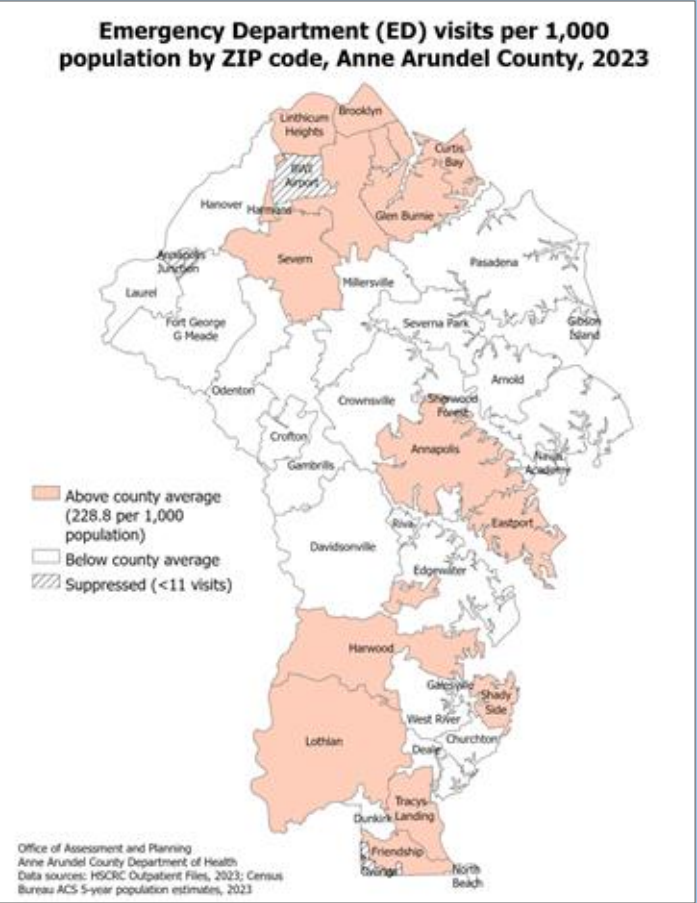
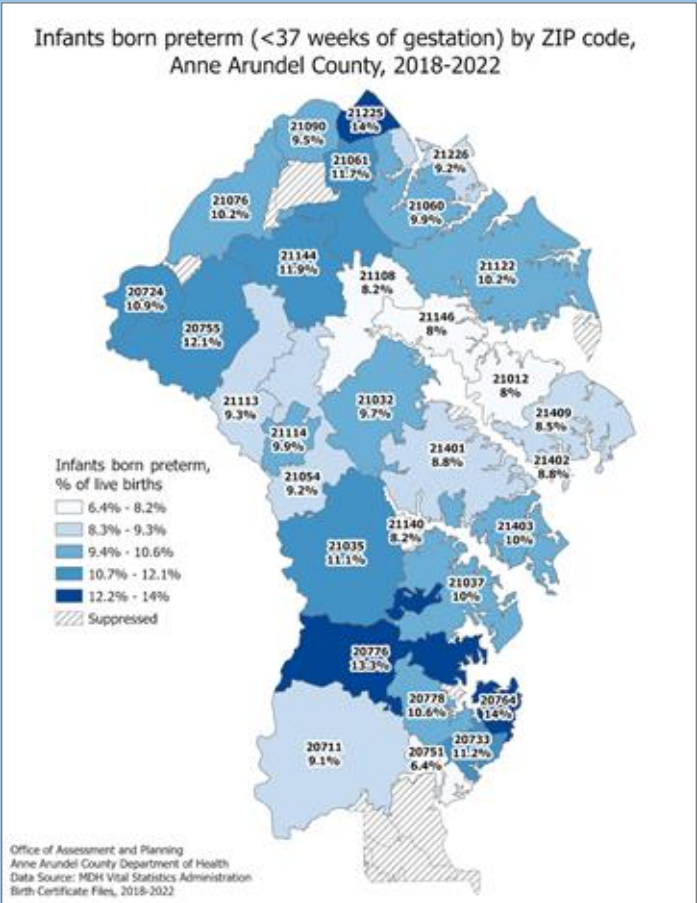
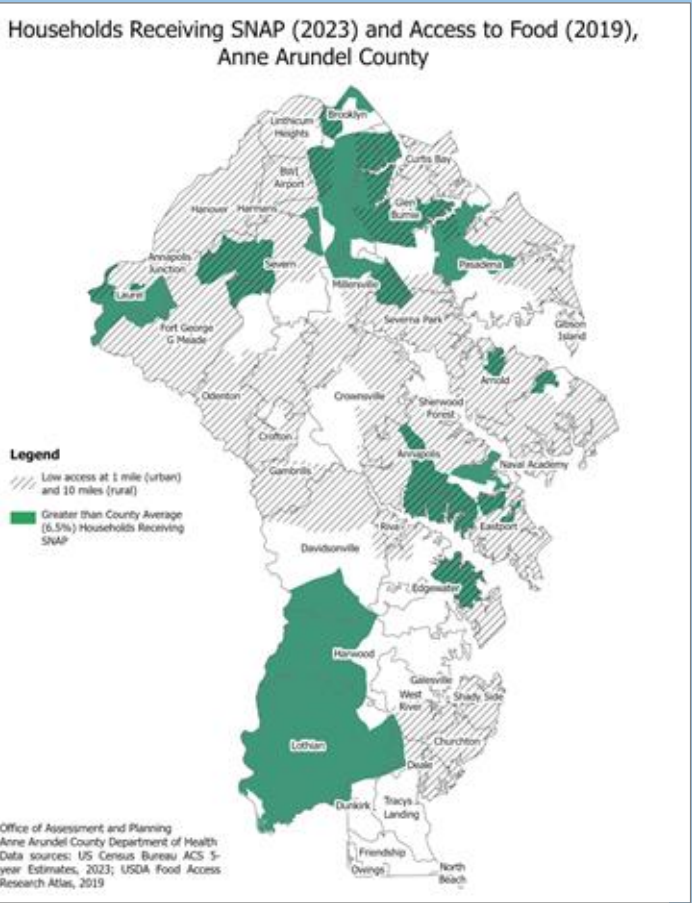
Zooming out

The color and geography of poverty



Zooming out

The color and geography of poverty



Sparking and Sustaining Collective Action

AAPCYF COMMUNITY PLAN FY2027-FY2030



An All-of-Government Approach: The ENOUGH Initiative

OUR LOCAL PRIORITIES



Affordability

Address basic needs and create pathways to economic stability and wealth building



Equity

Eliminate systemic barriers and elevate community voice to advocate for solutions



Place

Support and advance community-led solutions in our Communities of Hope



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

ENOUGH Theory of Action

GOALS: End childhood poverty & increase economic mobility in Maryland



High-Quality Childcare & Education



Healthy Families



Economically Secure Families



Safe & Thriving Communities

About Our Communities of Hope – A Place-based Approach

Since 2014, the Partnership has implemented a place-based approach to community wellness and family stability through its Communities of Hope model. In collaboration with the Maryland Department of Social Services and Casey Family Programs, the Partnership launched the first Community of Hope in Brooklyn Park, later adding three more in Annapolis, South County, and West County.

The Communities of Hope framework focuses on neighborhoods identified through the Poverty Amidst Plenty needs assessment, where residents are disproportionately African American and Hispanic and face disparities in birth outcomes, chronic disease, housing and food insecurity, transportation access, income levels, and life expectancy. Each Community of Hope provides direct services, including bilingual family navigation, kinship support groups, and multidisciplinary care coordination through the Partnership's Systems of Care that works to connect families to the right resources at the right time.

At the center of this work is resident input. Community members, along with public agencies and service providers, participate in semi-monthly meetings hosted by the Community of Hope Directors to contribute to needs assessments and play active roles in planning and accountability structures, ensuring strategies reflect lived experience and that communities are active architects of their own futures. These meetings also serve as a foundation for community planning, through which the Partnership coordinates cross-sector partners, aligns resources, and develops neighborhood strategies that are rooted in local data and accountable to measurable outcomes.

This work is further strengthened through alignment with the Governor's ENOUGH Initiative, with Brooklyn Park selected as an ENOUGH community and the Partnership serving as Community Quarterback.

ACROSS ALL FOUR COMMUNITIES, RESIDENTS
HAVE CONSISTENTLY IDENTIFIED SHARED
PRIORITIES:



Safe, reliable transportation
connecting families to jobs, services,
and community life



Affordable, accessible housing for
family stability and success



Affordable, accessible childcare to
address the opportunity gap and
improve economic opportunity



**Primary care and mental health
services** that are culturally relevant
and affordable



Healthy food access in neighborhoods
with limited grocery options



**Communication infrastructure and
bilingual services** to ensure inclusion



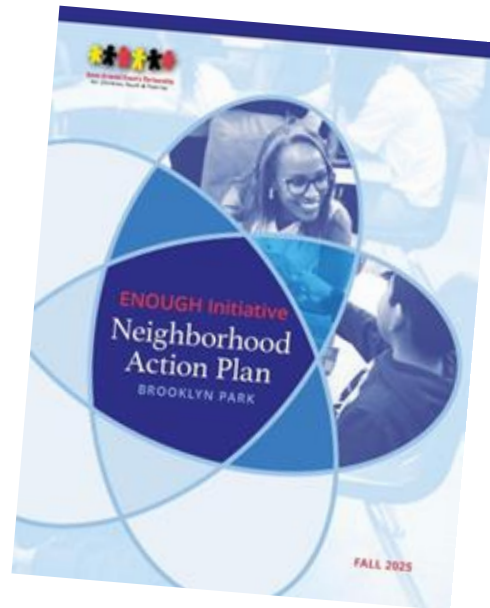
**Workforce development pathways
and apprenticeship opportunities** for
youth and adults

Brooklyn Park Community of Hope



WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON:

- Multi-generational family stability support
- Expanded family child-care
- Youth academic and enrichment support, including afterschool programs (school-based tutoring, sports, and STEM), football scholarships, and mentoring
- Youth workforce and career pathways, including entrepreneurial and mechanics apprenticeship programs
- Youth mental health support, including mental health first aid and Park Elementary Behavioral Program



WHAT'S WORKING:

The Brooklyn Park Neighborhood Action Plan was developed through a co-creative, resident-led process designed to end child poverty and increase economic mobility through the ENOUGH Initiative. Facilitated by the Partnership as the Brooklyn Park Community Quarterback, the process blended census-tract data, asset mapping, and extensive community engagement to ensure strategies reflected insights from lived experience and data. A Leadership Team with a resident voting majority, supported by a Resident Council, Partner Team, and Youth Committee, prioritized investments using clear accountability criteria. The final set of strategies represents targeted actions aligned to measurable outcomes and ongoing performance tracking.

In August 2025, Brooklyn Park was selected as a national **Investing in Flourishing** pilot, further strengthening the Plan's focus on ending child poverty, increasing economic mobility, and growing flourishing children, families, and neighborhoods.

Through a Neighborhood Action Plan, the Partnership is braiding funding and technical assistance from these state and national initiatives, to drive sustained, community-led impact. Brooklyn Park is not only saying "enough" to child poverty, it is building the systems, partnerships, and investment strategies required to help families flourish for generations to come.

Brooklyn Park Community of Hope



HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITY:



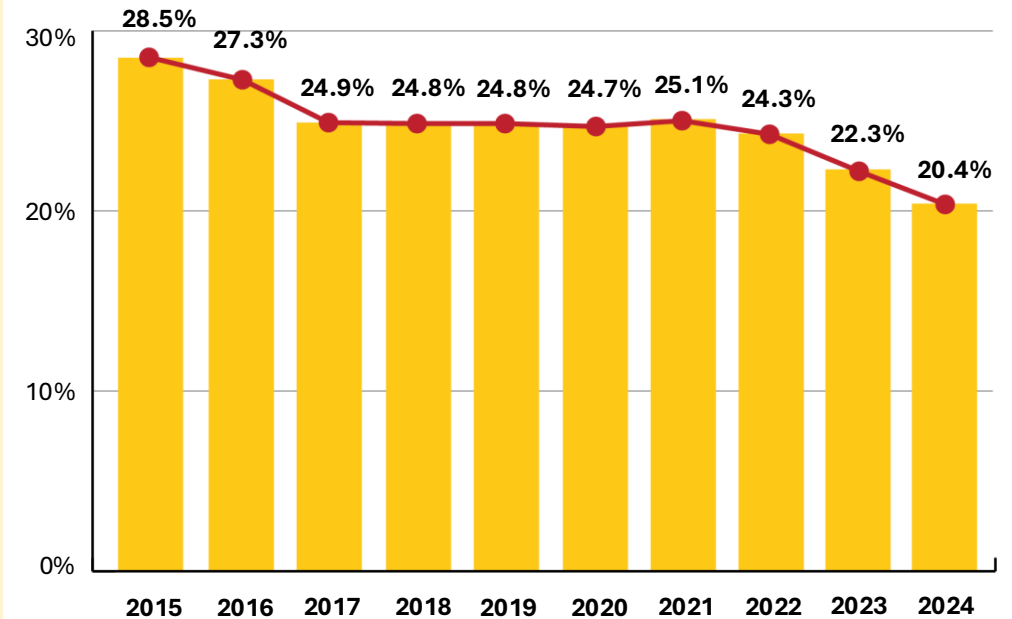
Fortunately, our own Governor Wes Moore has heard our cries and wishes and blessed our entire area by instituting the ENOUGH Act of 2024, a campaign operating through the Community of Hope and its partners to provide equity and reduce the great disparities between the entire Brooklyn area and the rest of Anne Arundel County. I am proud to serve on the resident council working toward that effort. As we honor our past and confront the truths that shape our present, we also look forward to a future rooted in justice, opportunity, and possibility.”

- Ramocille Johnson



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

Brooklyn Park Poverty Percentage (2015-2024)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2024 American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates



For more information about the Brooklyn Park Community of Hope:
Lisa Kovacs, srkova22@aaacounty.org
443-924-7532

Annapolis Community of Hope



WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON:

- Capacity building
- Mentors for youth
- Workforce development
- Parenting classes, including perinatal education
- Legal services for the immigrant community

HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITY:



We are grateful for the Partnership and ENOUGH Initiative support. As a new grantee, we had to overcome hurdles to increase our organizational capacity, strengthen our partnerships, and build relationships with others doing this important work.

Guidance from the Partnership has been invaluable, and I look forward to their continuing support.

- Ratasha Harley, One Annapolis, Inc.

WHAT'S WORKING:

In 2017, the Partnership brought together residents and stakeholders at the Bywater Boys and Girls Club to address a growing crisis: youth gun and gang violence in the public and subsidized housing communities of Annapolis. Guided by data, the collaborative introduced mentoring and GED programs, conflict resolution, and Spanish-language arts programming, laying the groundwork for what would become the Annapolis Community of Hope in 2020.

Nearly a decade later, that foundation has grown into something larger. Annapolis is now home to three ENOUGH Initiative collaboratives, each operating in neighborhoods where child poverty exceeds 30%. Each collaborative brings together residents and community leaders to assess needs, recognize assets, and develop a neighborhood action plan rooted in lived experience. The work is deliberate and resident-driven, focused on ending child poverty and expanding opportunities for every child and family to thrive.



For more information about the Annapolis Community of Hope:

Stephen Taylor-Johnson, srtayl23@aacounty.org
667-270-0098



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

South County Community of Hope



WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON:

- Community Center
- Community Infrastructure
- Internet/Wi-Fi
- Shelter for the unhoused
- Employment services/ apprenticeships
- Multi-service van
- Economic empowerment programs
- Behavioral health support for opioid addiction
- Expanded services to mobile home parks

HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITY:



The Partnership deeply understands the needs of the real families in Anne Arundel County. They approach systemic problems in connection with community organizations already working to make sure no family or child has barriers to success.

- Pastor Sara Yotter, Joy Reigns



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

WHAT'S WORKING:

In South County, getting from point A to point B has never been easy. Residents across this largely rural area have long faced significant gaps in reliable, affordable transportation—a barrier that touches nearly every aspect of daily life, from reaching a job to accessing healthcare.

In 2025, the South County Community of Hope partnered with the Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works to launch a Transportation Study, turning a long-identified community need into a structured, data-driven response. This was anchored by the Call N Ride service — meaningfully expanding residents' ability to access employment, healthcare, and education where traditional public transit cannot reach.

Early findings show mobility improving and household stability strengthening, with families gaining access to jobs and services that make economic mobility possible. This collaborative, inter-agency approach combines expanded transportation services, continued enhancements to Call N Ride, and targeted financial assistance.



For more information about the South County Community of Hope:

Tracey Cherry, srcher88@aacounty.org
410-222-7587

West County Community of Hope



WHAT WE'RE FOCUSING ON:

- Playgrounds
- Mobile access to fresh food
- ESOL services
- Health and nutrition programs
- Legal aid and immigration services
- Financial literacy programs
- Training for early childhood caregivers and educators
- Inspections and accountability for landlords

HEARING FROM THE COMMUNITY:

“

The ENOUGH initiative represents what true community partnership looks like. For organizations like Kingdom Kare that have been serving families in West County for decades, it is encouraging to see resources and attention directed toward addressing the root causes of poverty and inequity. When community leaders, residents, and service providers work together, we move beyond temporary solutions and begin building pathways for children, youth and families to truly thrive.

- Dr. Barbara Palmer



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

WHAT'S WORKING:

The West County Community of Hope began in 2017 with door-to-door outreach to build a core team of residents ready to address community concerns. The first major focus was traffic and safety in Pioneer City, where residents organized, petitions were gathered, and stronger collaboration with local elected officials and the county transportation director led to the successful implementation of traffic calming changes.

That original core team of residents evolved into a new effort called the Man Up program, shifting focus to another pressing community issue: violence. Highly active throughout the Severn communities and Meade Cluster schools, Man Up has helped create a calmer, more focused, and stable environment for students. The passage of the ENOUGH Act expanded this work into Maryland City and the Laurel Russet areas, broadening the initiative beyond violence prevention into trauma-informed care workshops, financial literacy training, and job readiness programming.

The results speak for themselves. According to Anne Arundel County Police Department statistics, crime in Severn decreased by 61% between 2022 and 2025.



For more information about the West County Community of Hope:

Randy Curtis, srcurt9988@aacounty.org
410-279-1068

Community Plan for Children, Youth, and Families

FY2027-FY2030



PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES

AFFORDABILITY

Address basic needs and create pathways to economic stability and wealth building

- Increase access to essential supports that stabilize families (affordable housing, childcare, transportation, and healthcare)
- Expand economic mobility pathways for youth and families
- Strengthen coordinated service delivery and community-based navigation to connect people to the right resources at the right time
- Invest in neighborhood programs and community-led solutions that build economic stability

EQUITY

Eliminate systemic barriers and elevate community voice to advocate for solutions

- Identify and address systemic and racial inequities that act as barriers to flourishing
- Elevate community and youth voice in decision-making, advocacy, and accountability
- Deepen trust and strengthen cross-sector collaboration and data sharing to advance equitable systems of care
- Target resources and apply multi-generational, trauma-informed, and evidence-based approaches for populations experiencing the greatest disparities
- Strengthen cross-agency data collection and information-sharing to track progress toward equity
- Advance policy, investment, and public will to sustain systems-level change

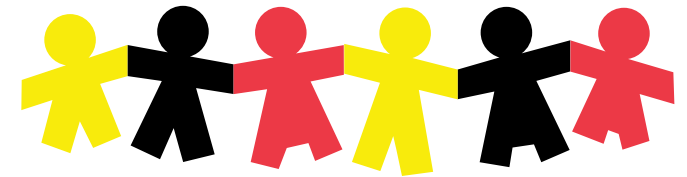
PLACE

Support and advance community-led solutions in our Communities of Hope

- Reduce childhood poverty
- Foster awareness, connection, and belonging within and among communities
- Continuously collaborate with local residents and community leaders to identify and address needs
- Deepen place-based and cross-sector partnerships to address root causes
- Expand equitable youth opportunity pathways

RESULTS

High-Quality Childcare and Education • Healthy Families • Economically Secure Families • Safe and Thriving Communities



Anne Arundel County Partnership
for Children, Youth & Families

**For more information on The Partnership or
our Community Plan, please contact:**

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P: 410-222-7652