



Building Capacity of Rural/Small CoCs in Maryland

Danielle Meister

Director, Office of Community Services

About DHCD

Homeownership

Rental
Assistance

Energy
Efficiency

Affordable
Housing
Development

Community
Services

Community
Development

Neighborhood
Revitalization

Business
Lending

DHCD Roles in Ending Homelessness

- **Policy and Systems Collaboration**

- Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Maryland Homeless Services Data Warehouse
- YouthREACH

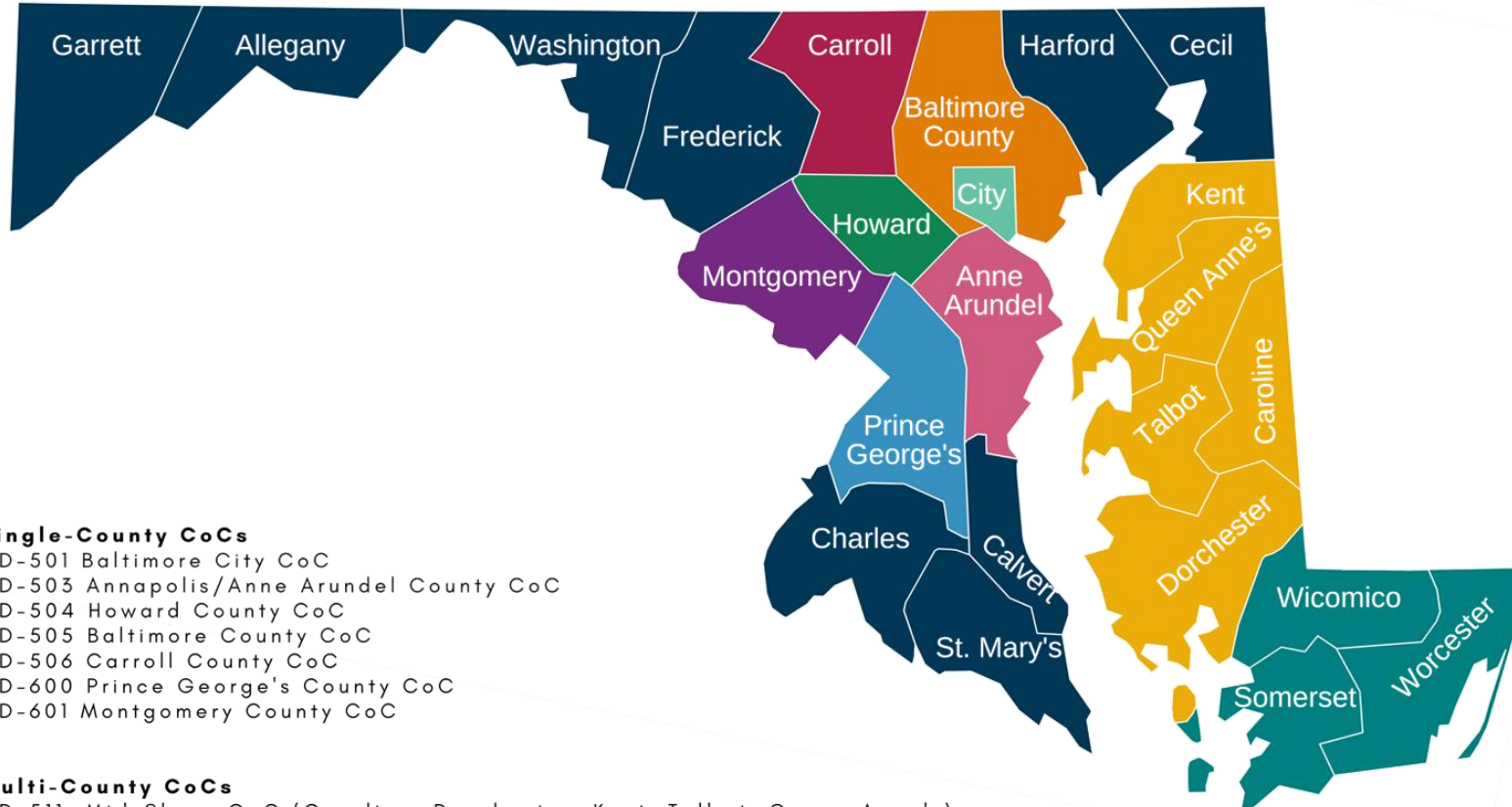
- **Funder**

- \$15m annually for homeless services (\$1m from HUD ESG, \$14m from state funds)
- \$10m annually for anti-poverty and homeless programs through Community Services Block Grant
- \$4m annually for housing counseling, homebuyer education, and foreclosure prevention
- Capital funding for construction and renovation of shelter, transitional, and permanent housing facilities
- HOME-ARP, Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Homeowners Assistance Fund, Emergency Housing Vouchers

- **Continuum of Care Capacity-Building**

- Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead for Maryland Balance of State CoC
- Training, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, Peer Networking for All CoCs

MARYLAND CONTINUUMS OF CARE



Single-County CoCs

- MD-501 Baltimore City CoC
- MD-503 Annapolis/Anne Arundel County CoC
- MD-504 Howard County CoC
- MD-505 Baltimore County CoC
- MD-506 Carroll County CoC
- MD-600 Prince George's County CoC
- MD-601 Montgomery County CoC

Multi-County CoCs

- MD-511 Mid-Shore CoC (Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, Queen Anne's)
- MD-513 Lower Shore CoC (Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester)
- MD-514 Balance of State CoC (Allegany, Calvert, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, St. Mary's, Washington)

Homelessness in Maryland

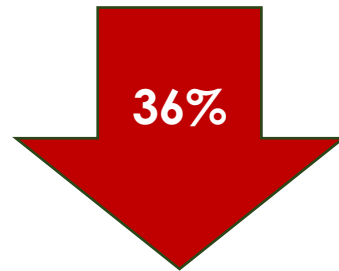
Population: 6.1 million

PIT Count: 5,350

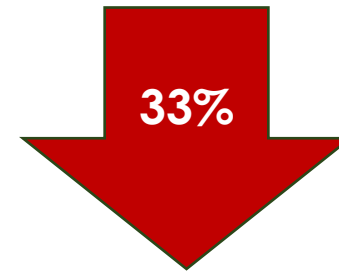
Annual HMIS Enrollment: 24,851 (4% of state residents)

Since 2015:

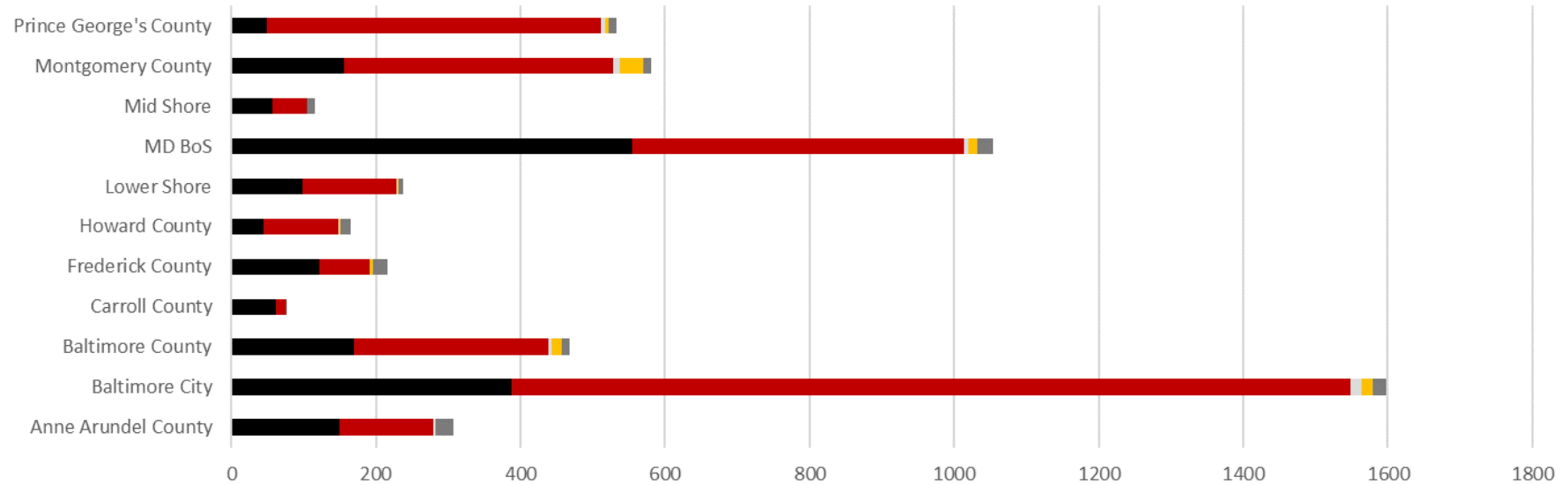
PIT Count



Annual HMIS



Homelessness in Maryland



	Anne Arundel County	Baltimore City	Baltimore County	Carroll County	Frederick County	Howard County	Lower Shore	MD BoS	Mid Shore	Montgomery County	Prince George's County
■ White	149	387	169	62	121	44	99	554	57	155	49
■ Black or African-American	131	1162	270	14	70	104	130	460	48	373	462
■ Asian	3	14	4	0	0	2	1	6	0	10	7
■ Native American, Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	0	16	14	0	5	1	1	12	0	32	4
■ Multiple Races	24	18	11	1	20	14	6	21	11	11	11

Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Homelessness in Maryland

	2015		2022		Change	
	Count	% of PIT	Count	% of PIT	Count	% of PIT
Chronically Homeless Individuals	1682	26%	1059	20%	-623	-37%
Serious Mental Illness (Adults)	1719	36%	1248	32%	-471	-27%
Substance Abuse Disorder (Adults)	1485	31%	1039	27%	-446	-30%
HIV/AIDS (Adults)	211	4%	82	2%	-129	-61%
Victims of Domestic Violence	963	15%	321	6%	-642	-67%
Total	6060		3749		-2311	-38%

Homelessness in Maryland

Bed Inventory Type	2015	2022	Percent Change
Emergency Shelter and Safe Haven	3,123	4,553	46%
Transitional Housing	2,953	1,628	-45%
Rapid Re-housing	601	1,744	190%
Permanent Supportive Housing	7,405	7,902	7%
Other Permanent Housing (Homeless Vouchers, etc)	284	2,297	709%
Total Year-Round Beds	14,366	18,124	26%

*OPH: Significant increase combination of new homeless set-asides for vouchers and public housing, and increased data quality of HIC submissions

CoC Leadership and Capacity-Building

Funding

- State consolidation of homeless funding across all departments into DHCD in 2017
- DHCD allocates all homeless services funding to CoC lead agencies, who then subgrant funds to local organizations
- Close alignment of state funding with HUD funding and national best practices
- Flexible and generous administrative costs for CoC leadership, staffing, HMIS

Training and Technical Assistance

- Monthly calls with CoC Leaders – state updates, training, peersharing
- RRH learning collaboratives and statewide workgroup
- State symposium of CoC leadership and local workforce development leaders
- Regular training on Trauma-Informed Care, Housing First, other evidence-based practices
- New training on mainstream benefits, workforce and employment services, shelter improvement, diversion, rapid exit, problem solving

State Support of Rural CoCs

		HUD	State	Total	% HUD	% State
Urban/Metro						
MD-501	Baltimore City CoC	\$28,207,295	\$3,297,802	\$31,505,097	90%	10%
MD-503	Annapolis/Anne Arundel County CoC	\$2,668,730	\$788,327	\$3,457,057	77%	23%
MD-504	Howard County CoC	\$1,047,570	\$399,218	\$1,446,788	72%	28%
MD-505	Baltimore County CoC	\$3,327,292	\$892,206	\$4,219,498	79%	21%
MD-600	Prince George's County CoC	\$10,574,232	\$1,305,393	\$11,879,625	89%	11%
MD-601	Montgomery County CoC	\$10,588,312	\$1,075,643	\$11,663,955	91%	9%
Rural						
MD-506	Carroll County CoC	\$446,834	\$617,997	\$1,064,831	42%	58%
MD-511	Mid-Shore Regional CoC	\$761,305	\$1,386,805	\$2,148,110	35%	65%
MD-513	Lower Shore CoC	\$1,244,858	\$1,049,041	\$2,293,899	54%	46%
MD-514	Maryland Balance of State CoC	\$6,256,782	\$4,475,800	\$10,732,582	58%	42%
Total		\$65,123,210	\$15,288,232	\$80,411,442	81%	19%

Community Action & Rural Homelessness

- 17 Community Action Agencies in Maryland across 24 counties
- Most rural CAAs are primary homeless services provider in their area
- 50% of Balance of State CoC Local Homeless Coalition lead agencies and DHCD grantees are CAAs
- DHCD is both CSBG state entity and primary homeless services funder



MARYLAND

BALANCE OF STATE

CONTINUUM OF CARE

Forming a New Balance of State CoC

- DHCD and HUD Technical Assistance staff met throughout 2019 with CoCs in non-entitlement areas of the State to gauge interest and benefits of merging into one
- BoS CoC was launched in 2020 and has continued to grow since inception:
 - 2020 - Southern MD, Cecil County, Garrett County, Allegany County, Washington County
 - 2022 - Harford County
 - 2023 - Frederick County
 - Includes 40% of State's counties and geographic area

CoC Governance Structure

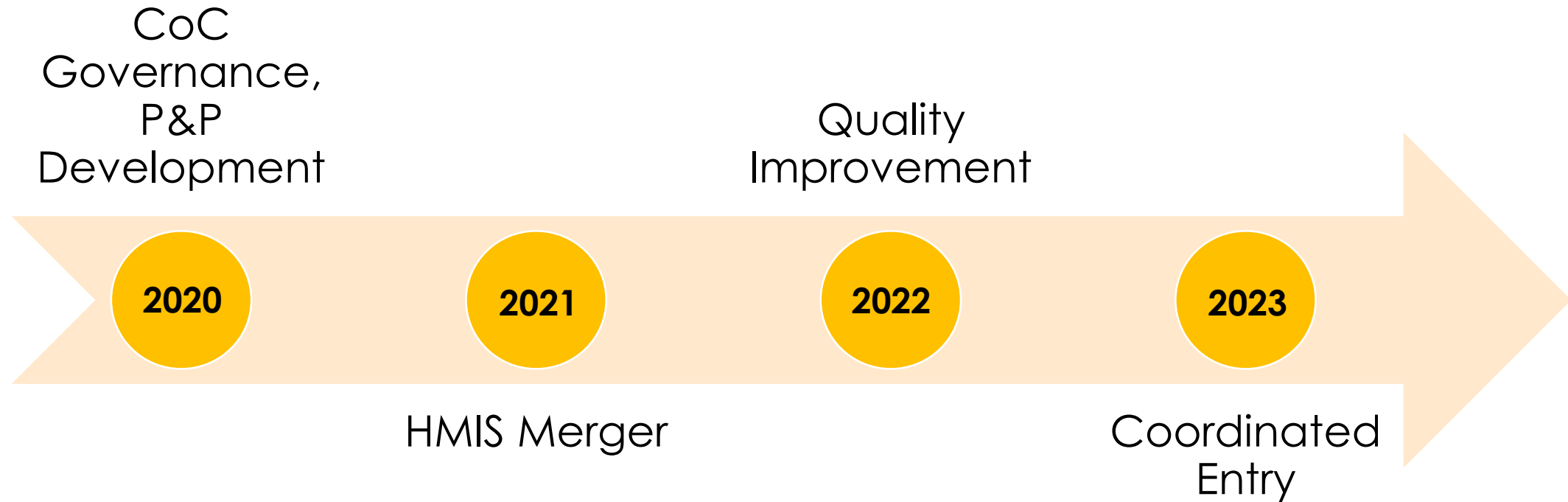
Key Partners/Stakeholders

- Collaborative Applicant: Maryland DHCD
- HMIS Lead: Maryland DHCD, contracting with small company for system admin support
- Counties: 9
- Local Homelessness Coalitions: 7 (1 regional, 6 single-county)
- Public Housing Authorities: 13
- Con Plan Jurisdictions: 5

CoC Board Composition

- Local Homelessness Coalition Members - 15
- Lived Experience – 1+
- State Agencies – 6
 - Housing and Community Development, Labor, Disabilities, Human Services, Education, Health

Key Merger Initiatives



Outcomes

- 20% increase in CoC Competition score (not including bonus points for merger)
- Increased state funds for dedicated planning and HMIS staff – expansion from approximately 4 FTE to 11 FTE
 - Before merger: CoC requirements largely “other duties as assigned”
 - After merger: 11 FTE with sole focus on CoC coordination and admin support
- Significant data quality improvement and submission of HUD-required reports
- Implementation of standardized assessment tool that can be used flexibly for housing placement, service plan development, and RRH/PSH move-on assessment
- Comprehensive data for first time on service needs of households
- Intentional focus on equity and incorporating PWLE into CoC governance (dedicated seats, committees, funding for stipends/pay, and policy for compensation)
- CoC representation on Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness, increased influence on state policy and resources for homelessness

Shelter Improvement & Rapid Re-Housing Surge

FY24 Improvement Goals

Comprehensive performance and capacity review of all shelters in state funding portfolio

- State-developed toolkit for CoCs to assess and evaluate shelters – will impact state funding decisions for FY25
- Increased impact on rural areas, who allocate approximately 20% of state funds to shelter (compared to 7% for urban areas)
- Training and technical assistance for becoming housing-focused shelters

\$7.1m in bonus funds on top of normal annual allocation

- Limited to rapid re-housing, diversion, rapid exit
- Training and technical assistance to implement problem-solving strategies and practices statewide