



Homelessness

FAQ

Why do we see homelessness in Calvert County?

Homelessness can occur in any community, including Calvert County, for a variety of complex reasons. Here are some common factors that contribute to a growing population of unhoused:

Lack of Affordable Housing:

One of the primary causes of homelessness is the inability to find or afford stable housing. Rising housing costs relative to income can make it difficult for individuals and families to secure and maintain a home. Lack of affordable housing is a local, state-wide and national issue.

Economic Factors:

Job loss/loss of income, underemployment or low wages can lead to financial instability, making it challenging for individuals and families to cover basic living expenses, including housing.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues:

Many unhoused people also struggle with mental health issues and substance abuse disorders. These conditions can make it more difficult to access services and support.

Family Breakdown:

Family disputes, domestic violence and other family-related issues can lead to homelessness, particularly among young people who may be forced to leave their homes.

Inadequate Services:

Limited access to affordable healthcare, mental health services and social services can leave vulnerable populations without the support they need. Calvert County is considered a mental health shortage area for lack of available services relative to the population.

Natural Disasters and Emergencies:

Unexpected events such as natural disasters, fires or personal crises can result in the loss of housing for individuals and families who may not have the resources to recover quickly.

Discrimination and Stigma:

Homeless individuals may face discrimination and social stigma that can hinder their ability to find stable housing and employment.

Limited Shelter Availability:

Demand for shelter and temporary housing sometimes exceeds what is available.

What are the solutions to addressing homelessness?

It's important to note that **homelessness is a multifaceted issue** that typically requires a combination of affordable housing initiatives, social services, mental health and addiction treatment, employment opportunities, and community support.

Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community members often work together to develop strategies to prevent and reduce homelessness in their areas, including Calvert County. Efforts may include providing emergency shelter, affordable housing programs, job training and support services to help homeless individuals and families regain stability.



If you want to know more about what local resources are available, you can scan the QR code with a smart phone or tablet or visit the link.

CalvertCountyMD.gov/HomelessBoardResources