

The Fairfax County

Human Services System

Trends and Emerging Needs

December 15, 2014

Working Together To Achieve Better Results

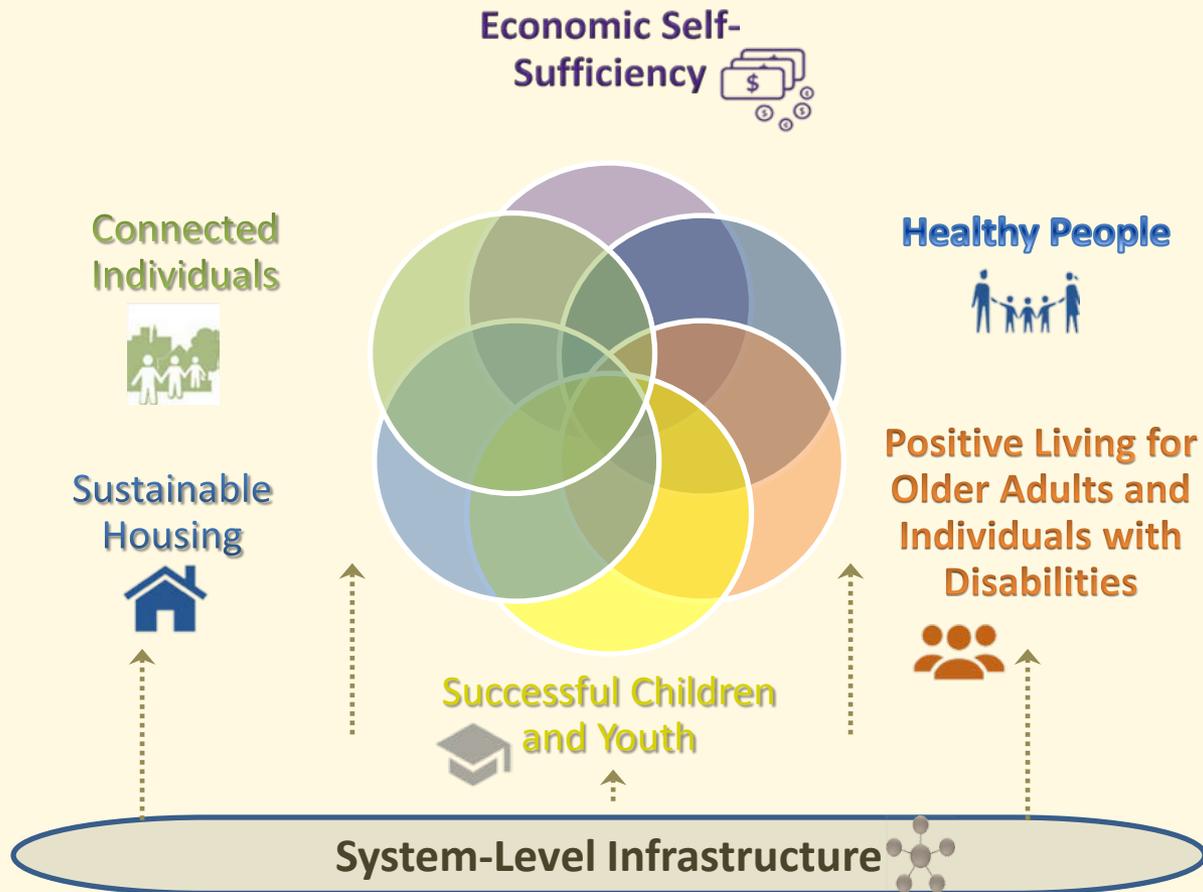




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Human Services Focus Areas – Results We Seek

As a human services system, we strive to **achieve results in six overarching focus areas**. We also recognize system infrastructure has a direct impact on the effectiveness of the human services system.





Introduction

- This information is intended to assist Human Services Council members and other stakeholders as they review the county's FY 2016 proposed budget.
- Trends and emerging needs are organized by six human services focus areas:
 - Connected Individuals
 - Economic Self-Sufficiency
 - Healthy People
 - Positive Living for Older Adults & Individuals with Disabilities
 - Successful Children & Youth
 - Sustainable Housing
- System-Level Infrastructure trends and emerging needs are also cited.
- All content is sourced.
- Human Services Agency Staff representatives have contributed and reviewed content.



Recurring Themes Across Human Services

- **Increasingly diverse population for which English is a second language could impede the ability of these residents to be economically successful and socially integrated within the county. Limited English Proficiency among FCPS students is increasing. Non-budgeted associated costs for mandated language interpretation and translation services has continued to increase across the system, both in contracted and agency delivered services.**



Recurring Themes Across Human Services

- **Increasing reports of threats to one's personal safety** with the number of:
 - Domestic violence victims served rising;
 - Reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving older adults or incapacitated adults under age 60 increasing;
 - Homeless families indicating domestic violence as the cause rising;
 - Domestic relations intake complaints, including family abuse, climbing; and
 - Almost half of the children entering foster care reported witnessing domestic violence.

All of which **negatively impacts the stability of individuals and families.**



Recurring Themes Across Human Services

- Emergent **behavioral health issues** (mental illness, risk for suicide) **faced by all ages – youth, adults, and older adults.**
- **Lack of Affordable Housing options** especially for **low-wage earners** and among **very low-income Fairfax County residents with disabilities and older adults.**
- **Increasing poverty among children** with more representation in food assistance programs. The number of those who are **economically disadvantaged is increasing for both children and youth.** Additionally, **more two-adult working households are living at 125% of the federal poverty level.** Individuals in need of **public assistance (SNAP, Medicaid)** is **on the rise.**



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Highlights for **ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY:**

- **Poverty has increased in the county.** Specifically:
 - the number of **Fairfax County residents in poverty is approximately 65,000;**
 - **child poverty has increased substantially over the past five years (27%; approximately 4,200); and**
 - the number of **families who are slightly above the poverty rate (125% of poverty) grew over the past five years (by 24,000 individuals approximately).**
- As poverty has increased, so has the number of individuals applying for public assistance. **Food assistance has increased sharply including enrollment in SNAP and Free and Reduced-Price Meals.**
- **English language proficiency** continues to be important and is linked to economic success - **among individuals in poverty, almost 2/3 speak a language other than English at home.**
- **Housing** continues to be **difficult to afford** in the county for **low-wage earners.**



Highlights for CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS:

- **Over 26,500 individuals were engaged in volunteering activities through Volunteer Fairfax in FY 2013, which represents a 43% increase in the number of engaged individuals from the prior year.**
- **The majority of youth survey respondents in Fairfax County Public Schools engage in community service activities. According to the 2013 Fairfax County Youth Survey, 48% of respondents participated in some type of community service activities once a month or more. Additionally, 61% of the respondents indicated they spend at least one hour per week helping friends or neighbors.**



Highlights for **CONNECTED INDIVIDUALS:**

- **Approximately 384,000 people age five and older spoke a language other than English at home in 2013 in Fairfax County; an increase of 42% from the year 2000.** These individuals may be more socially isolated due to language barriers and/or cultural differences.
- **Transportation barriers can increase social isolation. A 2013 survey of older adults and individuals with disabilities in Fairfax County noted that approximately 1 out of every 4 survey respondents was unable to get to a destination in the past month due to a lack of accessible and affordable transportation in the county.**



Highlights for HEALTHY PEOPLE:

- Virginia's choice not to expand Medicaid to cover low income adults continues to place a strain on health safety net services. **An estimated 25,000 Fairfax County residents were projected to be Medicaid eligible as part of the expansion.** Added publicity surrounding Health Care Reform resulted in more individuals applying for Medicaid coverage, however, many of these applications are being denied due to not meeting the program's eligibility requirements.
- There is a **severe shortage of psychiatric beds across the Commonwealth, and Northern Virginia has, per capita, the lowest psychiatric bed capacity, both public and private.** Northern Virginia also has the fewest crisis stabilization beds per capita.



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Highlights for HEALTHY PEOPLE:

- An increasing number of victims of domestic violence are being served by county programs and services. As an example, **the number of victims served by the Domestic Violence Action Center increased 246% from FY 2012 to FY 2014.**
- Fairfax County remains **above the national average for depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation in public school students.**
- Significant costs are associated with preventable illnesses and conditions. Statistics for Fairfax County **estimate 11% of adults smoke and 22% are obese.**
- **Ongoing public health threats posed by emerging and re-emerging communicable diseases** are exemplified by the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa which **has required a coordinated local response effort to monitor travelers.**



Highlights for **POSITIVE LIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES:**

- The proportion of the Fairfax County population comprised of **adults aged 65 and over is increasing. In 2013, approximately 10% of the population was comprised of older adults.** By 2020, older adults are expected to comprise 14% of the population.
- Approximately **one out of every four older adults (65+) in Fairfax County has a disability.** The number of older adults with a disability has increased.
- **Reports of suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation involving older adults or incapacitated adults under age 60 increased 21% from FY 2008 to FY 2014.**



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Highlights for POSITIVE LIVING FOR OLDER ADULTS & INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES:

- Emergent mental health disorders, risk for suicide, and substance abuse are concerns for older adults. **Among those who committed suicide in the Fairfax-Falls Church community from 2003 – 2011, the highest rates were for individuals ages 75-84 years of age (19%), followed by ages 45-54 (12%), and 85 years of age and older (11%).**
- Among **very low-income Fairfax County residents with disabilities and very low-income older adults**, an estimated **17,600 households have unmet housing needs.**
- Fairfax County **households with a disabled member(s) have higher percentages of housing problems** (e.g., incomplete kitchens and/or plumbing facilities; high housing costs) compared to households without a disabled member.



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Highlights for **SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUTH:**

- Fairfax County **remains above the national average for depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation.** 2013 Youth Survey findings indicate **17% of students considered suicide in the past year.**
- **Children in the county are increasingly represented in food assistance programs – 28% of Fairfax County Public School students were eligible for free or reduced-priced meals during the 2013-2014 school year (50,629).**
- **In fall 2012, 16% of kindergarteners in Fairfax County Public Schools did not meet reading intervention benchmarks and were referred for services.**
- **Enrollment in Head Start/Early Head Start programs in the county has continued to increase.**



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Highlights for SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN & YOUTH:

- **Disparities exist in the proportion of students who graduate within four years of starting 9th grade in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system. In 2014, the overall on-time graduation rate for FCPS was 93%. This rate was lower for Hispanic students (81%); Black students (91%); students who were economically disadvantaged (84%); Limited English Proficiency students (83%); and students who were homeless at any time (70%).**
- **The number of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students in Fairfax County Public Schools increased by approximately 10,000 individuals from 2008 to 2013 (39,620 versus 49,443 students respectively). In addition, a larger proportion of the student body is now comprised of LEP students than in the past (23% of all FCPS students were LEP in 2008 versus 27% in 2013).**
- **In FY 2014, there was a 7% decrease in the number of calls received by the Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline and a 5% decrease in the number of validated CPS referrals, compared to FY 2013. This represents a slight decrease across all abuse types - physical, neglect, sexual, and mental abuse (which includes exposure to domestic violence).**



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Highlights for SUSTAINABLE HOUSING:

- In the last decade, the **median market value of owned homes** in the county **increased by 27%**.
- The **average monthly rent paid** for a unit in a rental housing complex **increased by 37%** (from \$1,157 to \$1,590) during the last decade.
- The American Community Survey 2013 Profile for Fairfax County **estimates 42% of renter households in the county are “housing cost burdened”** (spending 30% or more of household income on housing).
- Fairfax County’s 2014 Point-in-Time Count of persons experiencing homelessness revealed **1,225 literally homeless people in the Fairfax-Falls Church area**. The **homeless population decreased by 33%** from 2008 to 2014.
 - Of the **single individuals (530) counted in 2014, 55% suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse**.
 - People in **families accounted for 57% of all persons counted**. Of the **literally homeless, 33% were children under the age of 18**.



Highlights for SUSTAINABLE HOUSING:

- The **average length of stay in emergency shelters has decreased; however, the number of people served has increased.**
- The **number of people exiting emergency shelter to permanent destinations increased 183%** from 342 in 2010 to 970 in FY 2014.
- Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance reports a **decrease in the number of complaints received for overcrowding of nearly 46%** from 1,494 in 2008 to 814 complaints in 2013.



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Highlights for SYSTEM-LEVEL INFRASTRUCTURE:

- **Aging data systems** for contracts administration and monitoring functions **may impact timely issuance and completion of contracts for provision of client services.**
- **Recruitment of physicians and other medical professionals is lagging due to limitations in compensation packages.**
- **Over half of senior county managers will be eligible to retire in the next two years and the number will grow to 83 percent over the next decade necessitating emphasis on succession planning.**
- **The multiplicity of languages spoken in Fairfax County has necessitated the use of language interpretation and translation services that are mandated but not budgeted. Costs to human service agencies to provide these services are increasing.**
- **Inventory of human services residential properties requiring lease management and property management services has grown.**

Thank You!

The Trends and Emerging Needs , December 2014 document is available online at:

- HSC web page: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil
- Direct link to document:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscouncil/pdf/trends_emergingneeds_jan15.pdf