



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless)

## BREAKING NEWS

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### **HUD Awards More Than \$5 Million to Fairfax-Falls Church CoC**

On Dec. 23, 2009, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the awards for Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless assistance grant renewals. **All 26 of the renewal applications from Fairfax-Falls Church CoC partners were included. A total of \$5,289,345 was conditionally awarded for these applications.** Final award is made when contracts are signed with HUD. Announcement of awards for new project applications is not expected until at least March 2010.

### **163 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 29 Days**

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*In the first 29 business days, the HOST system has prevented 163 people – 58 unique households – from becoming homeless. These are few of their stories.*

#### **Money Management Breeds Success**

A family moved into one of the local Fairfax County shelters in early 2009. Even though the mother was gainfully employed, she had a significant amount of debt and was not able to qualify for transitional and other low-cost housing programs. **The staff at the shelter was able to work with her on improving her money management skills** and while living at the shelter she was able to save more than \$700 and significantly reduced her debt. **In May 2009, the family was able to move into a market-rate rental apartment.**

#### **Life Change Leads to Break Through**

A county resident hit a financial crisis after having to take time off from work to take care of an ailing parent and eventually pay \$9,000 for funeral expenses. Even though she had a stable job, she was unable to financially recover from the loss of wages and savings. After a couple of months in a shelter, the county resident was paired with another client and **with the help of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds, they were able to afford the security deposit and find stable housing.**

## HOST HIGHLIGHTS

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*Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) provide flexible and adaptive services needed to help individuals and families obtain or maintain housing. The primary function of HOST is to coordinate and manage prevention, housing placement, and supportive services for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Members of the HOST team will serve as a liaison to his or her organization/system and will work closely with other HOST members to create a cohesive and seamless system of service delivery.*

## Regional Updates

- **Northern Region** – In the fourth quarter of 2009, North County has served **25 households** primarily in preventing homelessness. Reston Interfaith just hired a part-time intake coordinator/administrative assistant to support in both the volume of calls and other administrative duties. Reston Interfaith also is in the process of hiring another case manager to support the state HPRP funding.
- **Central Region** – Winter hypothermia overflow program for Region 2 has been running at capacity since the weather started to change in last December. Interviews for each community case manager and housing locator position are on-going and the hiring process is expected to be completed by the end of January.
- **Southern Region** – Region 1 continues to see a high volume of referrals for both singles and families in need of emergency assistance. The need for employment services, including resume and job search assistance and help with accessing unemployment benefits, are a much needed resource for clients. We are pleased to announce that we have added some capacity to assist in completing family assessments. **Our new Intake and Exit Coordinator Gladys Garibaldi** will be working out of the Mondloch House II shelter where she will handle all family referrals to determine eligibility for assistance to prevent and divert clients from becoming homeless, or if they need to come to the shelter to be rapidly re-housed.

## Tier Training

In order to increase activity and efficiency in the Training and Change Management group, coordination of training and communication at each tier will be led by a designated Training and Change Management Leader:

**Tier 1 - Communitywide training and communication** will be facilitated by **Michelle Gregory**, Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS), in partnership with the Best Practices Committee.

**Tier 2 - Regional training and communication** will be facilitated by **Michelle Gregory**, DSMHS. At each of the regional meetings there will be opportunities to address many of the issues facing the homeless and at-risk of homelessness populations, as well as an opportunity to partner with providers throughout the community to improve communication and effectiveness with all service providers.

**Tier 3 - Direct service training and communication** will be facilitated by **Joe Meyer**, Shelter House, Inc.

## HOST Training Ambassadors

There is also a new function, **HOST training ambassadors**, that is being added to the Training and Change Management group. This function will consist of HOST service integration and delivery leadership throughout the community who are available to participate in trainings and dialogues, as well as act as a resource to other providers throughout the community. **The HOST training ambassador function will be facilitated by Toya Taylor, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.**

## Housing Locator Program

Please welcome newly hired housing locator program assistant, **Sarah Bridger with Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**. Sarah will begin her new role on Jan. 19. Her experience includes working at a multitude of housing-related agencies, including Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development, NeighborWorks America, the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, and most recently, the National Housing Trust. She

has a degree in Urban Planning from the University of Virginia. We are pleased to have her on-board to provide additional marketing and administrative support to the program.

## **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update**

**Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)** – Second quarter performance reports for local and state funds have been verified and submitted.

**Point-in-Time** – Point-in-Time (PiT) assessment is now available in HMIS and will be addressed in up-coming PiT trainings.

**Training** – Jan. 13, 2010 New Users training is full. Seats are still available for the Jan. 14 training (**How to enter services for the APR**). All trainings are held at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 364 Fairfax, VA 22035. **Training registration is on a first-come, first served basis, with 12 seats available at each session.** Register via e-mail at [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov). Refresher training topics are being solicited; please e-mail your suggestions to [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **Next Quarter Training Dates** –

- April 14, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., New User Training.
- April 15, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Refresher.

## **PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS**

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### **Housing Options Group**

As we move forward with the implementation of the 10-Year Plan it is very important that we are clear on how we approach the goal of preventing and ending homelessness in our community. **Key stakeholders from the nonprofit, faith, business and government sectors have been participating in the development of the first draft of annual benchmarks, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors Housing and Community Development Committee and will be approved by the Governing Board for the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness later this month.** These annual benchmarks will reflect various types of programs that show both the housing needs that are critical to operationalizing our Housing First approach and goals as well as the service needs. These plans will be shared as a starting point and will be reviewed regularly to gain community participation. More detailed plans are underway that will focus on how much each of these programs will cost and achieve. In addition the Housing Options Group also has been working effectively on the Housing Blueprint to ensure that there is strong collaboration between county agencies as well as the nonprofit providers. Included in the Housing Blueprint are several significant recommendations that will positively impact those who are homeless in Fairfax-Falls Church Community.

### **Hypothermia Prevention Program**

**The hypothermia prevention program provided much needed sheltering this past December as weather conditions were particularly severe.** Dedicated staff and volunteers worked long and hard to overcome the burden of the record breaking snow storm and ensuing continued cold weather. Information about the program and its services is now circulating across the community in an effort to reach both homeless persons and anyone who may encounter a homeless person so that they can be directed to appropriate sheltering services. **The program continues to operate at its capacity and expectations are that the remainder of January will bring continued severe winter weather.** Individuals and/or organizations interested in contributing to or participating in the delivery of program services in any capacity may call 703-324-5863.

## SAVE THE DATES

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### Invitation to Regional Meetings

In order to increase communication and collaboration between all of the service providers in the community, it is important that agencies participate actively in the regional meetings in their areas. These meetings have been a long-standing source of idea-sharing and coordination facilitated by the Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS). This is your opportunity to help identify and shape the needs of your area in coordination with other professionals with a similar commitment to assisting those who are most in need in our community. Please refer to the information below to attend a meeting in your region.

- **Region 1**, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. to noon, South County Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Suite 505, Alexandria.
- **Region 2**, Feb. 8, 11, 10 a.m. to noon, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 300, Falls Church.
- **Region 3**, Jan 25, 10 a.m. to noon, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston.

### Introduction to Housing Location Services Training – Jan. 15

Introduction to Housing Location Services training is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 15, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Center for Housing Counseling Training headquarters located at 2550 Huntington Avenue, Suite 200, Alexandria. Individuals that are interested in attending, please send name, organization and position to [paige@christianrelief.org](mailto:paige@christianrelief.org).

### Point-in-Time Training Sessions

Three training sessions (one session already completed on Jan. 12) are planned to prepare for the annual Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons on Wednesday, January 27, 2010. There are a few changes in questions this year, but many more programs will report through data entered in the new Point-in-Time Assessment in HMIS. Attendance at one of the following sessions is important for anyone who will be providing data.

- **Jan. 20**, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston.
- **Jan. 22**, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Region 2 Human Services Center, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.
- **Jan. 25**, 12:30 to 3:00 p.m., Christian Relief Services, 2550 Huntington Ave., Alexandria.

### Community Forum on Homelessness – Jan. 21

The next Community Forum on Homelessness will take place on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Persons interested in ending homelessness are encouraged to attend. The event is sponsored by the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#). For more information or to request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711.

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