

Public Comment Survey Responses
Draft Categories for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) FY 2025-2026
As of 12:00 p.m. April 10, 2023

Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Financial Stability category.**

My name is Kelly Rojas, and I am a Deputy Program Director at the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition and a Fairfax County resident. I am submitting a comment in support of the "Financial Stability" funding category, with a special focus on legal services. Each year, about 100 Fairfax residents face detention and deportation in civil immigration court with no right to counsel in their immigration hearings. Those without lawyers face enormous odds in fighting their cases as they must present and cross-examine witnesses, file exhibits, translate documents, and much more and for many, in a language they do not speak or is not their first language. Additionally, the struggle to obtain representation is all the more complicated as most immigrants are held in jails far from most attorneys' offices and private attorneys become reluctant to take on the cases – leading to even higher costs for representation. Given the complexities of immigration law, coupled with the difficulty of case preparation while in jail, immigrants without lawyers will likely lose their cases regardless of the merits. According to the Center for Popular Democracy, 70 percent of detained immigrants appearing in the Arlington (now Annandale) Immigration Court, the court where most Fairfax residents are docketed, did not have legal representation at any point in their case. Immigrants who are detained and do not have an attorney in this court have only an 11 percent chance of winning their case. By contrast, having a lawyer in the court more than doubled a person's chances of being able to remain in the United States. Access to representation means individuals can more often return to their community with stable immigration status, which directly impacts their ability to achieve greater financial stability for themselves and their families. The dramatic difference in outcomes between represented and unrepresented individuals highlights the serious due process issues inherent in federal immigration courts and the great need to provide representation. This is where CAIR Coalition comes in. CAIR Coalition is the only organization in the Capital area with legal services programs focused primarily on assisting local residents who are detained in the region's detention centers or transferred to out-of-state facilities. For three years, CAIR Coalition ran the Fairfax Immigrant Defense Program which provided legal services to over 240 Fairfax County residents. Many sweeping changes are expected in the immigration space in the coming year, making legal services that much more critical. At the end of January, the Biden Administration announced they would be ending the pandemic emergency protocols on May 11, 2023. This will allow all detention centers to increase bed space. At the Farmville Detention Center in Virginia, where many Fairfax residents are held, the detained population will now be able to increase from less than 30 people to 850 people by September 2023. Further, the Moshannon Valley Detention Center in Pennsylvania, the largest facility on the East Coast, will be allowed to expand to their full capacity of 1900 beds, doubling the current population numbers. Increased bed space means increased ICE activity, tearing more Fairfax residents out of the community, and transferring them to faraway detention centers. We are sad to report that we are already starting to see the signs of what is to come. We are observing an increase in ICE arrests at peoples' homes and in the community. With the pandemic protocols ending and detention levels increasing in Virginia and along the East Coast, we will likely see detention return to pre-covid levels of at least 175 Fairfax County residents per year. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a comment on behalf of the immigrant communities that make Fairfax County their home in support of the "Financial Stability" funding category.

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Reply

0

Apr 7, 2023 3:31 pm



Great objective WISH but reality is we have lot of people entering or in county with limited skills and education and more keep coming every day and I believe we have overloaded the system.wish we could do this but impossible sorry.

Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:28 pm



N/A

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 2:54 pm



I do not understand why Legal Services is in this category. As a whole categories need more description. Add micro-loans if possible or funding for small business/entrepreneurial support.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 9:27 am



I do not understand why Legal Services is in this category. As a whole categories need more description. Add micro-loans if possible.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 9:26 am



Financial literacy/management training and counseling to foresee and prevent financial crises
Financial counseling Financial asset formation Affordable Housing

Reply

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0

Mar 28, 2023 3:35 pm



Also, elder care for younger family members who need to work and care for an aging parent or family member. Affordable care for adult children with special needs so parents can work.

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:35 pm

Public Comment Survey Responses
Draft Categories for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) FY 2025-2026
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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Food and Nutrition category.**

Food bank program- we help low income people, seniors, and people with disabilities including unemployment and domestic violence survivors. This would help the clients have access to healthy food with no charge.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 2:56 pm



You forgot food banks

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 9:27 am



NA

Reply

0

Mar 28, 2023 3:35 pm



It seems many farmers markets are held during typical work hours making it difficult to utilize. Better publication may also help.

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:35 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Health category.**

I have dentist friend that volunteers but similiar comment that i made first question is way to many people and no where need enough resources to help all people.Sad commentary but accurate.

Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:32 pm



We also educate communities with chronic disease prevention and management.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:04 pm



We have NCOA and OMH grants, which focus on COVID-19 and flu vaccinations as well as chronic disease management. In order to help clients with limited English proficiency to access affordable health care. Additionally, we have clients with ACA, such as Medicaid, Medicaid FAMIS, and Medicare.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 2:59 pm



dementia is a key issue for seniors in Fairfax County

Reply

0

Mar 28, 2023 9:20 am



More mental health services are needed and these services need to be affordable.

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:36 pm

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Dementia is an important issue facing older adults and our aging population in Fairfax County. Hopefully that focus is included in Senior/Older adults' health care.

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 1:51 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Housing category.**

All very noble goals but sorry, way to many people in need not enough money to get job done, rents keep going up and incomes not following. The system is overloaded and what we need do try focus on the most vulnerable groups since we cannot solve all the problems.
Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:34 pm



Even though we don't have enough funding but we still help the clients to apply for affordable and low-cost housing for seniors and people with special needs, as well as other low-income individuals.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:02 pm



With our Domestic Violence project, we are able to assist clients with monthly rents to live independently.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:00 pm



Add language about providing services for older adults/people with disabilities to stay in their homes as long as possible. It is incredibly expensive to move anyone into assisted living, most (this is researched) want to stay age their homes, and there are some changes that can be made to allow a person to stay in the home longer. Further changes made will eliminate barriers for all ages.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 1:08 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Literacy/Educational Development/Attainment category.**

Specific programs to help able bodied SNAP recipients seek employment and training.
Reply

0

Apr 4, 2023 2:53 pm



I agree with all of the objectives,would hope the business community could increase their participation in number of these areas.

Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:37 pm



We have weekly ESL classes to help the ones in need.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:05 pm



Affordable childcare is needed

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:37 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships category.**

Number of very good non profits in this area,but they need more financial support.
Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:39 pm



We have domestic violence prevention, assistant, and recovery program; where we advocate and help DV survivors to become independent and self- sufficiency.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:07 pm



Services for members of the LGBTQ+ community

Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:38 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Support/Community/Social Networks category.**

Great objectives but some people need rely on friends and family and their culture community for support,to many have heard of free lunch and come and find every free or subsadized program
Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:45 pm



Great objectives when my grandparents came to this Country they had learn English ,find place live and find job.back then family already here did most of what now people expect should be provided to them.Think we have taken lot of responsiblity that people should take on, on their own or win friends and family support,the government cannot supply everything to people,
Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:43 pm



We have transportation program, which helps the low-income seniors and people with disabilities have access to public transportation with affordable cost. Domestic violence survivors are able to have access to affordable day care services. We provide bilingual assistance for all of or programs; including domestic violence, transportation, ACA, vaccination, and etc.
Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:11 pm



dementia is a key issue for seniors in Fairfax County
Reply

0

Mar 28, 2023 9:21 am

Public Comment Survey Responses
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As of 12:00 p.m. April 10, 2023

Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Emergency Food Assistance category.**

Dear Members of the Fairfax County Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Consolidated Community Funding Pool RFP FY 2025-2026 and the draft categories. On behalf of Cornerstones, Food For Others, United Community and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries – we offer the following data points and recommendations for your consideration and look forward to continuing the dialogue on the CCFP prior to the next RFP. Our organizations serve as backbone organizations in different regions of Fairfax County, and while there are some differences, we collectively want to share some of our perspectives regarding the approach to the CCFP grants. We would like to address the following key points that were also noted in our letter dated October 21, 2022:

- There were unintended consequences in the limitations imposed in the definition of “emergency” food and housing assistance, that have led to
 - o Gaps remaining in services to community members
 - o Barriers to services
 - o Confusion between emergency/short term services and services with case management
- The focus on short-term food and housing in RFP II without also including longer-term food and housing solutions prevents
 - o Strategic and sustainable solutions as a funded focus of health and human services non-profits providing these services
 - o Focus on infrastructure and capacity building
 - o Funding for innovative programs and partnerships that are fiscal-year/school-year/calendar-year long

Our recommendations for CCFP FY 25/26 include:

- o Working with nonprofit organizations in Fairfax County to define “emergency” situations and “emergency food” with a broader lens
- o Considering the challenges faced by residents when there is not funding for stable “emergency food” services in their local community/region and removing barriers that cause these gaps; examining the unintended consequences of the changes made this cycle to mitigate them in the next round
- o Looking at the benefits of including all food and housing services in Lane 2 – both those currently considered short-term and those considered long-term so that organizations can cohesively provide services to families in their regions
- o Considering how supplemental food programs could be included such as school Power Packs, Free Food Fridge programs, and other programs that provide necessary nutrition to identified populations in need of these programs
- o Looking carefully at the definitions, outcomes, and service examples to ensure the expectations align and make sense in coordination (for example in providing immediate food for an emergency at a neighborhood distribution site, does case management make sense or is that part of longer-term support)
- o Considering a separation of food and food outcomes where food insecurity is directly addressed from programs that provide gift cards and other monetary solutions

By way of background: On December 1, 2020, a Joint Board Matter was drafted by Chairman McKay, Supervisor Foust, Supervisor Palchik, and Supervisor Smith regarding the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. The document stated, “The CCFP is a long-standing funding source to support county residents with programs and services that enhance their lives. A significant portion of these resources provide direct funding for the critical basic needs of housing and food supports. Consistent with the Board’s Health and Human Services committee briefings on November 24, we must continue to consider various funding options to ensure these critical needs are met as we navigate the significant economic

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impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic. To the extent our residents rely on community-based organizations receiving CCFP funding to support meeting those needs, we must ensure CCFP processes are designed to eliminate potential gaps in service. Therefore, [we move] that the County Executive direct staff to review the CCFP with a specific eye toward the basic needs of housing and food supports..." On March 16, 2021, a response was provided to the Board of Supervisors by Chris Leonard, Deputy County Executive. The response included the following, "Past funding cycle gaps and the impact of COVID-19 have highlighted the need to ensure adequate basic needs are resourced throughout the county. The CCFP is a competitive funding process which regularly sees basic needs of housing and food supports competing for funding with non-basic needs programs and services. Prior funding cycles have utilized a single Request for proposal (RFP) process to facilitate the competitive nature of the CCFP. Appropriately, the CCFP offers no guarantee to any organization to be funded. However, it is not appropriate for areas of the county to be left without any basic needs funding support, and that was an unintentional outcome of the competitive process." We, collectively, look forward to discussing these topics with you and continuing the dialogue towards long-term success for individuals and families in our community who are facing mental health, food, and housing challenges. We encourage CCFA and Fairfax County to consider and prioritize investments that will lead to sustainable, equitable recovery and infrastructure investments in the capacity of partners on the ground. We are grateful for the prior and current county grants that support our work and look forward to building on this partnership to serve residents of our county. Respectfully submitted, Kerrie Wilson, CEO, Cornerstones Annie Turner, Executive Director, Food For Others Alison DeCoursey, President & CEO, United Community Harmonie Taddeo, Executive Director, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries Addendum 1: Region 1 – United Community United Community is a 53-year-old nonprofit offering an array of human services that lift families out of poverty in Region 1 (Mount Vernon/Alexandria in Fairfax County) through a variety of programs that address emergency needs, as well as programs and community-based initiatives that promote self-sufficiency. Two of the highest poverty zip codes in Fairfax County — 22306 and 22309 — are in our service area, and:

- Are identified as "Highly Vulnerable" using Fairfax County's Vulnerability Index;
- 85% percent of United Community clients reside in these zip codes;
- 30% of all households in those zip codes earn less than \$50,000 annually, or less than 40% of the median household income for the whole of Fairfax County (\$128,374);
- 89% of United Community clients are living at or below the poverty level;
- We serve a multicultural mix of families: 55% are Black and 37% are Hispanic.

In Region 1, the crisis of poverty has reached a crescendo over the past two+ years because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Job loss due to the pandemic has been concentrated in the service and retail industries, jobs held by most individuals served by United Community. Many of these jobs did not return when the epidemic started to subside. Many households we serve continue to barely make ends meet to pay their rents or meeting other basic needs It is estimated that the number of residents in Fairfax who are food insecure has doubled since the beginning of the pandemic. This creates a situation in which the daily hunger and stress faced by our clients make it nearly impossible for them to take the long-term steps needed to overcome their poverty. At our Food Pantry, we experienced a 267% increase in demand for food the first year of COVID alone. This is a much higher increase than the doubling that took place in most parts of the county. CCFP supported four United Community programs in FY22: Early Learning Center, Stepping Stones, and Progreso. The total value of CCFP support to these programs in FY22 was \$583,288, or 16.6% of

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the total cost of these programs. United Community raised funds from other sources to fully operate these programs. In the summer of 2020, we launched a Mobile Food Distribution Program at 6 sites in the community thanks to the financial support of United Community donors, partners, Fairfax County's successful Food Access Program, and local grocers, like Amazon Fresh and Wegmans. These 6 mobile food sites – located in in trailer parks, community centers, and low income-high density apartment complexes – aim to alleviate residents' barriers of transportation and affordability and ensure community has choices of healthy food in an area commonly known as a food desert. At Mobile Distributions, we provide 16 pounds per person of largely nutritious food items to those who are food insecure. While the driver of our truck delivering the food is a United Community Food Warehouse employee, the distributions is fully managed by 1 community member – an Opportunity Neighborhood Ambassador who serves as the site's Food Coordinator, receiving a small stipend. The Coordinator then recruits 4-6 volunteers every week to distribute food to their neighbors on tables set-up next to our trucks. Distributions are scheduled on a consistent basis each week with community members lining up sometimes 2 hours before the distribution begins. Limiting these distributions to serve families only 6 times in a fiscal year and separating our food program support between RFP 1 and 2 is both limiting for families and strategically limiting for United Community as we seek to serve the food insecure in our region. Addendum 2: Region 2 – Food For Others Like other food pantries, Food for Others has seen a confluence of factors that make FY23 a challenging year. When we compare year to date numbers (July 1st through March 31st) for FY23 vs. FY22, we have seen an increase of 53% for household visits to our warehouse overall including a 30% increase in emergency referral visits. On several occasions in the last few months, we've had to turn clients away because they have already surpassed the number of times they can come. Just focusing on Feb 2023 to March 2023, we saw a 17% increase. Additionally, our neighborhood site distributions have seen an increase of 30% this fiscal year compared to last fiscal year, and although we are serving 43 Fairfax County Public Elementary Schools through our Power Pack Program (3,500 students weekly), we have 9 additional schools on our waiting list. The Power Pack Program did not receive funding through the CCFP FY23/FY24 cycle. We attribute the increase in demand to a few issues. In March 2022, the community experienced an increase in expenses. It is estimated that grocery prices for the general consumer increased 11% between January 2022 and January 2023, while other household expenses such as gas, also experienced large price fluctuations. Coupled with the reduction in SNAP benefits in March 2023, this has had a crippling effect on our community members. For food pantries, there are other factors to consider. At Food for Others, food donations from the community are down 16% over last year which means that we are purchasing more food to cover the gap and our food prices have increased roughly 10% creating a perfect storm of challenges. Additionally, several emergency food distributions that popped up during COVID are now shutting down, further exacerbating the lines at our regular food distributions and for our partners. Limiting emergency food to serve families only 6 times in a fiscal year and separating our food program support between RFP 1 and 2 is both limiting for families and strategically limiting for Food For Others as we seek to serve the food insecure in Fairfax County. Addendum 3: Region 3 – Cornerstones Cornerstones was founded in 1970 to provide support and advocacy for people in need of emergency shelter, food, affordable housing, quality childcare and other human services. Each year we touch the lives of more than 16,000 individuals in the greater Reston/Herndon area – including 4,000+ families and more than 5,000 children. Cornerstones

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programs provide:

- Stability: Basic needs such as emergency shelter, nutritious food and other financial assistance.
- Empowerment: Affordable rental housing, quality affordable childcare, job training and life skills supports, and out-of-school time programs. Operating a nonprofit center that provides office and training space for nonprofit, community and government partners in a “one-stop” neighborhood center known as Connections for Hope Partnership (C4HP).
- Hope: Working collectively to address racial and social inequities manifested in our neighborhoods and the disproportionate number of people of color who live in poverty or who need our programs. Opportunity Neighborhoods and community centers facilitate community-informed solutions to these issues and inform our advocacy efforts on behalf of clients.

CCFP funding is critical to providing partial support of five Cornerstones programs: (1) Affordable Rental Housing property and case management services to families in 106 homes; (2) addressing emergency hunger relief through a food pantry and year-round assistance, (3) serving as a “backbone” for the Connections for Hope Partnership nonprofit center offering case management and services navigation to 8 partner offerings (literacy, immigration, job training, health and dental care; (4) Employment services and soft-skills job training for adults and youth; and (5) out-of-school time programming that supports both youth academic achievement as well as enrichment and leadership building for at-risk youth and parent engagement to support family growth and resiliency.

CCFP History and FY23/FY24 Funding Consistent with the 2018 CCFP Work Group report and prior reviews of the funding pool, Cornerstones agrees with the recommendation that Fairfax County define essential or emergency services and to prioritize and protect those resources. The application of this recommendation during the COVID-19 pandemic correctly focused the community response on essential food and housing resources and other safety net programs. However, while Cornerstones has been providing emergency food and housing services for 50+ years, we found the set-aside in the CCFP FY23/FY24 RFP to be very specific in what would be funded, and not responsive to the family need we have documented in our region as one of the main providers of human services. So, although two of our currently funded CCFP programs directly respond to the essential services/emergency needs category identified in the FY23/FY24 application, we did not apply in that lane. We would have liked to have been part of a conversation to determine whether there was flexibility or whether CCFP could be open to other ways of meeting the emergency need and short-term relief, while also strengthening capacity and infrastructure needed to sustain our community's long recovery – and the anchor organization role Cornerstones’ plays as a multi-service human services and housing provider in Region 3. While we may not have understood the intent in the emergency pool, the very real impact for us is that we applied through the general pool and all five of our projects – including three that provide emergency food, housing relief and case management services – received less funding at a time those essential services are needed more, and putting extra pressure on our already stretched resources. As we have discussed with county staff with regard to the Food Access Program grant, with the current rise of food insecurity affecting many families and sectors of our community, access to local pantry programs that can distribute quality, fresh vegetables and meat, dairy, and pantry staples regularly is an essential lifeline. Purchasing food is not necessarily the only approach. Our experience is that the Region 3 community and source donors are more than generous in response to need for more food and we will use funds to purchase items that we cannot procure. However, the number one need for Cornerstones and cited by pantries in our region is increasing storage space with which to

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increase their ability to rescue and re-distribute staple and fresh and frozen foods. Repeatedly, we are offered the opportunity to salvage food from local grocers, farmers, and restaurants. Unfortunately, these opportunities are often wasted due to a lack of cooled and uncooled spaces. True to its role as a systems-thinker and convener, Cornerstones is bringing together partners to create a Food Hub serving Region 3 hunger relief partners and thus further leveraging the investment Fairfax County has made for providing emergency food relief. Limiting our efforts with a narrow definition of emergency food and separating our food and program support between RFP 1 and 2 is both limiting for families and strategically limiting for Cornerstones as we seek to serve the food insecure in region 3. Addendum 4: Region 4 – Western Fairfax Christian Ministries As the anchor human services organization in Region 4, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries has been serving community members in western Fairfax for 36 years. Based in Chantilly with fourteen Free Food Fridge locations throughout Region 4, WFCM's vision is of a community that is housed and fed and we provide a variety of services and programs to families in the 8 zip codes we serve towards reaching that vision. Major improvements in the CCFP RFP process were implemented by providing an online platform for grant submission and separating essential food and housing services from other programs. The concern that we have expressed, during the RFP process and since, is that while we believe that our work is best categorized as emergency food and housing, the definition of emergency and limitations on the provisions of food in lane two are too confining to meet the needs that exist in our community. WFCM only applied for Lane 2 funding (RFP #3361) for emergency housing and emergency food. For emergency food, the CCFP grant awarded provided funding for 27% of the emergency food program (68% of which is for direct assistance). However, this program covers only 50% of the clients served in our client choice pantry as the remainder are part of longer-term programs where they can receive assistance for up to one-year. At a time when Fairfax County's ERA program has been providing up to 15 months of rental support to keep families housed it does not seem reasonable to provide only 6 months/times of food in a year with the expectation that the family will be out of their financial instability/food insecurity at the end of that short time-period. This limited definition of emergency services was not outlined in the letters referenced above (Board of Supervisors Board Matter or memorandum from Deputy County Executive Chris Leonard) nor have we found them in any recommendations from the CCFP Process Improvement Work Team. Reduced wages, rising rent, and inflation are increasing the inability of our clients to meet their rent and utility bills without assistance. With the return of disconnection and eviction notices, the families are facing difficult decisions regarding which bills to pay and which to let lapse while struggling to buy groceries. This shouldn't be a decision point to have only one or the other. We are seeing rising numbers of clients, up 16% comparing March 2022 to March 2023 with the end of supplemental emergency SNAP benefits. We are now serving nearly 2x the number of families every month via our client-choice food pantry than pre-pandemic and in the process of opening a second client choice food pantry location in Centreville to serve more families. In addition, we have added programs to address food insecurity at 14 partner sites. We know the recovery period will be long and that focus on housing/food needs to be heightened from what was originally planned. Limiting emergency food to serve families only 6 times in a fiscal year and separating our food program support between RFP 1 and 2 is both limiting for families and strategically limiting for WFCM as we seek to serve the food insecure in region 4.

Reply

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0

Apr 6, 2023 5:18 pm



Our domestic violence program also provides emergency food assistance for survivors.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:16 pm



Our foodbank program also provides emergency food assistance for the people in needs, have critical conditions.

Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:12 pm

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Comments for **Please share your comments about the proposed Emergency Housing Assistance category.**

Overall comment, I would just expect to see some connection to the county's strategic plan
Reply

0

Apr 4, 2023 6:26 pm



All very worthy goals and I agree.
Reply

0

Mar 31, 2023 5:46 pm



Our domestic violence program provides emergency housing short-term rentals, supportive services, case management, and refer clients to emergency shelters for individuals and families of domestic violence.
Reply

0

Mar 29, 2023 3:22 pm



Housing support for teen mothers who cannot live at home
Reply

0

Mar 27, 2023 2:40 pm