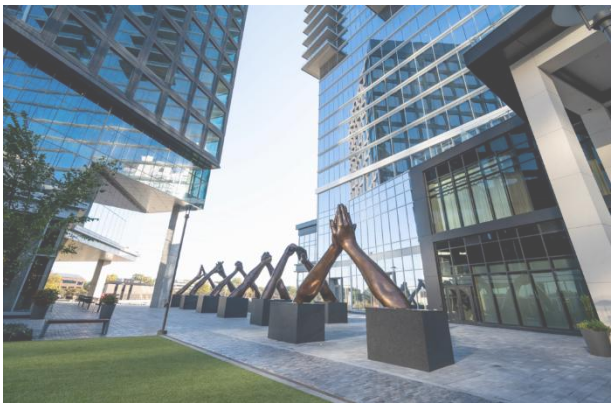
Economic Competitiveness Task Force and Housing Task Force

Given the nationwide housing crisis and economic hit of the federal government cuts, Fairfax County launched the Economic Competitiveness Task Force and Housing Task Force to identify actionable opportunities to strengthen the County's economy, expand housing opportunities, and improve the environment for businesses, workers, and residents.



This effort seeks to build on Fairfax County's strength as the home to a strong and diverse economy, a highly skilled workforce, and a broad and growing business community. Building on these strengths, Fairfax County is focused on maintaining and strengthening its economic competitiveness by attracting and retaining businesses and talent, supporting innovation and entrepreneurship, and fostering a strong environment that promotes economic growth.

Recognizing interconnectedness of housing and economic competitiveness, Fairfax County is also focused on expanding housing opportunities and affordability to support a strong workforce, promote economic mobility, and create vibrant communities where people can live and work.

Together, the Task Forces identified more than 50 initiatives that provide the roadmap for continued economic growth and expanded housing opportunity.

Fairfax County's Approach

Fairfax County is moving forward with actions identified through the Economic Competitiveness and Housing Task Forces to support economic growth, strengthen the workforce, expand housing opportunities, and improve the development process. The County is implementing these initiatives across agencies and in collaboration with businesses, the development community, and regional and state partners. Initiatives will be implemented and tracked through FY 2029 and several initiatives have already been completed.

The County has the existing authority and tools necessary to advance this work and is committed to implementing these actions within its current legislative authorities.

Economic Competitiveness Highlights

✓ Creating a more coordinated workforce system:

- Establishing an Office of Workforce Competitiveness and Advancement.
- Connecting employers, educational institutions, and workforce organizations around shared outcomes.
- Exploring new funding opportunities for workforce initiatives.
- Creating pathways for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) workers, and displaced federal workers.
- Developing sector-specific skills pathways aligned with employer demand.

✓ Strengthening Fairfax's economic ecosystem:

- Developing a technology business accelerator focused on geospatial intelligence, space, aerospace, and dual-use technologies, with support for early-stage ventures.
- Enhancing the Economic Opportunity Reserve to advance economic development goals.
- Expanding opportunities to leverage state economic incentives.
- Sustaining innovation-based programs and dedicated events.

✓ Expanding predictable development pathways to foster economic development:

- Developing tiered building plan review pathways.
- Advancing digital modernization and expanding automation.
- Integrating economic development objectives into planning and zoning work.

✓ Leveraging County assets:

- Establishing a Real Estate Opportunities Team to proactively identify, evaluate, and execute real estate opportunities.

Housing Production Highlights

✓ Increasing housing opportunities:

- Advancing opportunities for additional housing in appropriate locations.
- Exploring Suburban Village Centers to support medium-density housing and community-serving retail.
- Pursuing a Compact Housing Village pilot.
- Updating the Accessory Living Unit ordinance to remove barriers to additional housing.
- Exploring Comprehensive Plan flexibility and alignment.

✓ Expanding affordable housing tools and development pathways:

- Exploring new Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority financing products.
- Considering targeted real property tax incentives.
- Updating the Comprehensive Plan Housing Element.
- Exploring streamlined pathways and development incentives for affordable housing projects.

High Priority: Streamlining Development Review

Streamlining the development process provides major benefits for both business attraction and housing production. Exploring pathways to streamline Fairfax County's development process was a major, shared priority for both Task Forces.

- Speeding up review times and reducing procedural steps
- Exploring concurrent and parallel review processes
- Simplifying County policies, codes, and submission requirements
- Improving customer-facing timelines and performance measures
- Twelve-month site plan processing commitment
- Improving clarity within planning and entitlement processes
- Limit site plan review recommendations to regulatory requirements

Scan for more information on Fairfax County Housing Solutions!