Nationally, households in the United States spent an average of $8,755 on transportation in 2016, making transportation one of the largest household expenditure categories. In Fairfax County, transportation costs remain approximately $11,459 per year for a family with two working adults and two children.1

Lower income residents in Fairfax County are much less likely to own a car than higher income residents and have a higher frequency of public transit use.2

Outcome Statement: To have access to local services, including community-based transportation and childcare, and the ability to establish and maintain communal and social relationships.

The median income for a family receiving a locally-funded childcare subsidy is approximately $29,064 per year. The cost of living and the cost of childcare are high in Fairfax County, making it difficult for families to find affordable, quality childcare. In FY2018, the cost of childcare for a preschool age child in a center ranges from $13,674 — $18,576 annually.5

Among those aged 65 and older, one in five do not drive, either for health or economic reasons. In a recent survey of older adults, 72% responded that getting transportation to medical appointments was the highest need they had.3

Over 80% of young adults with disabilities surveyed, nationally, stated they are often prevented from doing the activities they would like to do because of lack of transportation or the inability to drive.4

The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) defines childcare as affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. In Virginia, it is estimated that infant care for one child would take up approximately 18% of a median family's income. By DHHS definition, only 11.1% of Virginia families would be able to afford infant care. Similarly, families in Fairfax County struggle to afford quality childcare. With a median household income of $115,786 in Fairfax County in 2018, a family would pay between $17,500 to over $23,000 per year for one infant in a childcare center.6

Sources:
1. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, January 2018
2. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018
3. New National Poll: Inability to Drive, Lack of Transportation Options are Major Concerns for Older Adults, People with Disabilities and Caregivers. December 2018
4. New National Poll: Inability to Drive, Lack of Transportation Options are Major Concerns for Older Adults, People with Disabilities and Caregivers. December 2018
5. Fairfax County Office for Children Data, 2019
6. Fairfax County Human Services Needs Assessment, 2019
7. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018
8. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018
9. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018
10. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018
In 2018, 80.5% of households with income less than $20,000 had broadband internet subscription. This proportion increases to 90.5% for households with income between $20,000 and $74,999, and 98.4% for households with income $75,000 or more.\(^9\)

Persons that speak English less than very well could feel isolated due to the inability to easily communicate. In Fairfax County, 60.8% of the population speaks only English based on 2018 estimates. Of the 2018 Fairfax County population 5 years of age and over, 39.2% speak a language other than English at home, and 13.6% speak English less than very well.\(^10\)

In 2018, 92.6% (or more than 367,000) of Fairfax County households had smartphones, desktop, or laptop computers, while 77.5% of households had tablets or other portable wireless computers.\(^7\)

In 2018, 95.5% of all county households had a computing device with broadband internet subscription.\(^8\)

Support/Community/Social Networks