

Updated for 2010

# THE STATE OF THE POOR



## The Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

This bookmark contains information about Fairfax County's low-income population. The data are drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* (2006-2008 3-year average) and county resources.

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### Poverty in Fairfax County

- Poverty for a family of four in 2010 is defined as a family annual income of less than \$22,050.
- The poverty rate is 5.0 percent of the population or 50,268 people.
- 6.4 percent of all children (under age 18) live in poverty.
- 7.5 percent of children under age 5 live in poverty.
- 4.2 percent of all persons over the age of 65 live in poverty.
- 3.3 percent of families live in poverty.
- 10.7 percent of African Americans live in poverty.
- 9.0 percent of Hispanics live in poverty.
- 14.8 percent of families with a female head of household – no father present and children under age 18 – live in poverty.
- 12.5 percent of county residents have incomes under 200 percent of poverty (\$44,100 per year for a family of four).

## Self-Sufficiency

The self-sufficiency standard is a measure developed by Wider Opportunities for Women to determine the amount of income a family would need to meet their basic needs without relying on government or other assistance. For Fairfax County in 2006:

- A family of four (two adults and two children) would need between \$44,646 and \$69,560 per year (depending on the ages of the children) to meet their basic needs.

## Employment

- Unemployment rate is 5.5 percent (Feb. 2010, up from 2.5% in Feb. 2008)

## Housing

- In 2006, the average monthly rent of a one-bedroom apartment was \$1,093, an increase of 56 percent since 1996.

## Health

- An estimated 149,624 county residents under 65 were without health insurance in 2006.

## Linguistic Isolation

- 7.6 percent of county households are linguistically isolated (meaning no one over the age of 5 speaks English “very well”).

## Child Care

- The cost of full-time preschool child care in a center in Fairfax County in 2010 ranges from \$8,000 to \$12,000 per year.

## Food

- In 2009-10 school year, Fairfax County Public Schools reported that 42,204 students (or 25 percent of enrollment) were eligible for free and reduced lunch.



### Fairfax County

#### Community Action Advisory Board

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