FAIRFAX COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

NEEDS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

PRESENTATION

Human Services Council

April 18, 2016

Prepared by:
Fairfax County
Countywide Service Integration and Planning Management

INTRODUCTION

- The Human Services Needs Assessment was conducted to gain a thorough understanding of the strengths and challenges currently facing Fairfax County residents.

- Objectives:
  - To understand community needs
  - To identify gaps in resources
  - To use information to improve outcomes for all residents

- Information was collected through a variety of methods including feedback from the community; survey data; and data from programs and services operated by Fairfax County government.

KEY CHANGES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

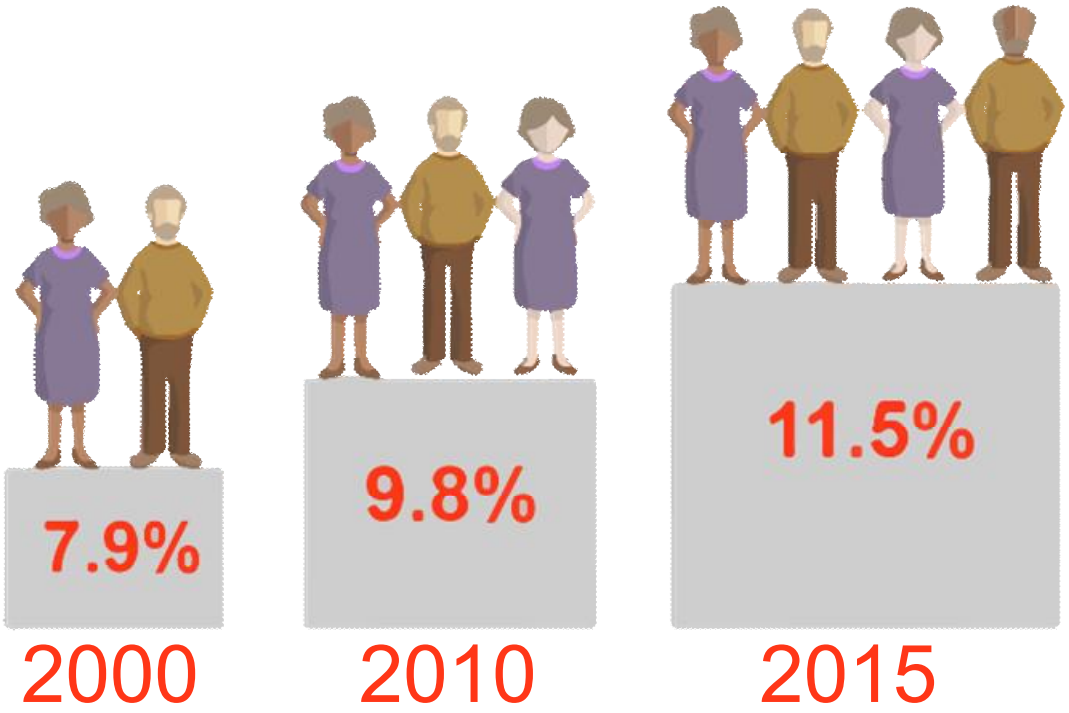
- Since the 1950s, Fairfax County has grown from a small suburban community to a highly dense area.
- There has been a shift in many of the trends that have historically defined the county.
- Changes have occurred in three broad areas -
  - Population
  - Economy
  - Infrastructure
- Changes are significant by themselves, but together they are having a profound effect.
- Many changes are driving needs that span across demographic and socioeconomic populations.

CHANGES IN POPULATION

- The population is projected to increase, although at a **slower pace** than in the past.
- The center of the population is projected to shift north by 2040 – due to growth in the Tyson's Corner area.
- The county has continued to become more **diverse** over the past decades. Youth are the most diverse population among all residents.
- Many residents are multi-lingual and English proficiency is vital. In 2014, 7% of all households in Fairfax County were linguistically isolated. This meant that no member of the household ages 14 or older spoke English "very well."

CHANGES IN POPULATION (continued)

- The **older adult population** is growing. The total population of adults ages 65 and older continues to increase at a higher rate than the overall population.



CHANGES IN ECONOMY

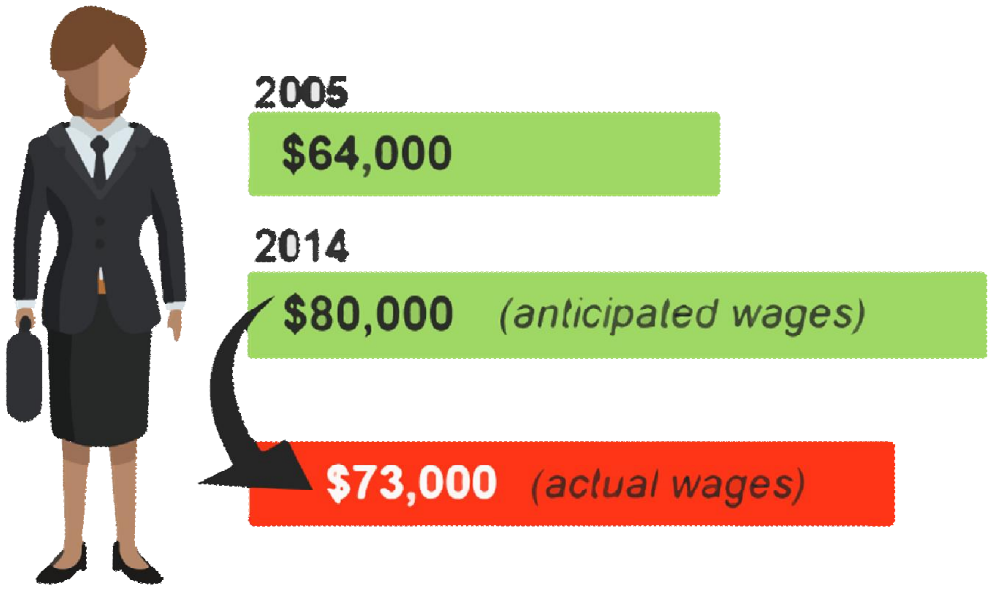
- From 2007 to 2012, data suggest **income inequality grew** at a higher rate than in the past. Since 2012, the rate of income inequality growth appears to have slowed.

- The recovery of jobs since the recession has not been equal among low-, middle-, and high-wage professions. Overall, the local economy is becoming more hourglass in shape, with increasing proportions of high-wage jobs and low-wage jobs.

- The effects of the recession on wages was more severe for Fairfax County residents who only have a high school degree.

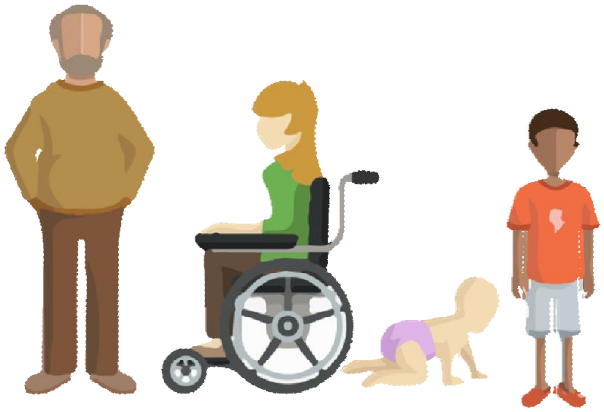
CHANGES IN ECONOMY (continued)

- **Wages have not kept pace with inflation**. In 2005, an average full-time worker earned approximately $64,000. By 2014, this same worker should have made approximately $80,000 if wages had increased at the same rate as inflation. Instead, the worker made approximately $73,000.



CHANGES IN ECONOMY (continued)

- From 2005 to 2014, there was an **increase** in the number and proportion of residents living at or below 200 percent of poverty.



180,000

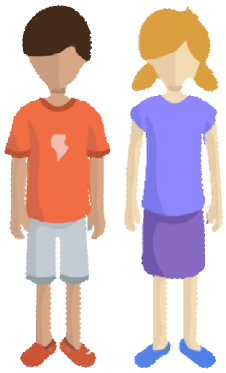
Approximately 180,000 individuals were living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in 2014.

$47,700

for a four member household at the Federal Poverty Level as of 2014.

CHANGES IN ECONOMY (continued)

- Child poverty rates are consistently higher than for the overall population in Fairfax County.



23,000

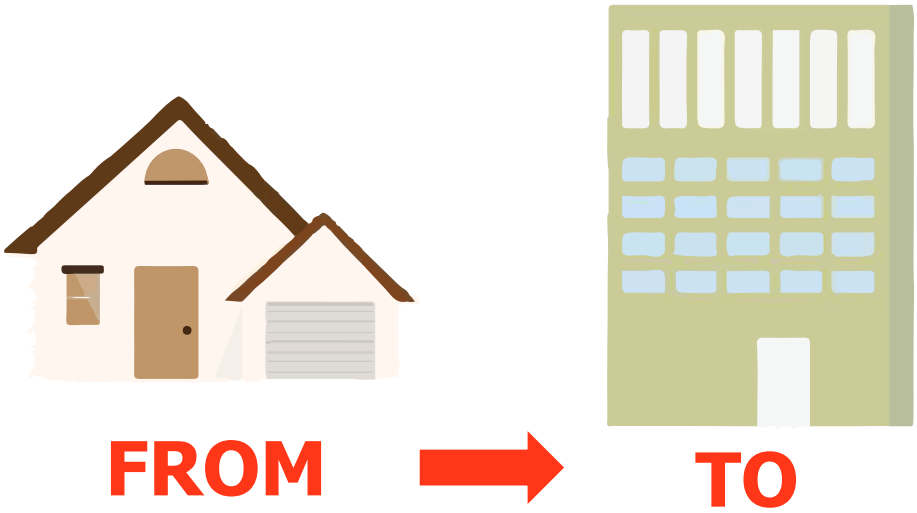
In 2014 alone, more than 23,000 children were living below poverty in the county.

$23,850

for a family of four at the Federal Poverty Level in 2014.

CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE

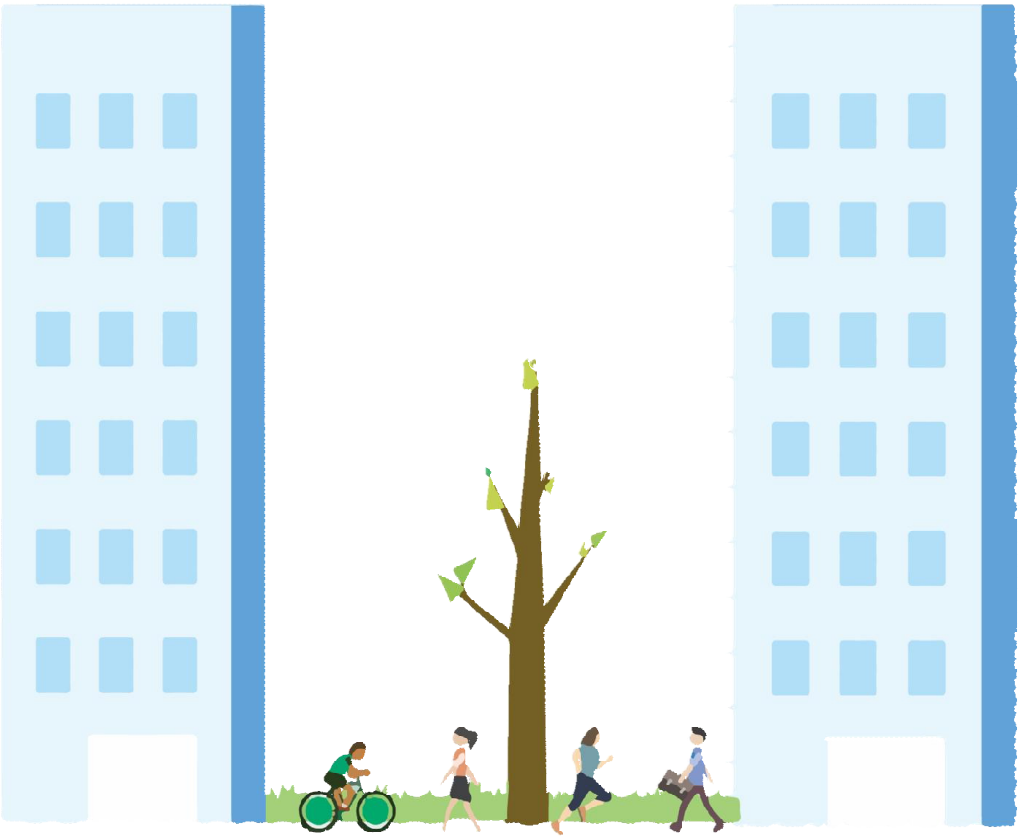
- There has been a shift from single family **detached** homes to **attached** multi-family units. In 1950, more than three-fourths of the housing units in the county were single family detached homes. This percentage decreased to 48% by 2010.



- The real estate market has placed downward pressures on the local economy. This trend has significant implications for Fairfax County as a large proportion of the county's budget stems from real estate tax.

CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE (continued)

- From 2005 to 2014, the average monthly rent increased from $1,202 to $1,640 or by **36%**. The county is also seeing a larger proportion of renter-occupied units.



CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE (continued)

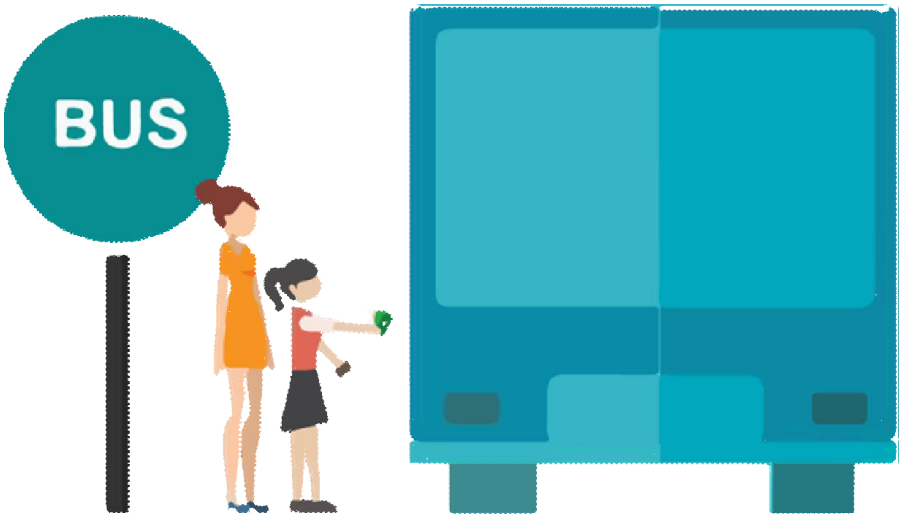
- Limited public transportation routes cause more individuals to rely on automobiles to travel. The location of jobs has also changed with employment opportunities now more geographically dispersed. With more people living in the county, as well as more people commuting in and out of the county for work, transportation is a key issue.

- The average commuter in the Washington, D.C. region spends approximately **82 hours**, almost 3.5 days per year, in gridlock.

CHANGES IN INFRASTRUCTURE (continued)

- Transportation is costly regardless of mode. Research estimates transportation costs approximately **$11,000 per year** for a Fairfax County family with two working adults and three children.

- Many of the county's lower-income residents are more likely to access public transportation or carpool to get to work compared to individuals living above poverty.



NEEDS FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

- Affordable Housing
- Accessible Housing for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities
- Services to Support Independent Living for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities

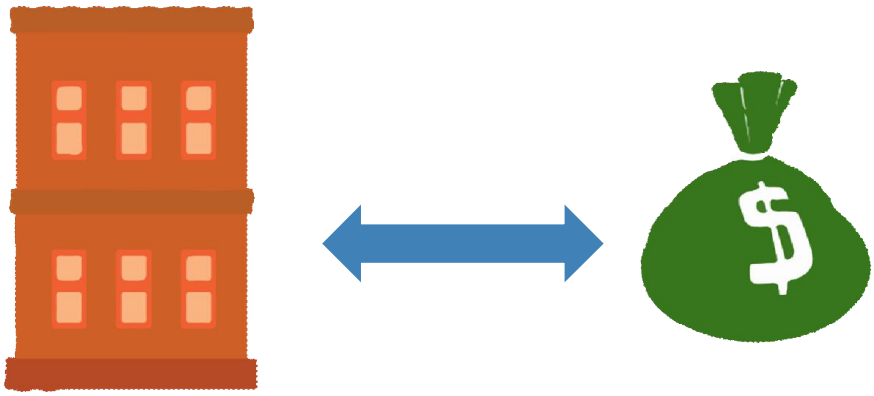
AFFORDABLE HOUSING

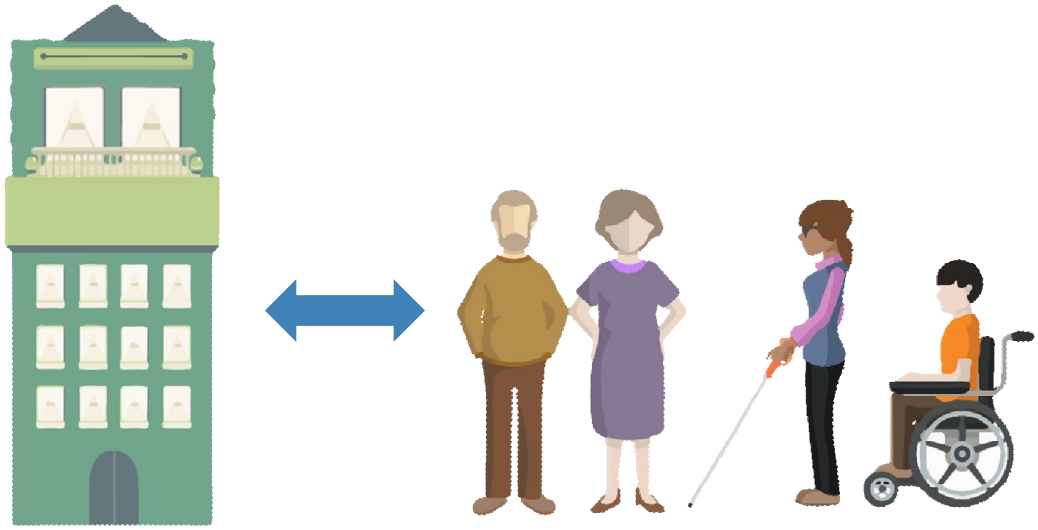
- From 2005 to 2014, a range of **41% to 47%** of all renters in Fairfax County were burdened by housing costs.

- There are substantial gaps in the number of affordable rental units for low- and moderate-income households.

ACCESSIBLE HOUSING

- Accessible housing is inextricably tied to affordability. Increases in the number of older adults and the number of individuals with disabilities are further driving the need for accessible housing. Overall, there is a **lack of accessible housing units** in Fairfax County.

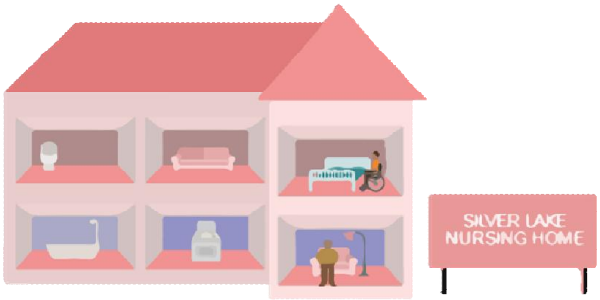




SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Aging, disability, and caregiver support services play a critical role in preventing individuals from requiring more intensive services. Community-based supportive services are less expensive and help individuals remain in their homes.

- Home and community-based services are in demand as evidenced by increases in individuals seeking Medicaid waivers for in-home services and increases in requests for in-home services within county-operated programs.



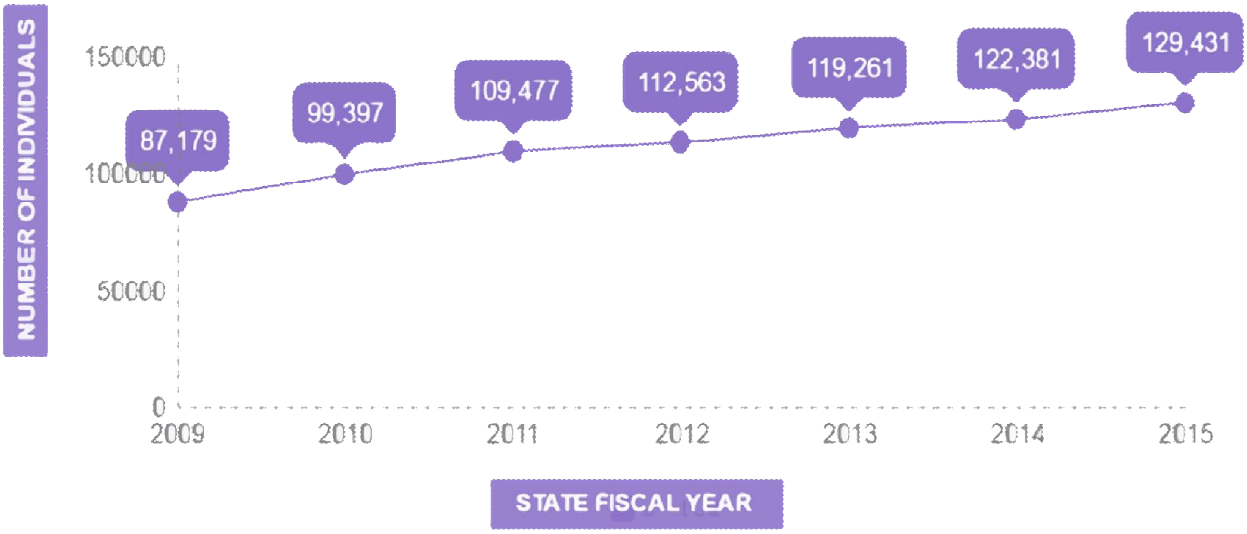
VS.

NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

- Financial Assistance
- Affordable Child Care and Early Education Opportunities

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

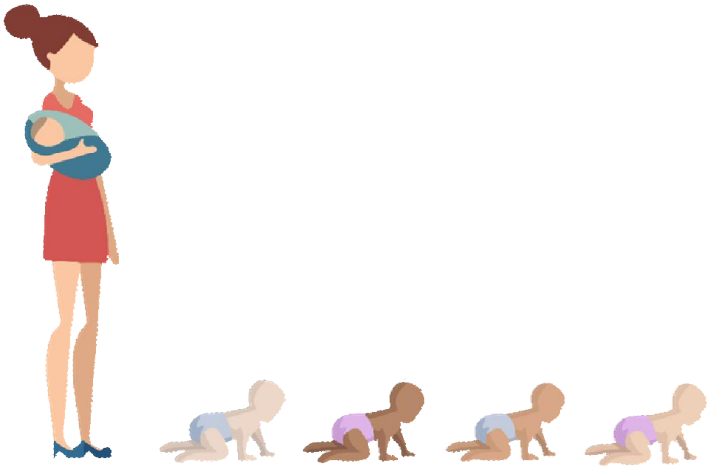
- The number of individuals receiving food assistance (SNAP), health insurance (Medicaid), and cash assistance (TANF) has increased since 2009, indicating more residents are unable to meet their basic needs than in the past.



AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION

- Child care is a key work support. In over 65% of families with young children and over 70% of families with school age children, all parents are working.

- Child care is the **second largest expense** for families next to housing. There is often a wait list for families seeking child care subsidies, which do not always cover the cost of care.



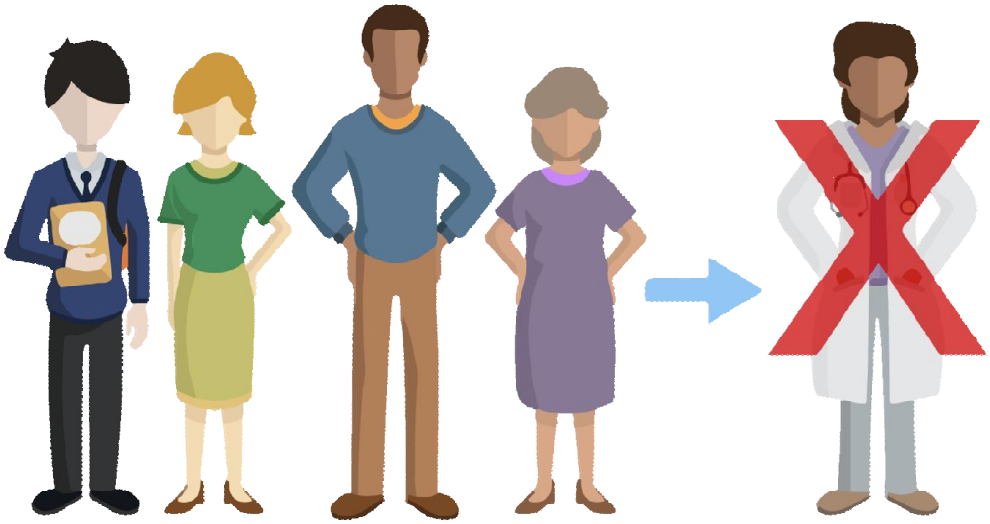
- Quality early childhood education programs support children's cognitive and social emotional development and ongoing success.

NEEDS FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE

- Affordable Health Insurance
- Behavioral Health Services for Adults
- Behavioral Health Services for Children and Youth
- Domestic Violence Services

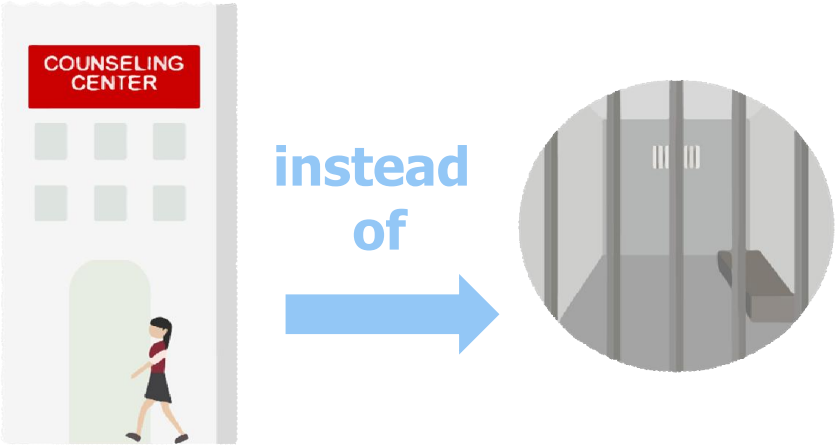
AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE

- In 2014, there were **30,300** adults in Fairfax County without health insurance between the ages of 18 to 64 who lived in households with incomes under 138% of the federal poverty level. These individuals likely fall into the "coverage gap," which means they are not currently eligible for assistance with health insurance.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR ADULTS

- There are challenges accessing **outpatient behavioral** health services due to issues including lack of health insurance, lack of financial resources to pay for services, location of services, and transportation barriers.
- There are challenges accessing **residential treatment** services in both the private and public markets due to capacity and cost.
- Language, stigma, and cultural differences also create barriers.
- There is a need to reduce the number of people with mental illness who are **incarcerated**. As many as half of all Fairfax County Jail inmates have mental health and/or co-occurring substance use disorders.

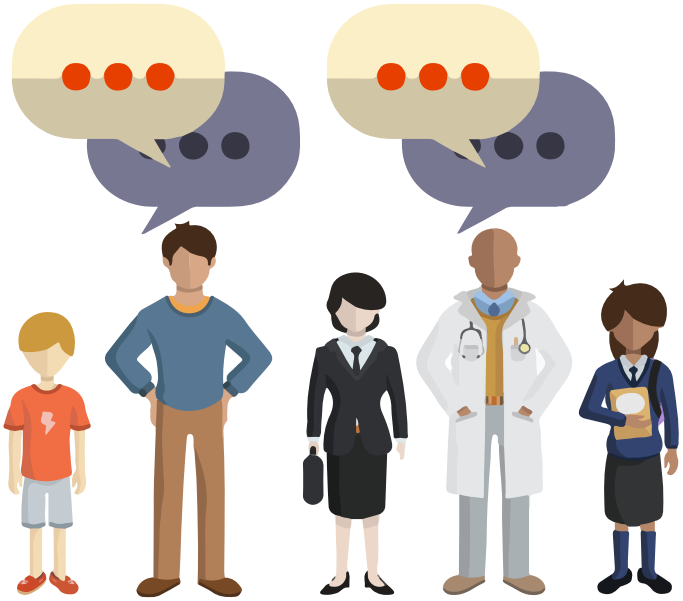


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

- **Outpatient services** for children and youth continue to be in demand. Of particular concern is a gap for youth with mild-to-moderate anxiety and depression who need to access outpatient services.

- Children and youth who require **intensive care coordination** or **case management services** on a long-term basis are often unable to receive services from Fairfax County Public School personnel and must seek treatment in the community.

- There is a gap when **youth age-out** of services and are no longer eligible to receive behavioral health services provided to them as a child/youth (typically at age 18).



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES

- Children from violent homes have higher risks of alcohol/drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, and juvenile delinquency.

- There is a demand for 24-hour emergency shelter. It is estimated that our jurisdiction only has **1/3** of the national standard for emergency beds.

- Domestic violence affects **1 in 4** homes in Fairfax County and is a leading cause of homicide in our community.

NEEDS FOR CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS

- Affordable and Accessible Public Transportation Services
- Access to Human Services Information

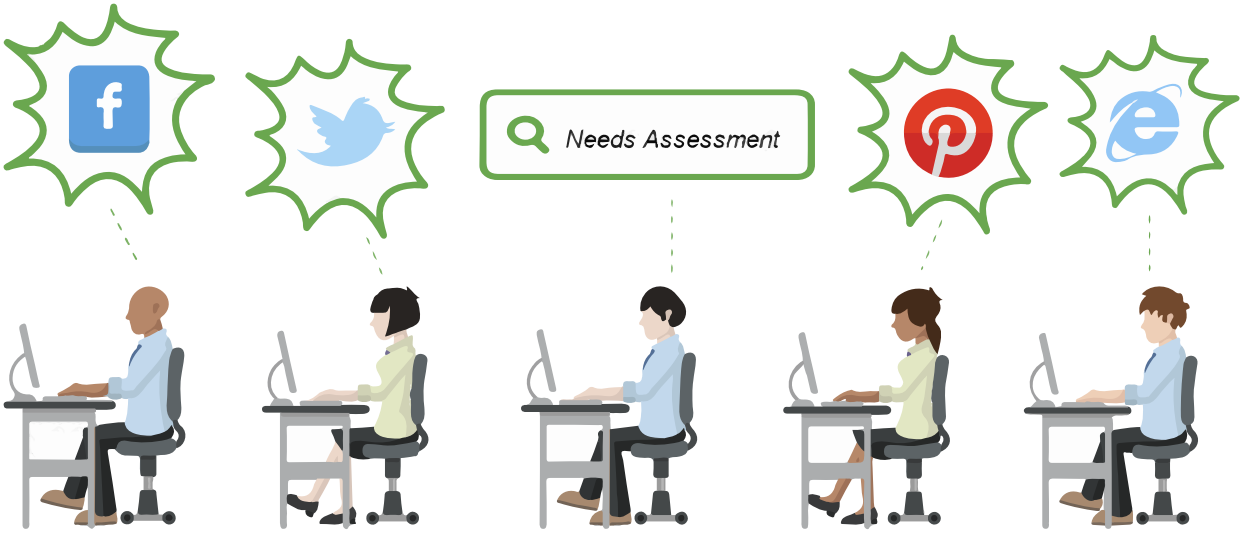
AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORATION SERVICES

- Fairfax County residents are unable to effectively and efficiently travel within the county due to congestion and complex public transportation systems. This is especially true for older adults and individuals with disabilities who may need to rely on public transportation to remain independent.

ACCESS TO HUMAN SERVICES INFORMATION

- There are challenges navigating the human services system (both private and public organizations) and coordinating multiple services. Residents and stakeholders are unable to easily locate and access information.

- With the vast majority of information communicated through the internet or social media, individuals who do not have access to information are further disconnected from resources.



PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER:

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY?

- The notion that human services programs only provide a critical safety net to the very poor is a fading concept.
- The breadth and complexity of needs is impacting a greater number of people and is having a ripple effect on the overall well-being of the county.
- Truly addressing challenges requires an integrated human services system and modern approaches to best serve individuals and families.
- Human services must leverage the knowledge, skills, and abilities of stakeholders across the county and collectively invest time and resources in efforts that improve outcomes.