



A Chesapeake Thrives Conference

The Power of Partnerships

Building community connections to improve resident outcomes

Breakout Session:
Poverty and Economic Supports




Chesapeake
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Caring About Our Community's Well-Being



CHESAPEAKE THRIVES

A Plan for Community Well-Being

Priority Area:
Poverty and Economic Supports



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Poverty & Economic Status

Definition:
Poverty is a state or condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living.

DATA		
Percentages Over 2021 Poverty Guidelines		
Family Size	100%	200%
1	\$12,880	\$25,760
2	\$17,420	\$34,840
3	\$21,960	\$43,920
4	\$26,500	\$53,000

STRENGTHS

- Food assistance from many agencies, faith based communities and individuals through the pandemic
- Strong nonprofits partnerships
- Abundance of regional collaboration regarding economic growth for all through workforce and talent development

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of affordable housing for ALICE individuals on fixed incomes, seniors and others
- Services to individuals not always as robust as those available for families


OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding through the ARP, especially for seniors' housing and special populations, community activities, and occupational support for skills training
- Partnerships for economic and workforce development
- Partnerships with the FoodBank
- To invest in the growth of minority owned and small businesses in the City
- Continue and deepen collaboration with the Military

THREATS

- Increasing disparities between communities in need of support
- COVID and stimulus aftermath
- Inequities and racial disparities
- Competitive wages impacting a competent workforce

14.9% According to American Community Survey for the period of 2015-2019 14.9% of children in Chesapeake live in poverty.



POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORTS

- Objective: Enhance community understanding of the causes and impacts of poverty
- Strategies:
 - Collect and report data on demographic trends and best practices
 - Promote the business case for income equity
 - Collaborate with community partners to build awareness about the causes and impacts of poverty

POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORTS

- Objective: Decrease the number of residents who are struggling with food insecurity
- Strategies:
 - Complete a community food assessment
 - Eliminate barriers to food access



POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORTS

- Objective: Enable low income and/or ALICE households to increase their financial assets
- Strategies:
 - Expand and increase access to financial literacy programs
 - Promote services and resources
 - Connect residents to financial supports and/or employment



Discussion

GOAL of the Discussion:

These are selected Objectives and Strategies from the Poverty and Economics dashboard. These are offered to introduce you to Chesapeake Thrives and to begin the conversation about the role all of us have in helping families and individuals in Chesapeake.

How do these goals and objectives connect with the work you're doing now?

How do you see connecting with these in the future?



Participant discussion:

Strengths

- Food assistance from many agencies, faith-based communities and individuals through the pandemic
- Strong nonprofits partnerships
- Abundance of regional collaboration regarding economic growth for all through workforce and talent development

Weaknesses

- Lack of affordable housing for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) individuals on fixed incomes, seniors, and others
- Services to individuals not always as robust as those available for families
- Citizens working more than 2 jobs and not having time outside of working hours to get resources
- Childcare
- No transportation to get child(ren)
- Important to recognize economic ability
- Poverty doesn't just exist in the pocket
- Not enough landlords to house citizens
- Behavioral Health and Health resources
- Poverty is not viewed as a system issue

Opportunities

- Funding through the ARP, especially for senior' housing and special populations, community activities, and occupational support for skills training
- Partnerships for economic and workforce development like Foodbank and Military
- To invest in the growth of minority owned and small businesses in the City
- Research the various different kinds of poverty
- Transit (have transportation but no housing/food resources)

Threats

- Increasing dipartites between communities in need of support
- COVID and stimulus aftermath
- Inequities and racial disparities
- Competitive wages and impacting a competent workforce
- Eviction Rate (Chesapeake is #5 of cities in Virginia)
- Moving Military (lost of funding when ships deploy)
- All of the local municipalities are close in range (competitive)
- Competitive wages
- No shelters in Chesapeake
- Transit and sidewalks(have housing/food resources, but no way to get the food/housing resources)



Strategies to enhance community understanding of the causes and impacts of poverty

- Collect and report data on demographic trends and best practices
- Promote the business case for income equity
- Collaborate with community partners to build awareness about the causes and impacts of poverty
- Expand operating hours of resources so that they will meet the availability of citizen

Strategies to decrease the number of residents who are struggling with food insecurity

- Completing a community food assessment
- Eliminate barriers to food access
- Program example: Lasagna Love, Connect with a Chef
- Transportation included
- No income qualifications
- Build community partners such as CIBH, ForKids, Cooperative Extension
- Farmers Market, Food Pantry

Strategies to enable low income and/or ALICE households to increase their financial assets

- Expand and increase access to financial literacy programs
- Promote services and resources
- Connect residents to financial supports and/or employment
- Bank On
- Train volunteers to teach bank classes (farmers, youth, adults)
- Partnerships with For Kids, Catholic Charities, build ASPIRE program
- Career, Financial, Health, Homeownership

The next steps in connecting the families to the various resources:

- Develop a communication method of getting the word out to the community, Media (websites, radio, flyers, newspaper)
- More Job Opportunities for youth and adults (16-24)
- Mismatching of Jobs due to Years of Experience vs Education
- Referral system
- "No Stop Shop" (not a lot of in between)
- Assist with transportation
- Build Community awareness of poverty in Chesapeake
- Providing resources to where citizens gather, such as school, college, church and grocery store
- Food Distribution Sites
- NexGen partnership

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