

9. Human Services

Human services include a diverse set of programs, services, and facilities in Fairfax County such as health care services, housing for low-to moderate-income elderly individuals, child protective services, emergency housing, services for residents with mental health and substance abuse problems, juvenile and domestic relations district court services, recreation programs for youth, adults, older adults, and individuals with disabilities, as well as transportation services.

As described in the Policy Plan, the delivery of human services is affected by numerous demographic factors such as social factors (e.g., the aging of the population), political factors (e.g., the role of the federal government), and economic factors (e.g., affordability issues), and not only the expected number of people in a specific geographic area. These factors can be difficult to forecast accurately and are interrelated in ways that can complicate planning efforts. Therefore, the provision of human services may require modifications that are not as predictable or systematic as some other county services.

The wide spectrum of human services are provided in a variety of settings – from private homes to satellite field offices, senior centers, and health care offices. As noted in the Policy Plan, increased collocation of human services and programming options at public facilities such as libraries, schools, and privately-owned facilities may be beneficial to improve access to services and activities for residents. Collocated facilities can also increase human service system capacities by providing more comprehensive and better integrated programming for people of all ages, interests and abilities.

Fairfax County is divided into four human services regions. The Lincolnia PD is part of Region 2. This region includes the Mason Supervisor District and portions of Braddock, Providence and Dranesville districts. More information about Region 2 can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/regions/r2.htm.

Services for Older Adults

There are 13 senior centers in Fairfax County. One of the 13, the Lincolnia Senior Center, is located in the study area. The Lincolnia Senior Center is managed by the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS). By paying an annual membership fee calculated based on income, Fairfax County residents ages 55 and over can participate in classes, trips, health and wellness programs; access a computer and the Internet; and enjoy opportunities to socialize with others and stay connected with the community. Round-trip transportation service can be requested from residents' homes to the senior center. This service is provided by Fastran for a nominal charge.

In fiscal year 2013, a total of 33,552 visits were made to the Lincolnia Senior Center which was open for 248 days during this time period, an average of approximately 135 visits per day. Out of the total visits, daily attendance accounted for 21,613 visits and night and weekend attendance totaled 11,939. A total of 245 volunteers contributed approximately 4,206 hours to support activities at the Lincolnia Senior Center.

Demand for evening and weekend activities at the Lincolnia Senior Center continues to exceed available facility space. The senior center is undergoing renovations through 2016, however the addition of facility space for events and activities is not anticipated as part of this renovation. NCS is exploring additional programming options, including the Center Without Walls concept first introduced in the Burke/West Springfield area in 2009. Center Without Walls began as a public-private partnership among the residents, local businesses, places of worship and Fairfax County Government. The public-private partnership provides older adults with opportunities to participate in a variety of activities held at different locations throughout the local community. Activities could be hosted at nearby recreation centers, churches, or stores such as those specializing in fitness. Center Without Walls is based on the idea that leveraging community assets increases options for neighborhood-based programming tailored to older adults.

Transportation Needs

Transportation services such as Fastran are in high demand countywide. Fastran is a specialized transportation service that offers lift-equipped, door-to-door service for people who have a disability or special need that prevents them from using public transportation to get to county-sponsored programs and services. All Fastran riders must be certified by a sponsoring Human Services agency.

The provision of more transportation options for elementary and high school aged residents would benefit youth who wish to access current NCS programming and services in locations other than Poe and Holmes Middle schools. These schools are the facilities closest to or within the Lincolnia PD that currently offer “outside of school time” programs, or programs that take place before and after school hours. One goal of establishing multimodal connectivity that serves the study area is to provide viable transportation choices that can benefit a diverse population.

Coordinated Services Planning

Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) is a human services call center. Callers are provided with direct access to a specialist who listens their needs, explores possible short and long term solutions, and provides referrals and linkages to public and private human services available to Fairfax County residents. Inquiries are tracked by the four regions as noted previously. Information about calls received by CSP and other additional information about CSP can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/csp.

Through partnerships with community-based organizations and other Fairfax County agencies, CPS connects people to a variety of services, some of which include: referrals for health care services, financial assistance such as rent or mortgage assistance to prevent eviction or foreclosure, referrals for job training or legal advice, and assistance with basic needs (emergency food, shelter, clothing,

The Lincolnia area continues to include neighborhoods with high and very high concentrations of need in the county. Figure 9.1 shows the density of basic needs requests for Region 2 in 2013. In 2013, a concentration of requests originated from residential areas such as Morningside, Arbor Park, and other neighborhoods in the eastern part of the L1 Pinecrest and L2 Lincolnia community planning sectors (CPS). Requests also originated from Bren Mar Park, Edsall Gardens, and Valley Park residences in the L3 Bren Mar Park CPS. As shown on the map, a high to very high volume of requests were also received just to the west of the Lincolnia PD in the Annandale area.

Proximity to services leads to positive community outcomes. Therefore, it may be valuable to consider how community based organizations can be integrated into communities where there continues to be a high concentration of need and identify priority needs to provide the most effective support and services.

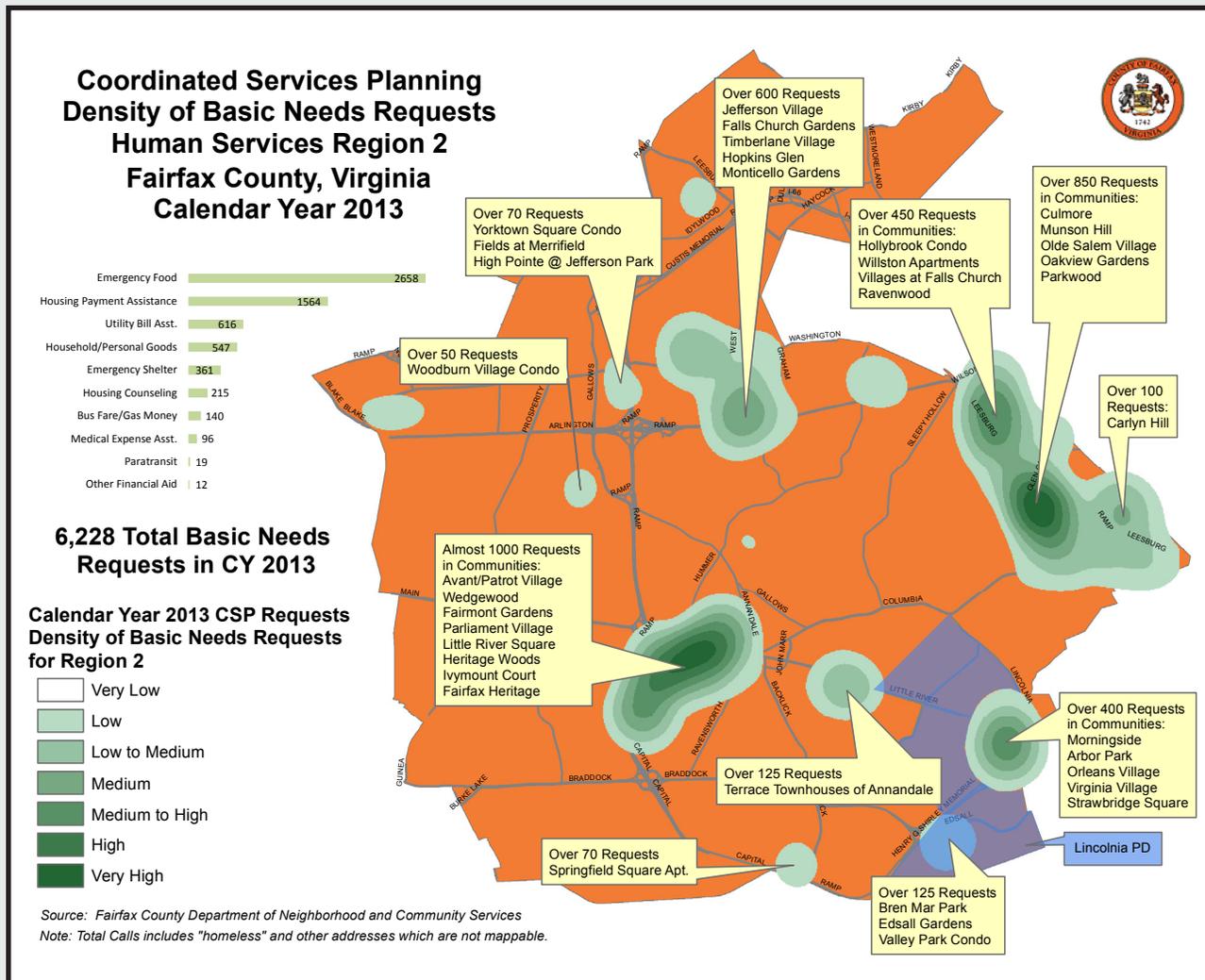


Figure 9.1 Region 2 coordinated services planning density and basic needs requests in calendar year 2013.
Source: Fairfax County

Youth Recreation and Community Facility Needs

Accessible “out of school time” options for youth living in the Lincolnia PD is currently limited to programs available at Poe and Holmes Middle schools. As noted previously, reliable, safe and easily accessible transportation options could benefit youth who wish to access NCS programming and services in other parts of the county.

Athletic Facility and Field Use

NCS schedules athletic activities at Holmes Middle school, which has two gymnasiums, two rectangular fields, and one diamond field; Bren Mar Park, which has one diamond field; and the Plum Center located outside of the study area at 6815 Edsall Road. The Plum Center has two rectangular fields and two diamond fields.

The 2013 -2014 statistics for sports groups that operate in Human Services Region 2 is shown in Table 9.1. Each count represent a person’s registration. For example, if one individual registered to use a field for two seasons in the same year, two registrations or counts would be included in the total. The total number of athletic field uses over this time period was about 52,556.

Appendix E includes tables showing athletic field use by individual adult and youth major groups. A major group is a youth or adult athletic group that maintains an organizational structure governing the management of the group. The group registers participants, schedules games, and has sufficient membership to schedule competitive play. Youth groups consist of participants that are 18 years of age or younger.

Participant Group	Number of Uses
Youth Major Groups	22,315
Adult Major Groups	10,797
All Minor Groups	33,112
Total	52,556

In 2012-2013, NCS lead a task force charged with developing recommendations for the development, funding, replacement, and maintenance of synthetic turf fields. The task force report was published in July 2013, and a countywide shortage of available field space was identified. Region 2 had only 12 percent of the turf fields in the county, or 8 of 67. A link to the report can be found at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/pdfs/turf_rpt.pdf.

After-school Programs

According to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), after-school activities provide youth with greater opportunities for success in developing the attitudes, skills, and abilities to live healthy lives, become productive adults, and to thrive in the workplaces and communities of the 21st century. All middle schools currently have regularly scheduled after-school programs five days a week. Late bus service is also administered by FCPS, however it is provided only three days per week generally on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The programs offerings vary by school. Holmes MS offers a series of comprehensive activities. Information about the programs offered at Holmes MS can be accessed online at: <http://www.fcps.edu/HolmesMS/afterschool.html>.