

Staying Home

Keeping people in their homes.

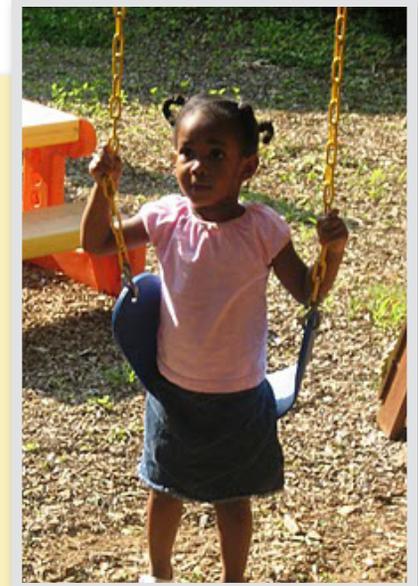
Prevention is the single most cost effective and humane intervention for addressing homelessness. Many people who become homeless could have remained in their homes and returned to self-sufficiency with some limited assistance. Illness, job loss and other factors cause individuals and families to fall into a downward spiral that may result not only in the loss of housing, but also the loss of self-esteem, security, personal possessions and even relationships. In 2009 alone, more than 100,000 people in our community were spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing, making them just one paycheck away from homelessness.

Rather than waiting for a person to lose so much, prevention efforts seek to intervene sooner and mitigate the damage that homelessness causes. For many years, our community has prevented homelessness by providing emergency housing payments for people experiencing a crisis and by providing ongoing housing subsidies to the most vulnerable in our community. This assistance is available through a network of nonprofits, faith-based

communities, Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) and other government agencies. Since FY 2006, there has been a steady increase in the demand for resources.

On the next page you will see how our community prevented many people from becoming homeless in FY 2010.

The number of people served in the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) was collected from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The number of people who received long-term housing assistance and the number of occasions when emergency housing assistance were provided by the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development; Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; Department of Administration for Human Services; and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.



The federal stimulus funds made available in FY 2010 enabled our community to launch a new prevention and rapid re-housing model called **HOST (Housing Opportunity Support Teams)**. HOST allows our community to effectively intervene before people become homeless and to rapidly re-house those who have fallen into homelessness. More resources like this need to be cultivated in order for our community to continue to prevent many more of our neighbors from becoming homeless.

Emergency Housing Assistance

More Than **10,000** Occasions

- On more than 10,000 occasions, emergency housing payment assistance was provided, which often prevented families and individuals from falling into homelessness.
- This support was provided by a partnership of Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning, community nonprofits, the Consolidated Community Funding Pool and other Fairfax County agencies.

Short-Term Housing Assistance

838 People Served

- 838 people received short-term housing payment assistance, paired with supportive services, through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HOST).

Long-Term Housing Assistance

17,747 People Served

- 17,747 people received a long-term housing subsidy through the FCRHA (17,275 individuals) and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (472 individuals) to help them remain in their homes and often preventing them from becoming homeless.
- Those served include, but are not limited to, extremely low-income families with children, people with mental or physical disabilities, and youth who are homeless and attend school.

Success Story

A young mother approached one of our community partners for rental assistance. She had delivered a baby girl two months premature and the baby was still in the hospital; no release day had been set due to medical conditions. The mother was spending all of her time in the hospital with her baby on short-term disability from her full-time job. However, her benefits were running out and she was close to being put on family medical leave without pay. Fortunately, the HPRP funds enabled our community to help her pay two months worth of rent and she was able to remain in her home and ensure that her daughter was receiving proper care.