

Arlington's Bridges Out of Poverty initiative is about...



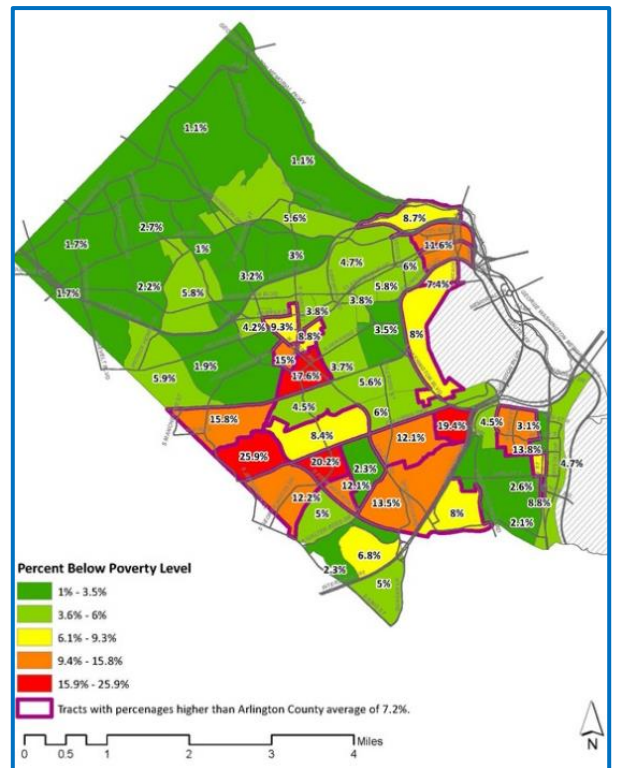
WHAT? Arlington Bridges Out of Poverty is an initiative to move beyond stabilizing people in poverty to promoting their economic mobility. It involves change at the individual, institutional, and policy levels.

WHY? Almost **20,000 people in Arlington** are living below the **poverty** level, and many more near the poverty level. The current service system does not adequately address the barriers to change.

WHO? Department of Human Services and Arlington Community Foundation; 100 leaders from nonprofit and County programs; 200+ front-line staff; people living in poverty.

HOW? We are working to **change** ways of doing business by understanding the concrete experiences of life in poverty.

Bridges Out of Poverty creates a more vibrant community for **everyone** by bringing people from all sectors together to be more deliberate about building pathways out of poverty.



Reducing the social costs of poverty, strengthening the workforce, and building a more prosperous and sustainable community are goals on which most communities agree.

The Department of Human Services and the Arlington Community Foundation have partnered to implement the Bridges Out of Poverty model to promote economic mobility. Since launching in October 2016, we have pulled together nearly 300 community change agents to explore how inequitable practices and the conditions of living in generational poverty limit residents' success.

Nearly 30 organizations convene quarterly to share expertise and challenges to improve our service delivery system and build resources and relationships that will help people gain traction and move forward.

Tackling "Agency Time" and Reducing Bureaucracy

With input from residents and front line staff, we identified bottlenecks and redundancies in the public-private safety-net system that waste people's time and cause them to give up hope. We've streamlined the myriad consent forms for different organizations into one common form, while still complying with HIPAA privacy rules, so individuals no longer have to repeat their history over and over. And we've created other new tools to reduce the "agency time" spent navigating the system, so people can use those hours more productively.

200 Bridges In fall 2018, we are piloting our new practices with 200 families who face the most challenges to economic mobility. In the near term, markers of success will include:

- Improved outcomes for the participants in housing, income, physical and mental health, child care and more
- Improved community connections among participants
- More productive use of community resources through streamlining processes and data sharing
- Identifying missing assets at the community level and ways to build them

What's Next? We hope to explore more equitable policies to address income, health, and social disparities. We hope to create Arlington's own social health index on quality of life measures such as affordable housing, employment, affordable child care, and access to health and mental health services so everyone can reach their potential.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

AHC Inc.
Arlington Community Foundation
Arlington County Aging and Disability Services
Arlington County Behavioral Health Services
Arlington County Community Assistance Bureau
Arlington County Community Health Services
Arlington County Housing Assistance Bureau
Arlington County Public Assistance Bureau
Arlington Employment Center
Arlington Food Assistance Center
Arlington Free Clinic
Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing
Arlington Pediatric Center
Arlington Public Schools Welcome Center
Arlington Thrive
A-SPAN
Aspire! Afterschool Learning
Bonder and Amanda Johnson Community Development Corporation
Bridges to Independence
Bu-Gata
Carlin Springs Community School
Doorways for Women and Families
Just Neighbors
Northern Virginia Family Service
Offender Aid and Restoration
SL Nusbaum
Volunteers of America, Chesapeake
Wesley Housing

