

## Response to Questions on the FY 2013 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Question:** Summarize the types and levels of services individuals are receiving in the Home Based Care program.

**Response:** Home Based Care (HBC) services are provided to eligible older adults and adults with disabilities who reside in their own homes. The purpose of HBC is to help older adults and adults with disabilities live in their community. All individuals receiving HBC services are assessed by a Social Worker with a screening tool that looks at physical and cognitive functioning, as well as available supports and resources. HBC service recipients must have a gross income under the 70 percentile of Virginia median income (\$2,595 per month). They can be living with someone else, but cannot be residing in a group home or licensed facility. There must also be no family members available in the home to provide the HBC services received. For example, if there is a family member in the home, housekeeping would not be provided. Referrals for HBC services come from family members and from medical providers.

In FY 2011, the “typical” HBC service recipient received two housekeeping services per month, four loads of laundry per month, and two baths per week. The total annual cost for the “typical” individual’s HBC services is approximately \$3,000 per year. Services are paid for by the task, and several services are actually provided and purchased as a package. The tasks are strictly defined, and the County only pays for those tasks assessed as necessary by the Social Worker. For most individuals, a bath is a package that can include assistance with dressing; hair washing; hair combing; shaving (for men); toileting; medication reminder; light meal preparation; making the bed; and trash removal. Light housekeeping is a package that includes dusting, vacuuming, tidying rooms, wiping kitchen appliances, washing dishes, emptying trash, damp mopping floors, changing bed linens, and making the bed. For some individuals, services are purchased as separate items – for example, only a bath and a light meal. A service in addition to those noted previously is housekeeping for incontinence, and individuals who are incontinent may also receive additional laundry services.

The home based care program has been offered for over 30 years. Over the years, the program has changed drastically from offering up to 30 hours per week of an aide in a service recipient’s home to the present task-based program. For persons who are eligible, Medicare will fund some of these services, but it is very time limited. Social workers also coordinate to ensure no overlap of County HBC services with Medicare services. Many HBC referrals are actually received when Medicare funded services are no longer available. In addition, social workers also screen for functional eligibility for Medicaid funded personal care services. For lower income individuals who are not eligible for either Medicare or Medicaid funded in-home services, there are currently no community alternatives to the County’s HBC program. Volunteers do not provide assistance with these types of services, and the individuals receiving HBC services from the County cannot afford to pay for them privately.