

**FAIRFAX-FALLS CHURCH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP'S
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD**

MEETING AGENDA

DATE: December 6, 2023

TIME: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

LOCATION: Fairfax County Government, Conference Rooms 9/10
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA. 22035

ITEMS:

- 7:00 pm – **Call to Order.**
- 7:02 pm – **Approve Minutes.**
- 7:05 pm – **Member Presentations.**
- 8:00 pm – **Next Steps for Gaps Analysis, Strategic Recommendations.**
- 8:25 pm – **Next Meeting: January 24.**
- 8:30 pm – **Adjourn.**

MATERIALS:

- Meeting Agenda.
- Meeting Minutes from 11/08/2023.
- One-Page Presentations.

Our Mission

Together with our community, **Cornerstones promotes stability, empowerment, and hope** through support, advocacy, and community-building for individuals and families in need.

Strong and Stable Families and Community

Since 1970, Cornerstones has been a prominent anchor organization in Northern Virginia. Annually we serve 16,000 families and 5,000 children through our wrap-around services and programs. Cornerstones' team works to provide equitable access to life-changing resources, advocate for systems changes that address the root causes of homelessness and poverty, and create and strengthen our community by building opportunities for all families and individuals.

We work in close partnership with individual and corporate donors, community leaders, volunteers, policy-makers, faith-based partners, and civic organizations to create tangible, meaning change that:

- **builds and preserves affordable housing,**
- **invests in connected and resilient children and families,**
- **creates good jobs and economic security, and**
- **advances systems change to undo racial and social inequity.**

Thanks to the generous support of our growing network of partners and advocates, Cornerstones creates communities of opportunities to strengthen everyone who lives and works in the region.



Cornerstones Community Partners

- 1800 individual donors
- 100 faith-based groups
- 6K+ volunteers and advocates
- 75 corporate annual partners

Leadership Service in Fairfax County

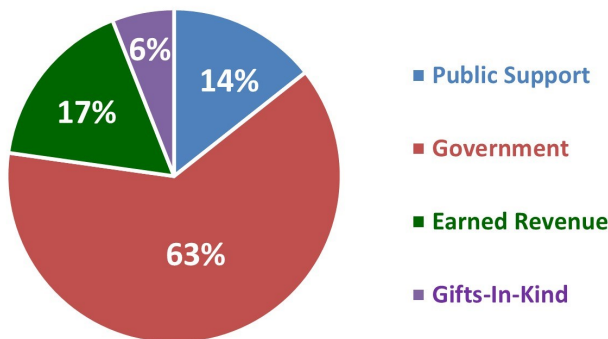
Kerrie Wilson, CEO

*Chair, Affordable Housing Advisory Council
 Secretary, Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce
 Member, HCA-Reston Hospital Center Advisory Board
 Board of Directors, Leadership Fairfax, Inc.*

Maura Williams, MA

*EVP, Housing and Community Programs
 Member, Racial Equity Action Committee
 Member, Affordable Housing Advisory Council
 Past Chair, Continuum of Care Committee*

FY22 Support and Revenue



Consolidated Cornerstones, Inc., Cornerstones Housing Corporation, and RIHC Partners, LP (The Apartments at North Point) financials for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). Cornerstones has established a record of success by devoting resources wisely to maximize the impact of our programs.

For a full copy of our most recent audited financial statements, please email finance@cornerstonesva.org.



Cornerstones Programs

- **Housing Services**, including the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, 104 affordable rental housing units, and foreclosure prevention counseling
- **Food, Financial, and Urgent Assistance**, including our Food Pantry, FREE from Hunger Center, emergency financial assistance, and eviction prevention services
- **Affordable Childcare and Youth Services**, including our Laurel Learning Center, Youth Programs, and STEAM enrichment academic programs, and before and-after school care
- **Community and Family Strengthening**, including our Pathway to Sustainable Employment and Community Care Management at the Connections of Hope Partnership, the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center, Opportunity Neighborhood in Reston and Herndon, and Community Resource Centers located at Cedar Ridge, Crescent, Stonegate, and Westglade

Challenges - Service and Transition to Affordable Housing

- **Lack of affordable housing** - transition out of the shelter can take up to a year.
- **Long-term guests residing in hotels** (currently housing 26 families in hotels / \$14,610.00 per week).
- Over **470 individuals on the STARSS priority list** for shelter beds.
- **Difficult to secure vouchers or long-term rental assistance.**
- **Many families have never held a lease** - they need assistance to secure and gain/rebuild credit.
- **Shelter guests with large families** - many coming from situations where multiple households lived together. Households that have maxed out of their eligibility for rental assistance are still in need and face eviction and homelessness.

Maura Williams, MA
Executive Vice President, Housing and Community Programs
maura.williams@cornerstonesva.org / 571.323.1407



HOW WE BEGAN

In 1988, Linda Wimpey and the visionary volunteers who founded FACETS pledged that no neighbor would go unnoticed or unrecognized in Fairfax County. It was a promise to listen, to help, to care, and to serve neighbors in distress. FACETS provides life-saving and transformational services to those in crisis. For 35 years, FACETS has acted as one of the largest social safety nets for our most vulnerable and marginalized neighbors.

FACETS supports families and individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless by offering basic needs assistance and comprehensive case management. We assist people who are having difficulty meeting their basic needs through. Every day of the year, FACETS, in partnership with area faith communities, offers a Hot Meals Program to people who are homeless. Additionally, FACETS offers personalized and comprehensive programs in three key areas:

PREVENTING AND ENDING HOMELESSNESS

SERVICES FOR SINGLE ADULTS: FACETS offers outreach and support for single adults who are homeless or living in poverty. We seek out and identify people who are living on the streets or in the woods with the goal of helping them stabilize and ultimately move into housing. We also connect them with medical and dental resources. Medical assistance is offered to single adults who are served by FACETS. Staff help people connect with medical resources and benefits, including mental health services. During the winter months, FACETS operates a Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program, in partnership with Fairfax County and 34 faith communities.

SERVICES FOR FAMILIES: FACETS offers prevention and diversion services to families at risk of homelessness. Our caring case managers work with parents to develop service plans and specific goals, whether their families are precariously housed, temporarily living in area motels or on the verge of becoming homeless. We divert families from going into a homeless shelter and instead moved into permanent or transitional housing. Additionally, FACETS provides families support with eviction prevention while partnering with Legal Aid of Fairfax.

HOUSING SERVICES TO BRING PEOPLE HOME:

Permanent Supportive Housing: FACETS provides supportive and long-term housing for individuals and families who are currently homeless. Our programs operate using a "Housing First" approach, focusing on first getting people into housing and then working with a case manager to address barriers to housing stability, career development, child care, medical assistance and other basic needs. Linda's Gateway began in March 2010 and features two apartments for families who become homeless and two six bed adult male group homes. Clients work with a FACETS case manager on the goal of locating permanent or transitional housing. Participants receive budget counseling, housing location services, connection to community resources, basic needs and transportation assistance and services for children. Home Connections, TRIUMPH and TRIUMPH III are permanent supportive housing programs managed by FACETS for chronically homeless adults located in a cluster of apartments. Adults participate in these three programs and receive intensive in-home case management services from FACETS. Many of these residents engage in life skills classes which increase their access to financial, medical and employment resources.

EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO BREAK THE CYLCLE OF POVERTY:

FACETS works in four community centers in Fairfax including Ragan Oaks, Robinson Square, Barros Circle and Wedgewood. People living in these affordable housing communities are living in poverty with limited financial resources. FACETS provides on going case management that provides financial assistance, employment assistance,

life skills, budgeting, and help applying for benefits. These services are ongoing as opposed to one-time emergency assistance. Emergency Services include but are not limited to food, clothes, counseling, emotional support, resource connections, information, referrals, dental cleanings and co-pay, vision and eye glasses referrals, translation, and computer or printing access. Lastly, the Education & Community Development Programs are youth programs focus on developing healthy academic and lifestyle habits. The cornerstone of our programs for school age kids continues to be Homework Help and Life Skills groups.

In closing, FACETS envisions a day when everyone in Fairfax County has access to adequate and affordable housing and nobody is homeless. We seek to engage and educate our community in providing long-term solutions and resources to break the cycle of poverty for our neighbors in need.

GAPS IN HOMELESS SERVICES SYSTEM

- 1) Lack of a single shelter building in Region 1 vs scattered-site apartments
- 2) Shortage of shelter beds for single adults. County is committed to expanding for families, but lack for single adults leads to a waitlist, which leads to more people sleeping outside (and now more coming into Hypo)
- 3) Limited availability of beds for potential PSH clients to provide housing and case management support they need for successful life
- 4) Affordable housing opportunities in Fairfax County make it very difficult for anyone without a well-paying job to take care of their family

FY24 BUDGET

Our FY24 budget is \$6,661,197.58. In general, government (federal, state, local) funding is our largest source of income and constitutes around 80 percent of the budget.

Submitted by CoC Board Member:

Rena D. Alexander-Lewis

Senior Director of Programs

FACETS

10700 Page Avenue, Building B

Fairfax, VA 22030

Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership's: Continuum Of Care CoC Board

Neighborhood and Community Services NCS: Organization Overview

Organization Overview

Neighborhood and Community Services NCS. Aimee Garcia, Division Director & NCS Senior Leadership member, Access and Economic Mobility (Athletic Services and Community Use Scheduling, Coordinated Services Planning, Food Access Program unit, and Human Services Transportation)

Organization Details

NCS services are embedded in communities throughout Fairfax County. NCS has a physical presence in Health and Human Services regional offices, Community Center (13), Senior Centers (15), Adult Day Health Care (4), Teen Centers (12), Senior Centers Without Walls (2), Head Start and Early Head Start (4*FCPS select schools), School Age Child Care (143), Camp Fairfax, Infant Toddler Connection. NCS was established July 1, 2010. The annual budget for NCS is approximately \$196,940,751. Funding sources include General Funds, Federal and State Grants, SACC Fees.

Mission and Services

NCS serves the community from infancy through older adulthood. NCS promotes well-being, equitable access, and engagement via education/recreation/ and developmental programs. NCS Mission *to partner with communities, families and individuals to provide opportunities to access a continuum of resources that promote equity and create positive outcomes for people of all ages and abilities*, Vision *to see connected communities where all individuals and families are supported and empowered to thrive*, and Values *Accountability, Diversity, Collaboration, Employee Well-being, Commitment to Community, Equity, Culture of Learning and Innovation*. NCS has extensive partnerships throughout Fairfax County agencies, Non-profits, Community Based Organizations, Advisory Councils Boards Authorities & Commissions, Fairfax County Public Schools. NCS cross-system prevention coordination partners to promote Opportunity Neighborhood, Neighborhood and Family Resource Centers, and Virginia Cooperative Extension (Virginia land-grant universities – Virginia Tech and Virginia State University). NCS offers a virtual center for active adults and NCS Connects virtual resource library to serve youth, teens, parents and guardians. NCS technology programs promote computer usage, internet access, and training to advance digital equity.

Contribution to CoC

Coordinated Services Planning CSP serves as the initial coordinated entry referral source for unhoused families in need of homeless services (diversion, prevention, placement, housing location). CSP supports housing preservation efforts through Eviction, Prevention, and Intervention to both maintain housing and prevent eviction in coordination with Community Based Organizations | Faith Based Organizations and federal funds.

Focus Areas

Gaps in the homeless services system include the over representation of the Black community and other people of color, homeless services facilities sufficient for the growth of unhoused community members requirements, industry affordable housing stock expansion, and increased funding to allow for expanded case management time frames to support housing stabilization and related supportive needs to achieve collective prosperity within a thriving community.

Organization Overview:

- Name: Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- CoC Board Representative: Dr. Michael Axler, Director of Intervention and Prevention Services

Organization Details:

FCPS is one of the largest school divisions in the U.S. with 199 schools and centers spanning all of Fairfax County. Established in 1870, FCPS serves a diverse student population of more than 181,000 students in grades prekindergarten through 12. FCPS has 24,839.2 full-time employees, of whom 92.9 percent are school-based and 7.1 percent are non-school-based. Our FY 2024 Approved Budget of \$3.5 billion is primarily funded by Fairfax County (68.9%) with contributions from state aid (19.3%), sales tax (7.3%), the City of Fairfax (1.5%), federal aid (1.4%), and other sources (0.8%). More than 86% of the budget goes toward instruction, and the average cost per student is \$16,505.

Mission and Services:

FCPS inspires and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead healthy and ethical lives, and be responsible and innovative global citizens.

Four Pillars identify what FCPS must do well to be able to reach our goals for all students:

1. Differentiated and culturally responsive learning environments
2. Vibrant home, school, and community partnerships
3. Diverse, adaptive, and supportive workforce
4. Culture of equity, excellence, and accountability

FCPS provides vast and varied services, including instructional services, mental health and wellness services, food and nutrition services, information technology services, and much more.

Contribution to CoC:

The FCPS Homeless Liaison has been a longstanding participant in the CoC. The McKinney-Vento Act, federal legislation in effect since 1987, requires a designated homeless liaison for all school divisions responsible for ensuring that homeless children and youth are enrolled in school, set up for free meals at school, assisted with basic needs such as clothing and emergency food, and receive the educational services for which they are eligible.

The homeless program coordinates a tutoring program at shelter sites, as well as tutoring homeless unaccompanied youth at their given school, to provide homework assistance and to strengthen academic skills. Maintaining school stability is a priority, and children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their original school or enroll in any FCPS public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. Additional support is provided to identified unaccompanied homeless youth, with the school social worker designated as a point of contact.

Focus Area – Pressing Needs:

1. **Additional shelter availability and more affordable housing options for formerly homeless families.** Many of our families are unable to maintain stable housing due to the high cost of

housing in our area, as well as income and credit challenges after experiencing homelessness. This results in a cycle of youth going in and out of homelessness.

2. **After-hours staffing for families experiencing a housing crisis outside of Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) weekday hours and on weekends.** Many of our families learn they have no place to stay for the night at the end of the day, when CSP and other support agencies are closed for the day. These families often reach out to FCPS in the early evening hours when other agencies are closed.
3. **Increased access to transportation.** Public transportation in Fairfax County is limited and often does not have routes near public schools or homeless shelters. This creates barriers that prevent our homeless families from accessing needed services such as supplemental food pantries, medical and dental care, and other supports.



Founded in 1977, New Hope Housing is a social service organization whose mission is to provide homeless families and individuals with shelter and the tools to build a better life. Established by concerned citizens to help housing insecure people in encampments or in run-down motels along the Richmond Highway corridor, it began as an all-volunteer organization serving eight guests in the first shelter in Fairfax County.

Presently, NHH operates over 16 housing programs, including emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and prevention services. Annually we provide essential support to more than 1,600 residents, spanning across Northern Virginia's three jurisdictions: Fairfax County, Arlington County, and the City of Alexandria. Our major funder is presently government and individual donors with an organizational budget of a little more than 10 million dollars. As part of the CoC, New Hope is a staple in the northern Virginia community serving low-income residents daily in shelters, with permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, housing first, diversion services for individuals returning home from prison or jail, medical respite and more.

The New Hope team has a proven track record of working within low-barrier shelters and housing first models, employing a trauma-informed and clients centered approach. Additionally, New Hope has a strong partnership with the Virginia department of health to address our client's mental health needs and have training to execute harm reduction strategies. New Hope has well over 187 employees (including on-call and seasonal staff) where 25% have previously been homeless.

In June of 2023 the board hired a new Executive Director, Ashley McSwain, following the 32-year tenure of Pam Michell.

Gaps in Homeless Services

- Consistent on-site mental health support during the day and throughout the evening, especially during hypo.
- More housing accessible and affordable for clients
- More link between homeless services and Information Technology. Given the shift during covid 19 people are expected to have access to internet and online services. Many homeless individuals are left out and need intervention.



Northern Virginia Family Service

10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100

Oakton, Virginia 22124

(Our main office (**Oakton**) is relocating. More details to come in the New Year)

About Us: Who we are & what we do

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) is a community-based non-profit organization with several office locations throughout Fairfax & Prince William Counties. We provide essential building blocks for financial, emotional, and physical wellbeing, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia Community. Alongside our Homeless Shelter, NVFS offers several additional programs for residents of Fairfax & Prince William County to assist & prevent homelessness.

Who to Contact:

Adrienne Hosein, Director of Community Housing, ahosein@nvfs.org

Organization Details: Budget, Geographic Location, Age of our Organization

NVFS Community Housing Programs received \$7,629,639.45 of federal money in Federal Money, representing 76.6% of the total Community Housing Budget. The remaining \$2,334,126.95 (23.4%) was funded through non-federal sources.

Geographic Locations: Our organization serves several jurisdictions throughout Northern Virginia, including Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County

Age of the Organization: It's almost our birthday! NVFS will be turning the page to 100 years of service in 2024. Stay tuned for our celebratory details.

Our Mission:

“To empower individuals and families to improve their quality of life, and to promote community cooperation and support in responding to family needs.”



1. Organization Overview:
 - a. Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church, Kameron Wilds, Lead Pastor (ED)
2. Organization Details:
 - a. Rising Hope is a 28 year old Mission Church founded in Region 1. Our annual budget is 1.4 million (cash and in kind revenue). Our primary sources of funding come from individuals, local faith communities, grants, and in-kind donations of specific items needed to meet the needs of our community.
3. Mission and Services:
 - a. Rising Hope seeks to work with and among persons experiencing the crisis of homelessness and poverty. In addition to having an active community of faith in which 50% of our community has or is experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, we offer many emergency assistance services. We manage a Food Market for 1,145 unique families (2,113 adults and 1,415 children), we serve around 60 meals per day in our soup kitchen, offer nightly overnight lodging for 24 guests in partnership with NHH as Kennedy's overflow for Hypothermia Prevention, distribute emergency assistance in rent, utility, and medical bills, and offer many other touch point services for people on the margins.
4. Contribution to CoC:
 - a. Rising Hope contributes to the continuum of care for persons experiencing homelessness through direct financial assistance, easing costs and providing weekly access to fresh foods and clothing, a consistent location for daily meals, overnight lodging during winter, and referrals to other partnering services.
5. Focus Area:
 - a. The largest gap that Rising Hope sees on a consistent basis is access to affordable housing, temporary shelter, and emergency sheltering. The wait times for bed access across the county for emergency sheltering for single adults on the streets is astronomical and immediately reduces the level of hope a person has for positive outcomes.
 - b. Further, once a person is approved to get into stable housing the barriers are huge. Credit Checks, deposits, lack of available rooms, living conditions being subpar in many complexes, etc. Further, available funding at a consistent basis is limited to assist in keeping the growing number of persons requesting support in their homes through rent and utility funds. Often persons are encouraged to run from one organization to the next trying to scrounge enough dollars to meet the overall sum.
 - c. Lastly, there is a major gap in Region One concerning adult mental and behavioral health. We consistently encounter individuals desiring to seek help for substance use and we do not have the resources available in our area to significantly impact their addiction. Further, many are experiencing severe mental health challenges without the consistent support, locations, and hours to receive the level of care they need to live healthy and sustainable lives.

Operating for 51 years, Second Story operates a 24/7 Teen Crisis center in the Tysons Corner area, Community Based Programs located in Culmore area of Falls Church, Annandale and Springfield, and works with transition aged youth in housing all over the county. Annual budget is \$4,600,000. Roughly half come from corporate partners and individual donors in the community. Approx 20% from Federal grants, and just under 30% from Fairfax County grants and contracts.

Second Story started as Alternative House 51 years ago. Our mission is to transform the lives of children, youth, and their families by providing safe havens and opportunities for them to grow and thrive. Our programs provide support at critical turning points in their lives. We operate 4 residential programs. Our oldest is Second Story for Teens in Crisis, where 13-17-year old runaway, homeless, and traumatized youth can find a safe place to stay while receiving individual and family counseling. It's a voluntary 21-day program which provides life skills and crisis intervention while facilitating attendance at their home schools. Second Story for Young Mothers provides townhouses and staff support to pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness to help with life skills and parenting education and assistance with basic needs. Second Story for Homeless Youth helps unaccompanied high school students and recent graduates who are 18-21 and experiencing homelessness, with rent support and life skills training while assisting them to graduate, go on to higher education, or enroll in training programs. Both these programs are 18 months. We also have a Rapid ReHousing program for 18-24-year old's including singles and one or two parent households to help them be able to sign a lease and receive rental support and education/training support for up to two years. Our Community Based Services programs provide drop in centers for families and after-school programs for elementary and high school youth who need support, as well as food donations, computer centers, and help with connection to health, legal and social services; many of the young people we serve live in communities where human trafficking, violence, and gang activity are prevalent. All our programs are free for youth and their families. Our goal is to provide safe spaces to help them achieve their goals and work towards self-sufficiency, breaking the cycles of homelessness, abuse, violence and poverty.

Second Story runs a Rapid ReHousing program for the continuum of care, providing case management services, housing location help, and assistance with helping transition aged youth 18-24 to obtain GEDs, training or apprenticeship experiences, and to reach their goals of living independently.

We see many gaps in services for transition age youth (TAY) experiencing homelessness. Many of these youth seek out adrenaline surged adventures and can act impulsively and without the ability to consider consequences due to the stage of brain development they are in. They sometimes get involved in risky behaviors that make them less likely to be able to live independently. They are also vulnerable to exploitation and lack the safety net to keep them out of harms way. Fairfax County has no designated homeless shelters to keep these young people safe. Even though TAY are eligible to be in adult shelters, they usually don't qualify to get in, because their scores on the entry assessments are lower than adults with longer terms of homelessness or chronic medical issues. That means that for most of the year, TAY are unable to access services and are left to their own devices. During hypothermia, TAY are often in overflow spaces which means they are not getting case management services, and therefore, are not getting the help they need to get support or a safe place to live. Second Story's Rapid ReHousing program does help singles and families in this age group; this year our funds were spent in September. That means for the last quarter of the current grant we were supporting our current clients with our own funds and no ability to take on new young people until the next grant period began on Dec 1st. Fairfax county needs dedicated shelter spaces for Transition Aged Youth.

Another gap in services is for transition aged youth with significant mental health issues. Our RRH program places singles in one bedroom or efficiency apartments that each client signs the lease for. This requires them to be able to live independently and at a certain level of adult functioning with the goal of continuing to live and pay rent on their own after our services end in two years. Those young people with significant mental health issues who do not qualify for independent living programs are left out of this equation, and have to get in the long lines to become eligible for permanent supportive housing. This process can take many years which is not ideal for anyone, but especially not this vulnerable population. Fairfax County needs PSH programs that specifically focus on TAY.

Another gap in services is the length of services and lack of graduate programs to extend the time a young person can get supportive services. RRH is one to two years in length. A young person entering the program at 18 is only 20 when they are expected to take over a lease on their own. This is incredibly challenging for this population and many end up getting evicted or moving back with family/friends/strangers/ or going back to shelter. It is difficult to take on a young person without a high school diploma and expect to bring them up to earning a living wage in two years. Fairfax County needs longer RRH support or graduate programs to ensure gains can be sustained.