

Hope's Haven Village

Needs Assessment & Demonstrated Community Demand

Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties · South Carolina

Veterans in Transition

- South Carolina is home to over 400,000 veterans, representing nearly 8% of the state's adult population.
- Approximately 1 in 10 veterans experience housing insecurity or homelessness at some point. In Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties combined, this equates to thousands of veterans at risk.
- The veteran suicide rate in South Carolina remains higher than the national average, underscoring the urgent need for supportive housing, mental health services, and reintegration programs.
- The Charleston VA Medical Center has reported increasing demand for housing and social services referrals in the tri-county area, particularly for veterans returning from overseas deployments.

Domestic Violence & Survivors of Abuse

- South Carolina consistently ranks among the top 10 states in the nation for women killed by men.
- In 2023 alone, over 40,000 victims of domestic violence were served statewide. Many survivors face financial instability and lack of safe transitional housing.
- Thousands of families in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties enter the system each year due to abuse or neglect, with survivors often left without adequate support once shelters reach capacity.
- Current shelters provide short-term stays (30–90 days), but long-term transitional options are severely limited, creating a cycle of instability.

Children in DSS Care & At-Risk Youth

- As of 2024, over 3,500 children are in foster care statewide, with Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties accounting for a significant share.
- A disproportionate number of these children have behavioral challenges or trauma histories, often resulting in expulsion or disciplinary action from traditional schools.
- Children with untreated trauma are twice as likely to enter the juvenile justice system, and youth in foster care are 60% more likely to face incarceration than their peers.
- Hope's Haven School's no-expulsion policy and trauma-informed education model will directly address this gap, reducing long-term societal costs.

Housing and Poverty in the Tri-County Area

- Charleston County alone has over 2,000 individuals experiencing homelessness annually.
- Affordable housing is in crisis: the median home price in Charleston County exceeds \$500,000, while the median household income is less than \$70,000.
- Over 12% of families in Berkeley and Dorchester counties live below the poverty line, with single-parent households particularly vulnerable.
- For every 100 extremely low-income renter households in South Carolina, only 43 affordable rental homes exist, creating a significant shortfall.

Why Hope's Haven Village Is Needed

- Fills a gap: No current program in Charleston, Berkeley, or Dorchester counties offers combined transitional housing, trauma-informed K–12 education, daycare, and holistic wraparound services.
- Reduces public costs: Transitional housing reduces long-term expenses for DSS, DJJ, and corrections systems. Studies show that for every \$1 invested, communities save \$2–\$3 in reduced law enforcement, emergency healthcare, and incarceration costs.
- Community demand: Referrals from DSS, VA, DJJ, and local shelters already overwhelm existing services. A scalable, sustainable community like Hope's Haven is uniquely positioned to meet this critical need.

Conclusion

The combined statistics demonstrate an urgent and growing need for a comprehensive transitional housing and support community in South Carolina. Hope's Haven Village will address these needs by providing long-term housing, trauma-informed education, daycare services, and supportive care, filling a critical gap in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties while building a model that can be scaled across the state.