



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

## **541 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 100 Days**

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*In the first 100 business days, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) have prevented 541 people – 193 unique households – from becoming homeless.*

*In March alone, 99 households totaling 291 individuals received assistance from the HOST system with obtaining and maintaining permanent housing. These are a few of their stories.*

### **No Longer Chronically Homeless**

A chronically homeless female in her early 60s with chronic health issues **secured permanent housing with the help of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funding.** When the client came to the shelter she was unemployed and hopeless. She refused to apply for any sort of benefits and was too medically unstable to obtain employment. With the help of the case management team she was able to apply for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and food stamps. Additionally, the client attended all of her medical appointments, was treated at the optometrist and received a new pair of eye glasses which will be most useful with the part-time job she was able to obtain. **This client was able to save close to \$1,200** and has agreed to become an after-care client so she can continue to receive food and other assistance as needed.

### **Stable Living for an Older Adult Made Possible**

A resident was recently prevented from eviction/homelessness as he was using all his life savings and his social security checks to support himself in a market-rate apartment. After his savings ran out he began paying for rent with his credit card. Fortunately, **Reston Interfaith was able to pay the client's back rent and after collaborating with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services (DFS), Services for Older Adults, was able to help him secure housing** through a subsidized senior housing center, which will enable him to secure long-term stabilized housing.

### **In the Nick of Time**

Mother of three lost her job due to layoffs in the fall of 2009 and the family was faced with eviction on April 16. The client was referred to the HOST system and a check was released to the landlord on April 15. **The family was able to keep their home.**

## **HOST HIGHLIGHTS**

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*HOST provides 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.*

## Housing First ~ Concept Reminders

- People do not need services to help them become “housing ready.” They need help finding, accessing, and maintaining affording housing.
- People in housing face the same issues as people who are homeless. The primary difference between those that face homelessness and those that do not is the availability of appropriate stable housing.
- Services are critical for maintaining housing for people who are facing homelessness. Those services must be flexible and tailored to specific person’s needs.

## Regional Updates

*As the human services regions across the county continue to move us forward with the 10-Year Plan, here are some highlights to showcase their efforts in working with clients, partner organizations and the HOST system.*

- **Northern Region** – In the last two weeks, Region 3 has received 12 Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) referrals; **prevented 3 households from homelessness; and assisted one family to be re-housed.**
- **Central Region** – Within the last two weeks, Region 2 **prevented 1 household - totaling 5 people - from being evicted** and received 29 referrals for prevention and/or rapid re-housing.

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

**Data Quality Day** – The next “data quality day” has been scheduled for **May 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 364.** This time has been designated to review and correct HPRP data in a manner that optimizes the experience of other providers in a setting that minimizes interruptions. At least one representative from each agency is asked to be present; please confirm your attendance via e-mail to [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov).

During the same meeting, we will also be spending time going over, pulling, and reconciling reports. Any site supervisor or anyone responsible for reporting is also invited to attend.

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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### Ending Homelessness Funders Tour – April 5

[Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness \(OPEH\)](#) organized a successful funders tour on **April 5** to encourage and cultivate philanthropic partnerships to provide additional support to individuals and families who are homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community. The event included tours of two homeless programs (with Reston Interfaith and Shelter House) **showcasing high performing nonprofit homeless organizations and the innovative services they are providing to assist individuals and families as they move toward self-sufficiency.**

**The majority of the funders that participated have already expressed interest to begin exploring various opportunities to invest valuable resources in programs** that will bring strong results and move us forward with the 10-year plan goals.

**Much participation was received from Fairfax County leaders**, including opening remarks from Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, a presentation upon guest’s arrival at the first site visit by Hunter Mill District Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, and supporting remarks from Dranesville District Supervisor John W. Foust at the second site visit. In addition to over 10 local and national funders that attended the event, several nonprofit executives shared information about their programs, challenges and successes. Representatives from the community homelessness partnership Governing Board also were present along with Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison and representation from the Corporation for Supportive Housing. Please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/april-funders-tour/april-5-tour.htm> for photos of the tour.

## **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership Utilizes Key Strategies to Prevent and End Homelessness**

In 2001, The National Alliance to End Homelessness published “*A Plan, Not a Dream: How to End Homelessness in Ten Years*” that included **five key strategies for use by communities who were drafting their 10-year plans to end homelessness**. Those strategies were then updated in 2007. They include creation of data systems, homelessness prevention, outreach, shortening the time of homelessness, and links to services.

Since beginning the implementation of the 10-Year Plan, our community has seen significant progress in systems change and related positive impact on reducing homelessness. **Despite a lagging economy, there has been a decrease in the literally homeless population of nearly 11 percent over the past year.** (See April 9, 2010 issue of the *PARTNER Update* for more information.) Although there are many factors that contribute to the decrease, it is important to note that significant strides have been made in implementing nationally recognized key strategies.

- **Create Data Systems**

Fairfax-Falls Church has made significant strides in the utilization of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in the collection and tracking of data. 100 percent of the client-level data reporting for Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) is done in HMIS, and 75 percent of the data reported in this year’s Point in Time Survey was pulled from HMIS.

- **Homeless Prevention**

Fairfax-Falls Church Community has had emergency assistance programs for years that have helped people who were in need of one-time emergency assistance to maintain housing. With the implementation of HPRP people facing even deeper housing crisis have been able to maintain their housing. This program successfully pairs the provision of financial assistance with the service support that many who are facing homelessness need.

- **Outreach**

Our community has embraced a partnership model where decisions that impact the clients are made through open and direct process. Many of the homeless residential service providers, county human service agencies and faith communities are active in guiding the implementation of the plan and communicating on progress made. Barriers to accessing services are being broken down between agencies with new partnerships, and new partner agencies and groups are joining the effort regularly.

- **Shortening the Time of Homelessness**

Most of the homeless residential service providers in our community have already transitioned to a Housing First approach to serving clients. Positions within agencies have been reworked to focus on housing location and community case management so that those who experience homelessness can find and access appropriate housing and receive the services they need while in permanent housing in the community.

- **Links to Services**

Community case managers partner with clients to identify and apply for mainstream resources such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and others. Where possible and appropriate, clients are referred for services from other agencies such as the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services, local food banks and others.

## **Homeless System Enhancements**

**Housing Locator Program** – The Housing Locator Program was established in January 2010 to enhance the ability of homeless service providers across the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to move homeless people back into housing. The program has helped build capacity

across the Partnership by facilitating collaboration among homeless service providers, hosting professional development opportunities for housing locators, providing administrative support, and expanding community support for Housing First and HOST.

The Housing Locator Program has now pulled together a **core Housing Locator Network made up of staff from family and singles shelters that provide housing search and placement assistance**. The Network continues to expand by the day to include more staff from other shelters and transitional housing programs.

Meanwhile, the staff from the current Housing Locator Network agencies has already demonstrated a tremendous amount of activity and positive impact on the community. Here are some highlights from the month of March 2010:

- **121 households received housing search and placement assistance** from housing locators.
- **38 of those households receiving assistance** during the month moved back into stable, affordable housing.
- **17 households were able to return to permanent housing** with the help of subsidies.
- **16 households returned to housing stability** by sharing housing with friends, family or new roommates.

*(Some of the households that worked with the housing locators accessed HPRP funding and are reported in both the housing locator stats as well as the stats reported at the top of the update.)*

It is an exciting time as we all explore our common mission to move homeless people into stable, affordable housing. Everyone is invited to come to the May 5 Community Forum on Homelessness to learn more about the Housing Locator Program and network. If you have any questions please feel free to check out the Web site at [www.FairfaxHousingLocators.com](http://www.FairfaxHousingLocators.com) or e-mail [staff@fairfaxhousinglocators.com](mailto:staff@fairfaxhousinglocators.com).

## SIDEBAR

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### Regional Point-in-Time Report

On April 14 the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board received a preliminary report on the regional homeless enumeration, which is a compilation of the Point-in-Time counts from the nine Continuum of Care jurisdictions within the metropolitan Washington, D.C., region. **Overall the regional total for 2010 was down by 1.7 percent compared to 2009**, from 11,982 for the region in 2009 (revised number) to 11,774 in 2010. As previously reported in the *PARTNER Update*, the number of homeless persons counted in the Fairfax-Falls Church community decreased by nearly 11 percent between 2009 and 2010. A full report for the region and recommendations will be presented to the COG Board at its meeting on May 12.

### CSP Update

As a front door to many human services, Fairfax County Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) captures important trend information relative to a broad range of needs of vulnerable individuals and families in the human services system. **All three major CSP data categories (call volume, basic needs contacts, and creation of new cases) are up significantly**. Total call volume in FY 2009 exceeded 100,000 calls, up 14 percent from FY 2008 and up 44 percent from FY 2007. **Volume in the first three quarters of FY 2010, however, is up only 8 percent over the same period last year**. The average daily call volume has increased steadily from an average of 297 per day in FY 2007 to 451 per day so far in FY 2010.

Since August 2006, CSP has experienced a prolonged increase in the **number of requests for basic needs assistance**. Requests for emergency food assistance have increased dramatically, with nearly 4,200 requests in just the first three quarters of FY 2010, compared with 2,800 requests in all of FY 2007. Overall, there has been a 57 percent increase in requests for assistance with rent, utility payments, food, shelter, medical/dental and housing search since July 2006.

The average number of new cases opened by CSP each month has increased by over 40 percent since FY 2006, from 375 per month to 450 in FY 2008, and to 526 in FY 2009. **In the first three quarters of FY 2010, CSP averaged 544 new cases per month.** A new case in CSP is someone who is brand new to the system. For a full report on *Trends in Community Needs Illustrated by Demand for CSP Services* visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/csp/links/csptrends.pdf>.

## TRAINING AND COMMUNICATIONS

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### Tier Training and Communications

*In order to increase activity and efficiency in the Training and Change Management group, the group has been split into three tiers that each focus on training and communication at different levels. Tier 1 addresses community forums, Tier 2 addresses Regional Training and Communication and Tier 3 addresses direct service training and communication. A designated Training and Change Management Leader will lead the coordination of training and communication at each tier.*

**Tier 1 – The next Community Forum on Homelessness will take place on Wednesday, May 5 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Jubilee Christian Center located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax.** Persons interested in ending homelessness are encouraged to attend. Please visit [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/community\\_forum\\_flyer\\_5-5-10.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/community_forum_flyer_5-5-10.pdf) for the forum flyer that may be distributed accordingly. The Community Forum is a perfect venue for sharing information on the implementation of the Ten-Year Plan and to dialogue on homeless priorities and initiatives to prevent and end homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community.

The May 5 Forum will have some exciting news and opportunities for discussion. Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova will provide opening remarks and there will be a few updates from the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, including an update on HOST operations. Staff from Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services will provide an overview of the new Housing Locator Program, which is now operational, and is an exciting step forward in implementing the housing first strategy in the Ten-Year Plan.

**Of special interest will be presentations and discussion by panelists from several organizations on various issues related to immigration and homelessness.** Topics will include an overview of legal distinctions between refugee, asylee and other legal immigration statuses, and special issues relating to survivors of trafficking, trauma, or torture, and how domestic violence may be an additional concern for persons who are new to this country. There will also be time to network and interact with the panelists at the end of the community forum formal meeting.

This event is sponsored by OPEH. For more information or to request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711.

**Tier 2 – [Fairfax County Department of Systems Management For Human Services](#) (DSMHS) regional offices serve as localized entities focused on strengthening our neighborhoods by **connecting individuals and organizations with information and resources, fostering and creating opportunities for collaboration and facilitating community-wide efforts**, such as the 10-Year Plan to prevent and end homelessness.**

**The regional meetings hosted by DSM** provide a regional framework for planning activities, active problem solving, capture of feedback, and identification of emerging trends. **These meetings feature regular updates on the 10-Year Plan** to prevent and end homelessness, as well as updates on multitude of other related human services initiatives and projects. In order to increase communication and collaboration between all service providers involved in the 10-Year Plan, **it is important that the providers participate in these regional planning efforts.** To get linked in to the appropriate meeting, project or initiative in your region, please refer to the information below.

**Region 1** – This group meets on the second Monday of every other month from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at South County Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy, Suite 505, Alexandria. **For more information**, contact [Maria.Franco-Nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Maria.Franco-Nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703- 704-6354, TTY 711.

**Region 2** – This group meets on the second Monday of each month at the offices of DSM, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 300, Falls Church, VA, 22044 from 10 a.m. to noon. **For more information**, contact [Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-533-5701, TTY 711.

**Region 3** – The next meeting will take place on **Monday, May 10** from 10 a.m. to noon at 11484 Washington Plaza West, Suite 140, Reston. Information will be shared about the Fairfax County budget and updates on other regional work. **For more information**, contact Denise Taramasco [Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-787-4962, TTY 711.

**Region 4** – Region 4's meeting takes place on the last Friday of each month from 9 to 11a.m. **The meeting locations vary.** **For more information**, contact [Paulette.Whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Paulette.Whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-324-5285, TTY 711.

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