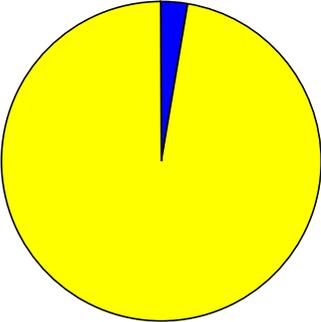


Department of Family Services

67-19-Services to the Homeless

Fund/Agency: 001/67	Department of Family Services	
Personnel Services	\$64,500	<p>CAPS Percentage of Agency Total</p>  <p>2.7%</p> <p>97.3%</p> <p>■ Services to the Homeless ■ All Other Agency CAPS</p>
Operating Expenses	\$4,368,707	
Recovered Costs	\$0	
Capital Equipment	\$0	
Total CAPS Cost:	\$4,433,207	
Federal Revenue	\$25,000	
State Revenue	\$0	
User Fee Revenue	\$0	
Other Revenue	\$0	
Total Revenue:	\$25,000	
Net CAPS Cost:	\$4,408,207	
Positions/SYE involved in the delivery of this CAPS	0/0	

► CAPS Summary

Homeless services are divided into three separate, but related services: shelters, motel placements, and transitional housing.

Department of Family Services

Emergency Shelters:

The Department of Family Services (DFS) contracts with four non-profit organizations (New Hope Housing, Volunteers of America, Shelter House, and Reston Interfaith) to provide emergency shelter services to homeless individuals and families. There are five shelters located throughout the County:

- Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter-Bailey's area, which has 50 beds for adult individuals and 10 beds for cold weather overflow;
- Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter-Route One area, which has 50 beds for adult individuals and 15 beds for year round overflow;
- Embry Rucker Shelter-Reston area, which has 28 beds for adult individuals, 10 beds for cold weather overflow, and 32 beds for families;
- Shelter House-Falls Church area, which has 42 beds for families; and
- Mondloch House-Route One area, which has 8 beds for adult individuals and 45 beds for families.

The emergency shelters work collaboratively with the community to provide housing, meals, and supportive and stabilizing services. The shelter programs focus on individualized case management services to support residents in finding and maintaining stable housing.

Adult men and women without children can access the shelters directly by calling or walking in to any of the three adult shelters. Families with children under the age of 18 access the family shelters by contacting Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) initially. Coordinators perform a broad-based assessment, and if it appears that shelter placement is appropriate, they refer the family to the shelter which is most convenient for them for intake. Shelter staff complete a more in-depth assessment, and determine whether or not to place the family in the shelter. Unfortunately, the shelters are generally full to capacity, so it is necessary to place families on the Shelter Waiting List, a private Web-based unified waiting list which captures an unduplicated count of homeless families awaiting shelter. Families are selected from the list as shelter space becomes available.

DFS staff who are working with homeless families place the family's name on the shelter waiting list by forwarding identifying information to the shelters. Shelter intake staff place the family's name on the unified list.

Motel Placements:

During the screening process, shelter intake staff determine with the family whether they have a place to stay while waiting for space to become available in the shelter. If the family has no friends or family members with whom they can stay, shelter staff can authorize a motel placement. While in the motel, Fairfax Area Christian Emergency Transitional Services (FACETS) works with the family. FACETS staff provide case management, direct services, and hot meals. FACETS staff reauthorize the family's stay on a weekly basis, after determining that they are complying with their service plan. DFS staff also authorize motel placements for their homeless families while they are awaiting shelter placement. Families generally remain in their motel placement for approximately three months before transitioning to one of the three family shelters.

Department of Family Services

DFS pays for the motel stays of all of the families that are authorized by shelter and DFS staff. Families stay in various motels in the Fairfax, Falls Church, and Springfield areas of the County.

Transitional Housing:

DFS administers two transitional housing HUD grant programs: the Community Housing Resource Program (CHRP); and Reaching Independence through Support and Education (RISE). The Department's non-profit partners—Northern Virginia Family Services, Reston Interfaith, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, and New Hope Housing—operate these programs, which provide supportive services to homeless families in scattered-site, community-based housing. DFS provides a local monetary match for these programs; the funding is located in Fund 102, Federal/State Grant Fund.

There is a continuing need to provide emergency shelter (including motels) and transitional housing for County residents who are unable to locate affordable, appropriate housing within the County. There are significant waiting lists for Section 8 and Public Housing, permanent supportive housing and other support service programs for both individuals and families.

Working families and individuals with limited incomes are increasingly unable to locate places to live in Fairfax County. Many are forced to "double up" with other families, placing themselves and others at risk of becoming homeless.

The lack of affordable housing has led to a critical need for increased shelter capacity. While the County's population has grown by over 140,000 (17 percent) since 1991, shelter capacity has not increased in that same period. The waiting list for family shelters averages between 60 to 80+ families. Because shelter space is not available, families with children that have no other housing options must stay in motels while awaiting shelter placement.

There is also a lack of permanent supportive housing to serve persons with serious mental illness and/or chronic substance abuse. This results in longer lengths of stay in the shelters and less capacity to provide emergency shelter.

Transitional housing programs are needed to provide longer term support services to homeless families—services that address a variety of needs and issues and prepare families to live independently. During the past year, families completing transitional housing programs with Section 8 vouchers had considerable difficulty in finding housing in the current low-vacancy, tight rental market. The Emergency Housing Committee and the Homeless Oversight Committee identified these issues and developed recommendations to address them.

The County's Consolidated Community Funding Pool identified as its top funding priority the outcome of helping people find and maintain affordable housing. This is a critical need that must be addressed by the Fairfax County community. Lack of affordable housing for families and lack of supportive housing for adults with serious mental illness should continue to be priorities.

Department of Family Services

► Method of Service Provision

Emergency Shelters:

Non-profit contractors employ staff to provide services to the shelter residents including housing, meals, security, supervision, case management, and supportive services. Shelter staff provide a basic life skills program that addresses the daily life skills required to be self-sufficient. Life Skills training includes assistance with finding and obtaining stable housing; household skills training to help residents maintain permanent housing; problem solving skills; budgeting and financial management and, for family shelters, parenting education classes. Shelter staff provide information and referral services to assist the client in developing a network of community supports. Shelter case managers also link shelter residents to programs designed to provide employment skills training and other job-finding and job retention services. Additionally, community groups augment the contractors' services, providing volunteers, donations, and other services that benefit the homeless adults and families.

Fairfax County provides on-site, community-based, on-call mental health services and alcohol and drug abuse counseling services from the Community Services Board and health services from the Health Department. The Health Department services from nurse practitioners are funded through a State SHARE shelter grant from Virginia Housing and Community Development. In fiscal year 2001, Fairfax County received TANF Share Shelter funds, which were used to supplement shelter services.

Fairfax County is responsible for the payment of utilities, major maintenance of and repair to the shelter buildings and grounds, as well as furnishings and laundry and kitchen equipment.

Motel Authorizations:

Motel authorizations are a cooperative effort between the non-profit providers (Shelter and FACETS staff) and DFS. Shelter intake staff, hired by the non-profits who operate the emergency shelters make the initial decision as to whether or not a family shall be placed in a motel; FACETS completes the motel authorization, and forwards it to DFS for final approval. FACETS provides direct services and case management to families while they are awaiting shelter placement.

Transitional Housing:

Non-profit community organizations operate the two transitional housing HUD grant programs, providing direct services as well as case management to the participants.

► Performance/Workload Related Data

Title	FY 1998 Actual	FY 1999 Actual	FY 2000 Actual	FY 2001 Estimate	FY 2002 Estimate
Single Individuals Served in the Emergency Shelters	1,667	1,739	1,552	1,804	1,800
Persons in Families Served in the Shelters	604	491	547	395	400
Number of Families Served in the Motels	98	202	204	206	208
Total Number of Persons in Motels	337	653	709	715	721