

The Bridge from Hope to Home

Bridging Affordability

# Overview

- Bridging Affordability combines **rental subsidies** with **case management** and **supportive services** with the intent of moving families toward self-sufficiency
- **Partnership** between Fairfax County Department of Housing and Northern Virginia Family Services (program administrator), as well as Alternative House, FACETS, New Hope Housing, Cornerstones, Shelter House, Homestretch, Brain Injury Services, Family PASS, Community Services Board

# Overview

- Each client is assessed by a case manager who works with the client **to develop a plan** to meet the unique needs of the family
- Clients are **connected to other support services** such as education, employment, childcare, and life skills
- **Progress toward goals is monitored** closely and adjusted as needed to ensure client success

# Bridging Affordability: By the Numbers

- 524 certificates issued; **420 households leased** (63 percent families)
- **83 percent** of the overall population has “bridged” to sustainable housing
- **65 households** “bridged” to FCRHA housing (Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher program)
- **63 percent employed** (part time or full time)
- Average rent subsidy just under **\$1000/month**

# Bridging Affordability: By the Numbers

- Two Bridging Affordability contracts since 2011 totaling **\$12,846,662**
- Only **\$297,053 is not yet reserved** for a specific household to be served for up to 24 months

# Who is Bridging Affordability Serving?

- Homeless households (35 percent)
- Fairfax County affordable housing waitlist households (50 percent)
- Households referred by Community Services Board (7.5 percent)
- Households with physical or sensory disabilities (7.5 percent)

# BA Successes

- BA has evolved from primarily a subsidy program to a **comprehensive self sufficiency program**
- **LinkUp Fairfax** has provided career path employment services to 30 BA clients with the following results:
  - 73 percent of current clients **increased household income**
  - 40 percent **reduced dependency** on public benefits
  - 27 percent **moved to jobs with benefits**
  - 67 percent engaged in **short term training opportunities**
  - 63 percent **decreased their overall household debt**

# What's Next?

- **Extend NVFS contract for four years**
  - Serve 165 households under contract extension; approximately \$5 million budgeted
- Partner with the **Fairfax County Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services** in an effort to serve 12-17 households who are escaping domestic violence situations
- ▶ Work with **LinkUp Fairfax** to better serve clients coming out of shelters and broaden the scope of **employment services** to include those underserved