

Department of Neighborhood and Community Services

LOB #162:

REGIONAL OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Purpose

Regional Operations and Community Development provides strategic direction and support in the development and implementation of programs and services that meet the diverse needs and interests of youth, families, older adults and persons with special needs throughout the County, particularly those at-risk and focused in communities perceived to be culturally marginalized and/or economically or geographically disadvantaged. Regional Operations and Community Development provides for the management and oversight of neighborhood, community, teen, senior, and technology centers as well as the extensive network of County and community partners that deliver programs and services using prevention and community-building focused strategies and approaches.

Description

Regional Operations and Community Development operates in the Regional Services and Center Operations division. The work of Regional Operations and Community Development focuses on maintaining and enhancing the livability of Fairfax County communities. Emphasizing community engagement and leadership development, community-based programming, and coordination among service providers, activities in this LOB draws upon the resources and assets available in neighborhoods, and through the broader network of stakeholders including County, school and community (non-profits, business, faith, etc.) The programs and services delivered through this strategy, as well as the relationships created, leads to the development of a comprehensive community network, coordinated to enable the human services system and its partners to respond to the needs of communities and involve the community in solutions to their needs and challenges.

Regional Operations and Community Development has four core functions. The first is the operation of service and resource centers to provide a focal point for service delivery including, outcome-focused youth and adult life skill development programs, after-school programs, and computer access and training for all ages. Centers are organized into four regions, defined by geographic boundaries. This encourages resource sharing and coordinated planning and service delivery.

The second function is the development of partnerships with neighborhoods, community organizations, faith-based organizations and other County agencies to provide community-sponsored and community-led activities that build on local strengths and meet the specific needs of unique communities. These partnerships allow everyone to work together to respond to the needs of the community and share the responsibility for achieving positive outcomes for Fairfax County residents and communities.

The third function is to conduct community assessments, monitor trends and address service gaps through planning and collaborative action at the neighborhood and regional level. This work helps to identify underserved populations and communities and their trends, assets, and challenges. Additionally, the demographic characteristics of neighborhoods within each region are analyzed which assists in the development of programming to enhance existing offerings and address gaps in services. A wide range of outreach efforts are used to reach under-served populations and inform communities of NCS about County programs and services.

Finally, Regional Operations and Community Development serves as a “convener of communities” to expand resources, nurture community initiative, and stimulate change via community leadership forums, neighborhood colleges, and community planning dialogues. These community engagement activities are designed to build community leadership and foster resident involvement in the process of addressing challenges and opportunities present in communities. Regional Operations and Community Development facilitates forums for gathering information on trends and the needs, concerns and ideas of residents regarding services and programming.

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Benefits

Reaching difficult populations: The work of Regional Services and Community Development reduces the duplication of programs and services, identifies gaps, and promotes mutual support within the community. By facilitating access to difficult to reach populations and communities, system partners and County providers are able to achieve desired outcomes for individuals and families.

Relationship building: Through the brokering of relationships between individuals/residents, organizations/institutions, and neighborhood/communities resources including time, experience/expertise, in-kind, money, information, etc. are able to be mobilized and utilized.

Expanding leadership base: Finally, expanding the leadership base and strengthening skills within community organizations and County agencies allows for more coordinated efforts and success in serving the communities.

Mandates

This Line of Business is not mandated.

Trends and Challenges

Language and cultural diversity: Fairfax County's growth in language and cultural diversity will require stronger communication strategies to insure services are known and accessible. The Census Bureau estimates that 373,215 persons (or 34 percent) of the area's total population speak a language other than English at home (2007 – 2012 ACS PUMS). In 2012, Fairfax County Public Schools reported 49 percent or nearly half of its 96,482 enrolled elementary students spoke one of 170 other language than English. Since 2000, the County's Asian and Pacific Islander population has increased from 13.1 percent to 18.5 percent and the Hispanic population has grown from 11.0 percent to 16.2 percent.

Aging population: As the population ages and diversifies, civic involvement has been declining thus necessitating the need for more targeted approaches to engage new populations and in ways that conform to current barriers to participation.

Poverty: From 2008 to 2013, the proportion of the County population living below the poverty level increased from 4.8 percent to 5.8 percent (from 47,832 to 64,851 residents). Poverty among children (under 18 years of age) increased by 27 percent from 2008 to 2013. This is roughly 4,200 more children in poverty (15,467 versus 19,704 children respectively).

Resource recognition: The recognition of the limits of local government that it cannot do it all requires effective collaboration and partnerships among different stakeholders across sectors. The place-shaping role of local government, with its locality-based responsibilities, is a driver of community engagement as residents participate in the improvement, planning and transformation of their environment.

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Resources

Category	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Adopted
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FUNDING			
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation	\$2,070,263	\$1,998,562	\$1,971,425
Operating Expenses	922,940	1,031,800	961,530
Capital Equipment	64,972	30,752	0
Total Expenditures	\$3,058,175	\$3,061,114	\$2,932,955
General Fund Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Cost/(Savings) to General Fund	\$3,058,175	\$3,061,114	\$2,932,955
POSITIONS			
<i>Authorized Positions/Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)</i>			
<u>Positions:</u>			
Regular	31 / 31	31 / 31	30 / 30
Total Positions	31 / 31	31 / 31	30 / 30

Metrics

Metric Indicator	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Actual	FY 2015 Actual	FY 2016 Estimate	FY 2017 Estimate
Percent of individuals reporting that services provided by regional managers and community developers has increased or improved their organization's opportunities for collaboration.	NA	NA	82.8%	83.0%	83.0%
Percent of individuals reporting that services provided by regional managers and community developers has increased or improved their organization's capacity to link to resources.	NA	NA	83.6%	85.0%	85.0%

Civic engagement opportunities and facilitated community convening enhances the ability of the community to significantly serve itself.

Results are relatively strong overall for regional staff providing services that increase or improve opportunities for collaboration as well as capacity to link to resources.