

## All children, youth and families in Allegany County are healthy, safe and supported.

Built on the 2026 Community Needs Assessment — local data, a community survey, key informant interviews and a review of local services — this plan guides how the LMB and its partners align priorities, coordinate services and invest over the next three years.

### WHAT THE DATA SHOWS

**27%**

of children live in poverty  
vs. 11% in Maryland and 16% nationally

**33.6%**

chronic absenteeism  
2024–25 · down from 36.4%, still above the state rate

**91.6%**

four-year graduation rate  
up from 86.5% the year before

**~1 in 3**

students report sadness or hopelessness  
middle and high school (YRBS)

### WHAT WE HEARD

- 1 Basic needs come first.** Housing, utilities, food and low wages strain families — including many who are working.
- 2 Access is the barrier.** Transportation and child care top the list of obstacles to jobs, school, health care and services.
- 3 Support is needed at every age.** From prenatal health and school readiness to youth mental health and vaping prevention.
- 4 Strong assets to build on.** Committed partners exist — families need clearer paths to find, reach and use them.

### OUR PRIORITIES & STRATEGIES

Organized around Maryland's ENOUGH Initiative

#### Cradle-to-Career Education

- Support school readiness, early learning and family engagement
- Strengthen attendance strategies where transportation and stability are barriers
- Expand after-school, summer, tutoring and mentoring opportunities
- Build career pathways through CTE and workforce partners

##### MEASURES

Kindergarten readiness   Chronic absenteeism  
3rd & 8th grade proficiency   Graduation   CTE completion

#### Healthy Families

- Strengthen maternal, infant and early childhood health supports
- Coordinate care for substance-exposed newborns and their families
- Improve access to physical and behavioral health services
- Support youth mental health and substance-use and vaping prevention

##### MEASURES

Prenatal care   Infant mortality   Low birth weight  
Youth hopelessness   Youth vaping   Health coverage

#### Economically Secure Families

- Coordinate food, housing, benefits, utility and emergency assistance
- Improve service navigation and warm handoffs for families
- Address transportation and child care barriers to work and services
- Connect residents to training, jobs and stabilizing supports

##### MEASURES

Child poverty   Housing cost burden   Homelessness  
Program awareness & use   Workforce participation

#### Safe & Thriving Communities

- Prevent and intervene early for families at risk of system involvement
- Strengthen child safety and trauma-informed family support
- Promote safe, accessible community spaces for kids and families
- Build resident trust through neighborhood-based outreach

##### MEASURES

Child maltreatment   Out-of-home placement   Juvenile offenses  
Lead prevalence   Perceptions of safety

 **Countywide plan, neighborhood focus.** These strategies also inform ENOUGH place-based planning in Cumberland's **South Penn** and **John Humbird** neighborhoods — moving from assessment to action alongside residents and partners.