



Community Plan for Children, Youth and Families in Calvert County

Message from Leadership

Dear Calvert County Community,

As the Calvert County Family Network, we convene community partners and coordinate resources to support the well-being of children, youth and families of all types. We believe in the power of working together to create a community where everyone has what they need to thrive.

Calvert County is a community built on collaboration, engagement, and a shared commitment to the well-being of its residents—especially our children, youth, and families. As the Family Network, we are steadfast in our dedication to creating and supporting safe, stable, and healthy environments across Calvert County – making it an even better place to live and grow.

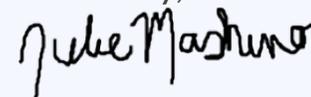
Over the next three years, our team and partners will focus on three main priorities:

- **Strong Beginnings:** Investing in early learning and care for children 0-5
- **Promising Futures:** Empowering youth and fostering a sense of belonging
- **Empowering Families:** Wraparound supports for family stability and parent success

For our full Community Plan, please refer to page 9.

This plan is a dynamic roadmap that reflects our collective commitment to shaping a community where every member—especially our children, youth, and families—feels healthy, safe, and supported. Together, we will ensure that our shared commitment remains strong, and our collective efforts will continue to benefit the children, youth, and families of Calvert County.

Sincerely,

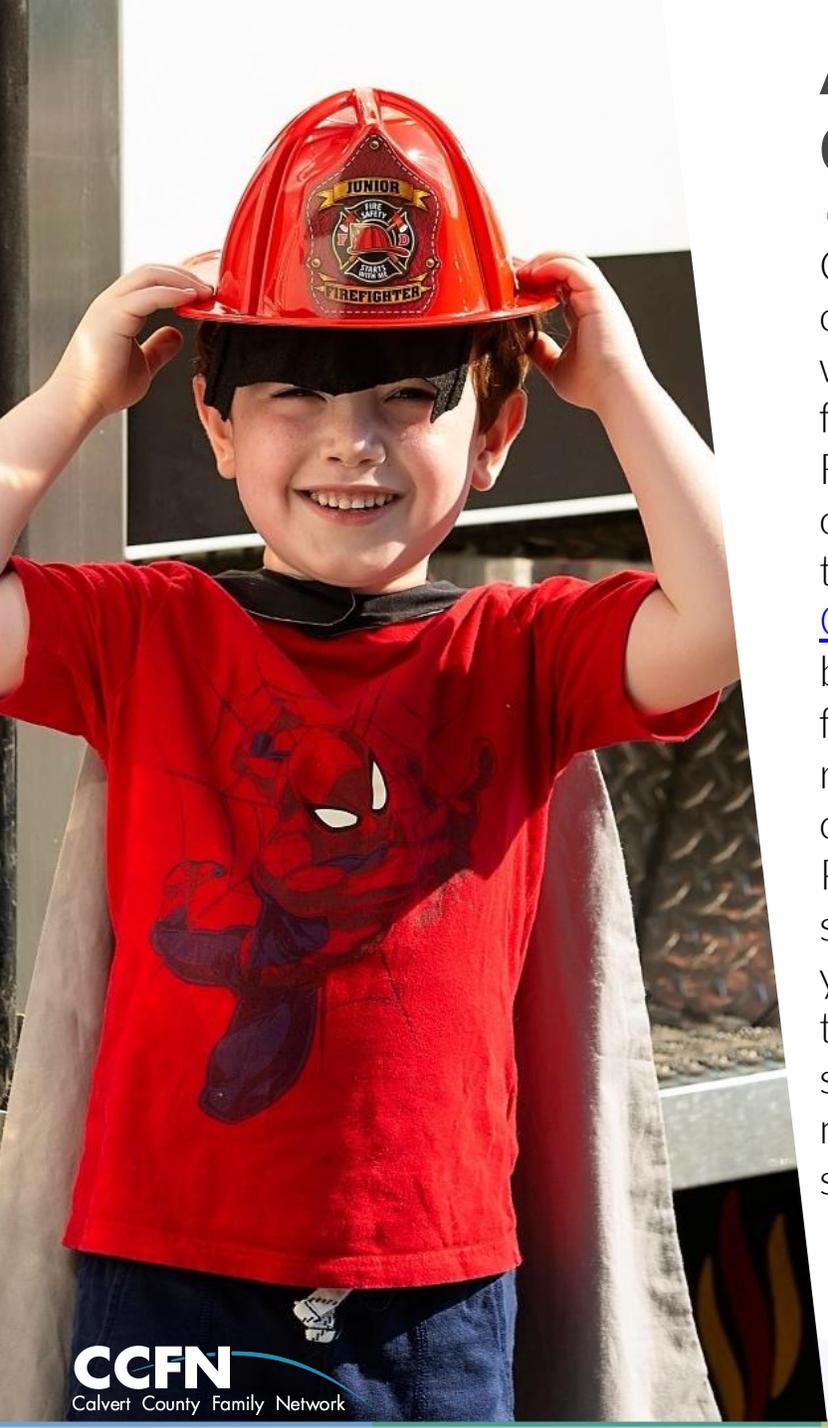


Julie Mashino, Coordinator



“A child who has a safe, secure, and stable home life is far more likely to be successful in school and grow up well. By supporting our families, we can support our children.”

- Community Member



About Our Community Plan

Calvert County Family Network is committed to supporting the well-being of children, youth, and families of all types. In 2024, the Family Network—with the support of Due East Partners—conducted the [Community Assessment for Child Well-Being](#) to identify barriers and areas of greatest need facing our community. Drawing on robust quantitative data and community input, this Community Plan outlines priorities and strategies to ensure all children, youth, and families have access to the essential resources, support services, and opportunities they need to be healthy, safe, and supported for a brighter future.

Acknowledgments

Staff

Julie Mashino, Coordinator
Ariane Odom, LCT Coordinator
Jacquelyn Culver, Deputy Director, Department of Community Resources

Board

Joseph Cormier, Citizen Member
Jacquelyn Culver, Calvert County Government
Debbie Harris, Citizen Member
Cecelia Lewis, Student Services Supervisor, Public Schools
Kirk Martin, Citizen Member
Andrea McDonald-Fingland, Director, Calvert County LBHA
Dr. Larry Polsky, Medical Director, Health Department
Cindy Scribner, Supervisor, DJS
Tiffany Carter, Interim Director, DSS
Sgt. Joshua Underwood, Calvert County Detention Center

Strategic Planning Committee

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Tia Myers, East-John Youth Center
Julie Mashino
Ariane Odom
Andrea McDonald Fingland
Debbie Harris
Cindy Scribner
Joseph Cormier
Joshua Underwood
Dr. Larry Polsky

Beyond those listed here, we are grateful to the community members who helped to inform and shape this plan that will guide us toward a brighter future.

About CCFN



Vision:

A community where all children, youth and families are healthy, safe and supported.



Mission:

Calvert County Family Network convenes community partners and coordinates resources to support the well-being of children, youth and families of all types.



Values:

- Leading with care and compassion to ensure everyone feels heard, valued and respected.
- Building authentic, collaborative relationships.
- Thinking outside the box and engaging our community in creative solutions.
- Ensuring resources, support, and opportunities reach those who need them most.
- Being accountable to our community for achieving meaningful and measurable results.

Priority #1

Strong Beginnings: Investing in Early Learning and Care for Children 0-5

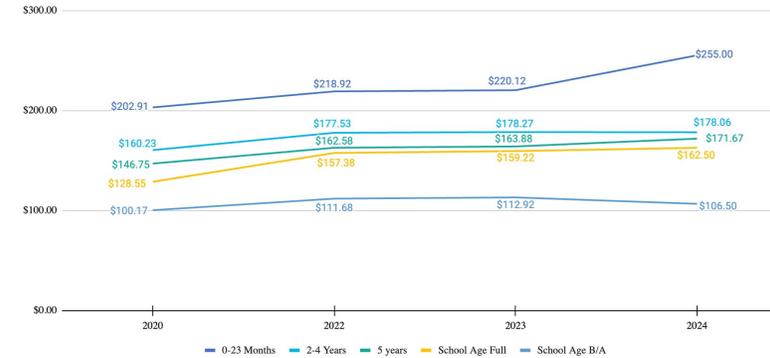


From birth to age five, more than 1 million new neural connections are formed every second. These early years of a child's life are critical for development and lay the foundation for future learning, health, and overall success in life.

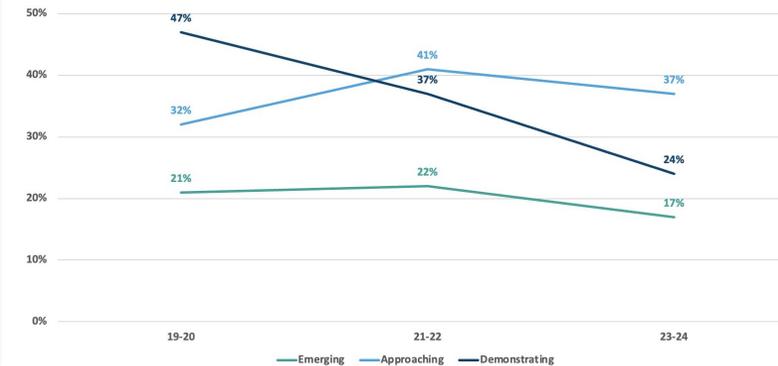
In the 2024 Family Network needs assessment, Calvert County community members ranked early childhood support and care as one of the top challenges facing county residents. Access to high-quality early childhood opportunities ensures that children develop the cognitive, social, and emotional skills essential for success in school and life.

When families and caregivers have the resources and support they need, children enter kindergarten ready to learn, setting the stage for future success. Strong communities are built on strong starts for their youngest residents, ensuring that every child has the foundation to thrive and access opportunities throughout life.

Average Weekly Cost of Full-time Child Care for Family Child Care Programs



Percentage of Kindergarten Readiness in Calvert County



Priority #2

Promising Futures: Youth Empowerment and Belonging

Youth empowerment and a sense of belonging are powerful forces in the lives of Calvert County's young people. When youth are empowered to create, lead, and contribute meaningfully to their community, they develop confidence and purpose, which shape their identity and future pathways.

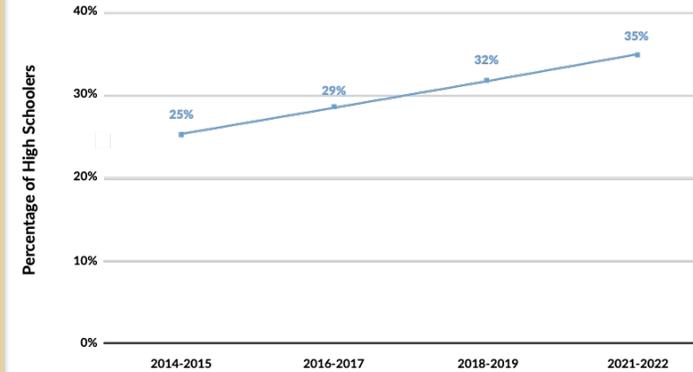
Consistent school attendance helps students build relationships, develop a sense of belonging, and stay engaged in their learning environment. When students feel connected to their school community, they are more likely to gain confidence, participate in opportunities, and feel empowered to succeed.

By supporting our youth through leadership opportunities, skill development, and giving them a genuine voice in community decisions, we co-create environments where Calvert County youth are better equipped to navigate challenges and envision possibilities.

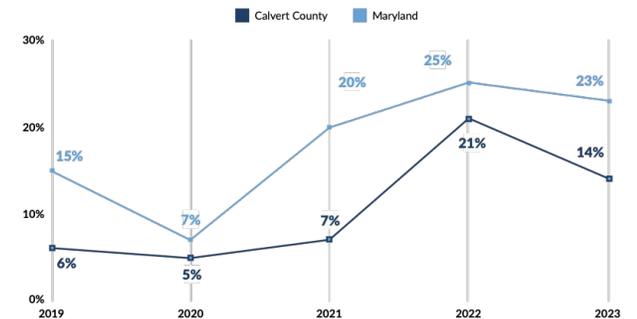
By investing in programs that both empower Calvert County youth and nurture their sense of belonging, we create the conditions for promising futures where every young person can thrive and contribute to a stronger community.



Teens Who felt Sad or Hopeless
(grades 9-12)



Students in All Grades Absent
More than 20 days



Priority #3

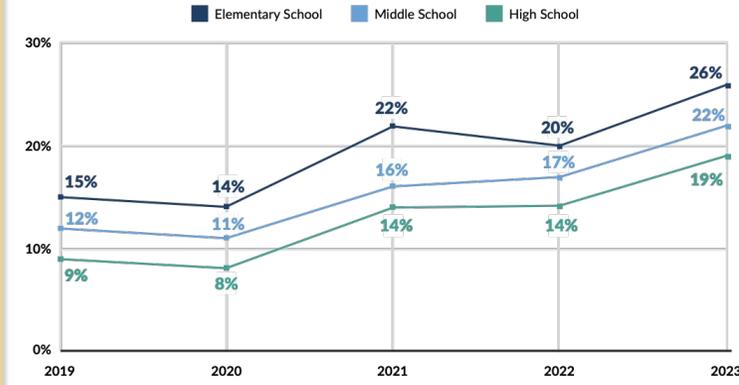
Empowering Families: Wraparound Supports for Family Stability and Parent Success



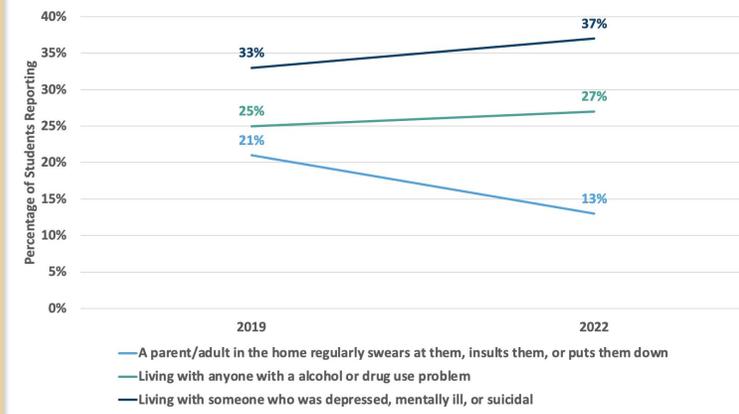
Families thrive when they have strong support systems that address their unique needs. In Calvert County, rising rates of economically disadvantaged children across every grade level highlight the need for family-centered approaches that promote stability. Housing insecurity, financial strain, and behavioral health challenges can create stress that makes caregiving more difficult. Access to stable housing, financial resources, and behavioral health support can help families navigate these challenges.

Wrap-around services, such as parenting classes, employment assistance, and mental health support, help families build resilience and increase stability. Coordinated support boosts parents' and caregivers' confidence while strengthening their connections with their children, improving emotional security and developmental outcomes. Investing in these comprehensive systems strengthens the entire community, creating generational change and empowering families to succeed.

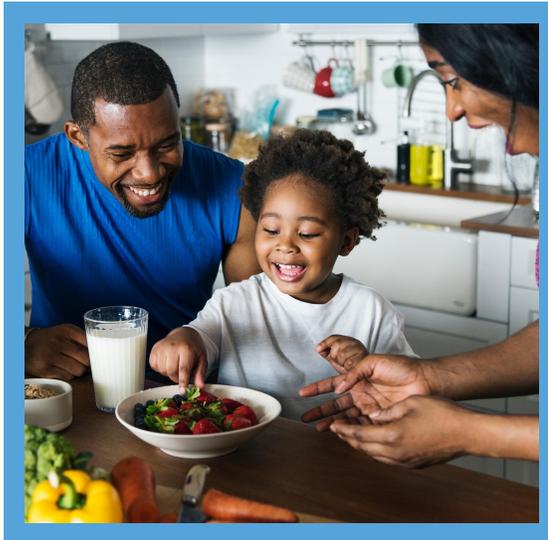
Percent of Calvert County Public School Children Economically Disadvantaged, by Grade Level



Household Challenges



Defining Maryland's ENOUGH Result Areas



Healthy Families

Ensuring community members and families have access to high-quality healthcare is critical to the overall wellbeing of the community. Through collective efforts, the goal is to reduce infant mortality, increase life expectancy, and improve mental health outcomes across communities.



Economically Secure Families

Expanding employment and entrepreneurship opportunities that lead to livable, family-sustaining wages is essential. Working together with partners, these efforts help create stable, thriving households where families can meet their needs, weather challenges, and build lasting wealth.



Cradle to Career Education

Unlocking children's potential through early care and education, partnering with others to ensure smooth transitions from kindergarten to middle school, high school graduation, and pathways to college and/or career opportunities—allowing our youngest community members to be successful throughout their lives.



Safe and Thriving Communities

Communities thrive when they are safe, inclusive spaces where people can live, work, and play. By collaborating with partners, these efforts will help foster community safety, create environments where residents are inspired to invest in shared spaces and build meaningful connections that empower everyone to truly thrive.

Strategic Roadmap 2025-2028

VISION

A community where all children, youth and families are healthy, safe and supported.

MISSION

Calvert County Family Network convenes community partners and coordinates resources to support the well-being of children, youth and families of all types.

VALUES

We believe in...

- Leading with care and compassion to ensure everyone feels heard, valued and respected.
- Building authentic, collaborative relationships.
- Thinking outside the box and engaging our community in creative solutions.
- Ensuring resources, support, and opportunities reach those who need them most.
- Being accountable to our community for achieving meaningful and measurable results.

RESULTS

Healthy Families

PROGRESS INDICATORS*

- % of Public School Students [in Grades 6-8 and 9 - 12] Reporting Depressive Episode
- # of entries to foster care due to neglect

Cradle to Career Education

- % students demonstrating proficiency on Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Four-year high school graduation rate

Economically Secure Families

- Economic Mobility (% children living in poverty and %/# of ALICE population)
- Labor force participation rate ages 16 and over

Safe and Thriving Communities

- # youth supervised by Maryland Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) in the community
- Violent crime rate

**Progress Indicators subject to change upon the release of the FY2026 NOFA*

PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES

Strong Beginnings: Support early learning and care for children 0-5

- Collaborate with partners to identify and provide referrals to appropriate services for children
- Utilize existing trusted programs and resources to reach parents and caregivers to promote school readiness
- Reach out to early learning programs and resources and provide them with the support they need to be successful

Promising Futures: Youth empowerment and belonging

- Explore opportunities to support programs that meet the unique educational and mental health needs of youth
- Enhance out-of-school activities and resources for students
- Collaborate with partners to expand opportunities for employment and mentoring
- Engage youth in the creation of solutions intended to benefit them

Empowering Families: Wraparound supports for family stability and parent success

- Support initiatives to reduce the stigma of behavioral health issues and care
- Deepen engagement in workshops and classes that promote overall family stability for parents, families and caregivers
- Expand and support coordinated efforts among existing programs to build a more supportive community

CROSS-CUTTING STRATEGIES

- Increase equitable access to existing resources and services for children, youth and families
- Promote the existing resources and services available to Calvert County residents
- Increase CCFN's capacity to meet the needs of the community