



**2013-2014
Policy Council
Executive Officers**

*Rubi Colchao
Chairperson*

*Mira Martinez
Vice Chairperson*

*Daniel Gebissa
Secretary*

*Sheena Jones
Treasurer*

*Abdeltif Bensouda
Parliamentarian*



Policy Council of the
Fairfax County Head Start Program
12011 Government Center Parkway
9th Floor
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc
Phone: 703-324-8290
Fax: 703-324-8200

March 21, 2014

Human Services Council
Department of Administration for Human Services
12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 942
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Dear Members of the Human Services Council:

I am writing on behalf of the Fairfax County Head Start Policy Council and wish to provide comments on the proposed FY 2015 Fairfax County budget. We were very pleased that new funding to expand School Readiness activities in support of community programs serving young children is included in the budget. This funding would enable the County to increase the number of children in the Virginia Preschool Initiative.

The proposed \$714,000 funding supports the joint Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools *Successful Children and Youth Policy Team* key strategies for promoting school readiness and meeting the needs of children living in poverty. However, it is our understanding that the new funding for School Readiness has been included as a possible budget reduction.

We ask your support in advocating that the School Readiness funding remain in the budget. As parents of young children in Head Start/Early Head Start we understand first-hand the value of supporting children's school readiness. Quality early childhood education positively impacts families and the County.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Head Start/Early Head Start and children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

**Rubi Colchao
Chairperson**