

Response to Questions on the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan

Request By: Chairman Connolly

Question: What would be the costs associated with a more comprehensive approach to address the hypothermia issue?

Response: During the early winter of FY 2005, three deaths attributable to hypothermia occurred in Fairfax County. As a result, the Department of Systems Management for Human Services (DSMHS) convened a taskforce comprised of DSMHS, Department of Family Services, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), Community Interfaith Liaison, Health Department, Police Department, Fire and Rescue Department, Office of Public Affairs, the Lamb Center, FACETS, the Salvation Army and Rising Hope Ministries to craft a more comprehensive strategy for the prevention of deaths from hypothermia in the County. As a result of the work of the taskforce, County staff are currently organizing volunteer assistance from faith communities and nonprofit organizations, providing emergency supplies such as blankets, and also providing limited clinical support to faith communities volunteering their assistance. No coordinated County transportation is provided.

In order to implement a more comprehensive approach to address the hypothermia issue, the Hypothermia Taskforce requests a total of \$51,540 in FY 2006, comprised of \$21,240 for contracted services (establishing a shelter schedule of faith communities; providing consultation, training and support to volunteers; coordinating transportation; and linking homeless persons with community services), \$15,300 to rent and operate a 15-passenger van from the DVS motor pool; \$10,000 for program operating costs (blankets, bus tokens, sleeping bags, mats and other overnight supplies), and \$5,000 for CSB staff overtime costs. The funding would support a hypothermia program from October 17th to April 14th, with shelters available from December 1st to March 31st. Details for implementation of the hypothermia program are currently being finalized by the taskforce.