

Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

Request By: Supervisor Herrity

Question: How many county employees currently telework one day each work week? What is the current target or goal in terms of number or percentage of employees teleworking? What are the reasons the county is meeting or failing to meet the teleworking goal?

Response: In 2003, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments set a regional goal of 20% of the area's eligible workforce teleworking by 2005. Fairfax County was the only jurisdiction to reach the goal and did so in January 2006 by registering 1,000 county teleworkers. We continue to add teleworkers on a monthly basis with a current total of almost 1,400 employees registered. This number does not include almost double the number of employees who are set-up to work from remote sites, particularly in times of emergencies, but whose jobs do not lend themselves to teleworking (public safety and emergency management employees, for example).

Over the past two years, the county has broadened its telework focus within our organization by emphasizing three strategies:

- 1) Continue to increase the number of employees who register to telework. Due to improvements implemented last year, employees can now sign up on-line, with their supervisor's approval, to telework. As part of this process, the teleworker is asked to commit to teleworking an average of one-day a week
- 2) Continue to equip certain employees with remote access technologies as the foundation of the County's Continuity of Operations Plan
- 3) Continue to introduce wireless devices that facilitate work to be performed "in the field" without requiring the employee to be at their work site

At the April 6, 2010 Board Meeting, staff was asked to provide information regarding the county's telework program at a future Personnel Committee meeting and will elaborate, at that time.