

**Proposed Priority Recommendations for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool
Fiscal Years 2009-2010
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT**

Purpose

This document presents the proposed recommendations on priorities for Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) for the two-year cycle beginning in Fiscal Year 2009. The recommendations were developed by the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC). The CCFAC is a citizen group established by the Board of Supervisors and charged with responsibility to recommend Funding Pool priorities based on public and County staff input and assessment of human service and community development needs within the County. Members of the CCFAC are appointed by the County Executive and represent various public and private citizen advisory or administrative boards, councils, and committees within the County.

Background

Over the past ten years, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has provided approximately \$78 million through the funding pool in federal, state and county resources. These monies supported community services and housing development projects administered by non-profit, community and faith-based organizations. Through the Funding Pool, precious public funds are allocated among many worthwhile programs and services in general accord with priorities set by the Board of Supervisors and through open competitions conducted by the County that utilize citizen volunteer review panels.

Needs Assessment

The proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Funding Pool priorities are based on review and analysis of information regarding human service and community development needs and conditions in the County obtained from a variety of sources. They include:

- Public Hearing – The CCFAC conducted an announced formal public hearing on November 14, 2006. Twelve citizens and representatives from community-based organizations presented information concerning needs that could be addressed with Funding Pool assistance. In addition to learning about the particular programs and needs of clients served by those who testified, the CCFAC also sought input on programs or services might be needed, and in what form, to truly help individuals or families become “self-sufficient.” The CCFAC also sought input on what, if any, encouragement or priority those testifying would assign to applications calling for innovative but unproven approaches to addressing human service needs.
- Focus Groups – At the request of the CCFAC, the Department of Systems Management for Human Services conducted eight focus groups among key service populations to gather their input on both immediate service needs and on what they thought might help their lives significantly improve. Focus groups were conducted involving senior citizens and persons

with disabilities, middle and high school youth, low- and moderate-income parents with children in assisted child care, the homeless, and ethnic minorities (Hispanic, Asian, and Middle Eastern).

- Briefings on Board of Supervisors and County Initiatives – the CCFAC has received special briefings from County staff responsible for a variety of special initiatives (preventing and ending homelessness, promoting prevention programs among youth, reducing gang membership, reducing domestic violence, increasing low and moderate income housing).
- Review of Studies and Other Needs-Related Materials – Over the past year, staff has made available to the CCFAC numerous studies, statistical analyses, and reports of County programs and services, as well as information concerning national human service needs, trends, and innovations that have helped place County conditions and programs in perspective.

Focus on Outcomes

For the next two-year funding cycle, beginning in FY 2009, CCFAC recommends that the Funding Pool priorities be based on human services *outcomes* for individuals and families, rather than by types of service or by particular populations of clients. CCFAC believes that this approach will encourage and support the continued progress of both public agencies and non-profit community-based service providers toward more purposeful, results-focused program planning and implementation. We want to see accountability that is based less on what is done for clients, and more on how their lives and conditions are improved as a result of that help. This advances the Fairfax County human services goal approved by the Board of Supervisors and contained in the County's Comprehensive Plan, 2007 Edition:

Fairfax County should provide a range of services and facilities for all residents, so that they may sustain and secure a productive lifestyle. Each individual should have the opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and function to the limits of his or her ability, particularly in providing family stability.

Based on its most recent assessment of human service needs and conditions, the CCFAC suggests that the stability and self-sufficiency outcomes expressed in the County's human services goal continue to serve as the best framework for Funding Pool assistance and that priorities ultimately approved by the Board for the FY 2009-2010 funding cycle should reaffirm and strengthen the partnership and role of community-based services and in achieving these outcomes.

Support for Board of Supervisors and County Initiatives

The CCFAC recommendations for Funding Pool priorities listed in the attachment respond to and support Board of Supervisors and County initiatives to: 1) end homelessness within ten years; 2) preserve and increase the availability of safe and affordable housing for moderate and low income residents; 3) reduce the incidence of youth involvement in gangs; 4) address the incidence and consequences of domestic violence; 5) meet the special housing and human services needs of seniors and persons with disabilities; 6) reduce the disproportionate

representation of minorities among youth experiencing educational or other developmental issues; and 7) enhance efforts to *prevent* conditions or behaviors that undermine health, stability, growth and development, or independent living in the community.

As in the past, the CCFAC has listed under each of its proposed funding priorities sample programs or services that might receive Funding Pool resources.

Continuum of Outcomes

CCFAC believes that the four outcome-focused priorities described in the attachment reflect an important and necessary continuum of stability and self-sufficiency opportunities based on the need, condition, and potential among those to be served, especially among defined sub-populations that now benefit from services supported by the Funding Pool (e.g., youth, senior citizens, and persons with physical or mental disabilities). The continuum provides a framework for service provision across all four priorities depending upon anticipated outcomes that are calibrated to individual or family condition and potential.

To achieve these outcomes, the CCFAC is recommending increased attention to the coordination of services for each family or individual. The CCFAC understands that individuals and families may need multiple services or supports over an extended period of time to move toward the outcomes contained in the proposed funding priorities. Such services may be delivered entirely by comprehensive community-based programs or by targeted or single service providers that link and coordinate their efforts with other public or private agencies.

The attachment describes the recommended four priorities, the outcomes to be achieved, the target funding percentage ranges, and service examples.

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNITY FUNDING POOL RECOMMENDED PRIORITY AREAS

I. PREVENTION

Outcome: Families and individuals remain independent and have the tools and resources to prevent dependence.

Action Statement: The community strengthens individuals and families so that they have the ability and personal resources to prevent dependency and to overcome *potential* adversities.

Target Funding Percentage Range: 15 to 25%

Service Examples (May include but not limited to):

- Mentoring programs for youth, adults, and families
- Conflict resolution and anger management training and counseling
- Programs that prevent youth from becoming involved or continuing in unsafe behaviors (e.g., gang involvement, substance abuse) such as before and after-school programs, and weekend recreational or enrichment activities.
- ESOL classes.
- Life skills and healthy choices programs for adults.
- Financial literacy/management training and counseling to promote economic individual and family economic capabilities and prevent financial crises.

II. CRISIS INTERVENTION

Outcome: Individuals and families in crisis receive sufficient help to move quickly back to self-sufficiency.

Action Statement: The community provides emergency services for immediate needs and, as appropriate, evaluation of longer-term needs.

Target Funding Percentage Range: 5% to 15%

Service Examples (May include but not limited to):

- Food pantry.
- Utility payments to prevent disconnects.
- Rental assistance to avoid eviction.
- Furniture collection and distribution.
- Referrals/follow-up for evaluation of longer-term needs.
- Emergency and services to victims of domestic violence and their families
- Provision of shelter to temporarily homeless individuals and families

III. SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Outcome: Individuals and families attain self-sufficiency.

Action Statement: The community provides long-term assistance to help individuals and families attain self-sufficiency.

Target Funding Percentage Range: 55% to 65%

Service Examples (May include but not limited to):

- Acquiring/preserving/rehabilitating/constructing affordable, accessible, and stable housing to help individuals and families achieve stability, gain and retain employment.
- Transition assistance to help people move into self-sufficiency.
- Employment training.
- Counseling to improve household budget management.
- Immigrant support services.
- Child care to help parents stay employed.
- Legal services that improve or maintain individual and family health and stability.
- Educational and job skills programs that increase economic opportunities.

IV. ONGOING ASSISTANCE FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Outcome: People who have continuing and long-term needs achieve or maintain healthy, safe, and independent lives to the maximum extent feasible.

Action Statement: The community provides services necessary to help individuals and families live as safe, healthy, and independent lives as possible.

Target Funding Percentage Range: 5% to 15%

Service Examples (May include but not limited to):

- Assistance with tasks to keep seniors or persons with disabilities in their home (e.g., personal assistance, transportation to medical appointments).
- Providing positive social environments for isolated individuals.
- Programs for individual and family counseling.
- Respite services to help caregivers for persons with chronic personal care needs.
- Ongoing assistance with housing, transportation, counseling, employment, and other needs to individuals whose histories and/or conditions require sustained supports.