

# Glossary and Acronyms

## Glossary

**Account:** A separate financial reporting unit. All budgetary transactions are recorded in accounts.

**Accounting Period:** A period of time (e.g., one month, one year) where the County determines its financial position and results of operations.

**Accrual:** Accrual accounting/budgeting refers to a method of accounting/budgeting in which revenues are recorded when earned and outlays are recorded when goods are received or services are performed, even though the actual receipts and disbursements of cash may occur, in whole or in part, in a different fiscal period.

**Accrual Basis of Accounting:** A method of accounting where revenues are recorded when service is given, and expenses are recognized when the benefit is received. In Fairfax County, governmental and agency funds are accounted for on a modified accrual basis of accounting in which revenue is recognized when it is measurable and available. Revenue from the use of money and property and from intergovernmental reimbursement grants is recorded as earned. Other revenues are considered available to be used to pay liabilities of the current period if they are collectible within the current period or within 45 days thereafter. Expenditures are generally recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt and certain other general long-term obligations.

**Actual:** Monies that have already been used or received; different from budgeted monies, which are estimates of funds to be spent or received.

**Actuarial:** A methodology that makes determinations of required contributions to achieve future funding levels by addressing risk and time.

**Adopted Budget Plan:** A plan of financial operations approved by the Board of Supervisors highlighting major changes made to the County Executive's Advertised Budget Plan by the Board of Supervisors. The Adopted Budget Plan reflects approved tax rates and estimates of revenues, expenditures, transfers, agency goals, objectives, and performance data. Sections are included to show major budgetary/financial policies and guidelines used in the fiscal management of the County.

**Affordable Care Act:** The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), commonly called the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is a United States federal statute enacted in March 2010. The Affordable Care Act was intended to increase health insurance quality and affordability, lower the uninsured rate by expanding insurance coverage and reduce the costs of healthcare. It introduced mechanisms including mandates, subsidies, and insurance exchanges. The law requires insurers to accept all applicants, cover a specific list of conditions and charge the same rates regardless of pre-existing conditions or sex.

**Ad Valorem Tax:** A tax levied on the assessed value of real estate and personal property. This tax is also known as property tax.

**Advanced Life Support (ALS):** The rapid intervention of advanced emergency medical services such as cardiac monitoring, starting intravenous fluids, giving medication, manual defibrillation, and the process of using advance airway adjuncts.

**Advertised Budget Plan:** A plan of financial operations submitted by the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors. This plan reflects estimated revenues, expenditures, and transfers, as well as agency goals, objectives, and performance data. In addition, sections are included to show major budgetary/financial policies and guidelines used in the fiscal management of the County.

**Affordable Housing:** Housing is generally considered affordable when the cost of rent/mortgage does not exceed 30-35 percent of the annual gross household income.

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** This \$1.9 trillion package provided funding for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) to help state, local, and municipal governments to continue providing pandemic relief. The act was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The U.S. Treasury Department confirmed that Fairfax County will receive \$222 million in federal funding as part of the ARPA, through two funding tranches with \$111 million in May 2021 and the balance delivered no sooner than 12 months following the initial disbursement. Specific guidelines on how these funds can be used is being determined.

**Amortization:** The reduction of debt through regular payments of principal and interest sufficient to retire the debt instrument at a predetermined date known as maturity.

**Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR):** This official annual report, prepared by the Department of Finance, presents the status of the County's finances in a standardized format. The annual report is organized by fund and contains two basic types of information: (1) a balance sheet that compares assets with liabilities and fund balance, and (2) an operating statement that compares revenues and expenditures. The annual report contains the annual audited results of the County's financial position and activity.

**Annual Required Contribution (ARC):** The actuarially determined amount of employer funding required to support pension or OPEB (other post-employment benefit) costs. The ARC is composed of the normal cost, which is the cost of benefits earned in the current year, and the amortization of the unfunded liability for benefits earned in prior years.

**Appropriated Fund:** Funds budgeted and authorized by the Board of Supervisors for County agencies and funds to incur liabilities for the acquisition of goods and services. These funds, which include revenues derived from governmental sources, require annual appropriation by the Board of Supervisors for legal spending authority by agencies.

**Appropriation:** A specific amount of money authorized by the Board of Supervisors to a specified unit of the County government to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. Appropriation authorizations expire at the end of the fiscal year.

**Appropriation Controls:** A specific amount of money authorized by the Board of Supervisors to a specified unit of the County government to make expenditures and to incur obligations for specific purposes. Spending is generally controlled either at the bottom line of appropriation categories such as Personnel Services, Operating Expenses, Recovered Costs (Work Performed for Others), or Capital Equipment (for operating agencies) or the bottom-line of a project budget, e.g., for capital construction funds or grant budget. In addition, agencies cannot transfer funds from one fund to another fund without authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Agencies cannot adjust their bottom-line budget expenditures without authorization from the Board of Supervisors. Typically, the Board of Supervisors approves agency bottom-line expenditure adjustments during the next budget review cycle, i.e., Third Quarter or Carryover. With adequate justification and DMB approval,

agencies can perform a budget transfer of funds from one category to another, e.g., from Personnel Services to Operating Expenses, as long as there is no change to the agency's bottom-line budget and the budget transfer must occur within the same agency and/or fund.

**Arbitrage:** With respect to the issuance of municipal securities, arbitrage usually refers to the difference between the interest paid on the tax-exempt securities and the interest earned by investing the security proceeds in higher yielding taxable securities. Internal Revenue Service regulations govern arbitrage on the proceeds from issuance of governmental securities.

**Area Median Income (AMI):** A measure of the amount of income for a specific geographical area where one-half of that area's population earns more than the AMI and the other half of the population earns less than AMI.

**Assessed Property Value:** The estimated actual value set upon real estate or other taxable property by the County Property Appraiser (Department of Tax Administration) as a basis for levying real estate tax. Real property is assessed as of January 1 each year at the estimated fair market value of all land and improvements, with the resulting taxes being payable in the subsequent fiscal year. Real estate taxes are due in equal installments, on July 28 and December 5. Unpaid taxes automatically constitute liens on real property which must be satisfied prior to sale or transfer, and after three years, foreclosure proceedings can be initiated.

**Assessment:** The official valuation of property for purposes of taxation.

**Assessment Ratio:** The ratio of the assessed value of a taxed item to the market value of that item. In Fairfax County, real estate is assessed at 100 percent of market value as of January 1 each year.

**Assets:** Resources owned or held by a government which have monetary value. Assets may be tangible or intangible and are expressed in terms of cost or some other value.

**Audit:** An audit is an official examination and verification of accounts and records, especially of financial accounts, annually performed by an independent body. The County's financial statements are audited as required by the Code of Virginia. In addition to meeting the requirements of the state statutes, the County's independent audit meets the requirements of in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards. The report of the independent auditors on the basic financial statements can be found in the financial section of the Comprehensive Financial Audit Report. The Single Audit Report, issued separately, contains the independent auditor's reports related specifically to the single audit. As a recipient of federal and state financial assistance, the County also is responsible for maintaining an adequate internal control structure to ensure and document compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to these programs. This internal control structure is subject to periodic evaluation by management and the County's Internal Audit Office staff.

**Audit Adjustment:** This is an adjustment for an expenditure or revenue collection which has not been included in the Carryover Actuals but has been deemed by the auditors to have occurred in the previous fiscal year. When an audit adjustment occurs, the Actual expenditures or revenues are either increased or decreased, resulting in a change to the actual Ending Balance and the Revised

Beginning Balance. In addition, an audit adjustment can sometimes affect the revised budget plan for the following fiscal year.

**Auditor of Public Accounts (APA):** A state agency that oversees accounting, financial reporting, and audit requirements for the units of local government in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Authorized but Unissued Bonds:** Bonds authorized by the Board of Supervisors following a referendum, but not issued to the bond markets. Bonds approved after July 1, 1991 have a maximum of 10 years available by law in which to be issued.

**Average Household Size:** The average number of persons residing within a household in a particular area. It is computed by dividing the total population in households (excluding group quarters such as correctional facilities, nursing homes and college dormitories) by the total number of occupied housing units in that area.

**Balanced Budget:** A budget is balanced when projected total funds available equal total disbursements, including established reserves. All local governments in the Commonwealth of Virginia must adopt a balanced budget as a requirement of state law no later than by July 1.

**Base Budget:** Cost of continuing the existing levels of service.

**Basic Life Support (BLS):** The level of medical care which is used for victims of life-threatening illnesses or injuries until they can be given full medical care at a hospital. It can be provided by trained medical personnel, including emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and by laypersons who have received BLS training. BLS is generally used in the pre-hospital setting and can be provided without medical equipment.

**Basis Point:** Equal to 1/100 of one percent. For example, if interest rates rise from 6.50 percent to 6.75 percent, the difference is referred to as an increase of 25 basis points.

**Beginning Balance:** Unexpended funds from the previous fiscal year that may be used to make payments during the current fiscal year if appropriated.

**Benchmarking:** The systematic comparison of performance with other jurisdictions in order to discover best practices that will enhance performance. Benchmarking involves determining the quality of products, services, and practices by measuring critical factors (e.g., how effective, how much a product or service costs) and comparing the results to those of highly regarded competitors.

**Benefits:** Expenditures related to employee benefits that are funded through employee and employer payroll deductions, like health insurance, retirement, and social security costs.

**Best Practice:** Program or service that is the most effective technique to reach an intended outcome when applied to a particular condition or circumstance. Best practices are generally documented as evidence-based by national organizations' review of research.

**Board of Supervisors:** The Code of Virginia (§ 15.2-802) provides that the powers of the County as a body politic and corporate shall be vested in an urban county board of supervisors, to consist of one member from each district of such county and to be known as the board of supervisors (the board). Each member shall be a qualified voter of his or her district and shall be elected by the qualified voters thereof. In addition to the above-board members, the voters shall elect a county

chairman who shall be a qualified voter of the county. The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County is composed of ten members, one from each of the nine County magisterial districts, plus a chairman. Supervisors are elected for four-year terms.

**Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs):** A Body-Worn Camera is a wearable audio/video recording system used to record events in which police officers are involved.

**Bond:** A written promise to pay a specified sum of money (called the principal), at a specified date in the future, together with periodic interest at a specified rate. In the budget document, these payments are identified as debt service. Bonds may be used as an alternative to tax receipts to secure revenue for long-term capital improvements. The two major categories are General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) and Revenue Bonds. The majority of bonds issued for County and School construction projects are known as General Obligation Bonds.

**Bond Covenants:** A legally enforceable promise made to the bondholders from the issuer, generally in relation to the source of repayment funding.

**Bond Proceeds:** The money paid to the issuer by the purchaser or underwriter of a new issue of municipal securities. These moneys are used to finance the project or purpose for which the securities were issued and to pay certain costs of issuance as may be provided in the bond contract.

**Bond Rating:** A rating (made by an established bond rating company) from a schedule of grades indicating the probability of timely repayment of principal and interest on bonds issued. Fairfax County uses the services of the nation's three primary bond rating services, Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch, to perform credit analyses to determine the probability of an issuer of debt defaulting partially or fully. Fairfax County has maintained a Triple A bond rating status from Moody's since 1975, Standard and Poor's since 1978, and Fitch since 1997.

**Bond Referendum:** A process whereby the voters of a governmental unit are given the opportunity to approve or disapprove a proposed issue of municipal securities, most commonly required for the approval of General Obligation Bonds. Requirements for voter approval may be imposed by constitution, statute, or local ordinance.

**Budget:** A plan for the acquisition and allocation of resources to accomplish specified purposes. The term may be used to describe special purpose fiscal plans or parts of a fiscal plan, such as "the budget of the Police Department," "the Capital Budget," or "the School Board's budget," or it may relate to a fiscal plan for an entire jurisdiction, such as "the budget of Fairfax County."

**Budget Transfers:** Budget transfers shift previously budgeted funds from one item of expenditure to another. Transfers may occur throughout the course of the fiscal year as needed for County government operations.

**Build-Out:** This refers to the time in the life cycle of the County when no incorporated property remains undeveloped. All construction from this point forward is renovation, retrofitting or land cleared through the demolition of existing structures.

**Business Process Redesign:** A methodology that seeks to improve customer service by focusing on redesigning current processes, and possibly incorporating automation-based productivity improvements. Redesign efforts require an Information Strategy Plan (ISP) which identifies and prioritizes the business areas to be redesigned. New or enhanced Business System

Applications (BSAs) are usually required to improve the flow of information across organizational boundaries.

**Business, Professional and Occupational License (BPOL) Tax:** Businesses, professions, trades, and occupations are assessed a license tax based on gross receipts for the prior year, without deductions. Exclusions are deductions from the definition of gross receipts. Section 4-7.2-1(B) of the Fairfax County Code and Chapter 37 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia lists the only deductions that can be claimed. Individuals engaged in home occupations and who are self-employed must also file if their gross receipts are greater than \$10,000. Receipts of venture capital or other investment funds are excluded from taxation except commissions and fees.

**Capital Asset:** Property that has an initial useful life longer than one year and that is of significant value. The useful life of most capital assets extends well beyond one year and includes land, infrastructure, buildings, renovations to buildings that increase their value, equipment, vehicles, and other tangible and intangible assets.

**Capital Equipment:** Equipment such as vehicles, furniture, technical instruments, etc., which have a life expectancy of more than one year and a value of over \$5,000. Equipment with a value of less than \$5,000 is operating equipment.

**Capital Expenditure:** A direct expenditure that results in or contributes to the acquisition or construction of major capital assets (e.g., lands, roads, buildings). The expenditure may be for new construction, addition, replacement, or renovations to buildings that increase their value, or major alteration of a capital asset. Capital assets include land, infrastructure, buildings, equipment, vehicles, and other tangible and intangible assets that have useful lives longer than one year.

**Capital Facilities:** Fixed assets, such as buildings or land.

**Capital Improvement Program (CIP):** A five-year plan for public facilities which addresses the construction or acquisition of fixed assets, primarily buildings but also including parks, sewers, sidewalks, etc., and major items of capital equipment and operating expenses related to new facilities.

**Capital Outlay:** Expenditures for capital-related expenditures.

**Capital Paydown:** Capital construction funded with current year General Fund revenues as opposed to construction financed through the issuance of bonds. This is also referred to as “pay-as-you-go” construction.

**Capital Project:** Major construction, acquisition, or renovation activities which add value to a government’s physical assets or significantly increase their useful life.

**Capital Projects Funds:** Funds, defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, that account for the acquisition and/or construction of major capital facilities or capital improvements other than sewers.

**Capital Renewal:** Capital renewal is the planned replacement of building subsystems such as roofs, electrical systems, HVAC systems and plumbing systems that have reached the end of their useful life. Major capital renewal investments are required in facilities to replace old, obsolete building subsystems that have reached the end of their life cycle.



**Carryover Review:** The process by which certain unspent or unencumbered funds for appropriations previously approved by the Board of Supervisors and for commitments to pay for goods and services at the end of one fiscal year are reappropriated in the next fiscal year. Typically, funds carried over are nonrecurring expenditures, such as capital projects or capital equipment items.

**Cash Management:** An effort to manage cash flows in such a way that interest and penalties paid are minimized and interest earned is maximized.

**Cash Management System:** A system of financial practices which ensures that sufficient cash is available on a daily basis for payment of County obligations when due.

**Chart of Accounts:** A list of expenditure, revenue, and other accounts describing and categorizing financial transactions.

**Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR) Program:** The CCAR program provides financial assistance for childcare to families with low to moderate income who are working, or who are in education/training programs and need assistance with paying for the cost of childcare. The program pays for childcare in center-based and family childcare programs. CCAR provides information about County childcare programs and supports families in choosing care.

**Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP):** This federally administered program is run by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that provides matching funds to states for health insurance to families with children. The program was designed to cover uninsured children in families with incomes that are modest but too high to qualify for Medicaid.

**Children's Services Act (CSA):** The Children's Services Act (CSA) provides both community- and facility-based services to at-risk children and their families. Services offered through CSA are driven by federal and state mandates in foster care and special education. County agencies and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) work collaboratively to design service plans meeting the unique needs of families with children and youth who have, or are at-risk of having, serious emotional or behavioral difficulties.

**Class:** A group of positions which are sufficiently alike in general duties and responsibilities to warrant the use of the same title, specification and pay range.

**Class Series:** A number of classes of positions which are substantially similar as to the types of work involved and differ only in rank as determined by the level of the duties and degree of responsibility involved and the amount of training and experience required.

**Class Specification:** A written description of a class consisting of a class title, a general statement of the level of work, a statement of the distinguishing features of work, some examples of work, and the minimum qualifications for the class.

**Classification:** The grouping of positions in regard to:

- kinds of duties performed and responsibilities;
- level of duties performed;
- requirements as to education, knowledge and experience and ability;
- tests of fitness and;
- ranges of pay.

**Client Cost for Service:** The direct cost, as charged to the client, of receiving a service.

**Collective Bargaining:** During the 2020 session, the Virginia General Assembly passed legislation that allows Virginia counties, cities, and towns to adopt local ordinances or resolutions authorizing collective bargaining with labor unions on behalf of public officers and employees. The legislation became effective on May 1, 2021. In October 2021, the County adopted the Collective Bargaining Ordinance to amend Charter 3 of the Code of the County of Fairfax.

**Collective Impact:** An approach to achieve better results when individuals and organizations pool resources and work together. The Collective Impact approach focuses on community development through engagement residents, schools, local government, community organizations, and faith and business partners to work collaboratively to ensure the well-being of children and youth in Fairfax County.

**Commonwealth Coordinated Care Program Plus (CCCP):** Beginning in July 2017, the Commonwealth of Virginia will move from a fee-for-service delivery model into a managed care model, to be known as the Commonwealth Coordinated Care Program Plus (CCCP), for individuals who receive both Medicare and Medicaid. This statewide managed care program will serve approximately 213,000 individuals throughout the Commonwealth. The CCCP program allows individuals who receive both Medicare and Medicaid the opportunity to receive integrated coordinated care to improve health outcomes.

**Community Health Care Network (CHCN):** This network is a partnership of health professionals, physicians, hospitals, and local government. CHCN was formed to provide primary health services for low income, uninsured residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, who cannot afford primary medical care services for themselves and their families. The Fairfax County Health Department operates three health centers located in Falls Church, Alexandria, and Reston. These centers have been established to provide the kind of medical care offered at a family doctor's office. When needed, medical specialists, ancillary services, and other referrals will be made, as available.

**Comprehensive Plan:** The plan that guides and implements coordinated, adjusted, and harmonious land development that best promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of County residents. It contains long-range recommendations for land use, transportation systems, community services, historic resources, environmental resources, and other facilities, services, and resources.

**Consolidated Plan:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires a Consolidated Plan application which combines the planning and application submission processes for several HUD programs: Community Development Block Grant, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Emergency Shelter Grant, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS. Citizen participation is required as part of the process and is accomplished through representation on the Consolidated Plan Review Committee (CPRC), involvement in public hearings held on housing and community development needs, and participation in public hearings at which the Board of Supervisors acts on the allocation of funds as recommended by the CPRC.

**Constant or Real Dollars:** The presentation of dollar amounts adjusted for inflation to reflect the real purchasing power of money as compared to a certain point in time in the past.



**Consumer Price Index (CPI):** CPI is a measure of the price level of a fixed “market basket” of goods and services relative to the value of that same basket in a designated base period. Measures for two population groups are currently published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI-U and CPI-W. CPI-U is based on a market basket determined by expenditure patterns of all urban households including professionals, self-employed, the poor, the unemployed, retired persons, and urban wage-earners and clerical workers. The CPI-W represents expenditure patterns of only urban wage-earner and clerical-worker families including sales workers, craft workers, service workers, and laborers. The CPI is used as appropriate to adjust for inflation.

**Contingency:** An appropriation of funds available to cover unforeseen events that occur during the fiscal year.

**Contractual Services:** Services rendered to a government by private firms, individuals, or other governmental agencies. Examples include utilities, rent, maintenance agreements, and professional consulting services.

**Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:** The federal funding allocated to Fairfax County made available through supplemental Community Development Block Grant funding and Emergency Solutions Grant funding to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to the impacts of the global Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27, 2020.

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):** A viral infection that can spread from person-to-person caused by a new coronavirus that initially emerged in December 2019 and spread throughout the world.

**Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act:** The first major legislative initiative to address COVID-19. The act was signed into law on March 6, 2020. This \$8.3 billion package provided funding for the national response to coronavirus, including among its provisions an emergency telehealth waiver, vaccine development, support for state and local governments, and assistance for affected small businesses.

**Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF):** The fund was established by the CARES Act to provide ready funding to address unforeseen financial needs and risks created by the COVID-19 health emergency. The CARES Act appropriated \$150 billion to the Fund. Under the CARES Act, the CRF is to be used to make payments for specified uses to states and certain local governments; the District of Columbia and United States Territories; and Tribal governments. Per the CARES Act, the payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; were not accounted for in the most recently approved budget; and were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 31, 2021.

**Cost Center:** Expenditure categories within a program area that relates to specific organizational goals or objectives. Each cost center may consist of an entire agency or a part of an agency. The Civil Service Commission, for example, being small and having a single purpose, is treated as a single cost center. The Office of the County Executive consists of four cost centers: Administration of County Policy, Office of Equity Programs, Office of Internal Audit, and Office of Partnerships.

**Costs of Issuance:** The expenses associated with the sale of a new issue of municipal securities, including such items as printing, legal, rating agency fees, and others.

**Countywide Strategic Plan:** In late 2018, the County embarked on a new countywide strategic planning effort. The Countywide Strategic Plan is intended to be a living document which will establish a framework for decision-making for many years and is intended to integrate existing departmental and issue-specific plans, so all efforts are aligned, coordinated, and focused on the future. The Countywide Strategic Plan is closely coordinated with other related efforts, including the Economic Recovery Framework, the Fairfax County Public Schools Strategic Plan, and the One Fairfax Policy to promote racial and social equity. A draft Strategic Plan was originally presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2020, along with the FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan. Due to the onset of COVID-19, the plan was deferred for one year to make necessary revisions related to the pandemic and was reintroduced to the Board of Supervisors on February 23, 2021. Once the Countywide Strategic Plan is adopted by the Board of Supervisors, it will serve as a decision-making tool and inform the annual budget process, beginning in FY 2023.

**Credit Rating:** The credit worthiness of a governmental unit as determined by an independent rating agency. Fairfax County is rated by three rating agencies: 1) Moody's Investors Service; 2) Standard and Poor's; and 3) Fitch Investors Services.

**Cross-Cutting Initiative:** A cross-cutting initiative involves the participation of two or more government agencies in addressing a challenge or implementing a program in Fairfax County. For example, there is a coordinated effort to address the challenge of West Nile Virus control by several agencies including the Health Department, the Park Authority, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Office of Public Affairs, and others.

**Debt Limit:** The maximum amount of debt which an issuer of municipal securities is permitted to incur under constitutional, statutory or charter provisions.

**Debt Service:** The amount of money necessary to pay interest on an outstanding debt; the principal of maturing serial bonds and the required contributions to a sinking fund for term bonds. Debt service on bonds may be calculated on a calendar year, fiscal year, or bond fiscal year basis.

**Debt Service Funds:** Funds defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts to finance and account for the payment of principal and interest on borrowed funds such as bonds. Fairfax County has three debt service funds, one for school debt, one for the Wastewater Management Program, and one for bonds issued to finance capital expenditures for all other agencies (County debt service). These funds receive revenue primarily by transfers from the General Fund, except for the Sewer Debt Service Fund, which is supported by sewer service fees.

**Defeasance:** A provision that voids a bond when the borrower sets aside cash or bonds sufficient to service the borrower's debt. When a bond issue is defeased, the borrower sets aside cash to pay off the bonds; therefore, the outstanding debt and cash offset each other on the balance sheet and do not need to be recorded.

**Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP):** A provision within a defined benefit retirement system that allows an employee who reaches retirement eligibility to agree to defer leaving employment until a specified date in the future, on the condition of being deemed to have retired for purposes of the retirement system. The employee continues to receive a salary and fringe benefits; however, contributions on the employees' behalf to the retirement system cease, while the payments the employee would receive if he/she was retired are invested and provided when the employee reaches the agreed upon date (no more than three years).

**Deficit:** The excess of an entity's liabilities over its assets or the excess of expenditures or expenses over revenues during a single accounting period.

**Defined Benefit Pension Plan:** A pension plan having terms that specify the amount of pension benefits to be provided at a future date or after a certain period. The amount specified usually is a function of one or more factors such as age, years of service, and compensation.

**Department:** All office, divisions, and other work units, which are under the control of a single department head. Example: Community Services Board (CSB).

**Depreciation:** The decrease in value of physical assets due to use and the passage of time. In financial terms, it refers to the process of allocating the cost of a capital asset to the periods during which the asset is used.

**Devolution:** The transfer or delegation of power to a lower level, especially by federal or state government to a local or regional government.

**Dillon Rule:** Fairfax County operates under the urban county executive form of government, an optional form of Virginia county government, and like other Virginia local governments, Fairfax County has limited powers. This doctrine of limited authority for local governments is commonly called the Dillon Rule, a name that is derived from the writings of a judge and law professor named John Forrest Dillon (1831-1914). The Dillon Rule is used in interpreting law when there is a question of whether or not a local government has a certain power. The Dillon Rule narrowly defines the power of local governments. Virginia courts have concluded that local governments in Virginia have only those powers that are specifically conferred on them by the Virginia General Assembly. Fairfax County has limited powers in and cannot take certain actions without appropriate action from the state, which limits revenue diversification options among other things.

**Direct Costs:** These are capital costs that can be traced easily to a specific project, activity, or product. Examples of such costs include the contract price, preliminary engineering studies, surveys, legal fees to establish title, installation costs, freight, and materials used in the construction or installation of the asset.

**Disbursement:** An expenditure or a transfer of funds to another accounting entity within the County's financial system. Total disbursements equal the sum of expenditures and transfers out to other funds.

**Distinguished Budget Presentation Program:** A voluntary program administered by the Government Finance Officers Association to encourage governments to publish efficiently organized and easily readable budget documents.

**Diversion First:** Fairfax County community and government leaders have launched an effort, called Diversion First, to reduce the number of people with mental illness in local jails by diverting nonviolent offenders experiencing mental health crises to treatment rather than bringing them to jail. The Diversion First team includes County and state leaders, judges and magistrates, public defender and Commonwealth's Attorney, mental health advocates and consumers, and public safety staff.

**Economic Success Strategic Plan (ESSP):** Fairfax County's strategic plan for economic success focuses on high-level policy recommendations to help the County to expand and diversify the economy. The Board of Supervisors approved this plan on March 3, 2015. This economic

roadmap was created by the 50-member, board-appointed Economic Advisory Commission, along with County staff. The group broadly sought input to craft the plan, obtaining feedback from more than 250 participants. Stakeholder representation was inclusive of various members of the community, including business, community, and civic leaders, local chambers of commerce, area colleges and universities, and local residents. The strategy focuses on high-level policy recommendations to help the County to expand and diversify the economy, and it focuses on six goals:

- Further diversifying our economy
- Creating places where people want to be
- Improving the speed, consistency, and predictability of the County's development review process
- Investing in natural and physical infrastructure
- Achieving economic success through education and social equity
- Increasing the agility of County government

**Effectiveness:** The degree to which an entity, program, or procedure is successful at achieving its goals and objectives.

**Efficiency:** The degree to which an entity, program, or procedure is successful at achieving its goals and objectives with the least use of resources. Efficiency measures are one of the four performance indicators in Fairfax County's Family of Performance Measures. This indicator reflects inputs used per unit of output and is typically expressed in terms of cost per unit or productivity.

**Eligibility:** The conditions and requirements established by a service provider for clients to access specific services.

**Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG):** This is a federally funded program which plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System (NPS) by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal (the Goal) of a secure and resilient Nation. The purpose of EMPG is to provide federal funds to assist State, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards.

**Employees Advisory Council (EAC):** Established by the Fairfax County Merit System Ordinance to provide a continuing medium through which all employees in the competitive service, both Schools and County, may contribute their advice and suggestions for the improvement of the career merit system and other aspects of the government of Fairfax County.

**Encumbrance:** An obligation incurred in the form of purchase orders, contracts and similar items that will become payable when the goods are delivered, or the services rendered. An encumbrance is an obligation of funding for an anticipated expenditure prior to actual payment for an item. Funds are usually reserved or set aside and encumbered once a contracted obligation has been entered.

**Enterprise Funds:** Funds, as defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts, to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises. An enterprise fund is a self-supporting fund design to account for activities supported by user charges. For example, funds which support the Wastewater Management Program are classified as enterprise funds.

**Equalization:** An annual assessment of real estate to ensure that assessments accurately reflect current market values. Equalization revenue is the annual increase or decrease in collected revenue resulting from adjustments to the assessment of existing property in the County. This annual increase or decrease is due to value changes rather than to new construction.

**Equity:** One Fairfax defines equity as the commitment to promote fairness and justice in the formation of public policy that results in all residents – regardless of age, race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, marital status, disability, socio-economic status or neighborhood of resident or other characters – having opportunity to fully participate in the region's economic vitality, contribute to its readiness for the future, and connect to its assets and resources.

**Escrow:** Money or property held in the custody of a third party that is returned only after the fulfillment of specific conditions.

**ESInet:** A managed IP network that is used for emergency services communications which can be shared by all Public Safety agencies. AT&T ESInet brings a smarter way to deliver 911 calls. Built on AT&T's industry-leading network, the IP-based call routing service uses the National Emergency Number Association's i3 standards to modernize decades-old 911 infrastructure.

**Estimate, No Scope, No Inflation (ENSNI):** Term used in the Fairfax County CIP to describe funding estimates for future capital projects which have not yet been scoped and are developed using today's dollars without considering inflation.

**Expenditure:** The disbursement of appropriated funds to purchase goods and/or services. An expenditure is the actual outlay of monies for goods and services. There are three basic types of expenditures: operating, capital and debt. Operating expenditures are, in a broad sense, current day-to-day expenses such as salaries, supplies, and purchase of equipment or property below a certain dollar threshold or useful life. Usually, these are items which are consumed during the fiscal year in which they are purchased or acquired.

**Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA):** is a federal law which establishes minimum wage, overtime pay eligibility, recordkeeping, and child labor standards affecting full-time and part-time workers in the private sector and in federal, state, and local governments.

**Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System (ERS):** One of the retirement systems established by Fairfax County under Sections 401(a) and 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code as qualified governmental pension plans, the fund accounts for resources held in a trustee capacity for its members and beneficiaries. Members include County employees not covered under the Uniformed or Police Officers systems and certain FCPS employees including food service, custodial, bus drivers, part-time and substitute teachers, and maintenance staff.

**Fairfax County Police Officer Retirement System (PORS):** One of the retirement systems established by Fairfax County under Sections 401(a) and 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code as qualified governmental pension plans, the fund accounts for resources held in a trustee capacity for its members and beneficiaries. Members include Fire and Rescue personnel, uniformed Sheriff's Office employees, animal protection police officers, helicopter pilots, and non-administrative staff in the Department of Public Safety Communications.

**Fairfax County Unified System (FOCUS):** This refers to the joint Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system which Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools

implemented in November 2011 to replace the legacy finance, procurement, and human resources systems with a single, unified system.

**Fairfax County Uniformed Retirement System (URS):** One of the retirement systems established by Fairfax County under Sections 401(a) and 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code as qualified governmental pension plans, the fund accounts for resources held in a trustee capacity for its members and beneficiaries. Members include Fairfax County Police Officers.

**Fairfax First:** Fairfax First is a County initiative to implement tactical recommendations to improve the speed, consistency, and predictability of the County's land development process. This initiative supports the Economic Success Strategic Plan (ESSP).

**Families First Coronavirus Response (FFCRA) Act:** The Families First Coronavirus Response Act requires that certain employers must provide their employees with paid sick leave or expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to COVID-19. This act was signed into law on March 18, 2020. Under the FFCRA, covered employers are those that employ fewer than 500 employees and certain governmental employers.

**Family Access to Medical Insurance (FAMIS):** This is the Commonwealth of Virginia's health coverage program for children up to age 18 who are without health insurance coverage. This program is designed to cover children of working families.

**Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA):** This refers to the Family and Medical Leave Act, which is a federal law that guarantees certain employees up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave each year with no threat of job loss for qualified medical and family reasons. FMLA also requires that employers covered by the law maintain the health benefits for eligible workers just as if they were working.

**Fiduciary Funds:** Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and which, therefore, cannot be used to support the County's own programs. The County maintains two types of fiduciary funds: trust funds to account for the assets of its pension and retiree health plans, held by the County under the terms of formal trust agreements, and custodial funds to account for assets received, held, and disbursed by the County on behalf of various outside organizations.

**Financial Forecast:** A financial model that estimates all future revenues and disbursements based on assumptions of future financial and economic conditions.

**Fines and Forfeitures:** Consists of a variety of fees, fines and forfeitures collected by the County.

**Fiscal Plan:** The annual budget.

**Fiscal Planning Resolution:** A legally binding document prepared by the Department of Management and Budget identifying changes made by the Board of Supervisors to the Advertised Budget Plan during the adoption of the annual budget. Fiscal Planning Resolutions approved by the Board subsequent to the Adopted Budget Plan change only transfers between funds. These documents are used at the annual or quarterly reviews whenever changes in fund transfers occur.



**Fiscal Restraint:** The practice of restraining growth in expenditures and disbursements to stay within revenue forecasts.

**Fiscal Year:** In Fairfax County, the twelve month cycle beginning July 1 and ending the following June 30. (The Commonwealth of Virginia's fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends of June 30 as well and the federal government's fiscal year begins on October 1 and ends of September 30 of the following year).

**Fixed Asset:** Items the County owns that have a considerable cost and a useful life greater than one year, such as infrastructure, sewer lines, computers, furniture, equipment, and vehicles.

**Fleet:** The vehicles owned and operated by the County.

**Forecasts:** Projections tempered by policy estimates which strive to reconcile past and current trends with current and anticipated policy.

**Forfeiture:** The automatic loss of property, including cash, as a penalty for breaking the law, or as compensation for losses resulting from illegal activities. Once property has been forfeited, the County may claim it, resulting in confiscation of the property.

**Fringe Benefits:** The fringe benefit expenditures included in the budget are the County's share of employees' fringe benefits. Fringe Benefits are job-related benefits, such as pension, paid vacation and holidays, and insurance, which are included in an employee's compensation package. Fringe benefits provided by Fairfax County include FICA (Social Security), health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, and retirement. The County's share of most fringe benefits is based on a set percentage of employee salaries. This percentage varies per category, e.g., Uniformed Fire and Rescue, Sheriff, and Public Safety Communications Employees; Uniformed Police Officers; and General County Employees.

**Full-Time Equivalent (FTE):** An FTE reflects whether authorized positions are full-time or part-time. A position authorized for 40 hours per week is reflected in the budget as one authorized position with a full-time equivalent of one (1/1.0 FTE). In comparison, a position authorized for 20 hours per week would be indicated as one authorized position with an FTE of 0.5 (1/0.5 FTE).

**Fund:** A set of interrelated accounts to record revenues and expenditures associated with a specific purpose. A fund is also a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other financial resources, together with all related liabilities and residual equities, or balances and changes therein. Funds are segregated for the purpose of carrying out specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations.

**Fund Balance:** The difference between assets and liabilities in a governmental fund. At the end of a fiscal year, if there are more resources than expenditures, the remainder is called "fund balance." This is sometimes referred to as "carried forward fund balance" because the resources can be "carried" into the next fiscal year. This is an important resource because some may be used in combination with revenues to fund new expenses. Fund balance may be restricted or unrestricted, reserved for a specific purpose or unreserved and used for future requirements. Restricted fund balance may be set aside for funding certain programs and activities. A fund balance represents the residual funding on an annual basis from revenues and transfers-in less expenditures and transfers-out. A fund balance also reflects the fund equity of all funds.

**Fund Type:** A group of funds that have similar activities, objectives, or funding sources as defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts. Examples include Special Revenue Funds and Debt Service Funds.

**General Debt:** Principal and interest payments on outstanding debt repaid from the General Fund.

**General Fund:** The primary tax and operating fund for County Governmental Activities used to account for all County revenues and expenditures which are not accounted for in other funds, and which are used to support the general operating functions of County agencies. Revenues are derived primarily from general property taxes, local sales tax, utility taxes, license and permit fees, and state shared taxes. General Fund expenditures include the costs of the general County government and transfers to other funds, principally to fund the operations of the Fairfax County Public School system, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Metro, the Fairfax CONNECTOR, and County and School system debt service requirements.

**General Fund Direct Expenditures:** These are General Fund expenditures for County agencies, and they are organized by Program Area categories.

**General Fund Disbursements:** Direct expenditures for County services such as Police or Welfare expenses and transfers from the General Fund to Other County funds such as School Operations or Metro Operations. General Fund Disbursements consist of two parts: (1) General Fund transferred support to other funds and (2) General Fund direct expenditures or agency expenditures. Some agencies, e.g., Housing, may have funds that reside both in the General Fund and other funds.

**General Ledger:** A general ledger account contains financial activity that is needed to prepare financial statements and perform fiduciary oversight, and includes accounts for assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, and expenditures.

**General Obligation (GO) Bond:** Bonds for which the full faith and credit of the issuing government are pledged. County general obligation debt can only be approved by voter referendum. The State Constitution mandates that taxes on real property be sufficient to pay the principal and interest of such bonds.

**Goal:** A general statement of purpose. A goal provides a framework within which the program unit operates; it reflects realistic constraints upon the unit providing the service. A goal statement speaks generally toward end results rather than specific actions, e.g., "To provide maternity, infant and child health care and/or case management to at risk women, infants, and children in order to achieve optimum health and well-being." Also see Objective.

**Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB):** The source of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) used by state and local governments in the United States. It is a private, non-governmental organization. The GASB has issued *Statements*, *Interpretations*, *Technical Bulletins*, and *Concept Statements* defining GAAP for state and local governments since 1984.

**Governmental Funds:** Governmental funds are typically used to account for most of a government's activities, including those that are tax-supported. The County maintains the following types of governmental funds: a general fund to account for all activities not required to be accounted for in another fund, special revenue funds, a debt service fund, and capital projects funds.

**Grant:** A contribution by one governmental unit to another unit. The contribution is usually made to aid in the support of a specified function.

**HB 2313:** HB 2313 is a Commonwealth of Virginia transportation funding bill signed into law in May 2013. HB 2313 requires that each locality's total long-term benefit from these transportation funds be approximately equal to the proportion of the fees and taxes received attributable to that locality. HB 2313 also established a new transportation revenue source for Northern Virginia.

**Health Insurance Portability and Accessibility Act of 1996 (HIPAA):** Enacted by the United States Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton in August 1996, Title I of HIPAA protects health insurance coverage for workers and their families when they change or lose their jobs. Title II of HIPAA, known as the Administrative Simplification (AS) provisions, requires the establishment of national standards for electronic health care transactions and national identifiers for providers, health insurance plans, and employers. Title II of HIPAA defines policies, procedures, and guidelines for maintaining the privacy and security of individually identifiable health information as well as outlining numerous offenses relating to health care and sets civil and criminal penalties for violations.

**Homeless:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines homeless as an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

**Incumbent:** The person who currently occupies and works in a particular position within the County government.

**Indirect Costs:** These are non-capital costs that are not easily traceable to a specific project, activity, or product. Examples of such costs include general administrative costs, advertising costs, or routine office expenses.

**Inflation:** A rise in price levels caused by an increase in available money and credit beyond the proportion of available goods. This is also known as too many dollars chasing too few goods.

**Infrastructure:** Public domain, fixed physical assets including roads, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, drainage systems, lighting systems and other similar items that have value only to the users.

**Infrastructure Replacement and Upgrades:** Infrastructure replacement and upgrades, also known as Capital Renewal, refers to the planned replacement of building subsystems such as roofs, electrical systems, HVAC systems and plumbing systems that have reached the end of their useful life. Major investments are required in facilities to replace old, obsolete building subsystems that have reached the end of their life cycle.

**Inova:** Inova Health System is a not-for-profit health care system based in Northern Virginia that consists of hospitals and other health services including emergency and urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, mental health and blood donor services, as well as wellness classes.

**Input:** The value of resources used to produce an output. Input can be staff, budget dollars, work hours, etc.

**Interest:** The amount paid by a borrower as compensation for the use of borrowed money. This amount is generally an annual percentage of the principal amount.

**Interest Income:** Revenue associated with the County cash management activities of investing fund balances.

**Interfund Billing:** Departmental or fund charge made by one agency/fund to another for services or goods performed or received, such as Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) fuel and vehicle replacement charges, computer replacement charges, radio charges, etc.

**Internal Service Funds:** Funds established to finance and account for services furnished by a designated County agency to other County agencies, which charges those agencies for the goods and services provided. An example of an Internal Service Fund is Fund 60010, Department of Vehicle Services.

**Issuing Bonds:** To “issue” bonds means to sell, deliver, and receive payment for bonds. The County may issue bonds throughout the year upon determining the amount of cash necessary to implement projects during that year.

**Key County Indicators:** Key County Indicators are high-level, countywide measures, organized by vision element, that help assess if Fairfax County government is meeting the needs of citizens and positively impacting the community.

**Lease Purchase:** This method of financing allows the County to construct or acquire property and pay for it over a period of time by installment payments rather than an outright purchase. The time payments include an interest charge which is typically reduced because the lessor does not have to pay income tax on the interest revenue.

**Level of Need:** The minimum, measurable quantity of assistance that is required to meet identified client needs; for example, the number of people in need of vocational training programs or, the number of monthly provider contacts needed by households currently being served.

**Liability:** An obligation incurred in past or current transactions requiring present or future settlement.

**Line Item:** A specific expenditure category within an agency budget, e.g., rent, travel, motor pool services, postage, printing, office supplies, etc.

**Line of Duty Act (LODA):** The Virginia Retirement System Line of Duty Act (LODA) is established by §9.1-400 of the Code of Virginia. LODA provides benefits to public safety-first responders and their survivors who lose their life or become disabled in the line of duty.

**Lines of Business (LOBs):** Reference to the County’s review of its discrete agency lines of business. LOBs are essentially an inventory of County programs and services offered by each individual agency. In 2016, Fairfax County undertook a comprehensive, multi-year approach to its review of 390 discrete Lines of Business. The County has previously undertaken Lines of Business reviews in 2008, 2001, 1996 and 1993.

**Local Composite Index (LCI):** The Commonwealth of Virginia's Local Composite Index (CI) determines a school division's ability to pay education costs fundamental to the Commonwealth's Standards of Quality (SOQ). The Composite Index is calculated using three indicators of a locality's ability-to-pay:

- True value of real property (weighted 50 percent)
- Adjusted gross income (weighted 40 percent)
- Taxable retail sales (weighted 10 percent)

Each locality's index is adjusted to maintain an overall statewide local share of 45 percent and an overall state share of 55 percent.

**Local Match:** County cash or in-kind resources that are required to be expended simultaneously with federal, state, other locality, or private sector funding, and usually according to a minimum percentage or ratio.

**Long-Term Debt:** Debt with a maturity of more than one year after the date of issuance.

**Managed Reserve:** A reserve, held in the General Fund, which has a target balance equal to 4.0 percent of General Fund disbursements. Established by the Board of Supervisors on January 25, 1982, the purpose of the reserve is to provide temporary financing for emergency needs and to permit orderly adjustment to changes resulting from the sudden, catastrophic termination of anticipated revenue sources.

**Management by Objectives:** A method of management of County programs which measures attainment or progress toward pre-defined objectives. This method evolved into the County's performance measurement system.

**Management Initiatives:** Changes to internal business practices undertaken by County managers on their own initiative to improve efficiency, productivity, and customer satisfaction.

**Mandate:** A requirement from a higher level of government (federal or state), that a lower-level government perform a task in a particular way or in conformance with a particular standard.

**Market Pay:** A compensation level that is competitive and consistent with the regional market. The County analyzes the comparability of employee salaries to the market in several different ways. A "Market Index" has been developed which factors in the Consumer Price Index, federal wage adjustments, and the Employment Cost Index (which includes state, local and private sector salaries). The index is designed to gauge the competitiveness of County pay scales in general.

**Measurement:** A variety of methods used to assess the results achieved and improvements still required in a process or system. Measurement gives the basis for continuous improvement by helping evaluate what is working and what is not working.

**Medicaid:** This is a federal social health care program for families and individuals with limited resources. The Social Security Amendments of 1965 created Medicaid by adding Title XIX to the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1396 et seq. Generally, individuals who are eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare are older or disabled (or both) and need help paying their Medicare costs because they have very low incomes. Medicaid covers premiums, deductibles, co-payments, coinsurance, and other Medicare costs and provides some health benefits that Medicare does not.

Medicare and Medicaid were signed into law to protect older and poorer Americans against the high cost of health care.

**Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** The Fairfax MRC is an all-volunteer program designed to increase the ability of the County's public health system to help the community when disaster strikes.

**Medicare:** Medicare is a health insurance program funded and run by the federal government that guarantees health coverage to older Americans. Medicare is a single-payer, national social insurance program administered by the U.S. federal government since 1966, currently using about 30–50 private insurance companies across the United States under contract for administration. Medicare is funded by a payroll tax, premiums and surtaxes from beneficiaries, and general revenue. Medicare is not income-based. People who have paid Medicare taxes on their earnings are automatically eligible at age 65, but some people with disabilities qualify for Medicare coverage earlier than age 65, and people with end-stage renal disease qualify at any age.

**Merit System:** Refers to the system of personnel administration applicable to the competitive service. It is governed by the Merit System Ordinance, any applicable provisions of other County ordinances, Personnel Regulations, and all applicable and lawful personnel management directives of the Board of Supervisors, the County Executive, and Department of Human Resources Director.

**Mid-Year Review:** A supplement to the other quarterly budgetary reviews to provide a third opportunity to right-size the budget during a fiscal year based on the changing impacts of economics, for example, the global COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mission Statement:** A mission statement is a broad, philosophical statement of the purpose of an agency, specifying the fundamental reasons for its existence. A mission statement describes what an organization is in business to do. Therefore, it also serves as a guiding road map.

**Modified Accrual Basis:** The basis of accounting under which revenue is recognized when it is measurable and available. Revenue from the use of money and property and from intergovernmental reimbursement grants is recorded as earned. Other revenues are considered available to be used to pay liabilities of the current period if they are collectible within the current period or within 45 days thereafter. Expenditures are generally recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt and certain other general long-term obligations.

**Municipal Bond:** Bond issued by a state, local or another government authority, especially in the U.S. The interest is exempt from U.S. Federal taxation and usually from state taxation within the state of issue, as is the case in Virginia.

**Net Debt as a Percent of Estimated Market Value:** Total debt (less debt that is self-supported by revenue-producing projects), divided by the total market value of all taxable property within the County expressed as a percentage. Since property taxes are a primary source of revenue for the repayment of debt, this measure identifies the debt burden compared with the worth of the revenue-generating property base.

**Net Total Expenditures:** See [Total Budget](#).

**Non-Appropriated Funds:** These funds do not require annual appropriation by the Board of Supervisors and represent activities that are supported by non-governmental revenue sources such



as direct fees for service or revolving loan programs. The legal spending authority is based on revenue availability and may be derived from an action by the Board in response to state, or federal mandates. The appropriation control for these funds resides with the respective boards associated specifically with the funded programs, e.g., Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (Funds 81000 through 81510), Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board (Fund 83000), and the Park Authority Board (Funds 80000 and 80300). These boards are separate legal entities.

**Non-Pay Employee Benefits:** Expenditures for employee benefits that are funded through direct employee support, such as the Employee Assistance Program and unemployment compensation.

**Nonresidential:** Property designed for use by educational, government or other institutional use or for use by retail, wholesale, office, hotel, service, or other commercial use.

**Objective:** A statement of anticipated level of achievement; usually time limited and quantifiable. Within the objective, specific statements regarding targets and/or standards often are included, e.g., "To respond to 90 percent of ambulance calls within a 5-minute response time."

**Obligations:** Amounts which a government may be legally required to pay out of its resources. They include actual liabilities and encumbrances not yet paid.

**One Fairfax:** A joint social and racial equity policy of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and School Board which commits both entities to consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services. More specifically, it will help County and school leaders and staff to look intentionally, comprehensively, and systematically at barriers that may be creating gaps in opportunity. It is a declaration that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard – regardless of their race, color, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, income or where they live.

**Operating Budget:** A budget for general revenues and expenditures such as salaries, utilities, and supplies.

**Operating Equipment:** Equipment that has a life expectancy of more than one year and a value of less than \$10,000 dollars. Equipment with a value greater than \$10,000 dollars is capital equipment.

**Operating Expenses:** Expenditures for regular, non-capital and non-personnel expenses. The commitment items in this group cover a large range of expenditure types, including office supplies and utility payments.

**Ordinance:** A formal legislative enactment by the County that carries the full force and effect of the law within the boundaries of Fairfax County unless in conflict with any higher form of law, such as the Commonwealth of Virginia or the federal government.

**Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB):** Post-employment benefits other than pension benefits. OPEB includes post-employment healthcare benefits, regardless of the type of plan that provides them, and all post-employment benefits provided separately from a pension plan, excluding benefits defined as termination offers and benefits. Post-employment refers to the period following termination of employment, including the time between termination and retirement.

**Outcome:** Qualitative consequences associated with a program service, e.g., reduction in fire deaths or percent of juveniles not reconvicted within 12 months. Also refers to quality performance measures of effectiveness and of achieving goals.

**Out-of-Cycle:** A term that characterizes budget adjustments outside of the annual and quarterly budget processes.

**Output:** Quantity or number of units produced. Outputs are activity-oriented, measurable, and usually under managerial control. Also refers to process performance measures of efficiency and productivity, that is, per capita expenditures, transactions per day, etc.

**Pandemic:** A global outbreak of a virus or infectious disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people and can spread between person-to-person contact sustainably. With no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide.

**Pay-As-You-Go Financing:** The portion of capital outlay, which is financed from current revenue, rather than by borrowing.

**Paydown Construction:** Capital construction funded with current year General Fund revenues as opposed to construction financed through the issuance of bonds. This is a method of paying for capital projects that relies on current tax and grant revenues rather than by debt. This is also referred to as "pay-as-you-go" construction.

**Pension Fund:** This is a fund that accounts for the accumulation of resources to be used for retirement benefit payments to retired County employees eligible for such benefits.

**Per Capita:** A measurement of the proportion of some statistic to an individual resident determined by dividing the statistic by the current population.

**Per Capita Debt:** The amount of an issuing municipality's outstanding debt divided by the population residing in the municipality. This is used as an indication of the issuer's credit position since it can be used to compare the proportion of debt borne per resident with that borne by the residents of other municipalities.

**Performance Budget:** A budget wherein expenditures are based primarily upon measurable performance activities and work programs.

**Performance Indicators:** As used in Fairfax County's Performance Measurement System, these indicators represent the four types of measures that comprise the Family of Measures and consist of output, efficiency, service quality and outcome.

**Performance Measurement:** The regular collection of specific information regarding the results of service in Fairfax County, and which determines how effective and/or efficient a program is in achieving its objectives. The County's performance measurement methodology links agency mission and cost center goals (broad) to quantified objectives (specific) of what will be accomplished during the fiscal year. These objectives are then linked to a series of indicators, known as a "Family of Measures," that present a balanced picture of performance, efficiency, and effectiveness with these four indicator types: output, efficiency, service quality and outcome.

**Permit Revenue:** Fees imposed on construction-related activities and for non-construction permits such as sign permits, wetland permits, etc.

**Personal Property:** Property other than real estate identified for purposes of taxation, including personally owned items as well as corporate and business equipment and property. Examples include automobiles, motorcycles, boats, trailers, airplanes, business furnishings, and manufacturing equipment. Goods held for sale by manufacturers, wholesalers or retailers are not included.

**Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) of 1998:** Legislation approved by the Virginia General Assembly that reduces the Personal Property Tax on the first \$20,000 of the value for vehicles owned by individuals. From FY 2000 to FY 2002, the PPTRA reduced the Personal Property Taxes paid by individuals by 27.5 percent, 47.5 percent, and 70 percent respectively, with an offsetting reimbursement paid to the County by the Commonwealth. Due to the Commonwealth's lower than anticipated General Fund revenue growth, the reimbursement remained at 70 percent from FY 2003 through FY 2006. The 2004 General Assembly approved legislation that capped statewide Personal Property Tax reimbursements at \$950 million in FY 2007 and beyond. Fairfax County's allocation has been set at \$211.3 million. Each year, County staff must determine the reimbursement percentage based on the County's fixed reimbursement from the state and an estimate of the number and value of vehicles that will be eligible for tax relief. As the number and value of vehicles in the County vary, the percentage of tax relief will vary.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** Equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that may cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. PPE may include specialized clothing or equipment such as gloves, safety glasses and shoes, full-face shields, earplugs and muffs, hard hats, vests, full-body suits, masks, and respirators.

**Personnel Services:** A category of expenditures which primarily covers salaries, overtime and shift differential paid to County employees and also includes certain fringe benefit costs.

**Persons with Special Needs:** Includes individuals and families who are homeless, persons with disabilities and low-income seniors.

**Planning Districts:** The 14 areas into which Fairfax County is divided for planning purposes. The planning districts' boundaries tend to remain stable over time.

**Planning System:** Refers to the relationship between the Annual Budget, the Comprehensive Plan, and the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.

**Position:** A group of duties and responsibilities, as prescribed by an office or agency, to be performed by a person on a full-time or part-time basis.

The status of a position is not to be confused with the status of the employee. For the County's budget, the following definitions are used solely in describing the status and funding of positions:

- An established position is a position that has been classified and assigned a pay grade.
- An authorized position has been approved for establishment by the Board of Supervisors. The authorized position is always shown as a single, not a partial position. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reflects whether positions are authorized for full-time (40 hours per week) or part-time. A full-time position would appear in the budget as one authorized position and one full-time

## Glossary and Acronyms

equivalent (1/1.0 FTE). A half-time position would be indicated as one authorized position and 0.5 full-time equivalents (1/0.5 FTE).

The following defines the types of positions in Fairfax County. They can be either full or part-time status.

- A regular position is a career position, which falls within all provisions of the Merit System Ordinance.
- A grant position is a position with full benefits and full civil service grievances, although the employment term is limited by the grant specifications. The position is funded by a specific grant. At the end of the grant position, the person is the first eligible for hire for another similar position in the County. Incumbents in grant positions fall within the provisions of the Merit System Ordinance.
- A benefits eligible, non-merit position is an employee working between 1,040 and 1,560 hours annually, and eligible for health, dental and flexible spending benefits.
- A temporary, non-merit position is an employee working fewer than 900 hours annually and not eligible for benefits.
- An exempt position does not fall within the provisions of the Merit System Ordinance. It includes elected and appointed positions.

Cooperative funding of some positions occurs between the federal and state governments and Fairfax County. Numerous funding and reimbursement mechanisms exist. The County's share of a position's authorized funding level is that portion of a position's salary and/or fringe benefits paid by the County which is over and above the amount paid by the state or federal government either based on the County's pay classification schedule or based on a formal funding agreement. The share of state or federal funding varies depending upon the eligibility of each individual agency and type of position.

- A state position is a position established and authorized by the state. These positions may be partially or fully funded by the state.
- County supplement is the portion of a state position's authorized salary (based on the County's compensation plan) that exceeds the state's maximum funding level. This difference is fully paid by the County.

**Position Turnover:** A budget offset that reduces gross salary projections to recognize anticipated and normal position vacancies, delays in filling vacancies, and historical position turnover information.

**Poverty Thresholds:** Poverty thresholds are based on the Social Security Administration's definition of the minimum income that allows for a nutritionally adequate diet and adequate housing. It allows for differences in the size and composition of families. The poverty income cutoffs are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index.

**Present Value:** The discounted value of a future amount of cash, assuming a given rate of interest, to take into account the time value of money. Stated differently, a dollar is worth a dollar today, but is worth less tomorrow.

**Prime Interest Rate:** The rate of interest charged by banks to their preferred customers.

**Principal:** The face amount of a security payable on the maturity date.

**Proffer System:** A proffer is a contribution of land, capital improvement, and funding collected from a developer to address the demand for community services created by new development. In July 1975, "proffers" were introduced to the process for rezoning property within Fairfax County. The act of proffering involves making an offer of something prior to any formal negotiations. The concept of supplementing regulations of the Zoning Ordinance by conditions proffered by an applicant seeking an amendment to the zoning map is cited in the Code of Virginia (now Sect. 15.2-2303, see Appendix A). Implicit in the term proffer, as defined by the State Code, is the understanding that proffers are voluntarily submitted by the property owner. The proffer system continues today with support from the various participants in the rezoning process, including, the development community, citizens, staff, and County officials. The conditions in a proffer statement typically address issues such as noise mitigation measures to be employed, buffering, landscaping, urban design features, architectural elements, and other similar design elements, tree preservation, commitments to address transportation impacts, etc.

**Program Area:** A grouping of County agencies with related countywide goals. Under each program area, individual agencies participate in activities to support that program area's goals. The Public Safety Program Area, for example, includes the Police Department and the Fire and Rescue Department, among others. The Auditor of Public Accounts for the Commonwealth of Virginia provides direction on which agencies are included in each program area.

**Program Budget:** A statement and plan which identifies and classifies total expenditures and revenues by activity or program. Budgets are aggregated into program areas. This is in contrast to a line-item budget, which identifies expenditures only by objects for which money is spent, e.g., personnel services, operating expenses, recovered costs or capital equipment.

**Property Tax:** A tax levied on the assessed value of real and personal property. This tax is also known as an ad valorem tax.

**Property Tax Rate:** The rate of taxes levied against real or personal property, expressed as dollars per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation of the property taxed.

**Proposed Budget:** The Code of Virginia (Sections 15.2-516 and 2503) requires that the County Executive submit a proposed budget to the Board of County Supervisors no later than April 1 for the upcoming fiscal year. Sections 15.2-2506, 58.1-3007, and 58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia govern the public notice requirements that guide the County's budget review and public comment period. After receipt of the proposed budget, the first action by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is to authorize the advertisement of the proposed tax and levy rates. Once the proposed rate is advertised, the BOS can adopt lower tax and levy rates, but cannot, without additional advertisement, adopt higher rates. The Code also requires the BOS to hold public hearings on the proposed budget and the proposed tax and levy rates to collect public comment.

**Proprietary Funds:** Proprietary funds are enterprise and internal service funds used to account for business-type activities that are similar to the private sector and in which fees are charged for goods or services. They are related to assets, liabilities, equities, revenues, expenses, and transfers. The County maintains both types of proprietary funds: enterprise funds to account for the Integrated

Sewer System and internal service funds to account for certain centralized services that are provided internally to other departments such as Vehicle Services and Document Services.

**Public Hearing:** A public hearing is a specifically designated time, place, and opportunity for citizens, community groups, businesses, and other stakeholders to address the Board of Supervisors on a particular issue. It allows interested parties to express their opinions and the Board of Supervisors and/or staff to hear their concerns and advice. Section 15.2-2507 of the Code of Virginia requires that a public hearing be held prior to the adoption of amendments to the current year budget when the adjustments exceed one percent of total expenditures. In addition, any amendment of one percent of expenditures or more requires that the Board advertise a synopsis of the proposed changes, such as done as part of *Third Quarter* or *Carryover*.

**Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act (PPEA):** During its 2002 session, the Virginia General Assembly enacted the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (PPEA). This law provides that once a “responsible public entity” such as Fairfax County adopts appropriate procedures to implement the PPEA, it may solicit proposals to acquire a “qualifying project” from private entities (i.e., issue an Invitation for Bid or Request for Proposal) or may consider proposals that are submitted by a private entity without a prior solicitation (“unsolicited proposal”).

**Rating Agencies:** The organizations which provide publicly available ratings of the credit quality of securities issuers. The term is most often used to refer to the nationally recognized agencies, Moody’s Investors Service, Inc., Standard & Poor’s Corporation, and Fitch Investors.

**Real Property:** Real estate, including land and improvements (buildings, fences, pavements, etc.) classified for purposes of assessment.

**Reallocation:** With adequate justification and DMB approval, agencies can perform a budget transfer of funds from one category to another, e.g., from Personnel Services to Operating Expenses, as long as there is no change to the agency’s bottom-line budget and the budget transfer must occur within the same agency and fund.

**Reclassification:** An administrative review process by which a County position is re-evaluated to determine if the position has been appropriately classified under the County’s personnel classification system.

**Recovered Costs:** Reimbursements to an agency for specific services provided to another agency. Recovered Costs, or Work Performed for Others, are reflected as a negative figure in the providing agency’s budget, thus offsetting expenditures. An example is the reimbursement received by the Department of Information Technology from other agencies for telecommunication services.

**Rec-PAC:** Rec-PAC (Pretty Awesome Children), operated by Fairfax County Park Authority, is a six-week structured recreation program offered during the summer with emphasis on leisure skills designed for elementary school children.

**Reduction in Force (RIF):** A permanent elimination of an excess number of filled merit positions.



**Referendum:** A referendum is a means by which a legislative body requests the electorate to approve or reject proposals such as Constitutional amendments, long-term borrowing; and other special laws.

**Refunding:** Retiring an outstanding bond issue at maturity (sometimes done before maturity date if rate is favorable) by using money from the sale of a new bond offering. In other words, issuing bonds to pay off the old bonds. In an Advance Refunding, a new bond issuance is used to pay off another outstanding bond. The new bond will often be issued at a lower rate than the older outstanding bond. Typically, the proceeds from the new bond are invested and when the older bonds become callable, they are paid off with the invested proceeds. In a Crossover Refunding, the revenue stream pledged to secure the securities being refunded is being used to pay off debt on the refunded securities until they mature.

**Rent Affordability:** The generally accepted definition of rent affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30 percent of its annual income on housing. Families who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing are considered cost burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

**Replacement Fund:** A budgetary mechanism to accumulate an on-going source of funds over several years for the maintenance and replacement of vehicles, capital equipment and other capital improvement assets.

**Reserves:** A portion of the fund balance or retained earnings legally segregated for specific purposes. Reserves are lump sum dollars set aside in a budget for unanticipated needs or for specific future needs. Reserves are not distributed or allocated to operating expenditures or capital expenditures because the specific requirements for the reserves are not known at the time of budget adoption or because bond documents require their establishment. The County is required to amend its budget in order to allocate reserve funds to an operating or capital project account. In many cases, a reserve can only be used for a specific purpose.

**Resolution:** A special or temporary order of a legislative body requiring less legal formality than an ordinance or statute.

**Revenue:** Monies received from all sources (with exception of fund balances) that will be used to fund expenditures in a fiscal year. In the broadest sense, revenue is an increase in financial resources. Revenues are funds received by the County from its activities or external sources such as real estate taxes, property taxes, local sales tax, fees for services, fines, grants, payments from other governments, etc.

**Revenue Bond:** A municipal bond secured by the revenues of the project for which it is issued. Revenue Bonds are those bonds whose principal and interest are payable exclusively from earnings of an enterprise fund. Sewer and utility bonds are typically issued as revenue bonds. The County also issues Lease Revenue bonds, a form of revenue bond in which the payments are secured by a lease on the property built or improved with the proceeds of the bond sale.

**Revenue Stabilization Fund:** In FY 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved the creation of this fund to provide a mechanism for maintaining a balanced budget without resorting to tax increases and/or expenditure reductions that aggravate the stresses imposed by the cyclical nature of the economy. The target balance of this fund is 5 percent of General Fund Disbursements.

**Revised Budget:** The revised budget is the most recently adjusted budget and includes changes made, if applicable, all the prior year's Carryover Review, and current year's Mid-Year Review and Third Quarter Review.

**School Board Budget:** Includes the School Operating Fund, the School Food and Nutrition Services Fund, School Grants and Self-Supporting Programs, School Adult and Community Education, Public School OPEB Trust Fund, the School Insurance Fund, the School Construction Fund, the School Central Procurement Fund, the School Health and Flexible Benefits Trust Fund and the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement Fund, identifying both expenditure levels and sources of revenue. The Board of Supervisors may increase or decrease the School Board budget but normally does so only at the fund level (i.e., by increasing or decreasing the General Fund Transfer to the School Operating Fund without specifying how the change is to be applied). By state law, the Supervisors may not make specific program or line-item changes but may make changes in certain major classifications (e.g., instruction, overhead, maintenance, etc.).

**School Board Transfer:** A transfer out of funds from the General Fund to the School Operating Fund. State law requires that this transfer be approved by the Board of Supervisors by May 15, for the next fiscal year.

**School Operating Fund:** This fund provides for the day-to-day operations and maintenance of the schools and is funded primarily by County and state funds. In the Transparency Application, this fund is separated into: Operating Fund – Operations; and Operating Fund – Central and Grants. The School Operating Fund is FCPS' primary (or general) fund. Those activities that are partially supported by grants and activities managed by departments on behalf of schools are shown separately from general operating activities.

**Self-Sufficiency:** The ability to consistently meet basic needs – such as food, housing, utilities, healthcare, transportation, taxes, dependent care, and clothing – without assistance or subsidies from private or public organizations (excluding Social Security retirement, Social Security Disability Insurance, and Medicare).

**Sequestration:** Budget sequestration is a procedure in United States law that limits the size of the federal budget. Sequestration involves setting a hard cap on the amount of government spending within broadly defined categories; if Congress enacts annual appropriations legislation that exceeds these caps, an across-the-board spending cut is automatically imposed on these categories, affecting all departments and programs by an equal percentage. The amount exceeding the budget limit is held back by the Treasury and not transferred to the agencies specified in the appropriation bills.

**Service Capacity:** The measurable quantity of assistance that can be provided without sacrificing quality of assistance provided; for example, the number of spots available in vocational training programs, or the number of provider contacts with households than can be provided in one month.

**Service Level:** The measurable quantity of assistance that is being provided for an individual or family; for example, the number of individuals currently enrolled in vocational training programs, or the frequency of professional contact with a household.

**Service Quality:** Degree to which customers are satisfied with a program, or how accurately or timely, a service is provided.

**Set-Aside Reserve:** A reserve made up from available balances materializing throughout one or more fiscal years which are not required to support disbursements of a legal or emergency nature and are held (set aside) for future funding requirements.

**Sewer Funds:** A group of self-sufficient funds that support the Wastewater Management Program. Revenues consist of bond sales, availability fees (a one-time fee paid before connection to the system and used to defray the cost of major plant and trunk construction), connection charges (a one-time fee to defray the cost of the lateral connection between a building and the trunk), service charges (quarterly fees based on water usage which defray operating costs and debt service), and interest on invested funds. Expenditures consist of construction costs, debt service, and the cost of operating and maintaining the collection and treatment systems.

**Short-Term Debt:** Debt with a maturity of less than one year after the date of issuance.

**Special Revenue Funds:** Funds defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes. These funds account for the revenues and expenditures related to Fairfax County's state and federal grants, the operation of the Fairfax County Public Schools, and specific taxing districts that are principally financed by special assessment tax levies in those districts.

**Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants:** These grants were created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter interest organizations to help them increase or maintain the number of trained, "front line" firefighters available in their communities. The goal of SAFER is to enhance the local fire departments' abilities to comply with staffing, response and operational standards established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

**Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT):** First convened in May 2013, the SCYPT is composed of leaders from multiple sectors within Fairfax County. The team's role is to set community-wide goals and priorities for public policy as it relates to children, youth, and families. According to the team's charter, "in order to become confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners, and responsible citizens, all of Fairfax County's children need to be safe, nurtured, healthy, achieving, active, included, respected and responsible. This can only be realized if the County, schools, community and families pull together to plan and deliver top-quality services, which overcome traditional boundaries." Membership on the team is divided among representatives from Fairfax County Government, Fairfax County Public Schools, and the community. Two members from both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board participate. Community members are identified to provide the perspective of various sectors impacting youth well-being, including health care, nonprofit, faith and philanthropy.

**Supplemental Appropriation Resolution:** Any appropriation resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors after the adoption of the budget for a given fiscal year. The legal document reflecting approved changes to the appropriation authority for an agency or fund.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamp Program) is the nation's most important anti-hunger program. SNAP offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The federal Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those

eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits.

**Supportive Services:** Assistance, provided to individuals and families in housing of any type that is designed to and provided with the intent of increasing their ability to live independently, improving their life skills, maintaining residential stability, and ultimately moving toward self-sufficiency.

**System of Care:** System of Care is an integrated continuum of services and supports for children, youth and families provided by Fairfax County human services departments, public schools, County-funded providers and community-based advocacy and service organizations. It includes behavioral health services for youth and services covered under the Children's Services Act (CSA).

**Tax Base:** The aggregate value of taxed items. The base of the County's real property tax is the market value of all real estate in the County. The base of the personal property is the market value of all automobiles, trailers, boats, airplanes, business equipment, etc., which are taxed as personal property by the County. The tax base of a sales tax is the total volume of taxable sales.

**Tax Levy:** Charges imposed by a government to finance activities for the common benefit. Fairfax County's tax levies are based on an approved tax rate per \$100 of assessed value.

**Tax Rate:** The level of taxation stated in terms of either a dollar amount or a percentage of the value of the tax base. The Board of Supervisors fixes property tax rates for the period beginning January 1 of the current calendar year when the budget for the coming fiscal year is approved. The property tax rate is applied to the value of property assessed as of January 1 each year.

**Taxable Value:** The assessed value less homestead and other exemptions, if applicable.

**Technology Infrastructure:** The hardware and software that support information requirements, including computer workstations and associated software, network and communications equipment, and mainframe devices.

**Telework (or Teleworking):** The work flexibility arrangement under which an employee performs the duties and responsibilities of such employee's position, and other authorized activities, from an approved worksite (e.g., home office) other than the location from which the employee would otherwise work. In practice, teleworking is a work arrangement that allows an employee to perform work remotely, during any part of regular, paid hours, at an approved alternative worksite while making use of the Internet, email, telephone, and other virtual communication tools.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** This program — formerly AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children AFDC) — is a federal/state public assistance program authorized by the Code of Virginia and Title IV-A of the Social Security Act. TANF is funded through a federal block grant and through state funds authorized by the Virginia General Assembly. The purpose of TANF is to provide temporary cash assistance to families in need and to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work. With few exceptions, assistance under TANF is restricted to a lifetime limit of 60 cumulative months.

**Third Quarter Review:** The current year budget is reevaluated approximately seven months after the adoption of the budget based on current projections and spending to date. The primary areas reviewed and analyzed are (1) current year budget versus year-to-date expenditures plus

expenditure projections for the remainder of the year, (2) emergency requirements for additional, previously unapproved items, and (3) possible savings. Recommended funding adjustments are provided for Board of Supervisors' approval.

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act:** Fairfax County operate programs and services without regard to race, color, and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person who believes she or he has been aggrieved by any unlawful discriminatory practice under Title VI may file a complaint with the Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs within 180 days of the date of the alleged discrimination.

**Total Budget:** The receipts and disbursements of all funds, e.g., the General Fund and all other funds. Net total expenditures (total expenditures minus expenditures for internal service funds) is a more useful measure of the total amount of money the County will spend in a budget year, as it eliminates double accounting for millions of dollars appropriated to operating agencies and transferred by them to internal service agencies. General Fund total disbursements (direct General Fund expenditures plus transfers to other funds, such as the School Operating Fund) are a more accurate measure of the cost of government to the local taxpayers.

**Total Project Estimate (TPE):** A capital project Total Project Estimate (TPE) is composed of funds already expended, currently appropriated, proposed or adopted in the budget year, and proposed for future years. In short, it is the total amount proposed to be expended over the life of the project.

**Transfer:** A movement of funding from one fund to another. The largest such transaction is the annual transfer of funds from the General Fund to the School Operating Fund. Further complicating the structure of the budget and the process of adopting a budget are numerous movements of dollars among the funds and they are, therefore, internal to the County structure. The amount transferred out of one fund is recorded ("Transfers Out") and the amount transferred into another fund is also recorded ("Transfers In"). The County records this movement of funds as a "transfer" in the budget and in the accounting system to represent financial activity more accurately. Transfers provide money to programs that may not have adequate revenue from grants or fees generated by the program.

**Translational Medicine:** Translational medicine is a rapidly growing discipline in biomedical research and aims to expedite the discovery of new diagnostic tools and treatments by using a multi-disciplinary, highly collaborative, "bench-to-bedside" approach.

**Transport Fees:** The cost to provide ambulance transportation to patients from home to hospital.

**Trust Funds:** A categorization of accounts defined by the State Auditor of Public Accounts consisting of funds established to account for money and property held by the County government in the capacity of a trustee or custodian for individuals or other specified purposes. Examples are the various retirement funds, which contain contributions from the County government and individual employees.

**Unappropriated:** Not obligated for a specific purpose.

**Unencumbered:** This term refers to unspent funds. An unencumbered balance of funds in an account is not restricted or reserved with respect to their availability for future use.

**Unfunded Positions:** Positions that departments have elected to hold vacant to achieve personnel expenditure savings beyond the normal expected turnover savings. These positions are in the departments' FTE counts and remain eligible for departments to request restored funding at some future date.

**Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI):** The UASI program is intended to provide financial assistance to address the unique multi-discipline planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs of high-threat, high-density urban areas, and to assist these areas in building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism using the Whole Community approach. Activities implemented with UASI funds must support terrorism preparedness by building or enhancing capabilities that relate to the prevention of, protection from, mitigation of, response to or recovery from terrorism to be considered eligible. Fairfax County's Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) utilizes UASI funds for multiple purposes, such as sustaining operational readiness, training County personnel, and preparing its residents.

**Useful Life:** The period of time that a fixed asset is able to be used. This can refer to a budgeted period of time for an equipment class or the actual amount of time for a particular item.

**User Fees:** Charges for expenses incurred when services are provided to an individual or groups and not the community at large. The key to effective utilization of user fees is being able to identify specific beneficiaries of services and then determine the full cost of the service they are consuming or using.

**Vacancy Rate:** Residential Vacancy Rate is the percentage of total housing units that are unoccupied. Nonresidential Vacancy Rate is the percentage of the total available square footage not leased.

**Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW):** This program supports the efforts of families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) to achieve independence through employment. VIEW focuses on the participants' strengths and provides services to help them overcome job-related challenges, as well as personal, medical, and family challenges that affect employment. The Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS) administers benefits under the federal TANF program, which provides temporary cash assistance to low-income families with children. Parents who receive this assistance, and can work, are required to participate in the VIEW program. The VIEW program offers parents the assistance and resources needed to find and keep a job. An important aspect of the program is the strong support participants receive from their VIEW case manager, who focuses on each family's individual situation and works with them to support their goals of employment and independence.

**Waiting List:** A roster of those waiting for a service or product to be provided, established when the demand for a specific program exceeds the program's service capacity.

**Watershed:** A region or area bounded peripherally by water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

**Work Performed for Others (WPFO):** Expenditure credits for services provided on behalf of a different County agency.



**Workforce Housing:** Fairfax County defines “workforce housing” as rental or for-sale housing units that are affordable to households with maximum income limits up to and including 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, as determined periodically by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**Workforce Planning:** A systematic process designed to anticipate and integrate the human resources aspect to an organization’s strategic plan by identifying, acquiring, developing, and retaining employees to meet organizational needs.

**Wrap-Around:** Intensive, individualized comprehensive services that are coordinated across multiple disciplines and/or agencies to create the greatest impact with the least number of barriers and ultimately meet the client needs.

### Acronyms

**ACFR:** Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

**ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act

**ADC:** Adult Detention Center

**ADHC:** Adult Day Health Care

**AED:** Automatic External Defibrillator

**AEOC:** Alternate Emergency Operations Center

**AFIS:** A multi-jurisdictional Automated Fingerprint Identification System

**ARPA:** American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

**ARRA:** American Reinvestment and Recovery Act

**ASSB:** Advisory Social Services Board

**BAC:** Board, Authority, Commission or Committee

**BPOL:** Business, Professional, and Occupational License Tax

**BWC:** Body-Worn Camera

**CAD:** Computer Aided Dispatch

**CARES:** Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security

**CCAR:** Child Care Assistance and Referral Program

**CCCP:** Commonwealth Coordinated Care Program Plus

**CCFAC:** Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee

**CERF:** Computer Equipment Replacement Fund

**CERT:** Community Emergency Response Team

**CHCN:** Community Health Care Network

**CHINS:** Child In Need of Supervision or Services

**CHIP:** Children's Health Insurance Program

**CIP:** Capital Improvement Plan

**CJAB:** Criminal Justice Advisory Board

**COG:** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

**COVID-19:** Coronavirus Disease 2019

**CPAN:** Courts Public Access Network

**CPI:** Consumer Price Index

**CPRC:** Consolidated Plan Review Committee

**CRA:** Clinic Room Aide

**CRF:** Coronavirus Relief Fund

**CRIS:** Community Resident Information Services (kiosks used by Fairfax County)

**CSA:** Children's Services Act

**CSLFRF:** Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

**CSU:** Court Service Unit (Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court)

**CTB:** Commonwealth Transportation Board

**DEMS:** Fairfax County Department of Emergency Management and Security

**DROP:** Deferred Retirement Option

## Glossary and Acronyms

<b>EAC:</b> Employees Advisory Council	<b>GAAP:</b> Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
<b>EAP:</b> Employee Assistance Program	<b>GASB:</b> Governmental Accounting Standards Board
<b>EMPG:</b> Emergency Management Performance Grant	<b>GFOA:</b> Government Finance Officers Association
<b>EMS:</b> Emergency Medical Service	<b>GIS:</b> Geographic Information Systems
<b>ENSNI:</b> Estimate, No Scope, No Inflation	<b>GO:</b> General Obligation bond
<b>EOC:</b> Emergency Operations Center	<b>HIPAA:</b> Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
<b>ERP:</b> Enterprise Resource Planning system	<b>HMO:</b> Health Maintenance Organization
<b>ERS:</b> Fairfax County Employees' Retirement System	<b>HUD:</b> U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
<b>ESOL:</b> English as a Second Language	<b>ICMA:</b> International City/County Management Association
<b>ESSP:</b> Economic Success Strategy Plan	<b>iNet:</b> Institutional Network
<b>FAMIS:</b> Family Access to Medical Insurance	<b>LAN:</b> Local Area Network
<b>FCEDA:</b> Fairfax County Economic Development Authority	<b>LCI:</b> Local Composite Index
<b>FCPA:</b> Fairfax County Park Authority	<b>LOBs:</b> Lines of Business
<b>FCPL:</b> Fairfax County Public Library	<b>LODA:</b> Virginia Retirement System Line of Duty Act
<b>FCPS:</b> Fairfax County Public Schools	<b>MPSTOC:</b> McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center
<b>FCRHA:</b> Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority	<b>MRA:</b> Market Rate Adjustment
<b>FFCRA:</b> Families First Coronavirus Response Act	<b>MRC:</b> Medical Reserve Corps
<b>FLSA:</b> Fair Labor Standards Act	<b>MWCOG:</b> Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
<b>FMLA:</b> Family Medical and Leave Act	<b>NACo:</b> National Association of Counties
<b>FOCUS:</b> Fairfax County Unified System	<b>NFPA:</b> National Fire Protection Association
<b>FTE:</b> Full-Time Equivalent	

**NOVARIS:** Northern Virginia Regional Identification System

**NVCC:** Northern Virginia Community College

**NVCT:** Northern Virginia Conservation Trust

**NVFS:** Northern Virginia Family Services

**NVRC:** Northern Virginia Regional Commission

**NVRPA:** Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

**NVSWCD:** Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

**NVTC:** Northern Virginia Transportation Commission

**OPEB:** Other Post-Employment Benefits

**PORS:** Fairfax County Police Officers Retirement System

**PPE:** Personal Protective Equipment

**PSCC:** Public Safety Communications Center

**PSCN:** Public Safety Communications Network

**PSOHC:** Public Safety Occupational Health Center

**RIF:** Reduction in Force

**SAC:** Selection Advisory Committee

**SACC:** School-Age Child Care

**SAFER:** Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants

**SBE:** Small Business Enterprise

**SCBA:** Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus

**SCC:** State Corporation Commission

**SCYPT:** Successful Children and Youth Policy Team

**SNAP:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**SOQ:** Commonwealth's Standards of Quality

**SWRRC:** Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling Centers

**TANF:** Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

**TPE:** Total Project Estimate

**UASI:** Urban Areas Security Initiative

**URS:** Fairfax County Uniformed Retirement System

**VACo:** Virginia Association of Counties

**VFOIA:** Virginia Freedom of Information Act

**VIEW:** Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare

**VRE:** Virginia Railway Express

**WAHP:** Washington Area Housing Partnership

**WAHTF:** Washington Area Housing Trust Fund

**WAN:** Wide Area Network

**WMATA:** Washington Metropolitan Area  
Transit Authority

**WPFO:** Work Performed for Others

**YTD:** Year-to-Date