

Board of County Commissioners

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Carroll County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONNECTING WITH YOUTH WHO ARE ON THEIR OWN AND EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN CARROLL COUNTY

Westminster, Tuesday, March 07, 2017 – Youth REACH MD, a coalition of state and local partners, is conducting a youth outreach effort in **Carroll County March 12th through March 25th** to better understand and address youth homelessness.

The Youth REACH (Reach out, Engage, Assist, and Count to end Homelessness) MD Coalition will launch a survey and census of youth and young adults, **aged 13-24**, in Carroll County who are on their own and experiencing homelessness or housing instability. These youth are at an increased risk for victimization, exploitation, poor physical and behavioral health, substance use, and other adverse outcomes. The goal of the project is to better understand the number, characteristics, and needs of these youth in order to inform policy and resource provision and improve outcomes for youth and young adults in Carroll County and throughout the state of Maryland.

In order to complete the surveys during the two week period, trained Youth Ambassadors, along with county agencies, will interview those youth who are homeless, couch surfing, or otherwise unstably housed and on their own. Youth can also call the Youth REACH hotline (information below) to arrange to be counted in person or over the phone. Youth Reach Carroll will also be hosting two events focused on disconnected youth to inform them of available services.

On Friday, March 17th between 7:30 and 11 am, Youth REACH volunteers will be hosting information sessions at On Our Own (265 E. Main St.). A Free Breakfast will be available for all who attend along with the chance for youth to win prizes.

On Thursday, March 23rd between 11am and 1 pm, a Resource Fair will be held during the regularly scheduled community meal at St. Paul's UCC (17 Bond St.). Please attend for information about resources, giveaways and prize drawings.

Please call 410-857-2538 March 12th – 25th in order to be counted and have your voice heard.

Additional information can be found by visiting youthreachmd.com, on Facebook (Youth Reach Maryland – Carroll County) and by following #CCYouthReach2017 or #YouthReachMD.

CARROLL COUNTY

ACCESSIBILITY NOTICE: The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600, 1.888.302.8978, MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email ada@ccg.carr.org as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.