



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

## BREAKING NEWS

---

### **Continuum of Care Grant Renewals Announced**

On Jan. 19, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the renewal awards from the 2010 Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Grant process. **All 26 of the renewal applications submitted by organizations in the Fairfax-Falls Church community were awarded funding. The total renewal funding awarded was \$5,318,017.** One new grant proposal is still under review, but the new grant awards are not expected for several months. Three members of the Governing Board of the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, which included Chairman Mike O'Reilly, Barry Schwarz, and Kathy Albarado, served on the CoC Committee along with Deputy County Executive Pat Harrison and Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) Director Dean Klein. They reviewed two new grant proposals and selected the application to be submitted to HUD. The renewal awards provide continued funding for the next year for the existing programs that are funded through the HUD CoC grant process. For additional information, please contact Bill Macmillan at [william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:william.macmillan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### **1,098 REAL PEOPLE ~ REAL RESULTS in 288 Days**

---

As of Jan. 21, the Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST) served 1,098 people – 416 unique households. **This quarter, which began Jan. 1, 39 households totaling 117 individuals, received assistance from the HOST system.** Here are a few of many success stories...

#### **Friends of Falls Church Homeless Shelter/New Hope Housing Winter Shelter**

The grass roots **Falls Church Winter Shelter program** has been extremely busy and successful since the hypothermia program was launched on Dec. 1—**serving 37 unduplicated individuals to date.** They continue to have stellar support and commitment from many volunteers. **More than 300 volunteers have provided shelter shift coverage, 700 meals, and assured food and other operating staples. The Lamb Center, First Christian Safe Haven, Unity Club and the Wellness Center, have provided local day services to residents.** In addition to providing counseling and accessing social services, **two residents moved into permanent supportive housing programs and an additional two were assisted with market-rate housing.** Also, three residents secured permanent beds in local emergency shelters. Staff is focused at the shelters and in the community on providing support and encouragement, which has brought strong results.

#### **Former Homeless Client Creates Volunteer Activity**

**Former client with Volunteers of America (VOA) Chesapeake's shelter program created a volunteer activity for members of the nonprofit organization's current and former residents and surrounding community** involving cleaning up a local campsite where he once lived. The event was intended to not only celebrate his progress and life style change, but to give closure to his previous challenges — struggling with substance abuse and living without a job outside at the campsite for more than 20 years. He has since turned his life around, including securing housing, committing himself to staying sober for nearly two years, and volunteering with VOA Chesapeake — thus, helping others through the struggles of homelessness.

## Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Update

In Oct. 2009 when the implementation of the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) program was being planned, we had no idea of the level of need that we would see. At that time the conversation centered on how we would increase community awareness about HPRP. No one would have believed then that in just 14 months we would be planning how to run the program with all of the financial assistance dollars expended. That is, however, exactly where we are today.

**In just 14 months, over 95 percent of the financial assistance money that was available through HPRP has been expended.** Other sources of funding are being actively sought, while simultaneously we are preparing to serve the most vulnerable in our community without this valuable resource.

**While this is a reason for concern, it also presents an opportunity to shift our focus from implementing HPRP to realizing HOST!** Mark your calendar for the **Community Forum scheduled for Feb. 16 for more information about this collective system of service delivery.** (See 'Save the Date' section below for more details.)

## HOST HIGHLIGHTS

---

*HOST (Housing Opportunities Support Team) 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.*

### 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.*

- **Northern Region** – Reston Interfaith's Financial Counseling Pilot Program, Our Daily Bread, Connections for Hope and Financial Planning Association of the National Capitol Region are collaborating to offer our neighbors in need free financial counseling services. This is a six-month pilot program beginning Feb. 22 at Connections for Hope from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information you may contact Bill Threlkeld at [bill.threlkeld@restoninterfaith.org](mailto:bill.threlkeld@restoninterfaith.org). Additionally, Reston Interfaith and Our Daily Bread are hosting **Six Weeks of Credit Smart classes** beginning Jan. 25 at the Lake Anne Building in Reston. For more information, contact Kara Blouin at [kara.blouin@restoninterfaith.org](mailto:kara.blouin@restoninterfaith.org).
- **Central Region** – Region 4 continues to accept referrals from community partners. If you know someone who is at risk of becoming homeless, please refer them to Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) for screening at 703-222-0880, TTY 711. Singles should be referred directly to Elisa Holden, senior community case manager, at [elisa.holden@shelterhouse.org](mailto:elisa.holden@shelterhouse.org). We are especially interested in partnering with local faith-based organizations that are seeing a need for people to remain housed. **Although rental assistance through the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP) has almost been completely exhausted, we can still help provide services and linkage to other resources.**
- **Southern Region** – The holiday season was a success for clients and providers throughout the Region 1. Families and singles enjoyed the gifts and happy holiday wishes from the community. **All eligible Project Homes Vouchers clients have been successfully transitioned** and we are looking forward to more realizations on strengthening homes for consumers. The emphasis on

employment and education is prevalent in all of the providers as we move to utilize the HOST model to prevent and end homelessness.

## Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Update

**HPRP Data Quality Day** – The next Data Quality Day is scheduled for Feb. 28 and March 28, 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 which 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).

## SAVE THE DATE

---

### Community Forum on Homelessness – Feb. 16

The next Community Forum on Homelessness is being planned for Wednesday, Feb. 16, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jubilee Christian Center located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. An engaging program is being planned with the theme *Bringing HOST Alive!* Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova is planning to open the session, and there will be updates on the implementation of the HOST system and the Ten-Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. **The program will include building a living directory of all the programs participating in the Forum, and an interactive exercise to explore how their organization or program fits into the overall concept for HOST.** A presentation by Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) on trends they are seeing in requests for assistance will also be part of the program, and CSP staff will participate in the interactive program.

Mark your calendar for this Forum. Broad participation from across the county will make this both an informative and engaging event. Please note that a *snow date of Thursday, Feb. 24* — same time and location — has been set and will be used if Fairfax County Public Schools are closed on the planned date of Feb. 16.

## SIDEBAR

---

### Annual Point-in-Time Count Conducted on Jan. 26

The annual Point-in-Time Count of homeless persons in the Fairfax-Falls Church community was conducted on Jan. 26, in spite of the inclement weather that day. Some 75 provider staff from community-based and county agencies that provide services to homeless persons participated in training for the count on Jan. 18 and 20. **About 80 percent of the information is expected to come from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).** Outreach workers coordinated with shelter, drop-in centers, and hypothermia prevention programs to ensure that all homeless persons were counted, and also worked to bring in any unsheltered individuals who might otherwise stay outdoors. Compilation of the data from several dozen programs will be ongoing during Feb., with the **results anticipated to be available in late March.** For additional information, contact [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 1** – See 'Save the Date' section above.

**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** – Next meeting will be held in March. Exact date/time/location: TBD. **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 **unless noted otherwise**. **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.

- **Feb. 4** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ✧ New HMIS User Training
- **April 12** – 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ✧ New HMIS User Training, (\*different location\*) Chantilly Library Training Room

---

*Jan. 28, 2011 — Prepared by the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) and the [Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs](#). To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-9492, TTY 711. A Fairfax County, Va., publication.*