



Health & Human Services Collaborative

An arm of the Family Resource Network of the Panhandle

Strong and Stable Families Work Group December 2019

Living Wage Statistics

The living wage shown is the hourly rate that an **individual** in a household must earn to support himself or herself and their family. The assumption is the sole provider is working full-time (2080 hours per year). The tool provides information for individuals and households with one or two working adults and zero to three children. In the case of households with two working adults, all values are **per working adult, single, or in a family** unless otherwise noted.

(source: <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/54003>)

Berkeley County WV								
	1 Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)			
	0 children	1 child	2 children	3 children	0 children	1 child	2 children	3 children
Living Wage	\$11.44	\$22.94	\$27.45	\$35.16	\$18.43	\$21.78	\$24.33	\$27.81
Poverty Wage	\$5.84	\$7.91	\$9.99	\$12.07	\$7.91	9.99	\$12.07	\$14.14
Minimum Wage	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75	\$8.75

How Statistics Drive Our Work

The Health and Human Service Collaborative's Eastern Panhandle Successful Renters Program started in 2014 after members raised concern about the number of families facing eviction. One magistrate in Berkeley County had 90 cases in just one week. Although there are multiple reasons for housing insecurity, the group is reaching out to help families better understand how to get and keep housing.

The program is offered several times a year in Berkeley, Jefferson, and Morgan Counties. Recently, it was offered to 200 Morgan County students. The students at Berkeley Springs High School and Paw Paw High Schools learned how to read a rental lease, understand their rights and responsibilities as a tenant, budget and use credit, and recognize legal issues involving renting. Upon completion of the weeklong workshop, each student received a certificate of completion and a dictionary safe to store their important documents.

2019 Strong and Stable Families Work Group Activities

Play SMART/Play to Win (PSP2W) "soft skills" training From November 2018 to November 2019, 13 Eastern Panhandle programs and agencies have requested and received Play SMART/Play to Win (PSP2W) "soft skills" training curriculum materials. Programs and agencies receiving information and requesting curriculum include: Boys & Girls Club of the Eastern Panhandle, Early Head Start, Valley College, Jefferson County Community Ministries, Potomac Highlands Guild, The Eastern Panhandle Empowerment Center, Telamon, Martinsburg Initiative, Burlington United Ministries Family Services, Catholic Charities, Division of Rehabilitation Services, Children's Home Society, Board of Child Care, Burke Street Promise Neighborhood Initiative, Jobs and Hope. More than 60 people participated in PSP2W Training Workshops facilitated directly by the PSP2W Steering Committee:

Community Resource Events/Fairs

April-10 community agencies collaborated to host the BB&T Bank Bus Fair Housing Community Resource Fair in Morgan County. October - 17 Community agencies collaborated to participate in the BB&T Bank Bus Community Resource Trunk-or-Treat The event was held over two evenings (once in Berkeley County and once in Jefferson County). In information, resources and candy were provided to more than 100 families.

Advocate for SNAP & TANF

Work group members informed of current and potential policy changes that will impact these services.

Document Our Successes!

The work that the Strong and Stable Families Work Group is doing is touching and changing lives. We capture both the outputs and the outcomes of our work.

Looking to the Future ...

Challenges:

- Play 2 Win volunteers and local business "buy-in" are needed
- Increase participants enrolled in workshops
- Venues needed for community resource events/fairs

Strategies:

- Community agencies assist in increasing workshop awareness
- Establish referral process
- Partner with local businesses

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