



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

## BREAKING NEWS

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### **Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Receives Statewide Award**

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness has been selected by Housing Virginia to receive the “Connecting Your Message” award for our partnership’s collective efforts with the Target-sponsored event on Aug. 21, *Giving Back to Get People Home*. This award spotlights the creative work being done by affordable housing organizations to achieve their goals and, in particular, the effective use of traditional and emerging forms of communication to deliver the housing affordability message. Nearly 200 people, including elected officials, business leaders, nine local partner nonprofits, Fairfax County staff, Target team members and volunteers participated at the August event sorting and packing care packages to help nearly 500 homeless persons and families move toward independence. **The “Connecting Your Message” award was presented at a reception at the Governors Housing Conference last November. The Partnership is one of the three programs recognized by Housing Virginia.**

### **1,066 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 245 Days**

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As of Nov. 14, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) served 1,066 people – 419 unique households. **This quarter, which began Oct. 1, 162 households totaling 460 individuals, received assistance from the HOST system.** Here is one of many success stories.

#### **First Graduate from Linda's Gateway Program!**

FACETS is very excited to report that a county resident graduated from its Linda's Gateway supportive housing program. **This program bypasses the typical path of motel to shelter to transitional housing, instead moving homeless persons and their families into furnished apartments. They then work with FACETS' case managers to help transition more readily into permanent housing.** While in the FACETS' program, the county resident gave birth to her first daughter, who joined two brothers! Volunteers from Burke United Methodist Church assisted the family with prepared meals after the baby was born, donated household supplies, diapers and even found a car to donate. The resident has signed a lease and she and her three young children will be moving into public housing with the help of a moving truck from FACETS.

## PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

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### **Hypothermia Prevention Sites Gearing Up for the 2010-2011 Winter Season**

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is an integral part of our community plan to prevent and end homelessness. **It incorporates the collaborative work of faith-based communities, nonprofit organizations, businesses and individual volunteers.** The Hypothermia Prevention Program represents a shining example of collaborative effectiveness in serving the critical needs of the homeless when they are in most danger of exposure to cold and frigid weather.

Hypothermia sites now in operation for this winter season include:

- **FACETS** — Hypothermia prevention season runs through March 14.
- **Volunteers of America (VOA) Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads** — Operated under the management of Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter, the hypothermia program runs through March 31.
- **Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS)** — Operates three separate winter programs. They offered services for individuals on Nov. 1 at their main shelter. Beginning Dec. 1 they opened up floor space in the main shelter on a "no turn away" basis, and on that same day, they served homeless individuals at their hypothermia program at the North County Government Building.
- **New Hope Housing** — Operates the Ventures in Community Hypothermia Outreach Program (VICHOP), which opened on Dec. 1 at Rising Hope Church.
- **Falls Church Winter Shelter** — Opened its doors Dec. 1.

In addition, the Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing flu shots. Contact Lorraine McLean at [lorraine.mclean@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lorraine.mclean@fairfaxcounty.gov) for questions related to the Homeless Health Care Program.

### **PARTNER PROFILE: Volunteers of America Chesapeake, Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter**

Volunteers of America (VOA) Chesapeake's Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS) is a 50-bed, emergency homeless shelter for adult men and women. Over the past several months, BCCS has implemented a total "client centered" approach to assist homeless men and women, including an employment component, a Discharge Planning Program and an enhanced aftercare program to reduce the chance of clients returning to homelessness.

**Thomas Nichols, the Bailey's Shelter director, joined VOA in July.** Nichols' past experience includes 10 years as clinical director and a practicing therapist with a homeless services organization in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Most recently, he worked for the Washington, D.C. Coalition for the Homeless as director of the Emery Work Bed Program. **Barbara Tate has also joined the VOA BCCS team as the assistant director.** Tate previously held the position as Hypothermia coordinator and team leader of the singles services at FACETS.

The Nov. 8 issue in the Capital Business section of the *Washington Post* cited **Volunteers of America Chesapeake as an organization with a financial success story** in the midst of various nonprofits struggling to survive and maintain services. For more information or to visit Bailey's Shelter, contact Thomas Nichols at [tnichols@voaches.org](mailto:tnichols@voaches.org) or visit VOA Chesapeake at <http://www.voaches.org/>.

### **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Pilot**

**Over the course of the past several months, the CSB Homeless Team has done a thorough review of the entire homeless service system.** This review included extensive meetings with homeless individuals, key stakeholders and relevant county staff. Staff also visited other successful homeless service programs in the Washington, D.C., area. As a result, **CSB has created an Intensive Community Case Management Team to serve homeless individuals residing in the vicinity of BCCS.** This model will deliver community-based, intensive case management services and allow the team to follow individuals as long as they can at this level of service. Additionally, this model builds on and strengthens the existing partnership between CSB and BCCS. Anticipated outcomes include increased Social Security benefits and other entitlements; engagement in ongoing behavioral health services; linkage to primary health care; and increased employment and housing. **If this pilot proves successful, it will be replicated in the south and north county homeless service teams.**

## HOST HIGHLIGHTS

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**Remember ~ if you are providing services including intake & assessment, case management, disability services, housing location and access to benefits that help people obtain or maintain housing, you are a part of HOST. Working together, huge strides are being made to prevent and end homelessness.**

### 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 working with clients, partner organizations and the HOST system.

- **Southern Region** – A concentrated effort to build relationships with landlords to increase inventory for Housing Choice Voucher clients is under way in Region 1. The Route 1 Providers group is focusing on programs to understand client accountability and client readiness, and how to recognize success. This group is dedicated to working more collaboratively in addressing solution-based change management tools. Project Homes voucher applications and subsequent acceptance has put into motion clients finding a more stable housing plan and hope for self-sufficiency.

### Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

**Continuum of Care Application - HMIS Implementation (Exhibit 1- 2A)** – Following are the HMIS highlights from Exhibit 1-2A, which is in the Continuum of Care (CoC) application.

- **Bed Coverage** – Overall transitional housing **bed coverage increased by 32 percent.**
- **Data Quality** – We had an amazing improvement this year. **We reduced all of our null values while not increasing the “do not know” or “refuse” values.** Out of 10 elements, we only had four null values over 5 percent:
  - Veteran status 6 percent (33 percent last year).
  - Disabling condition 7 percent (46 percent last year).
  - Residence prior to program entry 6 percent (38 percent last year).
  - Zip Code of the last permanent address 7 percent (40 percent last year).

**Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR)** – The annual homeless assessment report for all clients and veterans served under the following categories was submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for review on Nov. 30:

- Emergency Shelter - Individuals and Families.
- Transitional Housing - Individuals and Families.
- Permanent Supportive Housing - Individuals and Families.

**This is the first time Fairfax County has submitted information for Transitional Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing, which was just added by HUD this year.** The draft submission will be reviewed by HUD and feedback provided later in December. The final report data will be submitted in mid-January. The Federal Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress will be released later next calendar year.

**HPRP Data Quality Day** – The next Data Quality Day is scheduled for **Jan. 3, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 364.** This time has been designated to review and correct HPRP data to ensure higher data quality and is accomplished by working in a group setting with other service providers. 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).

## SIDEBAR

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### **Housing Opportunities that Help Us Prevent and End Homelessness in 10 Years**

**Bridging Affordability Program RFP Released** – Fairfax County has released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the “Bridging Affordability” Program. The solicitation can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpsm/solic.htm>. **The optional pre-proposal conference will be held on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center**, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Conference Room 9/10, Fairfax. All offerors are urged to attend. All questions pertaining to this RFP should be submitted in writing to Sandy Benfit, contract administrator, at [sandy.benfit@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sandy.benfit@fairfaxcounty.gov) by close of business on Jan. 28. **Proposals are due on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 2 p.m.**

Bridging Affordability is an integral component of the [FY 2011 Housing Blueprint](#). The program is designed to provide funding to nonprofits, via a competitive process, for use as rental subsidies and as capital for the acquisition of additional affordable units to address the homelessness and waiting list goals of the Blueprint. **In FY 2011, it is expected that these funds will serve approximately 48 homeless individuals and families, and about 364 households on the county’s affordable housing waiting lists.**

**Project-Based Housing Choice Voucher Assistance for Homeless Veterans** – The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) is pleased to announce the availability of up to 35 Housing Choice Vouchers for Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBA) for housing rented to homeless veterans and their families referred and receiving case management and supportive services from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). The selection of a proposal is conditional and subject to the successful award of funding in response to the FCRHA’s application to HUD for available set-aside funding for Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (VASH) project-based vouchers. Only veterans receiving services and referred by the VAMC will be housed in these approved project-based voucher units.

The FCRHA will score applications incorporating HUD’s criteria, including preference points for housing that is ready for occupancy within 30 days of selection and award of the HUD set-aside funds. Rent subsidy contracts are available for periods up to 10 years, subject to HUD award and annual appropriations. **Applications will be accepted through Dec. 7 until 4 p.m.** at FCRHA, 3700 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22030, Attn: Russell Lee, Associate Director, Rental Services Division. To obtain an application or for further information visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rha), or call 703-246-5004 (TTY 703-385-3578). **Only applications submitted in response to the notice posted on the Web page will be considered for selection. Successful applicants will be notified in writing by Monday, Jan. 3, 2011.**

### **Continuum of Care**

**The annual applications to HUD for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance grants was submitted on Nov. 18.** Twenty-six projects are to renew existing grant programs provided through nonprofit agencies and in partnerships with three county agencies. One new project application was submitted from Volunteers of America Chesapeake to provide 14 beds of new permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with mental illness. **The total amount of federal funds requested was over \$5.6 million. Announcement of awards for the annual renewals is anticipated by the end of December, but selection of new projects by HUD through this national competition may not be completed for several months.** For additional information on this process contact Bill Macmillan in the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness at [william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## TRAINING & COMMUNICATIONS

### Tier Training

*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 2** – The regional offices of the Fairfax County [Department of Neighborhood and Community Services](#) 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 communitywide efforts**, such as the 10-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.

**The regional meetings** 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 a multitude of related human services initiatives and projects. In order to increase communication and collaboration among all service providers involved in the 10-Year Plan, **it is important that the providers participate in these regional planning efforts**. To get linked to the appropriate meeting, project or initiative in your region, please refer to the information below.

**Region 1** – Meetings are the second Monday of **every** 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** – Meetings are the second Monday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the DSM offices, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 300, Falls Church. **For more information**, contact [Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Jackeline.FernandezReyes@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-533-5701, TTY 711.

**Region 3** – *To Be Determined*. **For more information**, contact Denise Taramasco [Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Isabel.Taramasco@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-787-4962, TTY 711.

**Region 4** – Meetings are the last Friday of each month from 9 to 11 a.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

### HMIS Training

All trainings are held at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 364, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. **Training registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, with 12 seats available at each session**. Register via e-mail with [monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:monica.foote@fairfaxcounty.gov). Refresher training topics are being solicited; e-mail your suggestions to the same address.

- **Dec. 7** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ✧ New HMIS User Training - **CANCELLED**

The 2011 calendar will be available mid-December.