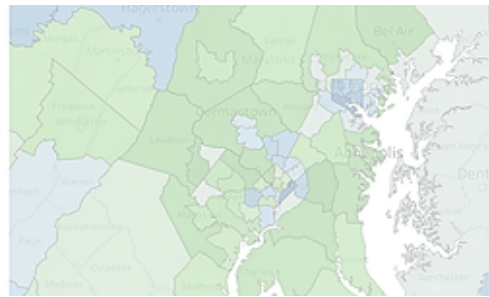




Greater Washington Poverty Forum



## It is time for action & a new approach.

It is not uncommon for me to receive a call from a friend in poverty, telling me how much worse things are getting and how urgent it is that we do something before more friends and family are lost. It happened a few times in the past week, alone. These are tough people who called, so I wondered, how bad must it be for these families and for the kids?

Here are a few answers to that question:

In Washington, DC, there are approximately 85,000 people who live in Ward 3 and 85,000 people who live in Ward 8. Last year there were 2 victims of homicide in Ward 3 and 71 victims of homicide in Ward 8.

	Residents	Homicide Victims
Ward 3	~ 85,000	2
Ward 8	~ 85,000	71

3,450%  
more in Ward 8

**That's 3,450% more. Dead, not just injured.**

And the number of people shot was much higher - and much, much higher in Ward 8 than in every part of Greater Washington where poverty is not as commonplace.

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At one  
DC  
High School

- 100% of the students qualify for free lunch.
- Less than 5% read at grade level.
- Less than 5% can do math at grade level.

Recent data shows that fewer than 65% graduate from this school, but teachers will tell you that the number of kids even coming to school is less than that.

### **What are the statistics like at *your kids' school*?**

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We are tolerating this year after year in Greater Washington. It's a worsening crisis, but it's a solvable crisis.

It is not a crisis that calls for contribution; it calls for commitment. Your neighbors need opportunities. They need you to care enough to engage, to commit. They need us to remove the obstacles they face to employment. They need us to ensure that we do everything we can do to ensure their safety.

While the statistics above are not new, what is new is our approach to poverty eradication. And it is something with which you can help, starting on **April 20th**.

I know we are all busy, and who needs another time obligation... but the thing is your neighbors are dying at unbelievably disproportionate rates because of their economic instability.

And it's only because we are not doing enough to help. If you engage, poverty goes down. That's the formula we are betting on. It is why we are hosting [The Greater Washington Poverty Forum](#). It's why we invite you to participate.

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Use the links below to access information about our upcoming forum, and please share the information with your friends, family and colleagues.

Forum Brochure

Registration Form

Working Group Description

Sector Definitions

If you are not in the Washington DC area and would like us to bring a Poverty Forum to your community, please let me know. We are eager to bring this

approach nationwide. Likewise, if you are in the area but unavailable on April 20th, reach out. There is much that you can do.

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Ending poverty is about making a commitment to one another. How bad must it be before we all do that?



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**The Shared  
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End Poverty**

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