

## **Response to Questions on the FY 2016 Budget**

**Request By:** Supervisor Foust

**Question:** If the Healthy Families Fairfax Program is eliminated, does the County offer these or similar services in other programs that these individuals can access? If so, please detail those services and programs.

**Response:** The Healthy Families Fairfax (HFF) program is a collaborative partnership between the Department of Family Services, the Health Department and three nonprofit organizations. HFF is an accredited, home-visiting program offering families at-risk of maltreating their child an opportunity to learn parenting skills and receive emotional support and case management services. Services are voluntary and begin during pregnancy or right after the birth of a baby and last until the child reaches age three and is enrolled in an early group education experience.

There are no other programs that are comparable to HFF. There are a limited number of other County and community early childhood home visiting programs available; however, these programs do not provide a good alternative to the HFF services. Whereas HFF supports families with any number of children of any age and income who reside throughout the County, other early childhood home visiting programs only serve first-time mothers or teens, are income-restricted, or are only available in designated zip codes. Therefore, the ability of other programs to absorb and adequately serve those individuals who receive services through HFF is limited not only by their capacity and target population restrictions, but also by the types of services provided.

The HFF program is delivered by a team of human services professionals and nurses that provide the most holistic, comprehensive, intensive case management services of all the early childhood home visiting programs. While early childhood home visiting programs focus on the health outcomes of women and their babies as well as the development of children, HFF goes further by addressing the social, emotional, and environmental factors that impact parenting (e.g. child abuse and neglect, domestic violence and substance abuse) and the preparation of children for school readiness. The integration of these additional factors is unique to HFF and is part of an evidence-based curriculum used to serve the highest risk families. No other available programs provide the integrated range of services, staff, and support offered by HFF, which can also include referrals and access to resources such as child care, transportation and employment training. In FY 2014, 87 percent of all early childhood home visiting services in Fairfax County aimed at strengthening parenting skills and that serve all areas of the County were provided by HFF. See Attachment 1 for more detailed program descriptions of all available early childhood home visiting programs, including HFF, in Fairfax County.

Serving families through prevention programs like HFF is less expensive than if children have to enter the child welfare system. On average it costs the County \$78,658 per year to support a child in foster care. In contrast, it costs \$3,473 per year to serve an entire family in HFF, which aims to keep children out of foster care. It is not anticipated that any community organizations have the capacity to absorb the number of families that would be displaced by this program elimination.

*Early Childhood Home Visiting Services in Fairfax County*

Home Visiting Program	Agency	Area Served	Description of Services	Characteristics of Population Served	Number Served	Frequency of Home Visits	Home Visitor Staffing
Resource Mothers	Northern VA Urban League	County-Wide	Mentoring and other supportive services to at-risk pregnant and parenting teens. Focus is on improving the health of pregnant teens and their infants, helping them make the transition to parenthood.	At-risk pregnant and parenting teens	57	Variable. Visits occur throughout pregnancy and up until the baby's first birthday.	Community Health Workers
Early Head Start Home Visiting	Fairfax County Department of Family Services	County-Wide	Provides case management/Home Visiting to prenatal mothers enrolled in Early Head Start programs.	Low-income	14	Monthly	Registered nurses
Healthy Families Fairfax	Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Fairfax County Health Department, Cornerstones NVFS, UCM	County-Wide	Provides home visiting services for families at-risk of abusing and/or neglecting their children an opportunity to learn parenting skills and receive emotional support and case management services. Pre- and post-natal health care to ensure healthy births and continued healthy growth and development during a child's critical early years.	First time mothers; prenatal until age 3 and in a preschool setting (focus on school readiness)	613 families	Biweekly through 2nd trimester, then weekly until baby is 6 months old. As child gets older, visits then become monthly.	Family Support Workers, Nurses, Social Workers
Naomi Project Partnership	Our Daily Bread	Varies depending on mentor availability	One on one mentoring. Support healthy pregnancies, foster good parenting skills/support clients to plan a productive future for their child/children.	High risk pregnant/newly parenting women. Referral source: Health Department & INOVA	21	Variable. Ages 0 - 2	Volunteer mentors
Nurse Family Partnership	Fairfax County Health Department	Specific zip codes: MV 22306, 22309, Baileys 22041, 22042, 22043, 22044 Lincolnia 22003	Nurse home visitation program. Aims to improve pregnancy outcomes, foster healthy infant and toddler growth and development and help families work towards self-sufficiency.	Low-income first time mothers through child's 2nd birthday. Must enroll by 28 weeks gestation.	98	Weekly or bi-weekly depending on the pregnancy status.	Public Health Nurses

*Total Number of Families Served in Fairfax County Early Childhood Home Visiting Services in FY 2014: 803*