

Public Assistance and Employment Services (PAES)

Update to the Advisory Social Services Board (ASSB)
November 16, 2022



FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
FAMILY SERVICES



SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- For the month of June 2022, 51,699 individuals facing food insecurity received over \$12.8 million in SNAP benefits.
- The number of individuals receiving help with meeting their food needs increased by 17% from a year earlier.
- Boosts made to the SNAP program due to the COVID-19 pandemic remained in effect to include the issuance of SNAP emergency allotments which increased benefits to the maximum amount for each household with a minimum increase per household of \$95.

Medicaid

- **Participation in the Medicaid program rose throughout FY 2022, in large part, due to the continuous coverage requirement of the Families First Coronavirus Act (FFCRA) enacted during the public health emergency.**
- **FFCRA prohibited cancellation of any individual's health coverage except for a few specific reasons. This has helped thousands maintain coverage during the disruption of the pandemic, protecting them from interruptions in coverage and access to care.**
- **Medicaid was the primary source of health coverage for 185,954 low-income and disabled individuals during FY 2022.**

Planning Efforts

- **Awaiting federal notification for the resumption of Medicaid Renewals**
- **Communication, training, and implementation plans are in progress to address the resumption of the suspended Medicaid Renewals**
- **The current projection is that Fairfax will have over 50,000 renewals to process within a 12-month time period**

WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL)

- **A partnership with DFS and Dept. of Economic Initiatives**
- **Connect overlooked talent with career opportunities**
- **Address unemployment and under employment**
- **Pathway for economic mobility**
- **Help employers open talent pools, retain and diversify talent**
- **Provide support for wages for a work-based learning period**
- **Two-year pilot project**

Work Readiness for Disconnected Youth

A 2021 report estimated that Fairfax County has 9,200 opportunity youth aged 16-24, including data on many sub-groups that may need different approaches and partners.

Engage educators, business, government, and nonprofits, and involve youth and young adults to align their resources and initiatives to

Create an education-to-career system that better connects Fairfax's youth ages 16-24 who are not in school or working (Opportunity Youth) to in-demand careers.

Workforce Innovation and Skills Hub (WISH)

Designed to address economic challenges in the Historic Richmond Highway Community

Expanding upon the existing Community Center operated by Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)

DFS supports the contractor, Melwood, during the initial 24-month period to:

- Provide programming and resources to jumpstart workforce development
- Upskill the local community
- Expose youth populations to technology and other high-growth emerging sectors
- Secure outside investment from public and private sources
- Create partnerships with higher education, employers, community-based organizations, and labor unions that provide youth and adults apprenticeship and gainful employment opportunities.

Questions