

The Anti-Poverty Commission Second Report – July 17, 2018

“Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Sometimes it falls on a generation to be great.” “YOU can be that great generation. Let your greatness blossom.”

[Nelson Mandela](#) – February 2005

The Anti-Poverty Commission Members

Chairperson – Mr. Michael Edwards

Vice Chairperson – Mrs. Wanda Taliaferro

Secretary – Ms. Barbara Hoosier

Dr. Cheryl Riggins

Pastor David Tolbert

Mrs. Florence Rhue

Ms. Joanne Williams

Pastor Michael Shannon

Dr. Rosezelia Weaver-Roy

Mr. Leonard Muse

Ms. Janell Sinclair

Mr. Daniel Todd

The Honorable Treska Wilson-Smith, Council Representative

The Anti-Poverty Commission



- The Anti-Poverty Commission was established in 2015
- Citizens of Petersburg applied and were appointed by City Council.
- We adopted the theme:
“Giving a hand up, not a hand out!”
- The Anti-Poverty Commission’s goal is to influence public policy to address poverty and its impact on the city of Petersburg.
- Strategies are to address interventions by the local government of Petersburg in conjunction with the community and private sector.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

15-R-41

Adopted 07/07/15

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION

- **WHEREAS**, the Petersburg City council, by the authority vested in them, hereby creates the **Anti-Poverty Commission**; and
- **WHEREAS**, under the authority, the Anti-Poverty commission is hereby established to develop strategies to address poverty that have demonstrable results for increasing employment and educational attainment, improving transportation, and enhancing healthy communities for Petersburg residents; and
- **WHEREAS**, the City of Petersburg sees to identify the root cause of poverty to the City and develop policies designed to address these causes; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to the *US Census 2013 American Community Survey* 26.7% of Petersburg residents are below the poverty threshold set by the Federal government compared to 11.3% average for the Commonwealth of Virginia; and
- **WHEREAS**, the *US Census, 2013 American Community Survey* reports the median household income for residents of the City of Petersburg as \$34, 424, while the median household income for the Commonwealth of Virginia is \$63, 907; and
- **WHEREAS**, according to the *U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, February 2015 data, the unemployment rate in the City of Petersburg is 10.1%, while the rate of unemployment for the Commonwealth is 4.7%;
- **WHEREAS**, the City of Petersburg seeks to promote economic purity and social justice for all of the citizens and residents of Petersburg, Virginia,
- **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Virginia, hereby sets forth to develop and Ant-Poverty Commission, and do hereby order that:
- The Commission shall, by way of illustration but not limitation, consist of the following work groups; **Job Creation, Workforce Development/Education, Policy/legislation, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, and Transportation**. The Commission will provide recommendations on strategies to address poverty. The Commission will identify strategies consistent with making Petersburg a Tier One City and develop a report detailing the recommendation within twelve (12) month of the establishment of the Commission.

The Anti-Poverty Commission

Mission Statement

The Anti-Poverty Commission is dedicated to the role of identifying strategies to reduce poverty and to make Petersburg a Tier One City. With focus on the areas of Job Creation, Workforce Development, Education, Healthy Communities, Research/Evaluation, Transportation, and Policy/Legislation, the Commission continues to conduct research, identify available resources, collaborate with neighboring cities, organizations, and the local government of Petersburg. . The focus areas are:

Job Creation

Healthy Communities

Policy/Legislation

Research/Evaluations

Workforce Development Education

Transportation

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Defining Poverty

- **According to Miriam Webster** - it is the state of one who lacks a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions.
- **According to the Business Dictionary** – it is a Condition where people’s basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are not being met. Poverty is generally of two types; (1) Absolute Poverty and (2) Relative Poverty.
- **According to the U.S. Census Bureau** - if a family’s total income is less than the family’s threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty.
- **According to Investopedia** – it is a state of deprivation, lacking the usual for socially acceptable amount of money or material possessions
- **According to Wikipedia** – Poverty is the scarcity or the lack of a certain amount of material possessions or money. Poverty is a multifaceted concept which may include social, economic, and political elements.



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- **Poverty according to the 2016 U. S. Census Bureau**
- The official poverty rate in 2016 was 12.7 percent, down 0.8 percentage points from 13.5 percent in 2015. This is the second consecutive annual decline in poverty. Since 2014, the poverty rate has fallen 2.1 percentage points from 14.8 percent to 12.7 percent.
- In 2016 there were 40.6 million people in poverty, 2.5 million fewer than in 2015 and 6.0 million fewer than in 2014.
- The poverty rate in 2016 (12.7 percent) was not significantly higher than the poverty rate in 2007 (12.5 percent), the year before the most recent recession.
- For most demographic groups, the number of people in poverty decreased from 2015. Adults aged 65 and older were the only population group to experience an increase in the number of people in poverty. (The elderly are living longer and this number does not reflect the needs of the elderly such as medication, special adaptive devices, etc)
- Between 2015 and 2016, the poverty rate for children under age 18 declined from 19.7 to 18.0 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 18-64 declined from 12.4 to 11.6 percent. The poverty rate for adults aged 65 and older was 9.3 percent in 2016, not statistically different from the rate in 2015.

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What Does Poverty Look Like in Petersburg?

Local Department of Social Services Profile Report, SFY 2017

W. Renea Evans-House, MUS, MPA | Interim Director

Petersburg Dept. of Social Services

400 Farmer Street

Petersburg VA 23803

804-861-4720

w.reneaevans-house@dss.virginia.gov



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Poverty Status of Compared to Surrounding Localities

Ranking From Lowest to Highest	City or County Identified	Poverty Level According to 2016 U.S. Census Bureau
1	Chesterfield	7.0%
2	Prince George	9.5%
3	Colonial Heights	12.9%
4	Dinwiddie	13 .0 %
5	Hopewell	20.5%
6	Richmond	26.2%
7	Petersburg	29.4%
	Total Percent in the state of Virginia	11.0%

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Median Household Incomes of Surrounding Localities
According to the 2016 U.S. Census Bureau
Listed in order of highest income levels



2014 Statistics as Reported in 2017	Surrounding City or County	2016 Statistics
\$72, 972	Chesterfield	\$73,869.00
Data not available at time of report	Prince George	\$64, 804
\$52,288	Dinwiddie	\$51,579
\$52,355	Colonial Heights	\$49, 639
Data not available at time of report	Richmond City	\$44, 919
Data not available at time of report	Hopewell	\$40,814
\$32, 749	Petersburg	\$32, 169
\$64,923	Virginia	\$66, 149

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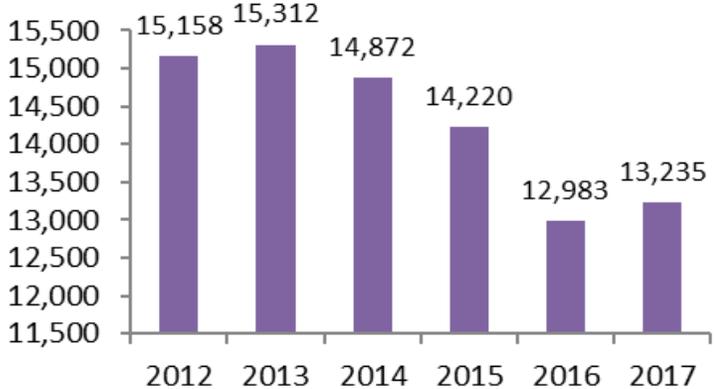
Residents who
received benefits
(SNAP, TANF or
Medicaid) in CY 2017



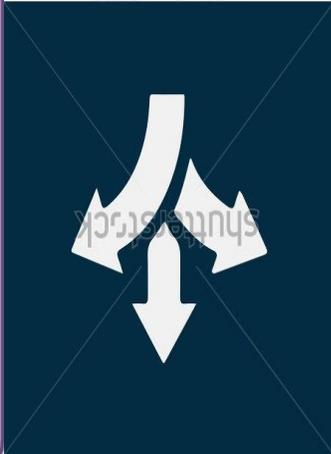
**18,248 out of a
population of 31,882**

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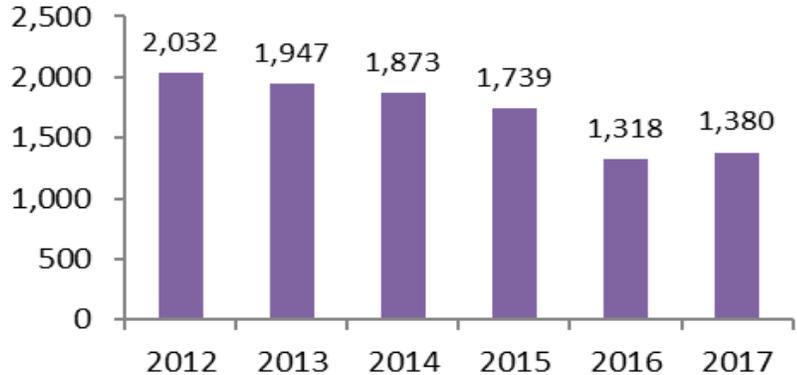
Eligible SNAP Clients by Calendar Year



Source: Data Warehouse, Client Cross-Program Locality Yearly Analysis).

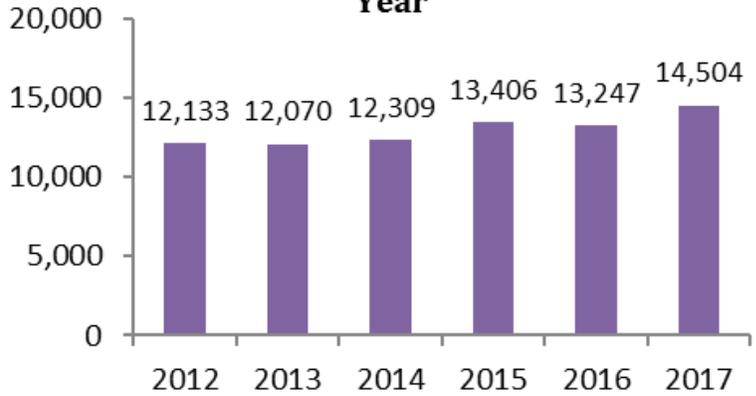


Eligible TANF Clients by Calendar Year



Source: Data Warehouse, Client Cross-Program Locality Yearly Analysis).

Eligible Medicaid Clients by Calendar Year



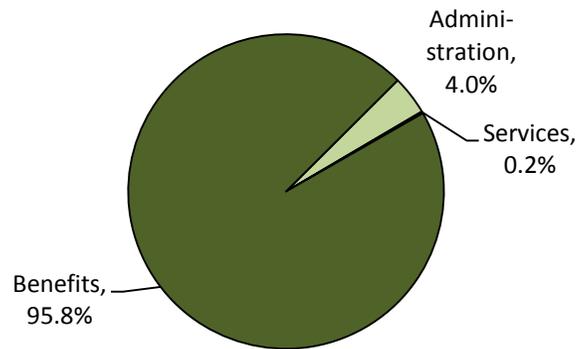
Source: Data Warehouse, Client Cross-Program Locality Yearly Analysis).

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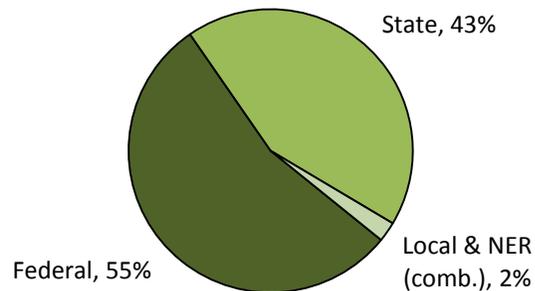


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Distribution of Social Services Spending in Locality, SFY 2017



Total Social Services Spending by Funding Source in Locality, SFY 2017



Social Services Spending, SFY 2017 <i>Petersburg</i>	Federal	State	Local & NER (comb.)	All Sources
Administrative costs	\$2,682,515	\$1,289,865	\$1,364,890	\$5,337,269
Staff and operations ¹	\$2,419,458	\$1,289,865	\$676,791	\$4,386,113
Other expenses ²	\$263,057	\$0	\$688,099	\$951,156
<i>Admin costs - % by Funding Source</i>	50%	24%	26%	100%
<i>Admin costs - % Total SS spending</i>	4%	2%	45%	4%
Services purchased for clients³	\$65,318	\$158,327	\$42,037	\$265,682
<i>Services - % by Funding Source</i>	25%	60%	16%	100%
<i>Services - % Total SS spending</i>	0%	0.3%	1.4%	0.2%
Client Benefits Spending⁴	\$69,940,164	\$56,070,454	\$1,625,801	\$127,636,419
Medicaid & FAMIS ⁵	\$51,950,930	\$50,604,904	\$236,982	\$102,792,815
SNAP	\$14,849,877	\$0	\$0	\$14,849,877
TANF	\$457,682	\$684,483	\$0	\$1,142,164
Energy Assistance	\$795,026	\$0	\$0	\$795,026
Foster care/adoption ⁶	\$1,274,303	\$1,476,816	-\$46,846	\$2,704,272
Comprehensive Services (Title IV-E) ⁷	\$0	\$2,667,085	\$1,326,887	\$3,993,972
Child Care ⁸	\$613,552	\$203,593	\$0	\$817,145
Other Benefits ⁹	-\$1,205	\$433,573	\$108,779	\$541,147
<i>Benefits - % by Funding Source</i>	55%	44%	1%	100%
<i>Benefits - % Total SS spending</i>	96%	97%	54%	96%
Total SS Spending	\$72,687,998	\$57,518,645	\$3,032,728	\$133,239,371
SS Funding - % by Funding Source	55%	43%	2%	100%

Source: LASER, Statewide Summary. Local expenses and expenses not eligible for reimbursement (NER) are combined.

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Phase One from Jan. 2017-June 2018

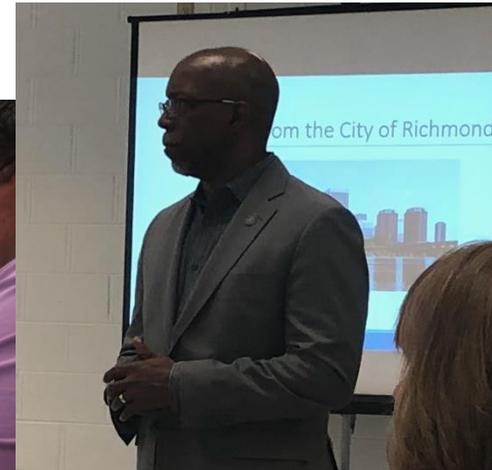
- It was the Commission's task to interview various community organizations who provide services to the impoverished. Commissioners interviewed people who could provide assistance in understanding how poverty was affecting their localities and what was being done regarding poverty. A plethora of people were interviewed from various professions to include, but, not limited to, the following:
- **From The Office of Community Wealth Building in Richmond, Va.** - Mr. Thaddeus Williamson
- **From The Robert Bobb Group** – Mr. Robert Bobb, Mr. Tom Tyrell, Former Acting City Manager and Jack Berry (Former member of the Anti-Poverty Commission in Richmond.
- **From Work Force Development – Learn to Earn** - Earlene Jones , Glen M. Jones
- **From Circles of Ashland** – Mr. David Cooper
- **From the Petersburg Housing Authority** - Mr. Nathaniel Pride and Ms. Yvette Bemby
- **From the Petersburg Transit System** - Mr. Charles Koonce, Mr. Darius Mason and Mr. Vincent Seaberry
- **From Petersburg Public School System** – Dr. Marcus Newsome, Supt. Of Schools
- **From Petersburg Social Services** - Ms. Renea Evans- House and Ms. Wallace from Petersburg Department of Social Services
- **From City Administration** - Ms. Darnetta Tyus Deputy City Manager and Work Force
- We, the Commission has interviewed at least 20 different people, collected data from them and had the opportunity to seek additional information.

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Phase One Continued:

Collaborating with surrounding communities regarding their efforts to address poverty. 

Three members of the Anti-Poverty Commission attended the Community Wealth Building Strategy Sharing Session presented in Partnership with Virginia First Cities.....The Honorable Treska Wilson-Smith; Councilwoman, Michael Edwards; Chairperson and Dr. Rosezelia Roy. There was discussion on the role of employment on poverty as well as applying for the “TANF for Employment Grant”.



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Phase Two - Three

Phase Two

- Identify Petersburg's current state of poverty.



- Develop metrics by which to measure, track and report efforts to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.

This is an ongoing process while we review records from the U.S. Census Bureau, United Way, Virginia Employment Commission and Petersburg Social Services and other organizations that address those living in poverty (i.e. CARES, Other Shelter Facilities, Cooling and Warming Stations)

Phase Three

- Collaborate with City Council and the Community to increase awareness about poverty in the City of Petersburg
- Teach the community about the effects of poverty in Petersburg via poverty simulations.

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Phase Four

Phase Four

In collaboration with members of the community, private sector and local government, develop and present a strategic plan of action to decrease poverty in the City of Petersburg.

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- The Anti-Poverty Commission wishes to thank the members of the City Council of Petersburg for the initiative shown by formulating this Commission. You are to be commended for recognizing that the city of Petersburg is in critical state by having a poverty level at 29.4%, higher than any of our surrounding localities.
- The Anti – Poverty Commission is in the process of learning all that we can so that we can develop a strategic plan to share with you.