

Prince George's County Council FY 2026 Budget Work Session

April 15, 2025

Building Stronger Communities, One Family at a Time...



MISSION

Prince George's County Department of Social Services (PGCDSS) is in the business of providing opportunities for residents of the County to become independent, responsible, and stable members of the community. We do this by providing intervention services that strengthen families, protect children and vulnerable adults, encourage self-sufficiency and promote personal responsibility.

GOALS / FOCUS AREAS

- ✓ To provide intervention services to abused, neglected, or impoverished children, adults, and families in order to ensure safety and reduce the risk in their living environment
- ✓ To stabilize families and individuals in need through increased access to services
- ✓ To assist individuals, adults, and families in need to achieve and maintain permanence in the community

PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- ✓ Vulnerable children, youth and adults at imminent risk of abuse, neglect, mental injury and/or exploitation
- ✓ Impoverished individuals and families (at or below 50% AMI)
- ✓ Residents experiencing an episode of unsheltered homelessness

WHAT WE DO

Child, Adult and Family Services

- ✓ Adult Guardianship
- ✓ Adult Protective Services
- ✓ Respite Care
- ✓ Social Services to Adults
- ✓ In-home Aide Services
- ✓ Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
- ✓ Child Protective Services
- ✓ Family Preservation
- ✓ Foster Care and Adoption
- ✓ Ready by 21

Community Services

- ✓ Emergency Financial Assistance
- ✓ Utility Assistance
- ✓ Food Security & Equity
- ✓ SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
- ✓ Youth Action Board (YAB)
- ✓ Persons with lived experience & expertise (PLEE) Board
- ✓ Homeless Continuum of Care (COC)
- ✓ Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)
- ✓ Prevention Demonstration Program (PDP)
- ✓ Youth Homelessness System Improvement Initiative (YHSI)

Family Investment

- ✓ Burial Assistance
- ✓ Eviction Assistance to Families and Children
- ✓ Maryland Health Exchange (Prince George's)
- ✓ Medical Assistance
- ✓ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- ✓ Temporary Cash Assistance
- ✓ Temporary Disability Assistance Program
- ✓ Welfare to Work

General Administration & Quality Assurance

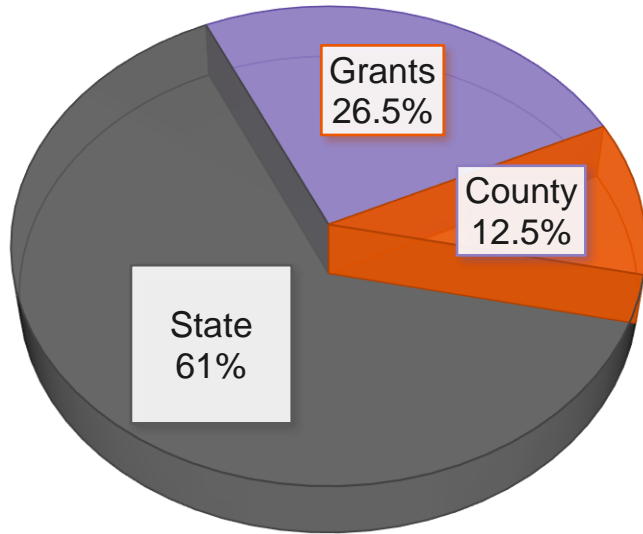
- ✓ Appeals
- ✓ Budget & Finance
- ✓ Contracts and Procurement
- ✓ Customer Experience
- ✓ Data Reporting
- ✓ Fleet
- ✓ General Operations
- ✓ Human Resources
- ✓ Information Technology
- ✓ Quality Assurance and Compliance
- ✓ Risk Management

Office of Community Solutions & Strategic Partnerships

- ✓ Community Resource Coordination
- ✓ School based intervention Services
- ✓ School Supply Drive
- ✓ YES Partnership with Court System

Infrastructure

Operations



COUNTY: \$ 9,708,400
STATE: \$ 47,430,019
GRANTS: \$ 20,597,800
Total: \$ 77,735,619

Customer Survey Pilot

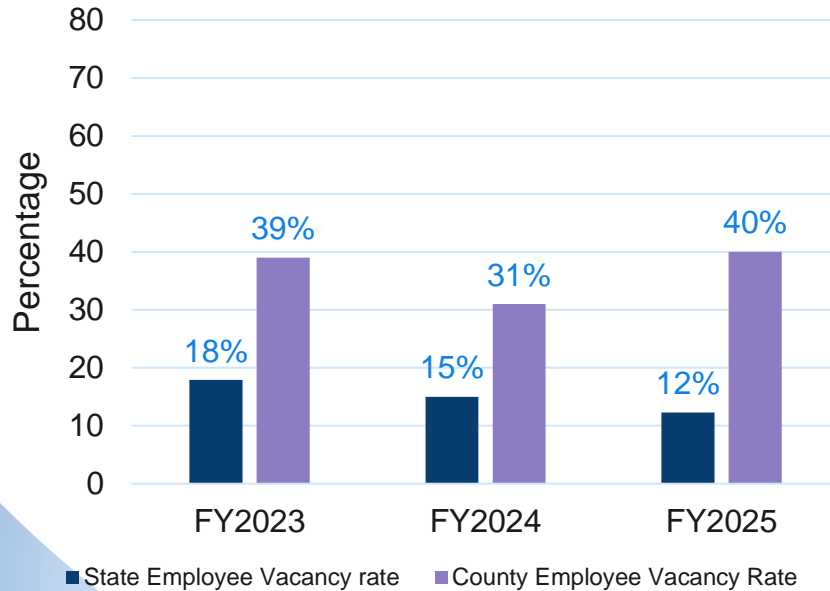
The agency is piloting a Customer Experience Survey using multiple formats and customers will be able to complete the survey in real time on the day of their visit. The survey initiative will start with our family investment programs and is designed to better understand the customer experience. The information collected will be used to improve services, prioritize agency trainings, and explore service innovations based on feedback from those we serve.

Bowie State University School of Social Work

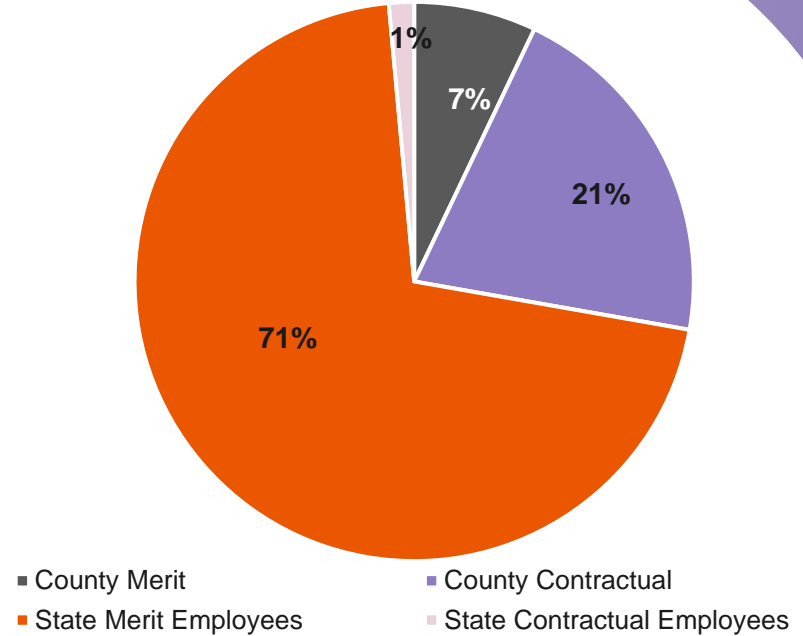


On March 25th the Department hosted a resource fair with Bowie State University's Department of Social Work to promote career paths, job opportunities, and to highlight the State's Human Services Scholarship program, as well as the Urban Child Welfare Program. The Department had a panel of current employees and alumni of Bowie State University to speak about different career paths. We plan to continue this partnership with Bowie State University and other higher education systems.

Vacancies



Agency Complement





Service Delivery

VITA Site

In support of the Governor's focus to leave no one behind and end childhood poverty, the Department's south county office has been selected as a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) pilot site. This partnership between DSS, Maryland's Dept Community Services and Innovation, and Maryland Cash Campaign successfully brought this service to families accessing DSS benefits to assist in accessing deserved EITC and Child Tax credits.

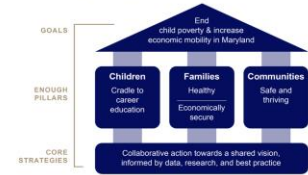
Youth Drop In Centers

The two youth drop-in centers -YES focused on systems connected youth and BEZ focused on youth at risk of or experiencing a literal episode of homelessness - continue to serve as critical service connector points for disconnected youth in the community. The two centers have served 218 youth since inception.

ENOUGH Grant

The Governor's Office on Children (GOOCP) awarded the Department of Social Services the Track 1 ENOUGH (Engaging Neighborhoods, Organizations, Unions, Governments and Households) grant to end poverty and our target area is Hillcrest Heights. This grant is the first of its kind, state led, place-based strategy to create poverty fighting opportunities driven by communities lived experience and expertise. As the Track 1 Quarterback, the focus is to build a community coalition for Hillcrest Heights. Our partners include Hillcrest Heights Elementary School, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, the Civic Association as well as some other agencies that provide services in that area.

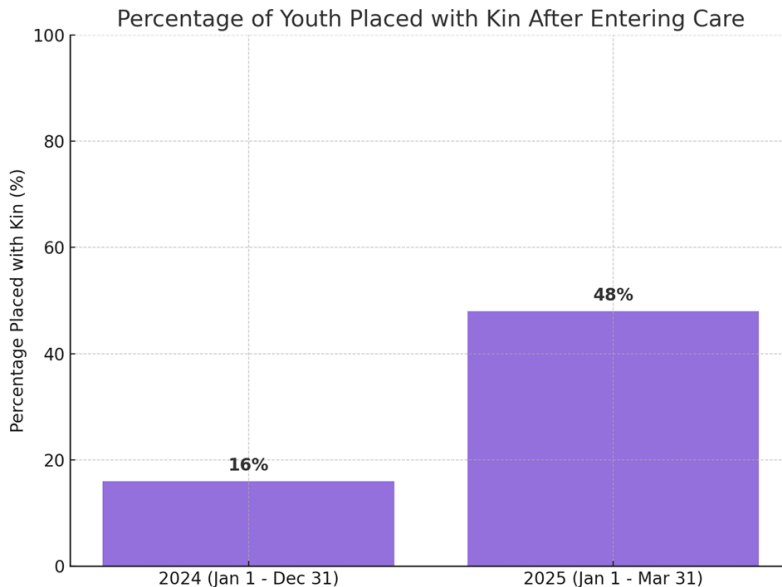
ENOUGH Theory of Action



Kin First

On December 16, 2024, a new Kinship Policy was released that legally changes and clarifies the definition of kinship caregiver by including relations through blood, marriage, tribal law or custom, or cultural custom or practice. It also provides a preference for kinship caregiver placements which evidence demonstrates result in better outcomes for children. The changes establish the evidence-based framework for our “kin first” approach to out of home care. In an effort to support this new policy the Department created a Kinship Unit to provide specialized support and resources for kin placements. The Department currently has 13 children in kin homes. From January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025, 27 entered care and 13 were placed with kin resulting in 48%. To date the kinship placements are trending in a positive direction.

The kinship team continues to work towards their licensing goals and 87% of families were licensed as of the end of February.



From January 1 to December 31, 2024, 85 youth entered care. 14 were placed with kin. (6%). From January 1, 2025, to March 31, 2025, 27 youth entered care. 13 were placed with kin (48%). This represents an 800% increase in kin placements.

Prevention Demonstration Program (PDP)

Partnered with Sasha Bruce Youthwork, Inc. to secure and HHS demonstration grant in the amount of \$464,928 over 3 years to design, deliver and evaluate innovative community-based **county** initiatives to prevent youth at imminent risk from experiencing literal homelessness. Strategies being tested include a peer coaching initiative, expansion of the agency's AFFIRM initiative to include all Continuum of Care providers, and three direct cash transfer models targeting youth and young adults ages 16-24. The state of Maryland recently approved an expansion of this project to include a cohort aimed at youth attending a Maryland university on the tuition waiver.



Youth Homelessness System Improvement Pilot (YHSI)

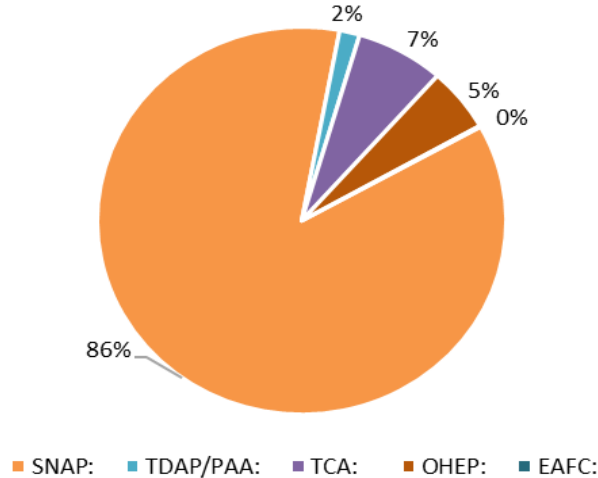
Partnered with the State of Maryland to secure \$2M over 3 years to plan, test and evaluate upstream prevention and intervention strategies that create **statewide** systemic change and prevent youth from experiencing homeless. Due to their level of expertise, the County's Youth Action Board (YAB) will be leading the State's efforts under this grant to develop and launch a statewide YAB.

10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

Collaboration with more than 350 community partners to develop the County's 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness. Phase 1 (System Assessment) concluded in November of 2024. Phase 2 (Plan development and publication) is on track for completion in June of 2025, and Phase 3 (Implementation) is scheduled to launch in July of 2025.

By the Numbers...

DIRECT BENEFITS



SNAP:	\$163,268,838.46
TDAP/PAA:	\$ 3,041,868.00
TCA:	\$ 13,255,353.57
OHEP:	\$ 10,033,813.04
EAFC:	\$ 175,067.07

Total Benefits Issued
\$189,774,940

Cash Assistance

5,502 cases*

SNAP

65,654 households*

SUNBUCKS (summer snap)

Provided 111,896 children an additional \$120 during the summer months to reduce hunger, for total investment of \$13,458,160

Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP)

11,677 households*

The agency continues to be one of the highest performing jurisdictions in the state

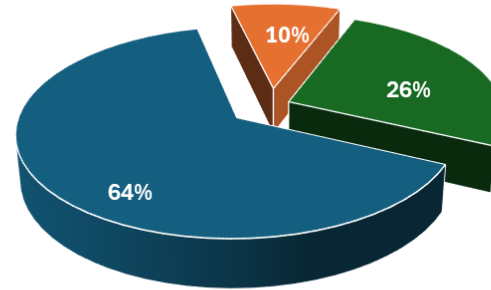
Medical Assistance & QHP Enrollment

26,136 new enrollments giving more county residents the critical access to the medical care they need to thrive.

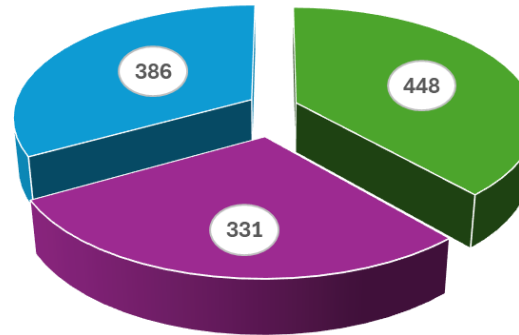
* Data reported as of 3/2025 for FY 2025

Providers

Community Crisis Services Inc.
 United Communities Against Poverty
 Jobs Have Priority
 Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services
 People Encouraging People
 Volunteers of America, Chesapeake and Carolinas
 Ladies of Hope Ministries
 House of Ruth
 VESTA
 Covenant House, Washington
 Sasha Bruce Youthwork
 Latin American Youth Center /
 Maryland Multicultural Youth Center
 Housing Initiative Partnership
 Kirstin's Haven, Inc.



■ FEDERAL ■ STATE ■ COUNTY



■ ES ■ TH / RRH ■ PSH

Current
System

Funding
by
Source

Total: \$21,679,968

Current
System

Active
Program
Census

1,165

Areas of Focused Coordination

New HHS Building

Bringing all HHS agencies together to build on coordination and collaboration of services. Especially related to shared populations, seniors and behavioral health needs.

Complex Youth

Working with State DHS and MDH to increase resources to support youth with complex behavioral health needs to reduce stay in hospitals and hotels.

New Shelter Builds

Progressing on development, design, and initiating builds of all three transitional shelters to bring increased capacity, flexibility, and modernized facilities to support youth, families, and individuals transition from homelessness.



Department Leadership

Stephen Liggett-Creel, Director

Jamie Dixon, Deputy Director, Clinical Services and Supports

Renee Pope, Deputy Director, Community Programs and Innovation

Loretta Tillery, Chief of Staff

DeLania Ware, Acting Assistant Director, Family Investment Division

Walter Jackson, Assistant Director, Community Services Division

Carlesa Peterson, Assistant Director, Child, Adult, & Family Services Division

Robert Murphy, Senior Manager, Office of Strategic Partnerships and Community Solutions