

The Future of Community Action in Fairfax County

**Community Action Advisory Board Meeting
December 7, 2021**

History of Community Action in Fairfax County

1965

Community Action Arrives in Fairfax County as 2 CBOs

- Saunders B. Moon Community Action Association
- Fairfax Community Action Program (FCAP)

1974

Fairfax County government designated itself as the Community Action Program to receive Community Services and Head Start funding.

1980

Fairfax County Community Action Agency became the Department of Community Action Agency and was placed under the newly created Deputy County Executive for Human Services

1989

Fairfax County transfers Head Start to the Office of Children.

1996

The Department of Community Action was dissolved, and the Community Action Program integrated into the Fairfax County Department of Family Services.

1997

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established the Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP), including CSBG, CDBG and General Fund dollars.

2010

NCS is created by the consolidation of the Department of Systems Management for Human Services and the Department of Community and Recreation Services

CAAB Role Has Changed Over Time

1960s-1970's

- **The Community Action Board was an administrative board overseeing the operation of a nonprofit organization**

1980's to Mid 1990's

- **Community Action became a County Department and operated programs as well as provided grant funding. CAAB became an advisory board but still selected programs to be funded.**

Mid 1990's to present

- **CAAB has a representative on CCFAC which determines Funding Pool Priorities and allocates CSBG dollars to SAC-selected CCFP awardees.**

New CAAB Mission, Vision and Strategic Priorities

Vision

Fairfax County is an inclusive, just, and equitable community where everyone has:

- **a safe and affordable place to live,**
- **healthy food on the table,**
- **a job they love, and**
- **the resources and opportunities to thrive.**

Mission

Our mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of people experiencing poverty by influencing decision makers, providing funding, and taking actions to address the root causes and conditions of poverty and injustice.

CAAB Key Strategies

- 1. Influence decision makers and take actions that address the root causes and conditions of poverty and injustice.**
- 2. Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to create equitable opportunities for people to thrive.**

NOTE: There is no recommendation to change how CSBG Funds are allocated. They will continue to be part of the Funding Pool.

Where is the Best Home For CAAB?

DFS Mission: DFS strengthens the well-being of our diverse community by protecting and improving the lives of all children, adults, and families through assistance, partnership, advocacy, outreach, and quality services.

CAAB Strategy #2 Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to create equitable opportunities for people to thrive.

NCS Mission: Our mission is to bring people and resources together to strengthen the well-being of individuals and communities.

NCS Community Impact Unit Mission:

We develop, strengthen, engage and nurture nonprofit organizations and faith communities to build a stronger community for Fairfax County residents. Our collective approach uses equity strategies and community engagement best practices to ensure we listen to our community and include their voice in all our work.

Comparison of DFS and NCS Programs

DFS

- **Public Assistance**
- **Employment Services**
- **Child Welfare**
- **Adult and Aging Services**
- **Domestic & Sexual Violence Services**
- **Children's Services Act (Mental Health Services for youth)**

NCS

- **Coordinated Services Planning (222 number)**
- **Community Centers/Teen Center/Senior Centers**
- **Community Capacity Building/Interfaith Coordination**
- **Transportation (Fastran)**
- **Child Care (OFC)**
- **Human Services Regional Offices**

Benefits of CSBG & CAAB being relocated to NCS

- **CSBG Dollars would be awarded directly to NCS**
 - Currently funds go to DFS and then into the Funding Pool. Requiring two agency's finance staff to manage the funds.
 - DPMM Contracts staff would continue to support monitoring of funded providers.
- **CAAB and CCFAC would be staffed by the same agency**
 - The CAAB's aim to be more closely integrated into the Funding Pool process will be aided if the CAAB is staffed by NCS
- **The CAAB would integrate into NCS Community Development efforts**
 - The Community Impact Unit and the Community Provider Strategy Team are in NCS and work to strengthen community-based organizations.

How A Transition to NCS Would Work

- **Funding for CAAB would be transferred to NCS via a budget action beginning on July 1, 2022.**
- **An Announcement will be posted soon for a new Community Action Manager Position. DFS, CAAB, NCS will serve on selection panel. Once hired, this position would relocate to NCS on 7/1/22.**
- **DFS Staff (John) would continue to provide support to the CAAB and the Community Action Manager until the transition is complete (1 yr.) ensuring institutional knowledge is not lost.**
- **If the CAAB supports this plan through a vote on the recommendations from Strategic Planning subcommittee, NCS staff could begin supporting the transition early in 2022.**

Partners Contacted

VDSS

- **State Community Action staff are aware this move is being discussed and have confirmed Fairfax County has the authority to move CSBG management between departments as long as the department has an anti-poverty framework.**

DMB

- **DMB is aware that this change is pending and that it would take place on July 1, 2022**

NCS

- **NCS Director Lloyd Tucker is aware the CAAB is considering this recommendation and is interested in seeing CSBG and CAAB become part of NCS.**

Next Steps

- **If necessary, DFS staff addresses any additional CAAB question/concerns**
- **CAAB votes on whether to Approve the Strategic Planning Committee Recommendations.**
- **BOS will have to approve the transfer of funding to NCS as part of the budget process.**