

Meeting the Housing Needs of Public Sector Workers in Fairfax County

Allison Evelt is a third-grade teacher at Woodlawn Elementary School. She has been a Fairfax County Public Schools teacher for 3 years and loves her job. She earns \$50,400 a year (just under 80 percent of Area Median income for a single person).

Allison currently lives with two roommates but she would really like to find her own place. She likes living in Fairfax and is excited about everything that is going on in Reston and Tysons Corner, but most of the new housing there is out of her price range. She has considered moving back to her hometown in southeastern Virginia. She would earn less money, but the cost of living is so much lower.



Talented and motivated public sector employees, like Allison, are vital to ensuring the County's high-quality public services. Fairfax County has a great reputation for its first-class public services and education. However, the high cost of living in the County is a major obstacle to attracting and retaining public sector employees, including teachers, fire fighters and police officers.

Discussion Questions

Who is responsible for ensuring public sector workers, like Allison, have housing that is affordable?

Should something be done to address the affordable housing needs of public sector workers, such as teachers? If yes, what?

Note: The individual reflected in this story is fictional but is a representation of many actual residents in Fairfax County, based on an analysis of demographic data for the County.