

Fairfax County Human Services

Community Investment in Response to Community Challenges

Highlights and Statistics about the Human Services System Response to Community Needs

**Prepared by the Department of Systems
Management for Human Services**

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The Human Services Community Challenges

What are the Community Challenges?

The Human Services Community Challenges were adopted in 1996 by the Human Services Leadership Team and the Human Services Council to provide a framework for looking at the broader mission of human services. The Challenges provide an alternative to the traditional agency-by-agency view of the human services system, and instead highlight the relationships between services offered in different parts of the system.

The Community Challenges have been used as the basis for the Human Services Performance Budget, as a tool in evaluating the County Executive's Advertised Budget Plans, and as a guide for setting priorities for the first two years of the Community Funding Pool process.

The seven Challenges cover the spectrum of community needs and issues that the human services system seeks to address. For each Challenge, there is a statement that describes the vision for the community's desired quality of life. The response to each Challenge involves a contribution and investment from the public sector; the private, non-profit, and community-based sectors; as well as other levels of government. The Performance Budget details the programmatic contribution of the County Human Service agencies, and the fiscal investment from the County's General Fund and other sources.

What's inside this brochure?

This brochure is organized around the seven Human Services Community Challenges. For each Challenge, it presents the vision statement, examples of County human service programs that respond to the Challenge, and service utilization or performance statistics for those programs.

The brochure also presents a “Did you know?” section for each Challenge containing highlights from the County’s 2000 Community Assessment survey, the 2002 U.S. Census’s American Community Survey and other data sources. (See page 11 for a complete list of data sources. Unless otherwise noted, service statistics are provided by Departments and Agencies.)

I don’t use Human Services, so how does this affect me?

Know it or not, every resident of Fairfax County is touched in some way by human services. At a minimum, anyone who has eaten in a local restaurant, had a drink of well water, played in a sports league game at the local elementary school field, or used a family day care provider has benefited from human service programs. Many others have received advice on helping elderly parents get nursing home care or home-based assistance, logged onto the *Child Care Central* website to find a daycare provider near their home, or have been reassured to see the responses to West Nile Virus or Hurricane Isabel in their community. Finally, even if you are not a direct consumer of services, it is very likely that you have friends, neighbors, or co-workers who have received support for a disabled child, services for a family member struggling with substance abuse or mental illness, or assistance finding employment after a lay-off.

Where can I learn more?

The back cover of this brochure lists reports and other information sources that are available at local libraries or on the Human Services web site. Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination on the basis of disability in all county programs, services and activities. If you have additional questions, or would like this document in an alternative format, you may call 703-324-5638 or TTY: 703-803-7914. Allow seven working days for preparation of the material.

Challenge I: Providing Assistance to Promote Independence

Vision:
A community in which families and individuals are able to achieve their maximum potential for self-sufficiency.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics

- The Child Care Assistance and Referral Program served over 9,200 children in working families.²
- Welfare-to-Work (VIEW) served 715 clients, 64% of whom were placed in a work activity. Those employed earned an average monthly wage of \$1,100.²
- FASTRAN provided over 521,000 rides to individuals with disabilities to reach jobs, appointments, and program activities.¹
- The Adult and Aging program provided over 450,000 meals to approximately 4,000 seniors.²
- Attendance at Senior Center programs exceeded 180,000.¹
- Over 30,800 participants with physical, mental or developmental disabilities were registered in Therapeutic Recreation programs.¹



Did you know?

- Over 60% of Fairfax County residents with disabilities (21 to 64 years) are employed.¹⁴
- 33% of Fairfax County residents (5 and older) speak a language other than English in the home.¹⁴
- Almost one-third of area children (12 and under) use or need daycare.⁸
- 64.7% of Fairfax County families with incomes below poverty have a householder or spouse who worked during the year.¹⁴

**Challenge 2:
Ensuring Safe, Affordable
Housing**

Vision:
A community which has quality
housing opportunities for families
and individuals in all income
ranges.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics³

- Public Housing maintains over 1,000 units, providing affordable housing to nearly 3,000 residents. Public Housing rent paid by tenants totaled four million dollars.
- The Housing Choice Voucher Program helps provide housing for over 3,400 County households, serving over 10,100 residents.
- The Fairfax County Rental Program makes over 1,600 units affordable for low- to moderate-income residents.
- Between 1997 and 2002 a total of 1,030 units of affordable housing were lost in the County, primarily due to expiring subsidies on federally assisted projects.
- Since 1990, the County's Affordable Dwelling Unit Ordinance has resulted in over 1,000 affordable homeownership units being built in new residential developments of 50+ units. In addition, 857 affordable rental units have been built as a result of the ADU Ordinance.



Did you know?

- The average monthly Fairfax County rental housing complex rent in 2003 was \$1,168.¹⁰
- While only 15.6% of renters nationwide pay \$1,000 or more a month in rent, more than two-thirds (67.1%) of Fairfax County renters pay \$1,000 or more per month.¹⁴
- 22% of owners and 37% of renters spend 30% or more of their income on housing.¹⁴
- The FCRHA waiting list for housing assistance includes almost 4,000 households and will likely exceed 5,000 households by Summer 2004.³

**Challenge 3:
Supporting Families and
Individuals in Crisis /
Preventing Abuse and
Neglect**

Vision:
A community that promotes family
and individual stability, in which all
people are free from financial,
emotional, or physical crisis, and in
which all people are safe from abuse,
neglect and exploitation.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics

- Child Protective Services responded to over 31,700 hotline calls and conducted over 2,000 assessments and investigations of abuse or neglect.²
- The average number of children in Foster Care each month decreased from 788 in FY 192096 to 475 in FY 03.²
- Homeless Shelters served 1,788 single individuals and 498 persons in families with children in 2003.²
- Coordinated Services Planning responded to almost 30,000 requests for human services assistance and conducted over 120,000 service interactions with clients.⁴
- Over 5,800 persons received mental health emergency assessment and stabilization services.⁷



Did you know?

- In January 2003, there were 1,944 homeless persons in Fairfax County (769 homeless individuals and 335 homeless families).¹²
- 1 out of 7 area households ran out of money during the past year for basic needs such as rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine.⁸
- Among area households spending 50% or more of income on housing, 40.5% ran out of money during the past year for rent or mortgage, utilities, food, or medicine.⁸

Challenge 4: Protection of the Public Health

Vision:
A healthy community environment which is free of threats to the public health.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics⁵

- Communicable Disease Control served nearly 14,400 persons in tuberculosis screening, prevention and case management, and also conducted 1,340 communicable disease investigations. Investigations more than doubled from previous years due to four major outbreak investigations and new emerging infectious diseases.
- 25,000 persons received HIV outreach, education, counseling and testing.
- The Consumer Services division of Environmental Health inspected over 3,000 food establishments in Fairfax County to ensure compliance with health and safety standards.
- Community Health and Safety investigated 3,228 complaints of blight, rodents and pests, trash, and other health and safety hazards.



Did you know?

- 57.1% of Fairfax County’s housing stock was built prior to 1980.⁹
- More than 82,000 area residents lack health insurance.⁸
- Nearly 15% of area households think restaurant food safety is a moderate or major community problem.⁸



Challenge 5: Addressing Alcohol, Drug, Mental and Physical Health Issues

Vision:
A community in which all people have access to a wide variety of affordable services for mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, and physical health care.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics

- Patients made over 68,000 walk-in visits to Health clinics; almost 52,400 vaccinations were given to over 22,600 children.⁵
- School nurses monitor health plans for more than 33,500 students.
- Students made over 817,500 visits to school Clinic Room Aides for sickness, injury, or medications.⁵
- The Community Health Care Network provided affordable health care services at over 39,700 primary care visits.⁵
- Almost 1,900 adults and youth were served in mental health residential treatment programs; over 5,100 received outpatient treatment and case management.⁷
- Over 2,300 adults and youth received residential detoxification and substance abuse treatment; over 3,500 received outpatient treatment and case management.⁷



Did you know?

- 2/3 of area adults without health insurance (16 and older) work full or part-time.⁸
- Among 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students, 44.1% have used or sold illegal drugs.¹³
- 1 out of 11 area residents experience mental, emotional and/or anxiety problems to the point of needing help.⁸
- Among 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students, 18.5% have seriously considered attempting suicide.¹³



**Challenge 6:
Responding to Crime in
the Community**

Vision:
A community which is safe from the
threat of crime.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics

- Over 372 seriously at-risk youth are registered in Teen Center programs sponsored by the Department of Community and Recreation Services, the Police, and the Community Services Board.¹
- Teen Center attendance (at activities other than basketball) was over 53,000.¹
- Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court filed over 20,700 new non-traffic cases, including nearly 3,300 new juvenile delinquency cases.⁶
- 83% of juvenile probationers had no new criminal petitions within 12 months of their probation; 68% of youths discharged from residential services had no new criminal petitions within 12 months.⁶



Did you know?

- 46% of 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students were bullied, taunted, ridiculed or teased in the year prior to the survey.¹³
- 16.4% of 8th, 10th and 12th grade public school students carried a weapon to school in the year prior to the survey.¹³
- 35.7% of area households think crime is a moderate or major problem in their community.⁸

**Challenge 7: Providing
Community-Wide and
Targeted Supports**

Vision:
A community which supports and
builds on the strengths of individuals,
families and neighborhoods.



Selected Programs and FY 2003 Service Statistics

- The Neighborhood Preservation and Revitalization program managed 36 revitalization projects and provided over \$620,000 in loans to homeowners or landlords for repairs.³
- Attendance at Community Center activities totaled over 392,000, with nearly 15,000 hours of service provided by volunteers.¹
- The Child Care Assistance and Referral program assisted over 40,500 families seeking information on child care.²
- Participation in community-based sports programs exceeded 316,000, at over 1000 public athletic fields and school gymnasiums for which the County schedules community use.¹
- In FY 2003, the School-Aged Child Care program served over 8,600 children at 129 sites.²
- Over 800 families were served in the Healthy Families Fairfax and the Nurturing Program. Nearly 16,000 volunteer hours were provided.²



Did you know?

- 211,040 Fairfax County housing units were built prior to 1980.⁸
- A survey of immigrant and refugees found that 82.7% thought their neighbors made their family feel welcome.¹⁰
- 38.2% of area households think the lack of affordable childcare is a moderate or major community problem.⁴
- 23.4% of area households think lack of recreational programs are a moderate or major community problem.⁴

Footnotes - Data Sources

- ¹Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services
- ²Fairfax County Department of Family Services
- ³Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development
- ⁴Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services.
- ⁵Fairfax County Health Department
- ⁶Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
- ⁷Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board
- ⁸Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment.*
- ⁹Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2002 Urban Development Information System.*
- ¹⁰Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *2003 Rental Housing Complex Census Analysis.*
- ¹¹Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services, *A Community Sampler: Eight Immigrant and Refugee Communities with Public School Children.*
- ¹²Fairfax County, *Continuum of Care 2003 Point in Time Survey of Homelessness.*
- ¹³Fairfax County, Virginia, *Communities That Care: 2001 Youth Survey.*
- ¹⁴U.S. Census Bureau, *2002 American Community Survey.*

Where can I learn more?

The following reports and other information sources are available on the County web site, or call Maps and Publications at (703) 324-2974. Many of the documents are also available at local libraries.

About Fairfax County: Maps, Facts, and Stats

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/aboutfairfax/default.htm>

U.S. Census Information about Fairfax County

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/comm/demogrph/2000DecennialCensus.htm> or visit the U.S. Census website at <http://www.census.gov>

Inventory of Fairfax County Programs, Activities, and Services

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gov/omb/icaps.htm>

Fairfax County FY 2004 Adopted Budget Plan

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget>

Human Services Resource Guide

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rim/>

County Human Services Related Web Pages

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/healthhuman/human.htm>

Reports about Fairfax County Human Services

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/reports/index.htm>

This site includes links to or downloads of the full text of the following reports:

- *A Community Sampler: Eight Immigrant and Refugee Communities with Public School Children*
- *Communities That Care: 2001 Youth Survey Report*
- *2000 Fairfax-Falls Church Community Assessment*
- *FY 2001 Human Services Performance Budget*
- *Selected Trends in Service Utilization and Demand*
- *Long-Term Care Citizen Task Force Summary and Appendices*