

What happens in the program?

There is a monthly meeting held at Progress Place with the program coordinator, participants, attorneys, and service providers. Participants approved for the program attend and meet with an attorney. Together they develop a service plan that is presented to the State's Attorney for approval. The service plan is related to the criminal charges and is designed to address the circumstances that led to those charges. There may be monthly check-ins as part of the service plan. If, at the end of 90 days, the participant has followed the service plan, the charges are dropped and an attorney will file for expungement of the criminal record.

Who can refer to the program?

Anyone can make a referral to the HPCDP including homeless service and housing providers, anyone within the legal system, including State's Attorney's Office, Office of the Public Defender, Montgomery County and local jurisdiction law enforcement, and persons currently experiencing homelessness (self-referrals).

How are referrals made?

Submit a referral to:
hpcdp@montgomerycountymd.gov.

More information about the program is available at:
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/homelessness/hpcdp/.

The Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness, Committee on Decriminalization of Homelessness, outlined goals and identified four distinct approaches to decriminalizing homelessness. The approaches included pre-arrest diversion, post-arrest diversion, state and local legal/policy changes, and community education.

The Homeless Persons Criminal Diversion Program (HPCDP) is the first recommendation to be implemented.



Montgomery County Department
of Health and Human Services
401 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

HAVE YOU BEEN CHARGED WITH A CRIME?



HOMELESS PERSONS CRIMINAL DIVERSION PROGRAM (HPCDP)

What is HPCDP?

HPCDP is a post-arrest diversion program for homeless persons who have been charged with specific non-violent misdemeanors and transit or traffic offenses. If someone chooses to participate, it provides an alternative to traditional legal resolutions and allows the participant to engage in approved services instead of criminal penalty.

Why is it important?

People experiencing homelessness often face charges for crimes that are a result of their homelessness. These charges may keep them from getting housing or employment. This program can help get charges dropped and criminal charges expunged from the record.



Who is eligible?

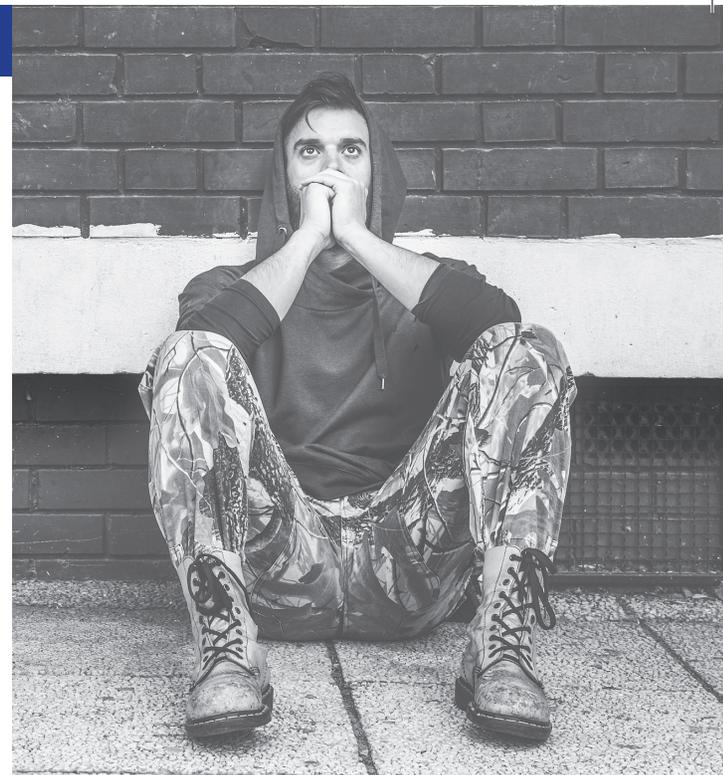
Any homeless person in Montgomery County can apply to the program. That includes anyone who is on the streets, in a shelter, doubled up with friends or family, in a motel or living in a place not meant for human habitation.

What charges are covered?

People can participate if there is a pending case or warrant issued in Montgomery County District Court for:

- alcohol offenses (not DUI)
- destruction of property
- disorderly conduct
- drug possession/paraphernalia
- Metro citations
- panhandling
- public urination
- rogue & vagabond
- solicitation/prostitution
- theft
- traffic offenses (not DUI)
- trespass

Other misdemeanors not listed may be considered.



Who is involved in the program?

Services to End and Prevent Homelessness in the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, the State's Attorney's Office, defense attorneys, Homeless Persons Representation Project, Inc., and multiple service providers in the County. These include mental health and substance use providers, employment services, housing locators, benefits enrollment, and others as needed.