

Barriers

Affordability

The fair market rent for a one-bedroom apartment in the Fairfax-Falls Church community is \$1,318 and for a two-bedroom apartment \$1,494 per month. In order for this to be affordable, a household would need to earn nearly \$5,000 per month, and a single parent working full time would have to earn \$28 per hour.

Disability

Many people who end up homeless have a disability that affects their ability to work and earn a living. Even if a person with a disabling condition receives Supplemental Security Income, their average monthly income is only \$674 or 15 percent of what he or she would need to make in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Income

People earning minimum wage, which is \$7.25 per hour, earn only 1/4 of what a person would need to afford a two-bedroom apartment in our community.

Credit

Many apartment complexes, landlords and owners require a renter to have a nearly perfect credit record. Divorce, medical issues, poor decision-making and other factors can lead to deterioration of credit and can prevent people from securing housing.

Transportation

Lack of transportation can hinder one's ability to go to work, take one's children to day care or doctor's appointments, or to other essential places that contribute to stability. The result is often catastrophic and can lead to homelessness.





In FY 2010, housing locators worked with an average of 20 households per month in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Housing locators provide services such as application assistance, landlord negotiation and training to prepare people to maintain successful rental relationships, and helped hundreds of people find housing or stay in their homes.



Transformation

Realigning existing resources for results.

Every person who faces homelessness experiences a unique set of circumstances and responds in a unique way to their situation. In light of the needs of the people we serve in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, the goal of ending homelessness will be achieved by meeting people where they are and focusing on helping them quickly obtain and maintain appropriate permanent housing.

During the past year, several new initiatives have been piloted to enhance the responsiveness of the homeless services system in our community. Each of these initiatives has been implemented with the intention of more effectively addressing the needs of the people who are facing the trauma of homelessness.

As we strive to prevent and end homelessness, our com-

munity continues to demonstrate the flexibility required to serve our most vulnerable neighbors. Some of the initiatives launched in 2010 are:

- Housing Opportunity Support Teams (HOST).
- Housing Locator Network.
- Collaborative service delivery system design.
- Collaborative approach to housing development.
- Family emergency housing transition in place demonstration project.
- Integrated education and public awareness efforts.
- Business engagement initiative.
- Enhanced use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect and track data.

Success Story

During the past year, our community partnership has expanded the use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Currently 18 organizations and 121 programs enter client information into the system. To ensure that the information entered is reliable and usable, HMIS data fields and collection standards were streamlined and defined. Quarterly and on-demand trainings were also established and data quality reports were implemented. HMIS provides information for federal, state and local government reporting, including the annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress and the annual Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community.



Creating Housing

Combining housing and services.

One of the major accomplishments in FY 2010 was the establishment of a Housing Options Committee. The committee leads our community's effort to create 2,650 new affordable housing units for persons who are literally homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church community.

The target for FY 2010 was to secure 124 units; the community was able to secure 103 units that are now occupied. The shortfall of 21 units was added to the FY 2011 housing targets.

The annual housing goals are based on five housing options, which are broken into two categories (permanent supportive housing and permanent housing). The support services associated with each of these options may include, but are not limited to, case management; housing locator services; medical, mental health, substance abuse treatment; vocational and employment services;

money management assistance; and life skills training.

All of the housing units will reflect a variety of housing types including new construction, tenant-based vouchers, and private and public affordable housing resources. Also, all units:

- Are affordable to homeless households earning less than 30 percent of the area annual median income.
- Will be associated with housing assistance that is guaranteed for more than two years.
- Were not occupied or designated specifically for homeless households during the previous 12 months.
- Will be counted as meeting a fiscal year target based upon the actual date of occupancy by an eligible homeless household.

Housing Options

Permanent supportive housing is housing with supportive services for people with disabling conditions. The following are the three types of permanent supportive housing:

- Housing with 24-hour care.
- Housing with intensive supports (4-7 visits/contacts per week).
- Housing with moderate supports (1-3 visits/contacts per month).

Permanent housing is housing for persons with no disabling conditions. Some permanent housing units have time-limited support services associated with them. The following are the two types of permanent housing:

- Housing with time-limited supports. (short-term, time-limited follow-up between 3-15 months).
- Housing with no supports beyond those typically available to any community member.



The 10-year plan calls for **2,650 housing units** to be made available over the 10-year period in order to end homelessness in our community.

10-Year Plan Housing Targets

	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	
Units for Families	78	128	141	159	174	174	174	174	174	174	1,550
Beds for Single Adults	46	68	106	141	121	124	124	124	124	122	1,100



Of the 124 housing units identified as targets for FY 2010, our community was able to secure 103 newly developed units.

Housing for Families

Housing for Single Adults

Total completed in FY 2010: **61**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....5
- Permanent Housing.....56

Total completed in FY 2010: **42**

- Permanent Supportive Housing.....13
- Permanent Housing.....29

Housing Blueprint

The FY 2011 ending homelessness housing goals are directly aligned with the communitywide Housing Blueprint, which was endorsed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Jan. 26, 2010. The Housing Blueprint is a comprehensive affordable housing policy developed by nonprofits, builders, faith-based communities, government agencies and businesses. For more information on the Housing Blueprint, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless.



Permanent Supportive Housing Programs



Never Alone Again

Receiving support in your own home.

Permanent supportive housing provides long-term residential support and services for persons with disabling conditions. People served in these programs are no longer homeless, but require ongoing support to prevent them from falling back into homelessness. Most are single individuals with serious mental illness or co-occurring disorders. Making sure that they stay housed as long as possible is a priority.

More than 300 individuals were served in these programs this past year in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. 20 units, which will be occupied in the next one to two years, were secured to serve families

with an adult with disabling conditions caring for minor children. These families and individuals have extremely low incomes, often below the poverty line, so making sure that our community provides this type of housing with supports plays a major role in ending homelessness.

“A nation’s greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members,” said Mahatma Gandhi. Among those members are those who have disabilities; many of them are homeless in our community. Although more than 300 people were served in permanent supportive housing last year, hundreds more wait for their chance to call someplace home.

“*The most important objective for me was to be safe and have privacy. Thank you for caring.*”





Families and individuals who enter **permanent supportive housing programs** often face some of the most challenging barriers to self-sufficiency, so making sure that our community provides this type of housing with supports **plays a major role** in our effort to end homelessness.

Number of people served: 338

People in families: 34

- Seven families: 9 adults and 25 children.
- All seven families remain in permanent supportive housing.

Single adults: 304

- Average length of stay in permanent supportive housing was 924 days.

Success Story

A county resident's health rapidly deteriorated when she went off her medication treating bipolar disorder. After being released from the local hospital for inpatient care, she was admitted to a two-year transitional housing program for adults coping with mental illness and/or substance abuse. After her health stabilized, the resident and the housing program counselor began the process of putting her life back together, including the commitment to stay on her medications. Highly educated and trained, she began to volunteer as an interpreter. After some time, a full-time position opened and she applied and was accepted. She soon graduated from the housing program and is now living on her own and her health continues to be stable. She loves her job and is thriving. The housing program counselor continues to check in with her on a regular basis to follow her progress.