



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Human Services
Council

DATE: March 26, 2012

TO: Chairman and Members
Board of Supervisors

At-Large

Kevin H. Bell, *Chair*
Myra Herbert

FROM: Kevin H. Bell, Chairman 
Fairfax County Human Services Council

Braddock District

Dr. Jennifer Anne
Bishop
Tessie Wilson

SUBJECT: Recommendations Regarding the FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan

Dranesville District

Steven Bloom
Kathleen Murphy

The Human Services Council appreciates the opportunity to provide comment and guidance on the FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan. The Council understands how difficult it was to prepare this budget faced with continued revenue constraints and increasing needs, especially in the Human Services area. The Council appreciates the County Executive's effort to maintain the safety net of services to which the Board of Supervisors has also shown great commitment.

Hunter Mill District

Baba Freeman
Dr. Jerry Poje

Lee District

Robert L. Faherty
Richard Gonzalez

Concerns About the Fragile Environment of Human Services

This year, the Council held discussions with the community focusing on the impact of resources affecting cross-cutting systems work. This provided us with guidance on the proposed allocation of resources to the county's human services programs included in the FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan. This dialogue alarms the Council because we see two different trajectories affecting human services—the number of individuals and families in need and the impact of probable federal and state funding cuts. These two opposing trends put both county services and the network of community partners on unstable ground and have the potential, if left untended, for costly consequences in both financial and human terms.

Mason District

Mark Deal
Stephanie Mensh

Mt. Vernon District

Col. Marion
Barnwell
John R. Byers

Providence District

Donna Fleming, *Vice
Chair*
Henry Wulf

Underlying the current problems are several years of funding reductions and revenue limitations. The system is stretched as thin as has been in our collective memories. While community needs and caseloads have risen rapidly, General Fund support of human services departments has been reduced aggregately by nearly 3 percent since FY 2008. This state of affairs puts our entire community at risk.

Springfield District

Robert E. Gaudian
William Kogler

The Human Services Council's Comments

The Council divided its remarks into five sections:

Sully District

Richard P. Berger
Carol Hawn

1. Assessing Fairfax County's Human Services System Through a Results-Based Framework (Page 2)
2. Support for Items Included in the Advertised Budget (Page 2)
3. Support of Critical Items Not Addressed in the Advertised Budget (Page 3)
4. Additional Items of Importance for the Board's Consideration (Page 8)
5. Commitment to the Viability of the County's Human Services System (Page 11)

Assessing Fairfax County's Human Services System Through a Results-Based Framework

The human services leadership articulated and promoted a new results-based approach this year that the Council found exceptionally useful in its budget analysis. You will find references to this new approach throughout this letter.

This approach directs attention to six major strategic areas that form a framework for analyzing how effective programs are in providing services to clients of human services within those areas regardless of organizational structure. The six strategic areas are:

- Healthy People
- Positive Living for Older Adults & Adults with Disabilities
- Affordable Housing
- Connected Individuals
- Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Successful Youth

This approach seeks to answer the question, “How effective are an agency’s programs in making a positive impact in the lives of clients who receive human services?” Our clients most often have a multiplicity of needs that require several human services agencies to address. For example, most persons who are homeless need far more than just shelter. They might require services addressing problems with their physical health, mental health, economic self-sufficiency, and more. Similarly, a single program can affect clients in ways we had not considered. The Council discusses elsewhere in this letter, for example, how lack of access to dental services (“Healthy People”) can affect an individual’s prospects of obtaining work in a service industry (“Economic Self-Sufficiency”). The new approach helped the Council considerably in framing its analysis. The Council applauds the human services leadership for developing this results-based approach and expects it will allow our county residents to make the most of government and community resources.

Support for Items INCLUDED in the Advertised Budget

The Council supports the County Executive’s recommendations on vitally important human service initiatives, such as long-term care, services to address the housing needs of persons who are homeless, and before-and after-school programming. The Council wants to emphasize, in addition, its support for four of the County Executive’s proposals:

- ***Consolidated Community Funding Pool.*** General Fund support of \$9.42 million for the first year of a two-year funding cycle is an extremely wise investment, productively leveraging millions of non-county dollars to provide thousands of residents of the Fairfax community with essential human services. During FY 2011, more than 118,600 people in 61,300 households throughout Fairfax County benefited from Consolidated Community Funding Pool projects.
- ***Contractual Rate Adjustments for Human Services Programs.*** This \$3.4 million is identified to address contract rate increase requests and obligations among the many provider organizations that partner with the county in providing human services. Additional state revenue will partially offset these additional costs.

- **Additional School Age Child Care (SACC) Rooms.** The additional funding of \$0.5 million for three new SACC rooms will expand these important child-care resources to additional families. The SACC program has economic benefits that far outweigh the county’s outlays for the program. Moreover, SACC is a sound financial investment because, like affordable housing, it fosters self-sufficiency. Additional revenue from fees will partially offset the cost.
- **Human Services Contributories.** The proposed \$0.3 million increase for Human Services Contributories—most of which is designated for the Northern Virginia Healthcare Center/Birmingham Green Adult Care Residence, known collectively as Birmingham Green—will make a positive impact in the lives of the growing population of older adults and adults with disabilities.

Support of Critical Items NOT ADDRESSED in the Advertised Budget

The County Executive’s recommendations excluded several program activities that the Council thinks the Board of Supervisors should consider funding because their loss will have two important consequences. First, they will imperil parts of our overly stressed human services network. Second, they will be far less costly to fund now than remediating problems that will arise in the future. These programs are:

<u>LISTING OF RECOMMENDATIONS (NOT PRIORITIZED)</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Replenishing the Partners in Prevention Fund	\$400,000
Providing additional funding for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool	\$448,534
Eliminating implementation of a transportation fee and expanding the sliding scale within Therapeutic Recreation Summer Programs and Adult Social Club Program	\$35,000
Restoring funding for Access Fairfax	\$75,000
Restoring funding for two Computer Learning Centers	\$90,000
Restoring funding for the Dept. of Family Services’ Rent Relief program	\$275,000
Providing full-time support for the Domestic Violence Action Center	\$110,997
Restoring funding for seven School Health Aide (SHA) Substitutes	\$100,000
Restoring funding for one contracted Nurse Practitioner with the Community Health Care Network at the highest-volume center	\$130,000
Restoring funding and providing additional funding for the Adult Dental Program	\$100,000
Restoring funding for the Home Based Care program	\$300,000
Restoring funding for Prevention and Student Assistance Services	\$100,000
Expressing concern for the Infant and Toddler Connection Program	\$0
Providing funding for Residential Services for Young Adults with both Autism and Mental Illness	\$663,721
Total	\$2,828,252

- **Replenishing the Partners in Prevention Fund (PIPF) (\$400,000). Replenishing this fund—which provides “seed money” for strategic initiatives in areas such as Healthy People, Successful Youth and other programs for families and youth—is a wise return on investment that will pay dividends far into the future.**

Rationale: The Partners in Prevention Fund (PIPF) leverages human services agency funds to build capacity in the community. The PIPF provides funding for specific evidence-based programs that address a broad array of primary prevention needs. The fund targets specific outcomes at the individual, family, neighborhood, and community level. Programs funded by PIPF provide opportunities for non-governmental organizations to offer one of eleven evidence-based programs that support five key prevention system goals:

- Children are physically fit with good nutritional habits
- Children enter kindergarten fully ready to succeed
- Children and youth are safe from bullying and physical violence
- Children and youth are mentally well
- Families have skills and supports needed to raise healthy and thriving children

To date, more than 100 programs have been implemented in Fairfax County impacting more than 1,000 children and adults. Current programs include healthy weight and exercise programs for elementary age children; healthy eating programs for parents; kindergarten readiness and social and behavioral skills development programs for preschool children; dating violence education for teens; depression awareness and suicide prevention programming for teens; and parenting skills classes for both parents and adolescents. In FY 2011, PIPF money supported 46 community programs.

- **Providing additional funding for the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) (\$448,534). These funds recognize the need for critical services provided by CCFP vendors to the community, families, and individuals, particularly in the current economic climate.**

Rationale: FY 2013 is the first year of a new two-year funding cycle that uses a consolidated process to set priorities and award funds from the CCFP, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). County funds from this process have successfully leveraged additional community resources at a ratio of more than 1:5, increasing considerably the county’s ability to provide critical human services. Also, the additional funding will buffer the CCFP somewhat from expected reductions in federal CDBG and CSBG funding, help community-based organizations meet the demand for emergency services, and assist our multicultural and lower-income populations’ progress toward self-sufficiency.

- **Eliminating implementation of a transportation fee and expanding the sliding scale within Therapeutic Recreation Summer Programs and Adult Social Club Program (\$35,000).**

Rationale: Transportation is a core component of Therapeutic Recreation programs, as critical as the programs themselves. The proposal to implement a fee in FY 2013 specific to transportation would raise a difficult barrier to participation. Should the proposed revenue-generation initiative remain in the budget, the Council recommends that the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

staff work directly with the Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council to develop alternatives to transportation-specific fees. Options could include an adjustment to the top of the existing sliding fee scale and possibly adjusting fees across all Therapeutic Recreation programs rather than targeting the summer program and the adult social club programs. Although there may be similar "barrier to participation" concerns associated with these alternatives, these options would mitigate the impact of assigning a targeted fee.

- **Restoring funding for Access Fairfax (\$75,000).**

Rationale: Access to technology is vital to assisting human service clients in gaining opportunities to succeed in the increasingly technological educational and work environments. The proposed reduction would take the wrong way in those efforts. Restoring funding will eliminate additional barriers to accessing this keystone service.

- **Restoring funding for two Computer Learning Centers (\$90,000).**

Rationale: Computer Learning Centers provide high-tech resources for children and their families who otherwise would not have access to current technology. These programs, located in neighborhoods of great need, provide access to computers, Internet use, technology instruction, literacy activities, homework assistance, enrichment activities, field trips, community service projects, and healthy snacks in an after-school setting. The Council thinks that equitable access to technology in out-of-school hours is critical to the educational development of our youth.

- **Restoring funding for the Dept. of Family Services' Rent Relief Program (\$275,000). Restoring these funds is vital to the critical areas of Affordable Housing, Positive Living for Adults & Adults with Disabilities, and Economic Self-Sufficiency.**

Rationale: This program provides eligible older adults and adults with disabilities a one-time per year payment of up to \$575. In FY 2011 it helped 711 people. The program is unique in that the county's Department of Tax Administration determines eligibility, while the Department of Family Services (DFS) makes the direct cash payments. The Council recommends that the Board of Supervisors restore funding and direct the Deputy County Executive to determine if efficiencies can be created by transferring this program to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Coordinated Service Planning and aligning eligibility requirements for emergency assistance (rent assistance) programs among all programs. The Council heard testimony that the transfer and redesign of this program would enable these funds to be leveraged with existing county and community funds that already provide for emergency financial assistance (i.e., rental and utility assistance).

- **Providing full-time support for the Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) (\$110,997). This funding will support one full-time position to ensure full-time intake, crisis intervention, and advocacy services to victims of domestic violence and stalking.**

Rationale: The demand for information and support services for victims and families of domestic violence and stalking is overwhelming. Because of limited service capacity, Fairfax County's emergency shelter for those fleeing domestic and sexual violence, Artemis House, turned away more than 150 imperiled households in FY 2011. The DVAC is a comprehensive, co-located service center, staffed by county agencies and community non-profit partners, providing culturally responsive services. The Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services provides in-kind services to the DVAC through the county's Domestic Violence Coordinator as well as a Court Specialist/Systems-Based Advocate. While it was originally intended that the Domestic Violence Coordinator would manage DVAC, other

demands placed on this position make it difficult for only a portion (0.2 SYE) of an existing position to support the DVAC. For the successful operation of the DVAC, the project needs a day-to-day manager—a full-time Social Work Supervisor—to supervise the intake, crisis intervention, and advocacy services provided to victims of domestic violence and stalking. This position will also work closely with the Domestic Violence Coordinator to ensure fulfillment of grant goals and objectives.

- **Restoring funding for seven School Health Aide (SHA) Substitutes (\$100,000).**

Rationale: Restoring funding for seven (out of ten proposed to be eliminated) SHA exempt-status substitute positions will provide staff trained in both routine and emergency health issues who can attend to the primary health care needs of students. The alternative is to have this important care provided by inexperienced school staff, whose primary training is education, not health. Our students need experienced staff providing direct care for illnesses and injuries, administering medications, and overseeing health procedures.

- **Restoring funding for one contracted Nurse Practitioner with the Community Health Care Network at the highest-volume center (\$130,000).**

Rationale: Restoring funding for one contracted Nurse Practitioner will ensure provision of services to low-income, uninsured residents of the county through the Community Health Care Network. This will reduce the wait list for critical primary care and women's health care services. Each Nurse Practitioner provides approximately 3,825 patient visits annually.

- **Restoring funding and providing additional funding for the Adult Dental Program (\$100,000). These funds will increase support for the Adult Dental Program because of the importance of dental health to overall physical health and the ability to obtain or maintain employment.**

Rationale: Restoring \$50,000 and providing an additional \$50,000 for the Adult Dental Program will mean that 1,000 adults with low incomes will receive needed basic dental care services. Dental health is very important to overall physical health. Lack of dental services often leads to more significant illnesses and higher health care costs in the long run. Another consequence relates to employment: in addition to missed work time, poor appearance due to lack of dental care makes finding work, especially in service industries, much more difficult.

The Adult Dental Program is cost effective, and closely allied with the strategic results areas of Healthy People and Economic Self-Sufficiency. All county funding for the Adult Dental Program goes directly to treatment costs. Providers discount their fees by an average of 52 percent before direct financial assistance is applied to remaining treatment costs, so the county funds are leveraged at a ratio of better than 1:4. Last fiscal year, the program assisted 625 clients.

- **Restoring funding for the Home Based Care Program (\$300,000). Restoring this funding will ensure assistance with daily living activities—bathing, light housekeeping, and the like—for eligible adults so they can remain in their own homes and retain their independence.**

Rationale: Home Based Care services are purchased by the county through a contract with a home-care agency and from a small number of approved private individuals. Services are provided in a cluster model, incorporating case management and purchased home care, and for those in need, volunteer services and home-delivered meals. The gross income of an eligible individual must be less than

70 percent of the Virginia Median Income, which is currently \$31,140. Most eligible local clients have incomes of less than \$22,236, which is 50 percent of the Virginia Median Income for one person.

The Council is greatly concerned by the cumulative effect of cuts in this program, starting in FY 2010 (\$1.2 million) and FY 2011 (\$496,000) and the related reductions in service. Clients who require more intensive services are referred to Medicaid-funded services. However, many clients are not eligible for Medicaid and the number of Home Based Care clients is increasing. The Department of Family Services will be required to implement a wait list for services, a situation the Council deems unacceptable.

▪ **Restoring funding for Prevention and Student Assistance Services (\$100,000).**

Rationale: Restoring this funding will retain one full-time position and will continue Student Assistance Program (SAP) services to 81 youth at three of 15 high schools that currently offer this program. SAP is a year-round, school-based alcohol and drug screening, assessment, and early intervention program serving high school youth. By funding this program, the CSB will maintain the ability to intervene early with youth, helping divert them from more costly and intensive services in the future. The Human Services Council considers this cost-effective program to be wholly consistent with the results-based approach that is being used this year, especially with regard to “Healthy People” and “Successful Youth.” The Council again stresses that prevention is considerably less costly than remediation.

▪ **Expressing Concern for the Infant and Toddler Connection Program (funding to be determined)**

Rationale: Services for infants and toddlers with developmental delays have grown by over 38 percent in the last two years. In FY 2009, the program had 926 admissions. In FY 2011, there were 1,336 admissions, a total already surpassed in FY 2012 (1,371 admissions) with four months left in the year. While fee revenue collections for those services have also grown, they were not sufficient to cover the additional service costs. The CSB is currently in the process of implementing service and cost containment measures that might result in a waiting list. While the funding of this program is a state responsibility, the Council is concerned that delaying immediate therapy now will lead to some severe developmental delays. Therefore, the Council recommends that the CSB monitor the needs and waiting list of the program’s existing funds closely and implement the cost containment procedures they have proposed to ensure critical therapy services are available to prevent further developmental delays. Further, if the waiting list becomes a barrier to timely access of services for those children in most need, the Council recommends that the Board of Supervisors consider providing additional funding for this program during FY 2013, perhaps at the Third Quarter Review.

▪ **Providing funding for Residential Services for Young Adults with both Autism and Mental Illness (\$663,721).**

Rationale: Fairfax County has a growing population of young adults with significant needs for community support who, upon leaving the school system services at age 22, are not receiving the specialized services needed to develop their ability to live independently in the community. Of particular concern are those with both autism spectrum disorder and mental illness whose service needs are unique. There are at least six people needing this service this year. The total expenditure cost of this service is \$663,721. The CSB expects Medicaid will cover about 35 percent of the cost (\$234,495) so the net cost to the county would be \$429,226.

Additional Items of Importance for the Board's Consideration

The Council calls the Board's attention to several very important continuing and developing situations that could become significant financial issues. Because these issues could unravel with great rapidity, the Council wants to assure the Board that it is prepared to work with the Board to develop financially sound and equitable responses.

<u>SUMMARY OF CONCERNS</u>
Increasing Stress Upon the Human Services Safety Net: Trends indicate an increasing insecurity within the segments of our community least able to protect themselves. It is financially prudent that the county addresses these matters now; in the long run, prevention is considerably less costly than remediation.
Reduction of Federal and State Funding for Human Services: Federal support for programs such as Medicaid and the Community Development Block Grant, and the Commonwealth of Virginia's reluctance to provide adequate funding for human services programs worries the Council.
Growing Importance of Job-Skill Training: Recent published information indicates that a greater focus on job-skill training might well alleviate dependency on county departments for other human services needs.
Need for Continuing the County's Commitment to Invest in Housing: The Council recommends that the county continue its commitment to the <i>Housing Blueprint</i> , which represents real housing needs and is an important part of the county's annual commitment to strategically invest in our community.
Support for the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board

- ◆ **Increasing Stress Upon the Human Services Safety Net:** The Council highlights for the Board's attention recent trends that underline the increasing insecurity within the segments of our community least able to protect themselves. It is financially wise to address these matters as soon as possible because, in the long run, prevention is considerably less costly than remediation.
 - **Domestic Violence:** There is one Domestic Violence bed for every 31,000 people in the county—the worst rate in Virginia. In FY 2011, 158 households fleeing domestic violence were turned away from the domestic violence shelter because there was no space available.
 - **Growing Senior Population:** Currently, one in five households in the county has a member 65 years old and over. There are an estimated 103,000 older adults living in Fairfax County, a number projected to grow to 158,000 by 2030.
 - **Community Health Care Network:** As of March 2012, 5,826 persons were on a wait list for primary health care, acute and chronic care, and women's health care. The number of primary care visits provided in FY 2011 increased 8.9 percent to 56,018, from 51,447 visits in FY 2010.
 - **Self-Sufficiency:** In FY 2008, the average monthly caseload of public assistance clients (e.g., food stamps, TANF, and Medicaid) was approximately 52,000 clients per month. In FY 2011, it was nearly 77,000—a 48 percent increase in three years. Rapidly growing fuel and medical cost disproportionately affect the economies of lower-income populations.
 - **Child Care:** More than 3,100 children are on a waiting list for child care subsidies. The median income of families receiving subsidized child care is just over \$24,000. The annual cost of private full-time child care can range from \$8,000 to \$13,000 per year.
 - **Homelessness in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community:** In January 2011, there were 1,549 people who were homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Of them, 666 were single individuals and 883 were people in families.

- ◆ **Reduction of Federal and State Funding for Human Services:** The Council cautions that distress signals at all levels of government reinforce the need to keep a wary eye on the horizon. The Council recognizes that it will be very difficult for the county to replicate services threatened by federal and state funding reductions. Fairfax County needs to balance carefully what it can do for our most-at-risk populations against our own resources so that we maintain a thriving, viable community.

In particular, the future of federal and state funding streams that help support some of the county's programs for low-income individuals may be at risk. Federal support for programs such as Medicaid and the Community Development Block Grant, coupled with the Commonwealth of Virginia's reluctance to provide adequate funding for human services programs, worries the Council. The substantial uncertainty created by sizable external financial threats will place a premium on the county's adaptability and flexibility.

The human services system effectively leverages about \$1 in non-county funds for every \$1 supported by the County's General Fund. However, about 75 cents of those leveraged non-county funds come from federal and state sources. Our human services system is inextricably linked to federal and state mandates, making our system very vulnerable to major shifts in state and federal funding programs.

- ◆ **Growing Importance of Job-Skill Training:** Major U.S newspapers, including the *Washington Post*, report that the current rate of unemployment, locally as well as nationally, is not due to the lack of jobs but rather to the lack of workers with necessary skills. The Internet carries corroborating articles about the dearth of qualified applicants in fields as varied as information technology, dentistry, construction, plumbing and electrical contracting.

At present, Fairfax County provides only limited skill training for people who have come to the attention of county agencies and are already in crisis. The at-risk population—the unemployed subsisting on savings, returned veterans, teens who are not college-bound, legal immigrants and new citizens—have narrow access to affordable job training. Information about existing programs does not reach them and there are remaining questions of the capability of existing programs to cope with a large influx of new applicants. This population slides toward crisis. A greater focus on job-skill training might well alleviate dependency on county agencies for other human service needs.

- ◆ **Need for Continuing the County's Commitment to Invest in Housing:** Housing is a fundamental component of self-sufficient households. The Council strongly agrees that stabilizing families and neighborhoods is vital to the health of our community, directly affecting many human services programs and needs. With the Council's endorsement, the Board of Supervisors adopted a *Housing Blueprint* to provide rental assistance, facilitate housing acquisition, reduce waiting lists for housing, and provide housing for persons who are homeless, disabled, or have other special needs.

The Council applauds the Board of Supervisors for its ongoing leadership and support for the *Housing Blueprint*. Since the first *Housing Blueprint* was adopted in FY 2011, Fairfax County has made progress in addressing the four broad goals of creating 2,650 housing opportunities to end homelessness in ten years, creating housing opportunities for people with special needs, reducing housing wait lists by half, and creating new workforce housing units over the next 15 years.

Although the Council is not providing specific recommendations for funding at this time, our dialogue with the community highlighted that additional funds are needed for housing and to support the provision of services to “Blueprint” households. The Council understands that a companion effort is underway to map a “Services Blueprint” and identify funds that are needed. We support that effort, and hope that the collaborative approach that set the annual goals for the Blueprint will be matched with equally intensive measures to secure the necessary resources. The Human Services Council reiterates its commitment to working with the Board to identify and respond to unmet needs.

- ◆ **Support for the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB):** The Council appreciates the efforts that all human service agencies have made over the past several years as the entire system has faced budget reductions while experiencing significant increases in service needs. Like all human service agencies, the CSB has worked to maintain a “safety net” of services despite the reduction of funding.

Over the past four years, the CSB has experienced over \$15 million in local and state funding reductions. While they were hoping to manage the reductions without significantly affecting service levels through enhanced business efficiencies and ambitious fee revenue goals, the rapid growth in service needs and considerable revenue shortfalls have caused a substantial budget deficit for the remainder of this year. It is our understanding that in all likelihood they will need to make serious adjustments in their services and structures in FY 2013 in order to reduce expenditures and re-establish a balanced budget.

While the Council does not have any oversight of the CSB budget or the prioritization of their services, the Council is concerned about the impact of the CSB’s fiscal situation primarily because we are unsure how the budget deficit will impact services to consumers and families and to the network of services provided across the human services system. It is our understanding that the CSB leadership and Board will present a review of their service challenges and budget impacts to the Board of Supervisors. While the Council supports maintaining the CSB’s essential core services, we believe that the human services system is not in a position to absorb the shortfall that the CSB is experiencing. It is important to ensure that attempts to maintain CSB services do not have unintended consequences across the system, impacting access to and coordination of services, or diminishing prevention programs and services that help to maintain lower service level needs for many CSB services. Nevertheless, the Council remains committed to assisting the Board of Supervisors as needed and are very much appreciative of the support given to ensure our most vulnerable residents have the services needed to maintain a standard quality of life.

Commitment to the Viability of the County's Human Services System

The funding that Fairfax County devotes to human services are prudent investments. Every dollar spent on proven, effective, and well-managed human services programs has a positive impact. They sustain a quality of life that our Fairfax County families, individuals, and communities want and deserve. And, the county's investment in prevention-oriented initiatives and strategies results in a high return on investment, avoiding greater cost in the future and in other unacceptable results such as serious and costly health problems, juvenile delinquency, and homelessness.

The Council would like to recognize the exceptional work done by our current County Executive, Mr. Anthony Griffin, in balancing human services needs with other county services and resources. We truly appreciated both his understanding of the ramifications of his decisions and his finely tuned sense of priorities. We always found our dialogues refreshingly frank. As you seek his successor, the Council thinks his work and approach should stand as models by which you can judge the qualifications of whomever you choose as his replacement.

The Council trusts that the recommendations and issues outlined above in this letter will aid the Board of Supervisors in its deliberations on the FY 2013 Advertised Budget Plan.

The Council looks forward to meeting with you at the Board of Supervisors' Budget Committee meeting on March 27.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

cc: Human Services Council
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
Patricia D. Harrison, Deputy County Executive
Susan W. Datta, Chief Financial Officer
Human Services Directors