

WELCOME

BY DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE PATRICIA HARRISON



The human services system touches the lives of all Fairfax County residents, working to create opportunities for individuals to be safe, be healthy, and realize their full potential. Community partners and county agencies coordinate efforts to create a network of programs that helps residents meet a wide range of needs with a focus on prevention, equity, and support for all residents

regardless of age or ability. This network is the foundation for thriving communities throughout Fairfax County.

As is the case in other jurisdictions, Fairfax County is experiencing substantial changes in its population, economy, and infrastructure. To understand the impact of these changes and prepare for the future, we conducted an assessment to identify key needs and challenges currently facing residents. The assessment was based on data collected from a variety of methods that include community feedback and discussion sessions; local, state, and national surveys; and data from Fairfax County programs and services. To better understand disparities that must be addressed to build a stronger and more equitable county, we emphasized identifying the needs of specific populations, considering age, income, disability status, race, and ethnicity.

If left unaddressed, the challenges that residents currently face will continue to become more complex, affect more people, and jeopardize the quality of living that our community values. The results of the assessment are significant:

- Affordable and accessible housing for all residents continues to be paramount and important for a vibrant economy and a strong tax base;
- Financial stability is key to the economic prosperity of residents who are increasingly struggling to meet basic needs;
- Access to health insurance, behavioral health services, and domestic violence services are critical to ensuring the continuation of the county's livable, caring, and safe neighborhoods; and
- Affordable, accessible, and efficient transportation options are fundamental for residents to fully participate in recreational opportunities, maintain connections to others, and travel to their places of employment.

To successfully preserve the character of our county and ensure its success, we must all work together to examine our current efforts and find innovative ways to invest in these critical concerns.

The future of Fairfax County depends on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Harrison'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and 'H'.

Patricia Harrison

Deputy County Executive