

PARTNER Update

Ending Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community

Oct. 13, 2009

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Ending Homelessness Funders' Tour – Aug. 14

[Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) organized a successful funders' tour on Aug. 14 to encourage and cultivate philanthropic partnerships to provide additional support to homeless individuals and families in Fairfax County. **For a detailed account of the tour, read [The Community Foundation of National Capital Region blog entry](#).** Photos from the tour will be posted [online](#) by the end of this week.

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

The event included tours of two homeless programs, which was a great way to **highlight high performing nonprofit homeless organizations and the innovative services they are providing to assist homeless singles and families as they move toward self-sufficiency.** In addition to the local and national funders that attended the event, several nonprofit executives shared information about their programs, challenges and successes. Representatives from the community partnership Governing Board also were present along with Fairfax County Deputy County Executive Verdia Haywood, representation from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Community Forum on Homelessness – Sept. 24

Close to 150 residents, nonprofits and county staff, and homeless and or formerly homeless individuals (a record number) were in attendance for the community forum on homelessness on Sept. 24 at the Jubilee Christian Center. **Dean Klein, Director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness** gave an update on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, the formation of the Governing Board for the Partnership, and the current status of the Federal stimulus funding to be used for prevention and rapid re-housing. **Doctor Gloria Addo Ayensu, Fairfax County health director** gave a presentation on prevention and safety measures when dealing with influenza viruses.

This well attended forum offered **an opportunity for residents, nonprofits and county staff to talk about expanding the ability to work together and share ideas.** Future forums will include networking time, information dissemination and regular opportunities for the community to get updates on creative service models, programs, partnerships, funding opportunities, and housing and services best practice information.

HOST HIGHLIGHTS

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.

Update on HOST Implementation Timeline

We are moving forward with the HOST implementation. **Due to the delay by HUD in response to the environmental review we will begin HOST implementation in November.**

Training and Change Management

Training for HOST implementation will begin in October. The training schedule will be released soon. The first training on completing intakes in the new model will be held at the shelter intake coordinators meeting on Oct. 23 at Mondloch House. The HOST start-up will be focused on the full implementation of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) funds. **We expect clients to begin benefitting from HPRP in early November.**

Housing Locators

A nonprofit organization has been selected through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process to hire two housing locator staff members with the use of HPRP funds. Announcement and implementation details will be coming shortly.

HOST Intake and Assessment Update

Co-Chairmanship of the Intake & Assessment task group has been transferred from Toya Taylor, Program Manager of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, to **Jamie Ergas, Assistant Director of the [Katherine K. Hanley Shelter](#)**. She will **work closely with Samantha Batko, [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#), who has been co-chairing the task group since its establishment.** Ergas brings to the position her experience, know-how and active participation in the group since its inception.

Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) is working with [Fairfax County Department of Information Technology \(DIT\)](#) to incorporate an electronic version of the screening tool in Automated Systems for Integrated Services Teamwork (ASSIST). Due to changes from HUD requiring additional information to be collected, a new draft of the form was done during the week of Sept. 28, and DIT is speedily making the changes in ASSIST and will be ready for use in the next few weeks. The screening tool will replace the shelter referral form and the emergency assistance referral currently used by CSP.

As the analysis of the "HOST Housing Targeting Tool" continues, several updates have already been made to the forms. Changes have been made in the scoring areas that relate to Housing Targeting, Education / Debt / Income Targeting, Substance Abuse / Mental Health / Physical Health Targeting and the Permanent Supportive Housing Indicators. Content changes have been made as it relates to client income, mental health history and the permanent supportive housing indicators. **Several partner organizations will be completing the updated Targeting Tool again to see how the changes affect the results.**

The new standardized Intake Forms including the Screening Tool, Assessment Form, Targeting Tool and the Release of Information will be piloted by the partner organizations who will be implementing HPRP. These partners include Reston Interfaith, New Hope Housing, Shelter House, FACETS, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, Helping Children Worldwide, Northern Virginia Family Service.

Community Case Management

Shelter contracts have been amended and New Hope Housing, Shelter House and Reston Interfaith are **currently hiring for Senior Community Case Managers that will serve as the single accountable individual for the regionally based HOST sites.** Each organization will be collaborating with other community based organizations to provide space, services and resources across their region.

The [Fairfax County Human Services Resource Guide](#) has been determined to be a good starting point for creating a resource manual for HOST teams. The Community Case Management task group is now in the process of identifying gaps that may need to be filled in order for this guide to be a one-stop-shop for all resources. Task Group will meet with the system provider of this guide; identify known service gaps and training for the guide.

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Governing Board Welcomes Two New Members

President of the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region Terri Lee Freeman and Mayor of City of Fairfax Robert F. Lederer have joined the Governing Board. **Please welcome Ms. Freeman and Mayor Lederer as they begin their journey to engage.**

- **Terri Freeman brings tremendous experience in leading the Community Foundation for the past 12 years:** Under her leadership, the Foundation's assets have grown from \$52 million to nearly \$308 million in fiscal year 2009, and the Foundation maintains the status as the largest local grant maker in the metropolitan Washington region, and one of the top fifty foundations nationwide, with grants of more than \$87 million in fiscal year 2009.
- **Robert Lederer is serving his fourth term as Mayor of the City of Fairfax.** As mayor, he is the city's representative on the Virginia Municipal League Transportation Policy Committee; the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority; and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Transportation Planning Board and the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at National and Dulles Airports (CONAANDA). He also led the city's recent efforts for redevelopment of Old Town Fairfax. Among his many activities as a councilmember, he served as chair of the Task Force for a More Livable City of Fairfax.

Hypothermia Prevention Program

The hypothermia prevention program is an extension of the Fairfax County's emergency shelter program and is operated with several nonprofit partners at multiple locations throughout the winter season. This program serves single adults, both men and women, and relies heavily on volunteers and particularly those from faith-based communities. Last year scores of faith communities and approximately 2,300 volunteers participated at some point. **This year four nonprofit providers will continue to operate a component of the program in a particular geographic area of the County** and they include: Reston Interfaith in North County; FACETS in Central County, Volunteers of America in East County; and New Hope Housing in South County. Additionally, Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church partners with New Hope Housing to provide the sheltering location, and the Friends of Falls Church contract with New Hope Housing to provide a winter program in the City of Falls Church.

The program is directly coordinated with shelters so clients in need of winter shelter should be directed to any one of the adult shelters: Eleanor Kennedy, Bailey's Crossroads, or Embury Rucker.

While participating in this program, homeless single adults are provided with dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch. Clients, or "guests" as they are often called, sleep on the floor in sleeping bags or blankets on a mat. **Volunteers work to make the stay as comfortable and welcoming for the guests as they can, and often interesting and engaging activities are offered.** Other support services are provided at the sites as well, including a visiting nurse practitioner, mental health services, and case management services. For more information about the program, call Diana Lotito, [Fairfax County Department of Family Services](#), at 703-324-5863, TTY 711.

SIDEBAR

Consolidated Community Funding Pool Request for Proposals

The biannual process for requesting proposals for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) began Oct. 1, with the release of the RFP. The Pre-Proposal Conference is at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Proposals are due by 2:00 p.m. on Dec. 1. The RFP and additional information can be downloaded from the CCFP Web page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ccfp/>.

Continuum of Care Update

On Sept. 25, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the annual Continuum of Care grant application process. New project proposals were solicited in August, and one new project is being included along with 26 renewal applications. The total funding request will be over \$7.1 million, including nearly \$5.4 million in HUD funds and \$1.7 million in local, state, and private match funding. Grantees will be completing project applications in October and the final submission is due to HUD by Nov. 9.

Check out www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless

Work continues on improving the partnership's Web presence. Check our Web page www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless frequently for updates. If you have any questions or comments regarding the Web site or communications, contact the [Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs](#).

SAVE THE DATE

Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless for up-to-date information on future and past events.

Save the Date: Five-Year Consolidated Plan Public Input Forums

The Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee (CCFAC) has begun the process to develop a new Five-Year Consolidated Plan for Fiscal Years 2011-2015. The Consolidated Plan includes over \$8.6 million annually in federal community development and affordable housing funding, and also contains the Consolidated Community Funding Pool projects. Three public input forums are planned to help identify needs for housing and other human services needs to be addressed through this plan. Save the date for these meetings:

- Wednesday, Oct. 28, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., Reston Community Center, Hunter's Woods Center (Meeting to focus on Affordable Housing and Community and Economic Develop.).
- Thursday, Oct. 29, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., South County Government Center (Affordable Housing and Community and Economic Develop.).
- Friday, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center (Meeting to focus on **Homeless persons and persons with special needs** (mental, physical, sensory disabilities and seniors).

Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 561, Fairfax, VA 22035. For more information or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless. This is a Fairfax County, Va., publication.