

# Community Action Council

Empowering Washington County

## Overview

The Community Action Council (CAC) of Washington County is a central force against lack as the Anti-Poverty Agency. Established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and designated by the State of Maryland. We focus on fundamental needs like food, shelter, housing, transportation, poverty alleviation, and essential services for individuals, families, children, the elderly, and the disabled, aiming to strengthen our community through various assistance programs.

<b>Housing Assistance</b>	Our comprehensive housing services support those with stable housing, facing homelessness, or transitioning between these states. We offer eviction prevention, initial housing costs, rapid rehousing for those who are homeless, and utility emergencies, alongside referrals to additional community resources.
<b>Energy Assistance</b>	The Office of Home Energy Programs (OHEP) helps manage energy costs for thousands of Washington County residents, addressing utility bills and heating crises. This includes assistance programs for home heating, electric bills, and outstanding arrears.
<b>Transportation</b>	Providing transportation for the elderly, low-income individuals, and individuals with disabilities and transporting Washington County residents to and from medical appointments within Washington County. Our Hopewell Express provides FREE employment transportation for employees of Hopewell Road businesses. Hopewell Express runs from downtown Hagerstown to the Hopewell Road corridor.
<b>Mobile Services</b>	To reach rural communities, our Mobile Services Unit brings housing, utility, and food assistance directly to those in need, focusing on areas with limited access to transportation and services.
<b>Circles Program</b>	This unique initiative empowers residents to lift themselves out of poverty. Participants are paired with community volunteers (Allies) for support and mentorship. The program focuses on personal goals, community support, and systemic change, with weekly meetings at St. John's Episcopal Church and structured post-training schedules to ensure ongoing support and community engagement.

## Our Commitment

The CAC is committed to fostering a strong, self-sufficient Washington County, addressing immediate needs while empowering our residents for long-term success.