



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Study Launched to Aid Local Efforts at Ending Homelessness

Rockville, MD – November 8, 2006 – The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless has commissioned a landmark study to advance county-wide efforts at ending homelessness. This study is being conducted by Abt Associates, Inc. over the next six months to determine 1) how to help people exit homelessness more rapidly and 2) the cost to end homelessness in Montgomery County.

This study, in collaboration with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and other local homeless service providers, will analyze Montgomery County's current homeless assistance system, develop a map of how the system should look and function, and compute the cost of creating enough appropriate housing to end homelessness in the county. As a part of this study, Abt Associates, Inc. will provide technical assistance to homeless providers in shifting their programmatic focus and approach to confronting homelessness to a Housing First model, which breaks the cycle of homelessness by placing homeless individuals and families rapidly into permanent housing and then providing them with appropriate levels of supportive services.

This study is part of a strategic process to end homelessness in the county and its results will make tremendous headway in implementing *Homelessness in Montgomery County: Beginning to End*, our local plan to end homelessness by 2012.

Every year, an estimated 4,500 people in Montgomery County experience homelessness and receive help from homeless service providers. On a typical day, more than 1,150 people, a quarter of them children, are counted as homeless. The Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless is a nonprofit organization that provides permanent and transitional housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services for 1,500 homeless men, women and children each year. In addition, the Coalition is a membership organization serving the provider network in Montgomery County through program coordination, educational activities and advocacy efforts.

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