

# Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness: Committee on Decriminalization of Homelessness Recommendations

---

While Montgomery County has made great strides toward its vision of “Housing for All=A Stronger Montgomery,” the following recommendations outline policies Montgomery County can implement to continue its leadership by reducing criminalization of homelessness.

## **Summary of Recommendations**

### **1. Create an Open Case Resolution Program for Homeless Persons**

Creation of program to resolve open misdemeanor criminal, traffic and transit matters, including open warrants for persons who are homeless or have been homeless.

### **2. HEART – Homeless Engagement, Alternatives, Resources & Treatment Program**

Creation of a program that law enforcement officers or community members may divert individuals from the criminal justice system to a community-based, harm-reduction intervention program for law violations driven by unmet behavioral and social needs.

### **3. Decriminalization of Nuisance Offenses**

Review the volume and type of citations/convictions issued in Montgomery County to homeless persons and/or individuals who successfully interact with the docket for homeless persons and work to decriminalize nuisance offenses better addressed by health and social services.

### **4. Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)**

Application of an evidence-based intervention that will redirect homeless persons from engagement with the justice system to engagement with community-based strategies.

### **5. Community Education and Training**

Conduct of a series of trainings and public education campaigns for interested parties and community members on the experiences, needs, and impact of negative stereotyping those experiencing homelessness.

### **6. Improve Maryland’s Expungement Law**

Advocate with the General Assembly to permit “Partial Expungement” and reduce the timeframe required to seek expungement for eligible convictions and citations.

### **7. Enhance Access to Expungement/Shielding**

Enhance access to expungement/shielding resources for eligible criminal justice-involved persons within Montgomery County.