



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) Planning Survey

Overview

The information collected in this survey will be used to inform the CAAB's planning work on August 3 and moving forward. The survey will help to ensure every CAAB member has an opportunity to shape the vision that will guide the CAAB's future actions. It is important that each CAAB member complete this survey before July 28. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jeannie Chaffin at chaffin.jeannie@gmail.com

The designated Community Action entity in Fairfax County is Fairfax County government. The Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) advises the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

As a public Community Action entity, Fairfax County has many opportunities to maximize its Community Action resources and activities with its broader work to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity for Fairfax County residents. Fairfax County government has several county-based efforts underway to understand the needs of residents and develop plans to improve the health and well-being of community members. The CAAB's vision and future plans should be driven by the purpose and goals of Community Action as set out in the [Community Services Block Grant \(CSBG\) Act](#) and align and advance the vision and plans of Fairfax County government.



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CAAB Vision for Fairfax County

A Vision should describe a picture of a better place. In this case we are looking to understand what the CAAB's shared vision for Fairfax County will be. It is important to have a shared vision so everyone on the advisory board is pointed in the same direction.

The shared vision will articulate where the CAAB is going—not why you are there, not how you will get there, not what you will do. The shared vision sets the stage for later efforts to establish goals and measures, so the CAAB is accountable to achieving impact for people and communities with low incomes.

Fairfax County government is in the final stages of laying out [Shaping the Future Together](#), a strategic plan that includes a community-based vision for the next 10 to 20 years. County officials hope this strategic plan will help community decision-makers and residents understand where we're going together, how we're going there, and what will be achieved.

The [Chairman's Taskforce on Equity and Opportunity](#) and the [Economic Recovery Framework](#) are county-wide initiatives seeking to understand inequity and economic opportunity and intersect with the purpose of Community Action. A [crosswalk of Community Action Purpose and Fairfax County Related County-Wide Initiatives](#) has been developed. Please review this crosswalk before you complete this survey.



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1. Shaping the Future Together, the countywide strategic plan, includes nine priority areas. Each priority area includes a statement that is an aspirational future state for Fairfax County. The nine vision statements are listed below. Considering the purpose and goals of Community Action, which of the statements do you feel best reflects the picture of Fairfax County the CAAB should be working to achieve? Please choose your top three and indicate whether they are your first, second, or third priority. (Leave the rest blank.)

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

Economic Opportunity:

Fairfax County is a place where all people, businesses and places are thriving.

Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability:

Fairfax County is a place where all people facing vulnerability are empowered and supported to live independent lives to their fullest potential.

Health and

Environment: Fairfax County is a place where all people can attain their highest level of health and well-being within a healthy and sustainable environment.

Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

Housing and Neighborhood

Livability: Fairfax County is a place where all people live in communities that foster safe, enjoyable, and affordable living experiences.



Lifelong Education and Learning

Fairfax County is a place where all residents at every stage of life are taking advantage of inclusive, responsive, and accessible learning opportunities that enable them to grow, prosper and thrive.



Mobility and Transportation

Fairfax County is a place where all residents, businesses, visitors, and goods can move efficiently, affordably, and safely throughout the county and beyond via our well-designed and maintained network of roads, sidewalks, trails, and transit options.



Safety and Security:

Fairfax County is a place where all people feel safe at home, school, work and in the community.



Cultural and Recreational Opportunities

Fairfax County is a place where all residents, business and visitors are aware of and able to participate in quality arts, sports, recreation, and culturally enriching activities.



Priority 1

Priority 2

Priority 3

Effective and Efficient

Government: Fairfax County is a place where all people trust that their government responsibly manages resources, provides exceptional services, and equitably represents them.





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2. Looking at the top three statements you selected, what language or concepts do you feel strongly connect with the purpose of Community Action and are compelling and motivating to you?

3. Is there anything not included in the statements you selected you feel strongly should be part of the CAAB's shared vision for Fairfax County?

4. Is there anything else about shared vision (picture of a better place for Fairfax County) you want to share?



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CAAB Mission

CAAB's mission is to empower residents to achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential. To achieve this mission, the CAAB employs advocacy, provides education, and offers funding for effective community-based programs.

While vision is a picture of where you are going, a future state, mission identifies what you are doing today and for whom you are doing it. The current CAAB mission indicates that the CAAB uses advocacy, provides education, and offers funding for effective community-based programs. Please answer the following questions about the CAAB's mission:

5. Do you believe the broad strategies of using advocacy, providing education, and offering funding are the best strategies the CAAB can pursue to achieve the shared vision you prioritized in the vision section?

- Yes
 No

If not, please explain.

6. Is there a community problem or challenge you believe the CAAB should be addressing that does not fall under one or more of the current broad strategies of using advocacy, providing education, and offering funding?

- Yes
 No

If yes, please describe.

7. Regarding whom the CAAB is serving, the current CAAB mission statement indicates the focus is to empower residents to achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential. Does this statement accurately and respectfully identify who Community Action/the CAAB is supposed to benefit?

Yes

No

If no, please explain.

8. Is there any additional feedback on the mission you would like to share?



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CAAB Strategies

The next section of the survey includes questions about strategies to help discern what problems these strategies are addressing and what opportunities exist to improve impact for low-income residents and communities.

The current mission identifies the following three strategies:

- 1. Advocacy**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Funding for effective community-based programs**



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CAAB Strategy 1: Advocacy

Note: The current activities used to implement this strategy include establishing legislative priorities, providing budget testimony, and CAAB members communicating with individual members of the Board of Supervisors.

9. Related to the broad strategy of advocacy, what specific problems or challenges do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented?

10. Related to the broad strategy of advocacy, what specific opportunities do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented via the CCFP?



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CAAB Strategy 2: Education

Note: The current activities used to implement this strategy include conducting the Community Action Poverty Simulation and releasing the State of the Poor report.

11. Related to the broad strategy of education, what specific problems or challenges do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented?

12. Related to the broad strategy of education, what specific opportunities do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented?



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CAAB Strategy 3: Offering Funding for Effective Community-based Programs

Note: The current activity used to implement this strategy entails making Community Services Block Grant funding available through the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP). The CAAB works with the Consolidated Community Funding Advisory Committee and staff to execute this strategy.

13. Related to the broad strategy of offering funding for effective community-based programs, what specific problems or challenges do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented via the CCFP?

14. Related to the broad strategy of offering funding for effective community-based programs, what specific opportunities do you see in how this strategy is currently implemented via the CCFP?



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General

During our first planning meeting the following themes emerged:

- **Expanding the CAAB's listening and learning efforts with residents living with low-incomes and serving as a convener and bridge to diverse communities.**
- **Increasing the CAAB's influence on the establishment of anti-poverty priorities and solutions and promoting what is needed and what works.**
- **Increasing integration and collaboration efforts with other entities in and outside government.**
- **Increasing accountability to achieve greater impact.**

15. Do you have any additional feedback on these themes (or other issues) important to the CAAB's purpose you have not had an opportunity to share on this survey?



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Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions or concerns please email chaffin.jeannie@gmail.com.