



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board

Memorandum

To: CAAB Members
From: Michelle Jefferson, Chairman
Date: December 27, 2022
Subject: CAAB Meeting – January 3, 2023

The next CAAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:30 PM VIA ZOOM

Heritage Mall Community Space

A 1,800-square-foot space located in the Heritage Shopping plaza will house the Boys & Girls Club of Annandale. Partners and community members will also be able to use the space – those uses are yet to be determined. During the January meeting, the Senior Regional Director of Operations of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Nadia Pederson, will join the CAAB to talk about the programs and services that will be offered to the Annandale community by the Boys and Girls Club.

CAAB Member Sharing

As a reminder, Member Sharing was established for CAAB members to report the “word on the street” - issues that affect the low-income community about which the CAAB should be aware; ten (10) minutes are allocated to this agenda item.

Membership and Election Committee Report

The Membership and Elections Committee will announce the slate of candidates for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and the Membership and Elections Committee for the CAAB Elections in February. An update on the actions taken to fill vacancies will also be given.

CAAB Legislative Platform

The Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly will hold a public hearing regarding the upcoming 2023 session on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9 a.m. This meeting packet includes the County’s Legislative Program and Human Services Issue Paper from which the CAAB could select positions to support.

Follow up to FY23 Q1 CSBG Report

Responses to the Q1 CSBG program report questions raised at the December meeting will be provided.

Attachments:

January 2023 Meeting Agenda
December 2022 Meeting Minutes
Fairfax County 2023 Legislative Program
Fairfax County Recommended Strategies and Principles for the 118th Congress
Fairfax County 2023 Human Services Issue Paper (DRAFT)



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board
January 3, 2023 Meeting
7:30 PM
Via ZOOM

AGENDA

TIME	ISSUE	INFO/ACTION	PRESENTER
7:30 PM	Call to Order		Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Approval of Minutes	Action	Michelle Jefferson, Chair
	Annandale Resource Center: Boys and Girls Program	Info	Nadia Pederson
	Member Sharing	Info	CAAB Members
	Membership & Elections Committee Report	Info	Shari Zamarra, Chair
	Fairfax County Delegation Public Hearing	Action	CAAB Members
	CSBG FY 23 1 st Qtr. Report Follow Up	Info	CAAB Staff
9:30 PM	Adjourn		

The next CAAB meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.



Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB)
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 7:30pm
Meeting held electronically due to the COVID-19 pandemic
By ZOOM video/audio platform

The virtual meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Michelle Jefferson, who proceeded with doing the member roll call.

Members in attendance with locations: Nermin AbdelWahab, Fairfax, VA; Matthew Bell, Alexandria, VA; April Hall, Reston, VA; Hawa Hassan, Fairfax, VA; Kevin Hickerson, Centreville, VA; Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz, Oak Hill, VA; Morgan Jameson, Fairfax, VA; Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax, VA; Maria Isabel Leiva Alfonso, Falls Church, VA; Ann Macpherson, Fairfax, VA; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church, VA; Marcia McDevitt, Reston, VA; Ken McMillon, Falls Church, VA; Michele Menapace, Fairfax, VA; Alex Rodriguez, Herndon, VA; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station, VA; Heather Thomas, Centreville, VA; Alice Yam, Herndon, VA; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax, VA; Benjamin Zuhl, Falls Church, VA

Members in attendance who joined after roll call: Alicia Doe

Absent: Jim Edwards-Hewitt; Mary Ann Floto; Caroline Hockenberry; Hari Kurup; Isaac Orea-Montero; Whitney Richardson

Guest(s): Shayna Bronson

The motion that all members present were able to be heard was made by Michelle Jefferson, seconded by Phil Rosenthal, and passed with no objections. The motion to allow CAAB business be done via an electronic meeting due to the COVID-19 emergency was made by Michele Jefferson, seconded by Phil Rosenthal, and was carried without objection.

Minutes – October 4, 2022

The motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Alex Rodriguez, seconded by Phil Rosenthal and was carried without objection.

CAAB Member Information Sharing

- Chair Michelle Jefferson mentioned that the County will be piloting a universal basic income project. More information will be shared with CAAB members once it is available. She also encouraged CAAB members to complete and share the survey put out by the Consolidated Community Funding Pool, which will help in identifying targeted community needs. Members stressed the importance of providing feedback and ensuring that the survey is disseminated to people who have direct experience in dealing with service gaps. The survey link was shared with CAAB members via email ([Community Feedback Survey on Funding Categories for the CCFP FY 25-26 Cycle \(surveymonkey.com\)](#)). The survey closes on Tuesday, January 3, 2023.
- Michael Mahrer shared that the Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is now called the English Empowerment Center.
- Michele “Cookie” Hymer Blitz indicated that there may be a rent stabilization bill introduced in the 2023 General Assembly session. She will provide more information to CAAB members as it becomes available.
- Patricia Arriaza shared that the Fairfax County Delegation will hold a public hearing on Saturday, January 7th. CAAB members will have an opportunity to provide testimony in support of the issues laid out in the Board of Supervisors Legislative Agenda and the Human Services Council Issue paper. More information will be shared via email and a discussion will be had at the January CAAB meeting.

Fairfax County 2022 Needs Assessment

Patricia shared information from the County’s 2022 Needs Assessment Storymap. The County’s Needs Assessment is comprised of three parts – economics, health, and transportation. While the results of the full assessment are not yet available, the County decided to publish the Economic Factors report, which can help stakeholders address emerging community needs.

Highlights from the Needs Assessment 2022 include:

- Steep inflationary increases on the costs of goods and services (i.e., food, healthcare and housing)
- Costs for transportation, food, health care, housing and tuition/child care all saw steep increases between 2021 and 2022
- Lower income households are spending more, particularly in the areas of health care and housing
- Food insecurity affects some areas of the county more than others (specific census tracts with greater need are identified)
- Lack of English language proficiency limits workforce competitiveness in working age residents

There was a concern that the literacy data did not accurately reflect the number of people served by programs funded by the Consolidated Community Funding Pool. CAAB staff will follow up with the Department of Budget and Management. Inviting someone from the Department of Budget and Management data analytics unit who can speak with the CAAB about the needs assessment process and respond to specific questions about the results will be planned for a future CAAB meeting.

The Economic Factors report can be accessed on the County website at [Needs Assessment 2022 \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com).

Membership and Elections

The CAAB elections for officers will be held in February – the current officers will be put forth to continue for a new term. The Head Start representative is still pending; because of time commitments, the Head Start slot may be filled by two people. The Black Chamber of Commerce has indicated that they will be nominating someone. Current membership continues to be 27 - there are 2 regional representatives to fill (one of them is the Head Start slot) and the remaining slot is in the private provider sector.

CAAB Strategic Planning

Ms. Jefferson emphasized the importance of keeping the vision and mission of the CAAB front and center. The new vision and mission were developed in 2020, with the CAAB working to ensure that the new language was accessible for community members and populations served. As a result of its strategic planning efforts, the CAAB recommended that it be moved from the Department of Family Services to the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Ms. Jefferson shared that Neighborhood and Community Services is going through a realignment and making changes. The CAAB executive committee will meet with NCS leadership to discuss how the realignment aligns with the work of the CAAB. More information will be shared in the February CAAB meeting.

1st Quarter FY23 CSBG Program Progress Reports

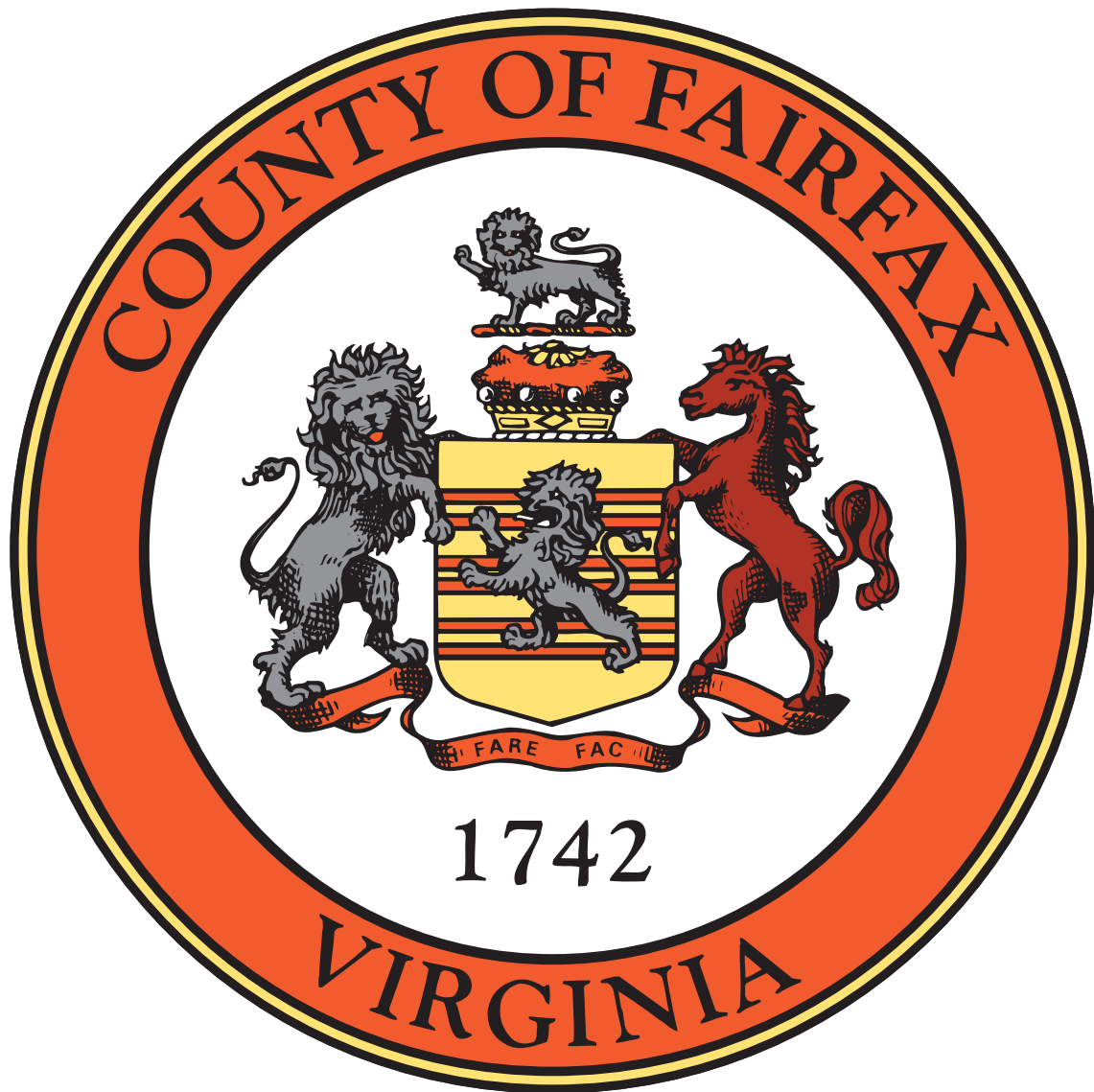
Patricia Arriaza walked CAAB members through the 1st quarter FY23 quarter CSBG program outcomes and narrative reports. Staff from the Department of Procurement and Materials Management (DPMM) - Vanessa Calderon and Vincenza Githens - were also present to answer questions from CAAB members. Based on the review of the reports, the following items will be followed up on by contracts staff:

- Several programs indicated they are experiencing challenges in recruitment and staffing – programs will be asked to provide more detail into the challenges they are experiencing.
- Artemis Hore reported no clients met the performance outcome in this quarter.
- Kids and Parents Engage indicated they were not able to expand their program because they were unable to meet the Fairfax County Public Schools background check requirements. Contracts staff will follow up to understand how the FCPS background check requirements differ from the background checks that the program does for its employees.

Responses to the above questions will be presented to the CAAB at the January meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 pm.



FAIRFAX COUNTY 2023 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

**ADOPTED
DECEMBER 6, 2022**

2023 Fairfax County Legislative Program

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Introduction

“Protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities.”

Fairfax County’s Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2021, and includes Ten Community Outcome Areas, which ensure a focus on the priorities of our community, including:

- Cultural and Recreational Opportunities
- Economic Opportunity
- Effective and Efficient Government
- Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability
- Environment
- Health
- Housing and Neighborhood Livability
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Mobility and Transportation
- Safety and Security

To address the racial and social inequities that remain in our community, Fairfax County has embraced a vision of One Fairfax: a declaration that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed, regardless of their race, color, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, disability, income or where they live. As the Countywide Strategic Plan is implemented, we will focus on transforming islands of disadvantage – areas where residents face economic, educational, health, housing, and other challenges – into communities of opportunity.

Because Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, local governments are restricted in their authority and may only engage in those activities that are explicitly sanctioned by the General Assembly (GA). Fairfax County’s Legislative Program is key to ensuring that the County has the authority and funding needed to implement the vision outlined in our Strategic Plan.

The Legislative Program is organized into four sections: Overarching Priorities, Initiatives/Budget Priorities, Position Statements, and Fact Sheets.

Overarching Priorities outline the key perennial challenges in the relationship between the Commonwealth and the County: persistent underfunding of core services and lack of local authority. These perennial challenges affect every aspect of governance in Fairfax County.

Initiatives/Budget Priorities include specific and targeted legislative and budget priorities that the County intends to focus on in the upcoming session. On these items, County legislative staff will work closely and proactively with the GA delegation in advance of the session.

Position Statements include the County’s current positions on key issues that are likely to be before the GA in the upcoming session. They reflect input from County agencies, Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, and members of the community.

Fact Sheets are produced as needed to provide the GA with up-to-date information on key issues before the GA.

In addition to the Legislative Program, the Board of Supervisors meets weekly during the GA session to review specific legislation and consider positions on legislation with an impact on the County.

Overarching Priorities

Funding Core Services

1) K-12 Funding – Joint Position with the Fairfax County School Board

Public education funding in the Commonwealth is enshrined in the Virginia Constitution as a joint responsibility of both state and local governments, so it is essential that the state fully and appropriately meet its Constitutional responsibility to adequately fund K-12 education. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth continues to allow the gap between state funding and the actual costs of providing a high-quality education, particularly in high cost-of-living jurisdictions like Fairfax County, to expand.

The Boards support:

- Continued efforts to address state funding formula imbalances and inadequacies, including addressing required local match provisions, particularly in high cost-of-living jurisdictions.
- Eliminating the support positions ratio cap, which has artificially lowered the state’s funding contributions for critical educational support positions by hundreds of millions of dollars annually since its adoption in 2009.
- Fully restoring funding for a Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) for support personnel, a factor used in the state K-12 funding formula recognizing the competitive salaries required in high cost-of-living regions to attract and retain high-quality personnel.
- Increasing state funding support for school divisions with high numbers or concentrations of English learners (approximately 30 percent higher costs than general education), students living in economically disadvantaged households (approximately 10 percent higher costs than general education), and students receiving special education and mental health services (approximately 100 percent higher costs than general education).
- Addressing education funding shortfalls, including those due to reduced student population counts (or Average Daily Membership), resulting from the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Standards of Quality (SOQ) that reflect the true local costs of providing a high-quality public education, and that provide adequate and appropriate state funding to implement the Standards, including in high-cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. The current SOQs dramatically underestimate the actual costs of public education, as evidenced by the fact that localities spent approximately \$4 billion above state requirements in FY 2021.
- Rejecting the use of weighted averages and other estimators designed to reduce the state’s share of public education costs when calculating average teacher salaries and other education costs.
- Recognizing cost-of-living variations throughout the Commonwealth in state funding formulas, in order to more accurately determine a locality’s true ability to pay.
- Increasing state resources for early childhood education programs, which help young children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

The Boards oppose:

- Budget cuts that disproportionately target or affect Northern Virginia.
- Policies which divert K-12 education funding away from local public schools and toward non-public options.
- Structural cuts or formula/policy changes which impose unfunded mandates on localities, further weakening the partnership between the state and localities. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Position on full funding for K-12 costs and restoration of Cost of Competing Adjustment funding shared by region. *)*

**The region generally consists of the localities comprising Planning District 8 – the Counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas, and Manassas Park.*

2) Regional Transportation Funding

The Commonwealth must fully restore the \$102 million of funding to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) that was diverted to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in 2018, to ensure that transportation projects continue to advance in Northern Virginia after decades of state underfunding. Approximately \$63.5 million has been restored thus far.

- Maintain regional and local transportation funding created by HB 2313 (2013), HB 1414/SB 890 (2020), and other legislation as originally intended. Major transportation improvements that provide benefits beyond Northern Virginia, such as WMATA state of good repair, projects related to possible relocations of federal facilities, and projects that create additional capacity across the Potomac River, should primarily be funded by the Commonwealth and the federal government.
- Oppose future diversions of existing Northern Virginia transportation revenues, which significantly disrupt regional transportation planning and long-standing regional priorities. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Regional position.)*

3) Transportation Funding

The Commonwealth should build upon the successful enactment of significant transportation revenues by the 2013 and 2020 GAs to ensure sufficient funding for transportation needs, which include new projects, state road maintenance (encompassing improved repaving, snow removal, mowing in the right-of-way, and stormwater management), and continued state assistance for local and regional transit systems (including the Fairfax Connector, the Virginia Railway Express, and WMATA). However, while those actions moved the Commonwealth in the right direction, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have changed transportation in unexpected ways and have led to additional transportation funding challenges that need to be addressed.

- Ensure that Northern Virginia continues to receive its fair share of statewide revenues, as required by HB 2313, particularly in light of the various programs and allocation processes created in recent years.
- Provide sufficient resources for secondary road maintenance.
- Fully replace the dedicated revenue to transportation lost due to the elimination of the state sales tax on food.
- Simplify the application and scoring processes for funding administered by the Commonwealth by making them simpler, more efficient, and more transparent, while addressing cost estimates that change dramatically during the state review process.
- Provide sufficient funding for programs that address multimodal mobility needs, including Revenue Sharing, which leverages state transportation funds by encouraging local governments to spend their own money on transportation projects, funding for the construction and maintenance of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and a reasonable vegetation maintenance schedule that does not rely on local funding to maintain safety, including clear zone and sight distance requirements.
- Provide funding assistance for the transportation needs of major activity centers to lay the groundwork for continued economic recovery – Fairfax County contains a number of major activity centers (such as Tysons, Springfield, Seven Corners, Centreville, Reston, and the Richmond Highway Corridor) that generate public benefit for the County and the Commonwealth, and must be sustainable, transit-oriented, and walkable communities to remain successful and accommodate predicted growth.
- Address the capacity needs at the Potomac River, including the American Legion Bridge and Rosslyn Tunnel, to alleviate the existing congestion and ensure the movement of people and goods throughout the region. The continued efforts in Virginia and Maryland to address American Legion Bridge capacity are a significant step forward.
- Support adequate state resources for localities to invest in electric vehicles (EVs) and related infrastructure.
- Ensure the Commonwealth works with the County and other localities in determining which programs and projects will benefit from federal funding created through the substantial infrastructure package passed in 2021. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Governance

A strong state and local partnership is essential to Virginia's success and to the ability of both levels of government to respond to the needs of their residents. As the form of government closest to the people, local government must have the flexibility to serve the needs of residents, which vary across the Commonwealth.

4) Local Authority

Existing local government authority must be preserved and expanded, particularly in such key areas as taxation, land use, and the protection of public health, safety, and welfare. Further, local authority should be enhanced to provide localities additional flexibility in the administration of local government. Finally, local government representatives should be included on all commissions or bodies established by the state for the purpose of changing or reviewing local revenue authority or governance.

Each level of government has unique strengths. However, because Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, local governments are significantly restricted in their authority, which impedes their ability to react quickly and efficiently to emerging problems. In many instances, an overemphasis on statewide uniformity does not adequately consider the particular issues experienced in growing and urbanizing localities in Northern Virginia, limiting the ability of local governments to respond to community standards and priorities.

Taxation

- The local tax structure, which has become outdated and over-reliant on property taxes, must be modernized so that revenues can be diversified.
- State and local taxes should be updated to reflect changes in the economy or technology.
- New state mandates, diminution of current local taxing authority, and restrictions on local revenues should be avoided, while current requirements should be fully funded.

Land Use

- Local land use authority must be preserved, and the GA must avoid one size fits all mandates that eliminate or reduce local flexibility.
- Communities should be empowered to act through their locally elected governments to ensure orderly and balanced growth and development, allowing direct public participation in this critical process.
- Further restrictions on, and additional procedural hurdles for, local use of eminent domain are unnecessary and increase the cost to local taxpayers. Fairfax County continues to be extremely judicious in its selective use of eminent domain.

Local Flexibility

- The state should provide localities with increased flexibility to explore initiatives that promote clean air, energy efficiency, conservation, new investment in green construction, tree preservation, reduced waste, recycling management, and other critical measures that could spur the development of innovative approaches that address the impact of global climate change on health and the environment and increase sustainability throughout the Commonwealth.
- The state should adopt the International Green Construction Code (IgCC), and adopt the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and energy provisions of the International Residential Code (IRC) without weakening amendments.
- Localities should be granted additional authority to increase their own minimum tree canopy, tree coverage percentages, and overall tree preservation during the zoning and development process, to assist in achieving environmental goals, increasing flood resiliency, and meeting water quality permit requirements.
- Localities should be granted additional authority to manage solid waste collection and onerous requirements should be removed from state law, in order to address community needs comprehensively and in a timely manner, ensuring good public sanitation, protecting the environment, and enhancing quality of life. Additionally, consumer protection laws should be strengthened to provide additional remedies to residents when ongoing issues are not resolved in this critical area.
- Localities should be granted additional authority to allow for increased opportunities for members of public bodies to participate in and attend public meetings remotely, while ensuring that public service is available to individuals with a wide array of backgrounds and maintaining the transparency required for the conduct of public business.

- The state should empower localities to solve their own problems, providing increased authority for services that have no compelling priority or impact for the Commonwealth, eliminating the need to seek permission for ministerial matters each year.
- Requiring that all bills with a local fiscal impact be filed by the first day of the GA session would allow localities the maximum time possible to highlight potential impacts as new legislation is considered.
(*Updates and reaffirms previous position.*)

Initiatives/Budget Priorities

Initiatives

Transportation – Illegal Signs in the Right-of-Way

Initiate legislation to allow Fairfax County to use contractors to remove illegal signs from the right-of-way, which in Virginia includes property along a roadway on either side and in the median. Unfortunately, illegal signs in the right-of-way have been an issue throughout the Commonwealth for many years, creating dangerous hazards as well as a negative effect on the appearance of highways. As a result, state law prohibits such signs and allows the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to remove signs in violation of state code. VDOT can and has entered into an agreement with Fairfax County for the purpose of removing and disposing of illegal signs from the VDOT rights-of-way and collecting allowable civil penalties and costs. However, the County can perform that function only with local law-enforcement agencies, other local governmental entities, or with its own staff or volunteers, not contractors, limiting the County’s flexibility to address this safety issue in the most efficient, cost-effective manner. This initiative will provide Fairfax County an additional tool for removing illegal signs, improving the safety and appearance of the County.

Transportation – Roadway and Pedestrian Safety

Initiate legislation to clarify that localities in Northern Virginia are authorized to post appropriate and clear signage requiring motorists to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks at unsignalized intersections. Further, initiate legislation to clarify that counties that do not maintain their own roads are authorized to reduce speed limits to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, on highways within their boundaries within business or residential districts, as is currently allowed for localities that maintain their own roads. Transportation safety is a critically important issue for all Virginians, and in the last few years the GA provided localities with additional, common-sense tools to help address these issues. Unfortunately, it seems the law needs to be clarified to ensure VDOT implements the new laws the way it was understood they would be when they were being considered by the GA.

- In 2020, the GA passed legislation that clarified the duties of vehicle drivers to stop when yielding to pedestrians, but following enactment of the legislation, VDOT stated that while this legislation updated state law to clarify that “yield” meant to “stop” for pedestrians, “Stop for Pedestrians” signage could not be utilized.
- In 2021, the GA passed legislation authorizing local governments to reduce speed limits to less than 25 miles per hour, but not less than 15 miles per hour, in business or residential districts. Following enactment of that legislation, VDOT stated that the legislation does not apply to streets in the state highway system, which essentially includes all roads within Fairfax County, as well as other counties that do not maintain their own roads.

The urgency surrounding this issue in Fairfax County has been highlighted in recent months, as a number of tragic accidents have heightened the community’s concerns about the need to implement measures to protect drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians throughout the area. If enacted, this initiative will provide localities with tools to further improve transportation safety.

Budget Priorities

The Commonwealth should rebalance its resources and responsibilities so that the funding partnership with localities is restored, ensuring the delivery of critically needed services in communities throughout Virginia. State established standards for locally delivered services must be accompanied by adequate state funding to successfully provide those services, and reciprocal accountability for successes and failures, ensuring both the state and localities accept responsibility commensurate with their respective roles.

Recently, state revenues have been described as being in “surplus.” However, until the state has fully met its funding commitment to core services, including shared state and local services, there cannot really be a state surplus, because all of the Commonwealth’s bills have not yet been paid. In addition to increasing funding for the County priorities of K-12 and transportation, the 2023 GA should:

- Fully eliminate the funding cap on K-12 support positions – the 2022 GA made some progress on this issue by removing approximately one-third of the state cap on funding for support positions implemented in FY 2010 (prior to FY 2023, the cap cost FCPS approximately \$36 million annually, and approximately \$10.2 million of those revenues will be restored). Though this is an important step, the state must fully eliminate the support position cap (*see also page 2*).
- Fully restore COCA funding for K-12 support positions in the 2022-2024 biennium budget (*see also page 2*). (*Regional position.*)
- Fully restore regional transportation revenues that were diverted to fund WMATA’s state of good repair and critical capital needs (*see also page 3*). (*Regional position.*)
- Fully restore HB 599 law enforcement funding – this funding, which is provided to localities with police departments, is crucial in meeting public safety needs. The distribution formula in the Code of Virginia has been superseded by the GA in recent years, and if state funding had consistently increased with state revenues, as is required, Fairfax County would have received approximately \$95.3 million in additional funding over the past 13 years.
- Provide sufficient funding for the salaries of court personnel, including clerks, Commonwealth’s Attorneys, public defenders, district court employees, and probation office employees – Fairfax County provides over \$98 million for additional personnel and salary supplements for state positions. State funding formulas often fail to account for the needs of large localities in particular (*see also pages 8-9*).
- Support state funding and actions (including enhancing and creating more state-funded housing tax credits and rental assistance programs) to increase the availability of affordable, accessible and integrated housing options, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia, and to mitigate evictions resulting from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic (*see also page 13*).
- Support full, uninterrupted funding for implementation of STEP-VA (System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia), the Commonwealth’s behavioral health transformation plan (*see also page 12*).
- Support increased state resources for early childhood education programs, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), to allow localities to expand these critical programs. Research has increasingly shown the importance of high-quality early childhood education programs to children’s cognitive and social-emotional development and their school success (*see also page 7*).
- Provide additional state funding to increase Medicaid waiver rates and slots for individuals with developmental disabilities, to provide appropriate community services and ensure the Commonwealth fulfills its responsibility to implement the federal settlement agreement (*see also pages 10-11*).
- Increase state funding for car tax relief – the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) of 1998 only provides a state subsidy for the taxes owed on the first \$20,000 of a personal vehicle’s assessed value, and the state has capped the amount of funding it provides at \$950 million statewide. When combined with Fairfax County’s increased car assessment base over the years, the funding County taxpayers receive in relief has declined from 70 percent in FY 2007 to 57.5 percent in FY 2021 to 49.5 percent in FY 2022.
- Provide state income tax incentives and rebates for businesses and residents to transition to more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles, like EVs (including new and used options), as well as flexibility to determine rebate eligibility in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia (*see also pages 7-8*). (*Updates and reaffirms previous position.*)

Position Statements

Early Education

Child Care

Support state child care funding for economically disadvantaged families not participating in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW), and support an increase in child care service rates. Also support maintaining Fairfax County’s local permitting process for family child care providers serving four or fewer non-resident children.

- Support a waiver from the Virginia Department of Education allowing Fairfax County to permanently increase program income eligibility above the current 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) for state subsidy, to help address some of the challenges families experience due to the high cost of living in Northern Virginia.
- Ensure updates to the state’s maximum reimbursement rates for child care subsidy vendors are made on a regular basis to reflect the cost of care and continue to assess the family copayment scale to support child care access and affordability. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities/Part C

Support increased and sustainable funding and infrastructure for Part C Early Intervention, which is a state/federal entitlement program that provides services for Virginia’s infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Also support increasing rates for early intervention services to reflect current costs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

School Readiness

Support increased state resources and operational flexibility for early childhood education programs, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), in order to eliminate barriers and allow localities to expand these critical programs.

- Continue to allow flexibility to provide VPI services in community early childhood programs, including centers and family child care homes, to address capacity challenges in public school settings (if Fairfax County were to use all available slots to serve four-year-old children in only public school classrooms, approximately 68 additional classrooms would be needed, creating a substantial capacity challenge).
- Provide flexibility for teacher credentials and licensure in community early childhood programs, allowing grant funding to be used equitably across all programs participating in VPI.
- Continue to have an additional verification window to confirm VPI eligibility for families enrolling after the initial fall verification date, which allows improved access to this important program. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Environment

Global Climate Change/Environmental Sustainability Initiatives

Support efforts to reduce the County’s greenhouse gas emissions and operational demand for energy through efficiency, conservation, renewable energy, education, and other measures.

- Advance legislation that expands opportunities for net metering programs, which allow eligible customers to offset their power consumption by selling self-generated renewable power back to the energy grid.
- Eliminate caps on Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), which can facilitate the adoption of renewable energy by reducing or eliminating the up-front costs of such projects, thus assisting in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other forms of pollution.
- Expand the availability of shared solar programs by increasing or eliminating program caps and establishing customer safeguards to ensure community members can take advantage of such programs, which provide residents and businesses the opportunity to participate in the renewable energy market by purchasing solar-generated electricity and receiving renewable energy credits associated with their subscription to a shared solar facility.

- Support legislation requiring electric utilities to first reduce demand for electricity through energy efficiency, thereby decreasing the need for new fossil-fueled generation resources.
- Support state income tax incentives, funding, and rebates for businesses or residents to defray the cost of new construction, building improvements, and the transition to more efficient or alternative fuel vehicles, including the purchase of new and used EVs, as well as flexibility in determining rebate eligibility in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia. Also support programs, like the mileage choice program, a voluntary program for drivers of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles that allows drivers to pay the highway use fee on a per-mile basis based on actual usage, that incentivize the use of EVs while also ensuring all drivers make fair contributions to support the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.
- Fund renewable energy grant programs and incentives to assist the development and growth of energy businesses and technologies, such as renewable distributed energy generation.
- Modernize state building codes by adopting the IgCC and the full provisions of the IECC and provide localities more flexibility to increase energy efficiency and improve resilience to climate change impacts by adopting stronger local standards and implementing energy efficiency and utilization disclosure/benchmarking.
- Incentivize and reduce barriers to the installation of EV charging infrastructure to expand EV infrastructure where practicable. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Land Conservation

Support the conservation of open space and environmentally sensitive areas, which protects vital ecological resources and the environment, enhances natural resilience, provides health and recreational opportunities, and improves quality of life.

- Support state incentives that promote donations to park authorities or associated foundations and the preservation of land for public use through the Virginia Land Preservation Tax Credit.
- Support actions to discourage the sale of invasive species.
- Increase funding for the development and rehabilitation of park infrastructure.
- Increase education about environmentally sensitive land, including Resource Protection Areas, to property owners or purchasers, which can help protect water quality, mitigate climate change, support greenhouse gas reduction, prevent erosion, reduce the urban heat island effect, and perform other important biological and ecological functions. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Funding

Children's Services Act (CSA)

Support continued state responsibility for funding mandated CSA services on a sum sufficient basis. Oppose changes to CSA that shift costs to local governments, disrupt the responsibilities and authorities assigned to the County by CSA, or alter current funding formulas and increase costs to Fairfax County (where the aggregate local match is currently approximately 46 percent). Also support the current structure, which requires that service decisions are made at the local level and are provided based on the needs of each child, ensuring that service expenditures are approved through local processes. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Courts

The Commonwealth should adequately fund Virginia's courts, to ensure a well-functioning judicial branch, as the overall underfunding of Virginia's court system continues to place additional burdens on localities and the judicial system.

- The state should provide sufficient funding for the salaries of court personnel, but for years the Commonwealth has ignored this obligation and failed to adequately fund court personnel in Fairfax County, instead relying on the County to ensure the efficient and appropriate administration of justice.

- Continue to make progress on reducing the deficits in the Supreme Court’s District Court Staffing Model – the County’s General District Court (GDC) no longer has a position deficit, and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court (JDRDC)’s deficit has been reduced to two positions, but additional County funding will be required to supplement the salaries for those additional positions in a high cost-of-living area like Northern Virginia.
- When reevaluating the need for judgeships and state funding for each court, the GA should consider the quantity of filed cases and qualitative factors, including interpreters, increases in population and commercial development, and cost of living.
- Adopt a new state funding formula for Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ offices, replacing the current, outdated approach focused on felony indictments and sentencing events in Circuit Court, which is antithetical to the goal of increasing diversion programs and utilizing specialty dockets (such as the ones used in Fairfax courts for mental health and veterans), that are aimed at keeping people out of the criminal justice system or keeping them from felony sentencing consequences.
- Begin to allocate additional resources to Commonwealth’s Attorneys’ offices prosecuting misdemeanor cases. Funding for these Constitutional officers is primarily a state responsibility, and localities should not be expected to supplement critical state functions (potentially creating situations where police officers are essentially prosecuting their own misdemeanor cases).
- Ensuring cooperation with localities before any new state mandates are considered is essential – for example, the passage of legislation in 2021 to streamline the process for expungements and record sealings of some criminal records, including those for certain low-level marijuana-related offenses, is a worthy policy goal that the County supports. However, the logistics and costs of doing such work in a timely manner will impose significant costs and workload issues on localities, including IT investments and manual redaction of paper files that could be alleviated through appropriate consultation throughout the legislative process. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position. See also the Behavioral Health position on page 12.) (Position on state underfunding of courts shared by the region.)*

Economic Development and Diversification

Fairfax County is a global technology hub with a thriving, inclusive business community of innovators and leaders in a wide range of sectors, and needs a strong partnership with the Commonwealth to adapt to a changing economic landscape, stimulate high-growth sectors, and support small businesses. Support for commercializing academic research, building upon private sector technological and research investments, supporting local entrepreneurs, and cultivating local talent and connections with employers will help the County continue to be a national leader in economic development.

- Explore opportunities for innovative technologies that enable business growth across all sectors, including blockchain technology, new electronic payment methods, electronic wallets, artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and others.
- Provide business infrastructure and funding for smart community technology, particularly mobility technology, sustainability, urban tech, and data analytics, as well as street access and design to support smart cities/communities.
- Fully fund the Commonwealth’s Development Opportunity Fund and resources for the Virginia Jobs Investment Program (VJIP)’s Small Business New Jobs and Workforce Retraining initiatives.
- Advance the GO Virginia program to ensure successful alignment between application and approval processes, evaluation criteria, and program goals. Particular emphasis should be on the specific evaluation criteria for Region 7 applications and consideration of unique criteria for regions to improve program processes, simplify the application process, and lead to more impactful program outcomes.
- Support retention of existing federal facilities within the County and encourage additional federal facilities and expansions – including leveraging opportunities to augment facilities at Fort Belvoir and at the General Services Administration (GSA) Springfield facility.
- Encourage regional and state collaboration on cross-regional initiatives, such as the recently created Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance.
- Provide early-stage firms with technical assistance and resources to scale, emphasizing business founders not traditionally receiving venture capital, including women, veterans, and people of color.

- Target state investments in broadband infrastructure, an increasingly critical utility, to ensure access to reliable, affordable, high-speed service. Even in areas well-served by broadband service, many residents have limited access due to cost.
- Support programs that connect non-traditional work candidates with work-based learning opportunities, while supporting employers engaging in innovative talent attraction and retention strategies.
- Support vibrant commercial districts and communities that provide amenities to attract workers, residents, and visitors through place-led economic development efforts.
- Support structures and policies to encourage and incentivize disadvantaged businesses to more fully participate in local procurement and business development opportunities, including by providing state-level leadership in disparity study data and analysis for local jurisdictions. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Jails

The Commonwealth should adequately compensate localities at a level commensurate with the state’s responsibility for local jail operations.

- Replace the current state model for funding jails with a model that reflects actual costs. The current formula uses a per diem rate of dollars per day – \$4 per day for local-responsible inmates and \$15 per day for state-responsible inmates – far less than the actual daily cost of housing an inmate of approximately \$386. A percentage model that adjusts for inflation would accurately reflect the state’s funding responsibilities.
- The state should also provide additional funding to support behavioral health care for inmates – in FY 2022, Fairfax County provided approximately \$1.7 million to support behavioral healthcare at the Adult Detention Center, while the state provided only approximately \$134,000. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Libraries

Support increased state aid to public libraries, which provide communities with critical services such as student homework support, research assistance, and public internet access. Also support reducing barriers to libraries acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs, as public libraries often pay prices substantially higher than what a consumer would pay for the same digital item (some publishing companies refuse outright to sell digital materials to libraries). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Medicaid Waivers

Support state funding and expansion for Virginia’s Medicaid waivers that provide critical home and community-based services for qualified individuals. Also support increased funding for developmental disability (DD) Medicaid waivers and slots, to provide appropriate community services and ensure the Commonwealth fulfills its responsibility to implement the federal settlement agreement.

Fairfax County supports the following adjustments in Medicaid waivers:

- An increased number of DD Medicaid waiver slots to meet, at a minimum, the Priority One waiting list, which averages over 3,000 annually in Virginia.
- Automatic rate increases, including an increase in the Northern Virginia rate differential.
- Improvements to the process for negotiating the approval and re-approval of customized rates for individuals with intensive behavioral and health needs who cannot be adequately served through the standard DD waiver rate structure.
- Expansion of home and community-based services by incorporating the Community First Choice (CFC) option into Virginia’s 2023 Medicaid state plan.
- Enforcement of Olmstead rights for people with disabilities and older adults to remain in the community following hospitalization for medical crises, including COVID-19 and related conditions.
- Ensuring a living wage for personal care attendants, consumer-directed personal assistants, respite care workers, and other caregiving roles that are funded through Medicaid waivers.
- Enhancement and preservation of the CCC Plus Waiver, and elimination of the weekly 56-hour cap on personal care services.

- Restoration of respite hours that were reduced from 720 to 480 per year in 2011. Respite care allows caregivers to better manage crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic (if unused, there is no cost to the state).
- Fully funded reimbursements for nursing and behavioral consultation, training, monitoring, and supports.
- Increased state funding to support a sustainable, well-trained workforce in residential, employment and day support settings, including higher reimbursement rates to hire and retain professional nurses.
- Expansion of Regional Education Assessment Crisis Services and Habilitation (REACH) in-home crisis supports, access to appropriate intensive residential support options, and community-based crisis services for individuals with disabilities. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Water Quality Funding

Support budget action providing adequate state appropriations to the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) in order to ensure full and timely payments under point source upgrade contracts with local governments. Also support increased funding to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF).

- Provide additional state assistance for urban stormwater needs to meet federal Chesapeake Bay requirements. In 2017, the Senate Finance Committee estimated these costs to be \$19.7 billion by 2025, particularly in light of the ambitious goals set forth in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan. Local governments throughout Virginia face mounting costs for water quality improvements for sewage treatment plants, urban stormwater, combined sewer overflows (CSOs), and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).
- As the state continues to assign increased local stream TMDLs and the County is required to complete additional water quality projects, the state must partner with localities to meet federal mandates to ensure the success of this effort. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Position on SLAF funding shared by the region.)*

General Laws

Elections

Support legislation to promote equitable and efficient participation in elections, such as continuing to facilitate voting by mail, providing for extended polling hours statewide, and expanding the use of drop boxes. Adequate state funding for election administration, voting equipment, and systems modernization and security is essential to this effort. Also support efforts to provide expanded flexibility during emergencies, allowing local election officials to prevent any potential disruptions to election administration.

- Legislation intended to enhance security regarding elections must be carefully analyzed to ensure that it strikes a balance between maintaining the integrity of elections while not discouraging the exercise of the franchise.
- Support increased state investments in voting equipment, systems modernization/security, and election administration, including training for local electoral board members, registrars, and elections officials.
- Local input in the design and procurement of the new state election system is critical to ensuring its success. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Paid Family and Medical Leave

Support paid family and medical leave for all employees in the Commonwealth, which improves the health of mothers, infants, children, and adults managing health conditions while improving business productivity by boosting morale and increasing retention of skilled workers. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Health and Wellness

Behavioral Health

Support substantially increased and ongoing funding, allocated based on localities' needs and population size, for public safety and mental health services that connect people who come into contact with the criminal justice system for non-violent offenses to treatment. Also support sufficient state funding for intensive community resources – such as Assertive Community Treatment and Discharge Assistance Planning – and intensive residential services, to alleviate the state hospital bed crisis and allow individuals to transition safely and expediently from psychiatric hospitals to community care. Oppose any state actions which disproportionately rely on local funding for service implementation.

- Provide full funding, commensurate with the size of the population served, and flexibility for the Commonwealth's System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA) Crisis Services and for Marcus Alert implementation. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth has not provided adequate funding to implement the newly mandated services.
- Ensure that any future mandates are fully funded by the state, include flexibility for implementation, and are coordinated with Community Services Boards (CSBs).
- Oppose the use of a local ability to pay factor in the distribution of CSB funds and funding for related behavioral health programs like Marcus Alert, which would penalize localities that make funding behavioral health programs with local dollars a priority.
- Increase the availability of community-based crisis services, community residential capacity for early intervention to prevent hospitalization, and local psychiatric beds for people with behavioral health issues.
- Explore all clinical and administrative opportunities to improve the psychiatric hospitalization process and/or minimize the use of hospital beds.
- Remove the barriers that exist in alternative transportation and alternative custody options for individuals in need of psychiatric hospitalization.
- Support additional state funding to ensure affordable and equitable access to the full range of behavioral health services for youth, from prevention through intensive and residential treatment, including programs that reduce risk factors leading to youth violence, gang participation, alcohol/drug use, and mental health issues.
- Enhance reintegration and discharge planning services for youth and adults at high risk of rapid re-hospitalization or re-offending.
- Increase funding for mental health services and substance use treatment for individuals incarcerated for offenses that make diversion programs unavailable to them.
- Remove barriers to the exchange of health information of individuals among law enforcement, the court system, CSBs, health care providers, and families and guardians.
- Provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid training to law enforcement personnel, dispatchers, fire and rescue, jail personnel, and health and human services staff to educate those interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities, substance use disorder, and mental illness.
- Provide adequate funding for forensic discharge planning and post-incarceration services to remove the barriers to community reentry.
- Provide additional service navigation assistance, including requiring health insurance companies to update their provider registries regularly, to connect young people and families to appropriate services.
- Address workforce shortages through a multi-pronged approach, including payment restructuring, streamlining licensure requirements for providers, and improving workforce development by formalizing relationships and creating a pipeline from high school and community college to undergraduate and graduate school. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position. See also the Courts position on pages 8-9.) (Position on STEP-VA and the state hospital bed crisis shared by the region.)*

Long-Term Care (LTC) Workforce Needs

Support legislation to improve the quality of LTC in Virginia’s skilled nursing facilities, in order to ensure better health outcomes and quality of care for medically frail individuals, including older adults and individuals with disabilities. Also support legislation that helps nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities to recruit and retain highly qualified, well-trained staff (which is currently difficult due to low wages, limited benefits, and stressful working conditions). (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Substance Use Disorder

Support increased capacity to address the Commonwealth’s ongoing substance use disorder epidemic through community-based treatment, including detoxification, medication-assisted, residential, and intensive outpatient programs, and innovative efforts to limit the supply of opioids, particularly fentanyl which is involved in most fatal overdoses in Fairfax County and the Commonwealth. Also support coordinated strategies to meet the growing need for substance use disorder services that target specific high-risk age groups, including youth. Innovative approaches to prevention, such as expanding county cigarette taxing authority to include e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction treatment, are necessary to address the vaping crisis that is affecting teens and young adults at an alarming rate. (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Housing

Affordable Housing

Support state funding and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible and integrated housing options and prevent homelessness, including expanded investments in tools and programs to address affordable housing needs, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia, and to mitigate evictions resulting from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also support retaining existing local land use authority, allowing localities to craft solutions that are appropriate for their communities, including innovative ideas and solutions that require the flexibility and agility to respond to changing conditions and circumstances as opportunities present themselves.

Affordable housing is the underpinning of all human services programs, improving physical and mental health, reducing stress, and improving nutrition, educational outcomes, and family stability. It also provides vital benefits to communities, from helping to attract and retain employees to reducing congestion, improving the environment, and stimulating economic growth.

- Support substantially increasing funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund to \$300 million over the biennium, as well as increasing the funding cap that each development can request. This is essential to create and preserve affordable housing and reduce homelessness in Northern Virginia, where housing affordability poses substantial challenges for the economic competitiveness of the region.
- Expand resources to ensure legal assistance and aid to tenants facing eviction, including outreach and prevention services for potential beneficiaries.
- Expand the pool of resources available for down payment assistance, as down payment costs are a major barrier to homeownership for low- and moderate-income earners.
- Enhance and create additional state-funded housing tax credits and rental assistance programs for individuals with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness, such as the Livable Homes Tax Credit, State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP), Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP), and previously provided Housing Choice Vouchers.
- Increase funding for permanent supportive housing units for individuals with severe mental illness, substance use disorder, and developmental disabilities.
- Consider changes to state law to protect residents of mobile home parks, including more assistance with relocations, expanded notification requirements for both tenants and localities, and longer timelines.

(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Human Services

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Support state funding for additional APS social workers. As the older adult population has increased in Virginia, so has the demand for APS services, but state funding has remained stagnant (in FY 2022, Fairfax County APS received over 3,200 reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Independence and Self-Sufficiency for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Support funding for programs that promote the independence, self-sufficiency, and community engagement of older adults and people with disabilities. Also support additional funding for home care workers and resources for family caregivers. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Support a continued increase in TANF reimbursement rates, as current Virginia TANF benefit levels remain at or below 32 percent of the FPL for all family household sizes. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Land Use

Proffers

Local authority to accept cash and in-kind proffers from developers must be preserved. Such proffers assist with providing necessary capital facilities and infrastructure to serve new development and maintain local community standards, in order to maintain and improve quality of life and spur economic development.

- Land use decisions must remain at the local level, allowing localities, developers, and communities to work together collaboratively to address issues related to new development.
- The GA must avoid further restrictions on local land use authority, and proposals for replacing proffer commitments with development impact fees must be at the option of each locality. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

The siting of telecommunications facilities is an important component of local land use authority. Support restoration of local land use authority to determine the appropriate location of wireless telecommunications facilities and balance the need for wireless service with the community's needs. Support restoration of independent local authority to set reasonable fees for wireless facility permits and to set fair compensation for access to rights-of-way, to the extent that those fees and compensation are permitted by federal law. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Public Safety

Accessibility

Support the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth by increasing accessibility to public places and activities, employment opportunities, housing, and transportation services, including transportation network companies, strengthening the protections offered by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

- Ensure continued access to affordable, accessible transit, as people with disabilities and older adults seek to return to work and other daily activities that were limited during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Increase the stock of fully accessible units available to renters and buyers at all socio-economic levels, in order to advance housing equity for people with disabilities and older adults.
- Provide additional affordable, accessible, integrated housing and transportation options, as well as support for Universal Design initiatives, to facilitate opportunities for people with disabilities to remain active, contributing members of their communities while retaining their independence and proximity to family and friends, and preventing unnecessary institutionalization based on disability. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Dangerous Weapons

Support legislation to address gun violence in Virginia through common sense gun safety measures that will help ensure a safe and resilient community, building on the landmark changes enacted in 2020.

- Ban assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and armor piercing ammunition.
- Provide authority for localities to ban the possession of pneumatic guns on school grounds, with an exemption for school-sponsored activities. Pneumatic guns use pump action or carbon dioxide gas cartridges to fire explosives, often resemble firearms, and can cause serious injury or death.
- Provide support for community violence intervention programs.
- Increase the age limit for buying certain weapons.
- Regulate ghost gun parts, ensuring that they cannot be sold without serial numbers and a background check.
- Strengthen local authority to allow counties, cities, and towns to enact their own gun safety policies. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Support additional state funding and efforts to increase the capacity for localities to implement culturally specific prevention and intervention services to eliminate domestic and sexual violence, including continued support for evidence-based, quality programs that provide education and rehabilitation for those who cause harm to help end the cycle of violence and provide victims more choice in addressing safety concerns and housing needs. Also support legislation to strengthen protective orders (POs), such as: requiring family abuse PO respondents to immediately surrender firearms directly to law enforcement; expanding the prohibition on knowingly possessing a firearm to include non-family abuse PO respondents; and, providing judges with greater discretion to extend and/or increase the time period of POs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Safety-Sensitive Positions

Support closing gaps in the sharing of information about the arrest and/or conviction of people in safety-sensitive positions (including school employees and childcare workers) between jurisdictions within the Commonwealth and across state lines. Also support acceleration of Virginia's implementation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Record of Arrest and Prosecution Back (Rap Back) service, which provides ongoing, real-time updates on arrests, convictions, or other relevant information about employees in safety-sensitive positions to help safeguard vulnerable populations and the community. Rap Back is currently expected to go live in July 2025 and should be accompanied by sufficient state funding to ensure localities and school divisions have full access to this essential service. *(New position.)*

Taxation

Local Property Tax Exemptions

Support legislation providing localities with local-option, flexible authority for enacting and implementing property tax exemptions. Also support ensuring that any expansion of property tax exemptions is a local option, as property taxes are one of Virginia localities' few significant sources of revenue, and property tax exemptions can create significant impacts on local resources, which are used to fund core services like K-12 education, public safety, human services, the environment, and infrastructure. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Transportation

Transportation Safety and Coordination

Support legislation to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety, and maintenance of active transportation facilities. Also support increased coordination between localities and the Commonwealth in the process for considering speed limits and street standards. Finally, support adequate maintenance of sidewalks and trails in the County.

- Improve coordination between the County and VDOT regarding the placement of stop signs, crosswalks, high visibility crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, and restriping/signage for streets where such changes are made. Additional flexibility within VDOT project approval processes and design standards to be responsive to the County's specific needs is vital.
- Support state action to better regulate the sale and use of modified, loud exhaust systems in the Commonwealth, including through the vehicle inspection process, as such systems continue to pose a safety and quality of life issue in Northern Virginia. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Secondary Road Devolution

Oppose any legislation that would require the transfer of secondary road construction and maintenance responsibilities to counties, especially if these efforts are not accompanied with corresponding revenue enhancements. Also oppose any legislative or regulatory moratorium on the transfer of newly constructed secondary roads to VDOT for the purposes of ongoing maintenance. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

2023 Budget Fact Sheet

State General Fund (GF) Update

- In FY 2022, about 41% of the state GF provided aid to localities (down from 52% in FY 2009) and less than 29% of the GF provided funding for K-12 (down from 35% in FY 2009).
- GF tax changes over the last two decades have more than neutralized the 2004 tax increase:
 - 2004 tax reforms raised about \$1.6 billion per biennium in new revenue.
 - Since 1994, approximately \$3 billion per biennium in net state tax cuts and GF revenue reductions.

State Budget Cuts

- Virginia ranks 13th nationwide in per capita personal income, but 42nd in state and local revenue as a percentage of personal income, making Virginia a wealthy, low-tax state.
- Virginia relies more on local taxes and revenues for funding government services than most other states.
- Between FY 2009 and FY 2015, the GA required localities to return funds to help close the state budget shortfall, creating “local aid to the Commonwealth” and costing the County \$22.6 million.
- Between FY 2010 and FY 2016, the state adopted permanent, structural cuts to K-12 totaling over \$1.7 billion per biennium statewide (a cumulative impact of about \$6 billion over that time period).
- Virginia ranks 41st nationwide in state per pupil funding, but when combining state and local per pupil funding, Virginia jumps to 28th, relying heavily on local funding to ensure a high-quality K-12 system.
- State K-12 spending per FCPS pupil was \$3,106 in FY 2021, while Fairfax County provided \$11,918.
- Between FY 2013 and FY 2016, cuts to the Cost of Competing Adjustment (COCA) for K-12 support personnel in Northern Virginia (NOVA) resulted in a loss of \$35.6 million to Fairfax County. The partial restoration of COCA in the 2016-2018 biennium budget translates to \$5.6 million in FY 2017 and \$5.8 million in FY 2018 for FCPS. The 2021 GA took additional steps to restore funding for COCA for support positions; however, the 2021 GA also included a required ratio for K-12 support staff that will increase local costs for implementation, erasing some of those gains.

Fairfax County/Regional Impacts

- NOVA comprises approximately 27% of the state population, generates over 40% of state GF, and receives 21% of state GF appropriations.
- State funding to Fairfax County (not FCPS) has been cut over \$38 million since FY 2009.
- Over 69% of the FCPS budget is funded by Fairfax County (the average district receives about 42% from its local government).
- FCPS receives 26% of its budget from the state; the average funding share for other Virginia school divisions is approximately 47%, due to the LCI.
- Almost 86% of the FCPS budget is for direct costs associated with providing instructional programs.
- State funding to FCPS in FY 2023 totaled approximately \$22 million for a 5% salary increase, while requiring approximately \$103 million in local funding. The 2022-2024 biennium budget also included \$18.1 million for a one-time bonus of \$1,000 for SOQ-funded instructional and support positions.
- For FY 2023, FCPS projects that over 56,000 students will qualify for free or reduced lunch (only 4 VA school divisions have more **total** students), nearly 34,000 students will receive English language education (only 6 divisions have more **total** students), and nearly 27,000 students will receive special education services (only 9 divisions have more **total** students).
- In FY 2021, the state provided only approximately \$16.1 million of the \$97 million needed to run the Fairfax County ADC. Jail per diem state rates of \$4/day and \$15/day for local- and state-responsible inmates, respectively, are far below the actual daily cost of housing an inmate (approximately \$386).
- Fairfax County provides over \$98 million for additional personnel and salary supplements for state positions (state funding formulas often fail to account for the needs of large localities in particular).

Taxation

- Of approximately 39,400 businesses in the County that pay BPOL tax, 31% pay a flat tax averaging \$37, and another 32% pay an average of approximately \$536.
- If Fairfax County’s BPOL tax was eliminated, the real estate tax rate would have to be increased by more than 6 cents, or about \$401 per year for the average household, in order to replace the funding.
- The communications sales and use tax has eroded and in FY 2022, the County only received approximately \$56.4 million.

2023 Transportation Fact Sheet

Transportation Conditions

- In Northern Virginia, 76% of high-volume secondary roads and 57% of low-volume secondary roads are in Fair or Better condition. While the condition of the region's roadways has improved substantially in the past several years and is close to the statewide targets of 82% for high-volume and 60% for low-volume secondary roads, the Commonwealth must continue to provide sufficient resources to ensure road conditions continue to improve and are maintained.
- According to Texas Transportation Institute's (TTI) 2021 Urban Mobility Report, the average commuter in the Northern Virginia and Washington Metropolitan Region endured delays of 105 hours in 2019, which was significantly higher than the national average, with only one region among the nation's 494 urban areas ranking worse. In 2020, that number dropped to 42 hours; however, that reduction was due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and traffic volumes continue to increase as more people return to their normal commuting patterns.
- According to NVRTA's regional plan, the TransAction Update, Northern Virginia commuters took 7.86 million trips in 2017, which is expected to increase to almost 10 million in 2045.
- Transit agencies provided approximately 81 million passenger trips in Northern Virginia on bus and rail in FY 2019. While that number fell to 62 million in FY 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, prior to the pandemic, transit ridership was 5% higher in FY 2020 compared to the same period in FY 2019. The Fairfax Connector, which showed a lower percentage reduction in ridership compared to other systems in the region, operates approximately 100 routes across the County (providing approximately 8 million passenger trips each year before the pandemic). While still below pre-pandemic levels, transit ridership continues to increase, and transit continues to enable residents to access jobs, schools, grocery stores, and other destinations across the County and region.

The Current Situation

- The General Assembly (GA) has successfully restored approximately \$63.5 million of the \$102 million in annual regional transportation funding diverted to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) by the 2018 GA. While the region continues to try to address the ongoing effects of the funding diversion, project costs continue to increase significantly.
- Without additional action, it will be difficult for some projects to advance in the foreseeable future, and timelines for numerous existing County projects have been extended – several have already been impacted, including the Fairfax County Parkway widening, the Frontier Drive extension, the Davis Drive extension, and numerous bicycle and pedestrian projects throughout the County.
- It is essential that regional and local transportation funding be maintained as originally intended. Major transportation improvements that provide benefits beyond Northern Virginia, such as WMATA state of good repair, the I-66 Express Lanes, and projects that create additional capacity across the Potomac River, should primarily be funded by the Commonwealth and the federal government. Diverting existing Northern Virginia transportation revenues for such projects (as was done for WMATA in 2018, to the detriment of numerous other projects) will significantly disrupt regional transportation planning and long-standing regional priorities, and must not be repeated.
- The County continues to work with regional and state partners to improve and streamline project delivery, eliminating or reducing steps in the process.

SAMPLE FAIRFAX COUNTY PROJECT COSTS*

TRAFFIC SIGNAL	\$600,000	ROAD WIDENING PROJECT	\$50-450 million
MAJOR INTERCHANGE	\$100-300 million	MULTIMODAL TRANSIT CENTER	\$40-60 million
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT	\$3-10 million	METRORAIL CAR	\$2 million
ROADWAY EXTENSION	\$50-250 million	TRANSIT BUS (DIESEL/ELECTRIC)	\$650,000/\$1.1 million
PEDESTRIAN PROJECT	\$1-6 million	METRORAIL PARKING GARAGE	\$40 million

*Costs depend on the complexity and size of the project and vary significantly across projects. The cost ranges provided above are based on recent and current projects; some projects may fall below or above the amount provided.

Investments in transportation are necessary to ensure a modern, efficient, multimodal transportation system. This is essential to the Commonwealth and is intrinsically tied to the region's continued economic success and ability to compete in a global economy. This is especially true as efforts to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue. Fairfax County, along with localities throughout the state, continues to provide hundreds of millions in local funds for transportation each year, and the County and the Commonwealth must continue to work together to ensure that infrastructure needs are met.

2023 Human Services Fact Sheet

Introduction

In 2021, there were **over 80,400** Fairfax County residents that earned less than 100% of the FPL – 82% of Virginia’s 133 localities had **fewer TOTAL residents** than Fairfax County had **residents living in poverty**.

Eligibility for public assistance programs that provide support for low-income residents is tied to a percentage (typically 100%) of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2021, there were over 80,400 Fairfax County residents (7% of the population) that earned less than 100% of the FPL (nearly \$12,900 for an individual or \$26,500 for a family of four). However, the income needed to cover basic living expenses (food, housing, child and health care, transportation, etc.) in Fairfax County is far greater – MIT’s Living Wage Calculator shows that a single adult needs almost \$48,000, and a family of four needs over \$125,000.

Employment

The unemployment rate in July 2022 was 2.5%, representing over 15,500 unemployed residents looking for work.

In 2021, there were **over 248,000** residents (22%) including approximately 67,650 children, living in households with incomes less than 300% of the FPL.

Housing

- In 2021, the average monthly rent for an apartment was \$1,913, meaning a renter would need an income of over \$76,000 to afford it.
- In 2021, over 56,500 households (47%) of Fairfax County renters were cost-burdened (spent more than 30% of their income on housing). 57% of renters age 65 and older were cost-burdened.
- There is an existing gap of 32,000 housing units affordable for current Fairfax County renters earning up to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- It is anticipated that 15,000 new affordable units for households earning 60% of the AMI and below will be needed for households moving into the County by the year 2034.
- There were 1,191 people who were homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community on January 26, 2022, the night of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count. Over the course of federal FY 2021, nearly 3,000 people experienced homelessness.

Health

- Medicaid recipients increased by more than 66,000 (55%) between FY 2018 and FY 2022, from 119,606 to 185,954 individuals.
- Almost 13,000 Fairfax County older adults (4% of the over 55 population) were uninsured in 2021.
- Over 93,000 Fairfax County residents have a disability, which includes people with hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and/or independent living disabilities.
- The Community Health Centers provided health care services to approximately 26,000 Fairfax County residents in 2021. The overwhelming majority of those served belong to vulnerable populations, such as the uninsured and underinsured, racial or ethnic minority groups, non-native English speakers, and low-income residents.
- Cases of Lyme disease remain high in Virginia, with 788 confirmed and 411 probable cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2019.

In 2021, **over 310,000** County residents (27%) were age 55 and older.

In 2021, there were **over 79,000** County residents (7%) without health insurance.

Mental and Behavioral Health

- The Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI), one of the smaller state hospitals despite the large population it serves, continues to experience periods of 100% capacity.
- Since 2016 more than 3,000 people in Fairfax County have been diverted from potential arrest due to the County’s Diversion First program.
- In Fairfax County, there has been a 35% decrease in the behavioral health population with misdemeanor charges from 2015 to 2021.
- From 2015 to 2021, the number of inmates referred to Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) jail-based services increased by 33%.
- The Fairfax County Police Department responded to over 10,000 mental health-related calls in calendar year 2021.
- In FY 2022, CSB conducted over 1,700 mental health evaluations related to emergency custody orders – a 329% increase from FY 2015.

In FY 2022, **54%** of people receiving County services for mental illness, substance use disorder, or Developmental Disabilities had **incomes below \$12,000**.

- According to the most recent Fairfax County Youth Survey, approximately 36% of students reported high levels of stress, and 38% reported depressive symptoms (defined as feeling so sad or hopeless that the student stops engaging in regular activity for two weeks). The percentage of students reporting this level of sadness has increased steadily since 2016, with a substantial increase this year (approximately 30% in 2019 to 38% in 2021). Additionally, one in six students (16.5%) reported thoughts of suicide, and 6% reported suicide attempts.⁺
- In FY 2022, nearly 20,500 individuals received Fairfax-Falls Church CSB mental health, substance use disorder, or Developmental Disability (DD) services. Over 6,500 residents received CSB emergency services.
- Though Fairfax County was allocated 150 DD Medicaid Waiver slots in FY 2023, 914 individuals remain on the County's Priority One waiting list, which is more than 25% of the total statewide waiting list.
- Over 2,700 of the over 14,000 individuals with DD on the statewide Medicaid waiver waiting list (as of September 2022) are served by the Fairfax-Falls Church CSB.
- From FY 2017 to FY 2022, the average monthly number of children seeking or receiving early intervention services for developmental delays grew by 10.4%, from 1,611 to 1,779.

Substance Use Disorder

- The number of fatal overdoses in Virginia set a new record high for the second year in a row, with about 2,700 fatalities in calendar year 2021 – an increase of over 60% from 2019.
- In the Fairfax Health District (including Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church), opioids are the number one cause of unnatural death, with 111 opioid deaths in 2021; all but eight of these fatalities were due to fentanyl.
- Hospitals in the Fairfax Health District reported a 10% increase in the number of emergency room visits for opioid overdoses (including heroin and non-heroin) in 2021 compared to 2020.
- The 2021-2022 Youth Survey found that, within a month of the survey date, and without a doctor's order, approximately 380 students reported taking painkillers, and almost 460 reported taking other prescription drugs.⁺
- E-cigarettes have been the most used tobacco product among youth across the US since 2014.
- In 2020, more than 3.6 million American middle and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days.
- The Youth Survey found that more students reported vaping than using any other substances (excluding alcohol), and lifetime prevalence rates were 7.2% of 8th graders, 15.0% of 10th graders, and 23.4% of 12th graders.⁺

Gang Involvement

- The Youth Survey found that approximately 270 students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades report being a gang member at some point in their life.⁺
- The average age of initial gang participation is 11.7 years old.⁺

English Proficiency

- Over 13% of County residents over age 5 do not speak English proficiently.
- 6% of households are limited English speaking, meaning all household members ages 14 and older have at least some difficulty with English.
- 38% of County residents over age 5 speak a language other than English at home.

Child Care

- Families in Fairfax County receiving child care subsidies have an annual median income of over \$33,000, while the cost of full-time child care for a preschooler at a child care center can range from nearly \$16,000 to over \$22,000 per year (over \$19,500 to over \$25,000 per year for an infant). In comparison, the average cost of tuition and fees for a public college in Virginia is approximately \$14,120.
- In Fairfax County, state Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) funding provides less than half (\$7,995) of the cost of VPI services to a child in a Fairfax County community-based early childhood program (approximately \$18,200), which is insufficient to expand the program under current requirements.

⁺The 2021-2022 Fairfax County Youth Survey includes responses from 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students.

Child Welfare

- In FY 2022, over 1,000 families were served by County child abuse and neglect prevention programming.
- In FY 2022, Child Protective Services (CPS) conducted over 2,710 family assessments and investigations in response to valid referrals of child abuse and neglect, and almost 240 families were served in CPS ongoing services to keep children with their families.
- An average of 193 children were in foster care each month during FY 2022.

Nutrition

- The SNAP (food stamps) average monthly caseload increased nearly 23% between FY 2020 and FY 2022 (from approximately 20,400 families to 25,066 families) – average monthly caseloads have more than doubled from FY 2008 to FY 2022, from over 11,500 to 25,066.
- With the COVID-19 pandemic in its third year, meals provided to older adults and adults with disabilities through County programs continue to be provided at or above pre-pandemic levels – Home Delivered and Congregate meals increased by 1.7% from FY 2019 (496,030) to FY 2022 (504,243).

Domestic and Sexual Violence

- In FY 2022, the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Action Center (DVAC) served over 900 victims. There were 793 children (81% of whom were 12 years old or younger) living with victims served by the DVAC.
- Each month in Fairfax County, domestic violence (DV) hotlines receive over 153 calls on average, victims request 76 family abuse protective orders (data through June 29, 2022), and 14 families escape to an emergency DV shelter (FY 2022).
- In FY 2022, the Fairfax County Police Department responded to 3,257 DV calls, including 336 Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) calls. There were 168 arrests made due to strangulation (which is a significant predictor of future lethal violence).
- 120 families needing emergency shelter due to DV were placed in hotels in FY 2022 for reasons such as family size, geographical location, or bed shortage. 133 households were not housed because at the time of the call, they did not meet the criteria for imminent danger (no person in imminent danger is turned away).
- On the night of the 2022 Point-in-Time Count, there were 62 families in Fairfax County who were homeless due to DV.
- In FY 2022, there were 74 households with children served in the four homeless shelters for families that reported a history of DV. There were 99 households without children served in homeless shelters that reported a history of DV.
- In FY 2022, 43% of emergency DV shelter residents were children 12 years and younger.

Data is drawn from the US Census Bureau, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, MIT's Living Wage Calculator, VA Department of Health, VA Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, UVA's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service Demographics Research Group, and Fairfax County sources.

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Senator Barbara Favola—31st District
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Senator J. Chapman Petersen—34th District
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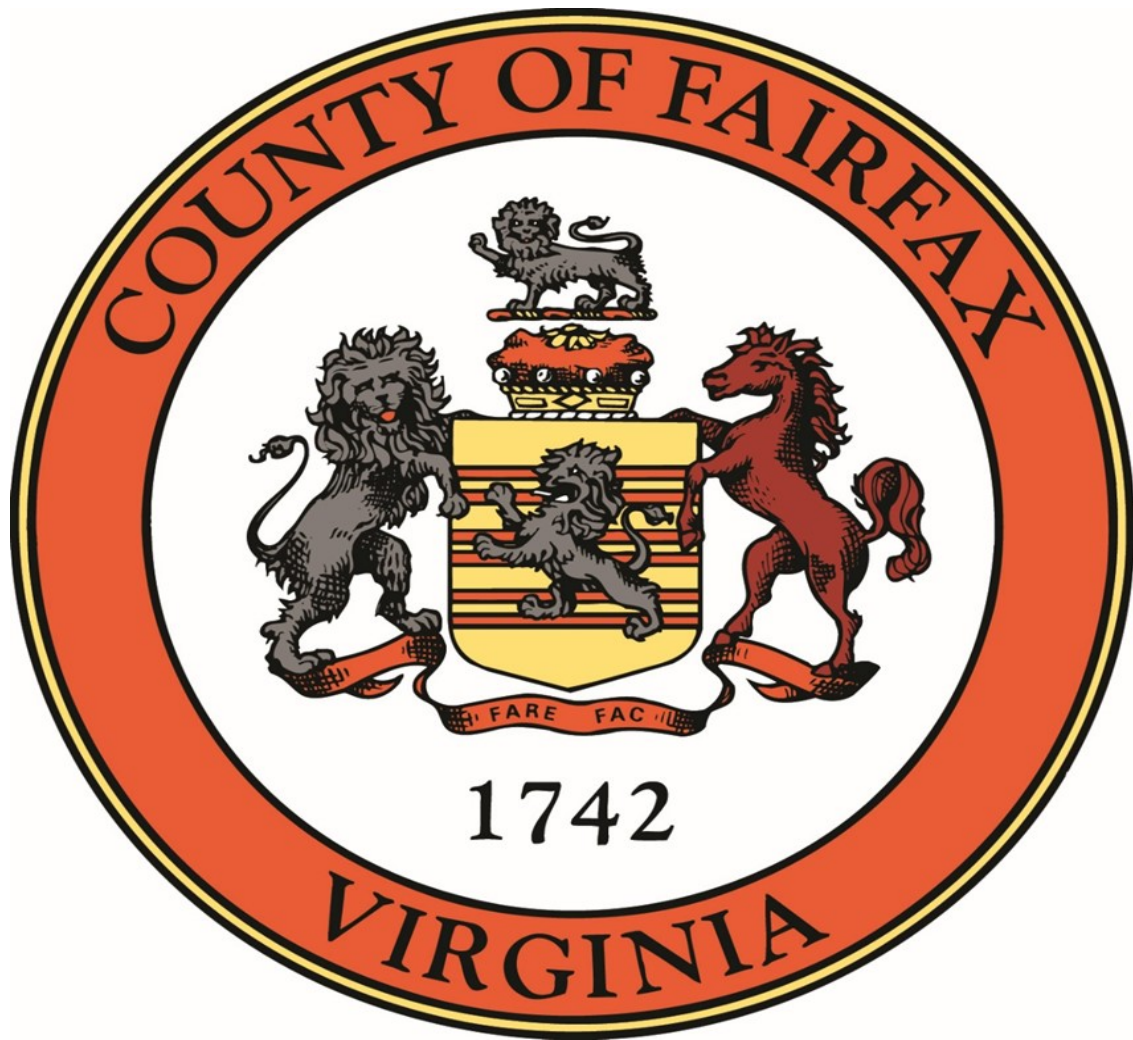
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FAIRFAX COUNTY

RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE 118 CONGRESS

ADOPTED DECEMBER 6, 2022

Recommended Strategies and Principles for the 118th Congress

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INTRODUCTION

“Protecting and enriching our quality of life for people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities.”

Fairfax County’s Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on October 5, 2021, and includes Ten Community Outcome Areas, which ensure a focus on the priorities of our community, including:

- Cultural and Recreational Opportunities
- Economic Opportunity
- Effective and Efficient Government
- Empowerment and Support for Residents Facing Vulnerability
- Environment
- Health
- Housing and Neighborhood Livability
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Mobility and Transportation
- Safety and Security

To address the racial and social inequities that remain in our community, Fairfax County has embraced a vision of One Fairfax: a declaration that all residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed, regardless of their race, color, sex, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, disability, income or where they live. As the Countywide Strategic Plan is implemented, we will focus on transforming islands of disadvantage – areas where residents face economic, educational, health, housing, and other challenges – into communities of opportunity.

Fairfax County has long maintained a strong partnership with the federal government, as the home to numerous federal agencies, employees, and contractors. According to USA Spending, federal government contracts performed in Fairfax County reached \$31 billion in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021. Thirty-two companies on Washington Technology magazine’s 2022 list of the 100 largest government contractors in the nation have US headquarters in Fairfax County, and 67 of the top 100 have offices in the County. With a vibrant and diverse population and economy, Fairfax County is truly the federal government’s partner, fundamentally important to the functioning of the federal government. Enhancing that critical partnership in a variety of areas is a top County priority.

FEDERAL BUDGET

Federal Funding

Support a balanced approach to future federal deficit reduction solutions and a proactive approach to repositioning the County in anticipation of possible long-term changes in federal funding.

Fairfax County recognizes that the federal government continues to face fiscal challenges and has anticipated a certain amount of reprioritization of federal spending resulting from a national recession. However, the unprecedented economic and fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic have required broad and long-lasting federal assistance for state and local governments to help mitigate these effects, from dealing with the health implications of the virus, to the challenges of prolonged distance learning in public schools, to the implications for businesses and the local economy, among others. Fairfax County supports continued federal investment in the programs and services that continue to be necessary as all levels of government recover.

As Congress finalizes federal spending decisions for FY 2023 (the federal government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution that extends through December 16, 2022), it is essential to avoid significant reductions to high-priority programs affecting the lives of Fairfax County residents. In general, the County opposes federal funding initiatives that shift costs to localities, impose unfunded mandates, or pre-empt local programs and taxing authority, particularly because revenue options for localities in Virginia are extremely limited. The impacts of the

2017 federal tax cuts affected individuals in a variety of ways due to personal circumstances and financial decisions; however, the inclusion of a \$10,000 cap on taxpayers' ability to deduct state and local taxes (SALT) from their federally taxable income raised concerns among state and local governments, as those revenues support a variety of services, including funding for education, public safety, transportation, infrastructure, and human services. Given the significant appreciation in home values in Fairfax County, the \$10,000 limit on the SALT deduction for federal income taxes will likely pose a substantial hardship for many families, and the federal government should consider eliminating or substantially increasing the SALT cap.

In 2021, after a nearly decade-long ban, Congress elected to return to the practice of providing direct funding for specific projects, now called "community project funding" (House) or "Congressionally directed spending" (Senate). This process is a fluid one, parameters between the House and Senate differ, and changed from FY 2022 to FY 2023. As a result, it is important for the County to maintain flexibility in submitting potential projects for federal funding, as funding opportunities may present themselves quickly, with limited response time, and with very specific federal requirements. Such County projects should be previously approved by the Board, required for the County to comply with federal or state mandates, or to carry out Board priorities. Projects must also meet all federal requirements for individual funding accounts, including the amount of funding available, types of projects eligible, project readiness, and community support of projects, among other specific requirements. Project requests incorporate guidance from Congressional offices to maximize the competitiveness of each project.

A close working relationship between the County and the federal government continues to be essential. The County supports timely federal budget decisions to eliminate uncertainty that is detrimental to the Northern Virginia economy. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation Funding

Support increased federal investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure, including maintenance and expansion of the existing system and programs that expand non-motorized travel choices (such as Transportation Alternatives). As Congress implements the surface transportation authorization, support greater coordination and decision-making authority for metropolitan areas and local governments in determining how transportation funding is spent.

In FY 2022, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) had an overall funding level of approximately \$103 billion, with a discretionary funding level of \$27 billion and \$76 billion in obligation limitations. The President's FY 2023 budget proposed an increase for USDOT, at an overall funding level of \$105 billion (\$2 billion increase from the FY 2022 enacted level) and a discretionary funding level of \$26.5 billion (\$500 million decrease from the FY 2022 enacted level). With the inclusion of an additional \$27 billion in guaranteed advanced appropriations provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, USDOT's total budget for FY 2023 will be approximately \$142 billion. The House and Senate FY 2023 appropriations bills contain higher funding levels than were included in the President's FY 2023 budget request – \$105.4 billion in the House and \$106.6 billion in the Senate.

Investments in transportation are necessary for a strong economy and to help spur growth. These investments not only make necessary improvements to regional and national infrastructure, but also create jobs – both during the construction of the facilities, as well as through the access they provide to other employment opportunities. Northern Virginia's need for transportation solutions for all modes will continue to grow in size and scope. This includes the need for bicycle and pedestrian facilities that help improve travel choices while providing public health benefits, as well as other efforts to address "last-mile" connections to home and work. Fairfax County has taken actions to substantially increase local funding for transportation infrastructure and services. The Commonwealth has also taken important steps forward, and the federal government must also do its part. The IIJA contains a five-year surface transportation authorization that includes additional funding for many programs vital to the County and the Commonwealth, and funding must be provided in accordance with those authorized levels. Fairfax County opposes any efforts to reduce transportation funding from the levels authorized in the IIJA, as well as efforts to

eliminate programs essential for the County. The IIJA authorizes and provides upfront supplemental appropriations from FY 2022 to FY 2026 for several new programs, which support local transportation-related projects, including: \$5 billion for the Safe Streets and Roads for All competitive grant program, supporting local initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets; and, \$500 million for the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) grant program, conducting demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety (including autonomous vehicles and smart grids to support electric vehicles (EVs)). Safety must also continue to be an important focus of transportation projects.

- **Support dedicated funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), to ensure the success of this critical transit system.** Hailed as “America’s subway,” Metrorail is vital to the transportation networks and economic growth of Northern Virginia and the DC region and is fundamental to the functioning of the federal government, carrying thousands of federal workers to their posts every day. The recent completion of the Silver Line to Dulles International Airport and beyond demonstrates the extraordinary things that can be accomplished when federal, state, and local governments, along with the private sector, work together. The County supports WMATA’s efforts to enhance the safety and security of the system and its riders through adequate funding and oversight to ensure the viability of this essential transit system.

In Virginia, local jurisdictions are responsible for providing substantial funding for WMATA (Fairfax County provides approximately \$95 million each year in local and regional funding for operating and capital costs, and transfers approximately \$105 million in state aid annually). Until recently, WMATA was the only major transit provider in the country without a permanent, dedicated revenue source for a significant part of its revenue base – the vast majority of the \$2.4 billion operating and \$2.4 billion capital budgets is derived from passenger fares and contributions by member jurisdictions, though the additional assistance provided by the federal government to assist during the COVID-19 pandemic has been vital in continuing service. Virginia, Maryland, and DC took a major step forward by providing \$500 million annually for state of good repair needs, as well as requiring governance reforms to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of the system. The County and the region are implementing the governance reforms, and several changes have already been made (it is important to note that Virginia’s legislation addressed WMATA funding needs at the expense of other significant projects throughout the region, by diverting \$102 million per year in existing funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and localities to WMATA – legislative action restored approximately \$63.5 million annually, but substantially more funding is necessary to address the diversion). In 2009, the federal government established a precedent for linking WMATA Board representation and financial investments in the system (which was then followed by the Commonwealth in 2011), and upholding that precedent requires local jurisdictions to remain active participants on the WMATA Board as long as current funding patterns are maintained.

While local, regional, and state efforts to address capital needs and state of good repair are ongoing, sufficient federal support, including the reauthorization of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) annual appropriation (\$150 million per year, which is matched by the WMATA jurisdictions) and additional federal capital support, remains necessary. Fairfax County’s Congressional delegation demonstrated its continued strong support for federal WMATA funding through the inclusion of \$1.35 billion from FY 2022 through FY 2030 (or \$150 million annually) for WMATA in the IIJA, while requiring changes to its Office of Inspector General, including independent hiring and budget authority. The House and Senate FY 2023 Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD) spending bills each include \$150 million in funding for the annual PRIIA allocation for WMATA, the same as the FY 2022 enacted level and the President’s FY 2023 budget request. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Support continued federal investment in the Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grant program.** This program provides competitive grant funding for major transit capital investments, including rapid rail, light rail, bus rapid transit (BRT), and commuter rail. This funding is critical for transit projects that are

developed by local communities, such as the planned Richmond Highway and Leesburg Pike BRT projects. The program (which includes funding for New Starts projects) is authorized at \$2.3 billion annually. In FY 2022, the Capital Investment Grant (CIG) program was funded at over \$2.2 billion. The President's FY 2023 budget requested funding for CIG at \$2.9 billion, while the House and Senate FY 2023 T-HUD spending bills provide \$3 billion and \$2.5 billion, respectively. Additionally, the IJA authorizes \$15 billion for Capital Investment Grants from FY 2022 to FY 2026 and provides \$8 billion in upfront supplemental appropriations. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Support full funding for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) formula program.** This program provides funds for state and local governments to improve air quality in transit-intensive areas that do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, carbon monoxide, or particulate matter (“nonattainment areas”); or maintain standards in areas where there is a risk of nonattainment, due to high transportation activity (“maintenance areas”). These funds are distributed to each state on a formula basis and are awarded to projects through metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). The authorization levels for CMAQ have been increased in the IJA, which provided \$13.2 billion for FY 2022 to FY 2026 (approximately \$2.6 billion annually) – support for CMAQ funding is a long-standing County priority. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Support full funding for transportation discretionary grant programs, including Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA), Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE), and the National Infrastructure Project Assistance Program (Mega Grants).** These grant programs provide important funding opportunities for critical transportation projects. RAISE is not authorized but is funded annually through additional appropriations in the IJA. Specifically, the IJA provides \$12.5 billion in supplemental appropriations for RAISE grants from FY 2022 to FY 2026 (or \$2.5 billion annually), with \$5 billion for multimodal projects of national or regional significance and \$7.5 billion for projects with significant local or regional effects. It may be beneficial to streamline these programs in the future, and to give greater consideration to congestion and mobility issues in the award processes. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Support full funding for the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program.** TIFIA provides credit assistance for qualified projects of regional and national significance, seeking to leverage federal funds by attracting substantial private and other non-federal investment in vital improvements to the nation's surface transportation system. Prior to the IJA, the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) authorized TIFIA for \$300 million per year from FY 2019 to FY 2020, expanded loan eligibility to include transit-oriented development (TOD) projects, and lowered the minimum anticipated project cost to qualify from \$50 million to \$10 million for TOD and from \$50 million to \$15 million for Intelligent Transportation System projects, retaining a \$50 million threshold for all other eligible surface transportation projects. The IJA authorized TIFIA (and many other transportation programs) through FY 2026 and provides \$1.25 billion in guaranteed contract authority from the Highway Trust Fund from FY 2022 to FY 2026 for the TIFIA program. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Support funding and policies that enhance transit-oriented development (TOD) options for local governments.** Fairfax County is considering various options for funding infrastructure to support TOD. The County was one of 16 organizations selected to receive funding through the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) TOD Planning Pilot Program in 2016. TOD grants can play a significant role in several areas in Fairfax County, including Tysons, Springfield, Seven Corners, and Reston. The enacted FY 2022 T-HUD spending bill provided \$13.2 million for the TOD Planning Pilot Program. The House FY 2023 T-HUD spending bill provides \$38.8 million for planning, preparation, or design of projects emphasizing transit, transit-oriented development, and multimodal projects. The Senate FY 2023 T-HUD spending bill provides \$13.6 million for this program. The IJA does not authorize or provide any additional appropriations for this program. The County supports expanding its funding partnership with the federal government for TOD to ensure continuation of the region’s economic vitality. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

ENERGY

Climate Change

Support innovative approaches to address global climate change, including incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy-efficient and renewable technologies, and carbon pricing to incentivize market forces to decrease the use of fossil fuels. Also support federal funding for state and local governments to address issues related to global climate change, including the identification of climate risks and vulnerabilities, the development of adaptation and resilience strategies, energy conservation, use of renewable energy sources (including waste to energy), green buildings and vehicles, preservation of parkland and wetlands, habitat creation, carbon sequestration, and reduced emissions and greenhouse gases.

For decades, Fairfax County has pursued initiatives to combat climate change. The County is currently accelerating and increasing local efforts to address the causes of climate change through the implementation of a Carbon Neutral Counties Declaration, as well as implementing goals, strategies, and actions included in the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), accepted in 2021. Complementing CECAP is Resilient Fairfax, the County's Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan to address the impacts of climate change. Accepted in 2022, the County is implementing the strategies identified in Resilient Fairfax to reduce climate risks to County residents, businesses, infrastructure and systems. The federal government must do its part by adopting a more aggressive strategy to address climate change, along with innovative policies and strategies, including carbon pricing, clean energy mandates, investments in green infrastructure and services, and strategies for preservation of forest and wetlands. This strategy should consider negative impacts on vulnerable populations and include community involvement and public education. Passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which invests \$369 billion in climate change and energy security measures, is an important step in moving these issues forward. The County supports funding and incentives to increase research and development for emerging energy-efficient and renewable technologies, including extending the Solar Tax Credit (also known as an Investment Tax Credit) for both commercial and residential projects (as of 2020, the Solar Tax Credit for residential projects is 26 percent – the IRA increased that credit to 30 percent for systems installed between 2022 and 2032. That will decrease to 26 percent for systems installed in 2033, and to 22 percent for systems installed in 2034. The Solar Tax Credit for commercial projects is 26 percent for projects commencing construction between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2022, but placed in service before 2026. The tax credit is 22 percent for projects commencing construction between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, but placed in service before 2026; and there is a 10 percent tax credit for projects commencing construction after December 31, 2023, or placed in service after December 31, 2025. The County supports President Biden's robust new fuel economy standards for Model Year (MY) 2023 to MY 2026. Finally, the County supports continued funding for programs included in the IRA to incentivize the expansion of renewable energy sources and zero-emission vehicle infrastructure currently under consideration. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization

Oppose further changes to the perimeter and slot rules for Reagan National Airport to protect the balance between Washington Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and support efforts to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on Fairfax County residents.

Federal law limits flights at Reagan National Airport to ensure balanced capacity between Washington Dulles International Airport and Reagan National. Previous FAA reauthorization bills (2012, 2011, and 2003) have given Reagan National more permitted slots (allowable takeoffs and landings per hour) and more non-stop flights beyond 1,250 miles (perimeter rule) to the detriment of Washington Dulles International. However, the five-year FAA reauthorization bill enacted in 2018 makes no additional changes to the perimeter and slot rules. The interconnectedness of Virginia's aviation system makes Dulles imperative to the continued success of airports around the Commonwealth, and air expansion at Dulles is a major economic driving force in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. As a result, the region, the Commonwealth, and the federal government have made significant

investments in transportation projects to further spur the airport's growth, including the Metrorail Silver Line extension and improvements to Route 28 that will provide greater accessibility to Dulles.

Further, the implementation of the federal Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen, which is an upgrade to the nation's air traffic control system and is designed to manage more air traffic with greater efficiency) has resulted in flight paths concentrated over certain communities. In particular, the concentration of flight paths for arrivals and departures to the south of Reagan National Airport has resulted in a significant increase in noise over residential areas in the County along those flight paths. The FAA reauthorization bill requires the FAA to study the potential health impacts of overflight noise, consider the feasibility of amending current procedures for noise sensitive communities, and review NextGen community involvement practices. Several bills to combat air traffic noise were introduced in the 117th Congress, but those bills gained little traction. Fairfax County supports movement of related bills in the 118th Congress. In early 2021, the FAA released a noise survey, the Neighborhood Environmental Survey, which noted a substantial increase in the percentage of people who are highly annoyed by aircraft noise over the entire range of aircraft noise levels considered, including at lower noise levels. Because the survey used lagging data, the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus, including Congressman Don Beyer (VA), sent a letter to the FAA expressing concerns over the survey's outdated noise metrics, which do not accurately reflect the level of disruption caused by aircraft noise. The FAA's response indicated the agency is taking steps to begin a policy review to advance the scientific understanding of noise impacts. It also indicated it would continue a community engagement strategy to discuss the management of airspace with affected communities, as well as work with airports, airlines, and local elected officials on strategies to promote transparency in resolving community concerns. The General Accountability Office (GAO) also released a report on September 28, 2021, titled "Aircraft Noise: FAA Could Improve Outreach through Enhanced Noise Metrics, Communication, and Support to Communities." The GAO noted that the FAA combines the intensity and duration of noise, and the number of flights overhead on an average day, to quantify the noise at locations under a new flight path. The GAO found that this approach does not provide a clear view of what communities may experience and recommended that the FAA supplement its analysis and provide more information to the public about potential flight noise. The FY 2023 House T-HUD appropriations bill includes language supported by the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus that directs the FAA to engage with communities affected by aircraft noise, prioritize the reduction of aircraft noise, create a central repository for constituent complaints about aircraft noise, and encourage the FAA to complete its ongoing evaluation of alternative metrics to current Day Night Level noise standards. The bill also provides support for all studies and programs directed at minimizing aircraft noise in affected communities. The County supports efforts to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on Fairfax County residents by modifying flight paths south of Reagan National to keep aircraft more centered over the Potomac River, rather than over populated areas.

Finally, the 2018 FAA reauthorization bill includes language addressing the regulation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by directing the Comptroller General of the US to study the potential role of local governments in UAS regulations. Increased local government involvement in the development and implementation of UAS policy has been a priority of the National Association of Counties (NACo). In September 2020, the GAO released its report on this issue, stating that, "Although DOT officials told us they recognize that state, local, and tribal governments have legitimate interests and constitutionally reserved rights to protect the property, privacy, and security of their citizens, the officials expressed concern with bans or other substantial restrictions affecting the safety or efficiency of UAS operations. Such restrictions, the officials said, are presenting UAS operators with what DOT characterized as a 'daunting regulatory patchwork' of differing restrictions, many of which the Department believes could conflict either with current law or with regulatory policies it may wish to develop in the future. Further, the DOT officials told us, the Department believes the regulatory uncertainty created by what they referred to as a 'hodge-podge of differing federal and state regimes' threatens to dampen innovation and investment in commercial drone use and impede progress toward the federal goal of UAS integration."

In 1997, USDOT established a pilot program to test and evaluate the integration of UAS into the National Airspace System (NAS) – Virginia Tech's Center for Innovative Technology (CIT) was one of the original ten lead participants. In October 2020, then US Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao announced the conclusion of the three-year UAS Integration Pilot Program (IPP), and indicated that eight of the nine state, local, and tribal governments that participated in the program, including the CIT team, signed new agreements with the FAA to

continue to tackle remaining UAS integration challenges. The eight governments will now participate in the BEYOND initiative, which is focused “on operating under established rules rather than waivers, collecting data to develop performance-based standards, collecting and addressing community feedback and understanding the societal and community benefits, and to streamline the approval processes for UAS integration.” The requirements established by the FAA in 2019, including recreational drone pilots in the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) system, which automates the application and approval process for drone pilots to allow for more efficient correspondence between drone pilots and air traffic controllers, remain in place. As the 118th Congress will be tasked with reauthorizing FAA programs, hearings have begun to examine issues relating to the integration into the NAS of new entrants, such as advanced air mobility (AAM) and UAS operators. Topics such as the certification of emerging aircraft technologies, airspace management, workforce, and infrastructure needed to support the deployment of AAM and UAS into the NAS will be considered. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Parity for Transit Benefits

Support continued parity between the levels of transportation benefits provided for transit and for parking.

Permanent parity between the level of tax-free employer-provided transit benefits and parking benefits is important in making transit service more attractive to commuters. The 2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act eliminated the business deduction for private employers providing qualified mass transit and parking subsidies (this change did not affect the federal government, which can continue to provide such subsidies). In the past, businesses were able to claim a federal business tax deduction on the amount they contributed to the commuter benefits program. Private sector employees can choose to contribute a portion of their income (up to \$280 per month in 2022) for qualified mass transit and parking expenses, pre-tax. The public transit subsidy for federal employees was also up to \$280 per month through 2022. Since most County transit riders have vehicles available, an end to deductions for employers in the private sector may result in more commuters driving, thereby worsening the substantial congestion on Northern Virginia’s roads. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Transportation Projects

The IIA created several competitive grant opportunities that are funded through FY 2026. As these various funding opportunities become available, the County supports the following key transportation priorities:

- **Richmond Highway (US Route 1) Widening and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):**

The Richmond Highway Corridor is one of the most heavily transit-dependent areas of Fairfax County, and one that is critically important to federal operations as an access point and evacuation route for Fort Belvoir. It is also one of the most congested and economically disadvantaged areas of the County. Embark Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for the Corridor, which includes long-term planning efforts and a focus on economic development.

The County is working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to widen Richmond Highway between Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (south) and Sherwood Hall Lane, providing a six-lane facility that will complement the recently completed project widening Richmond Highway from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. This will result in a six-lane facility between Fort Belvoir and I-95/I-495 in Alexandria (including both pedestrian and bicycle facilities), and will also provide the center median needed for a BRT project to operate. This is a fundamental part of the Embark plan (the BRT will extend from the Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir). In addition, a future Metrorail extension is anticipated from Huntington to the Hybla Valley Community Business Center. The project will include new transit stations, as well as facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians. These projects will enhance the value of current and future federal investments, among them the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) related improvements to Fort Belvoir facilities, by improving access to and mobility around Fort Belvoir. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Frontier Drive Extension:**
 This project will extend Frontier Drive from Franconia-Springfield Parkway to Loisdale Road, including access to the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station and interchange improvements to and from the Franconia-Springfield Parkway. This project is designed to reduce congestion on I-95 between the Fairfax County Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road/Franconia Road, and in the area around the Springfield Town Center. It will enhance connectivity and access to and from the Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Station, Springfield Town Center, and the Springfield Industrial Park. The project will also create a better multimodal environment by including bike and pedestrian accommodations. Additionally, the extension of Frontier Drive will provide significant benefits to the new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Headquarters in Springfield. Though this area currently has substantial and varied transportation and transit options, this project will further increase access, creating benefits for Fairfax County, the Northern Virginia region, and the federal government. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Seven Corners Interchange:**
 The Seven Corners area in eastern Fairfax County encompasses the Seven Corners Interchange, where three regional commuter routes (Arlington Boulevard/Route 50, Leesburg Pike/Route 7, and Wilson Boulevard/Sleepy Hollow Road) converge. The existing Seven Corners Interchange is a confusing confluence of major roads and multiple signalized intersections, with extremely limited pedestrian facilities and no bicycle facilities. As a result, most of the intersections at the Seven Corners Interchange operate poorly during peak periods, causing high levels of congestion, long periods of vehicular delay, and safety concerns for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users. The County is completing a phasing study for the concept of a new Seven Corners Interchange, allowing the interchange to be divided and constructed in more manageable segments, which will alleviate these significant challenges. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Davis Drive Bridge:**
 This project will establish a new connection between Sunrise Valley Drive in Fairfax County and Innovation Avenue in Loudoun County over the Dulles Toll/Access Road. The new connection will be located just west of the new Innovation Center Metrorail Station, providing access to the facility and the development occurring near the station. The project will also include bicycle and pedestrian facilities, facilitating multimodal access to the Metrorail System and the entire Washington Metropolitan area through the newly opened Silver Line Extension. Further, the project will provide additional capacity across the Dulles Corridor, reducing congestion and delay on Virginia Route 28, Centreville Avenue, and other roadways in the area. *(New position.)*
- **Route 7 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT):**
 The County is working with its regional partners to study and implement a Route 7 BRT project. When finished, the project will provide 14 miles of BRT service, connecting Tysons in Fairfax County to the US Department of Defense Mark Center Facility in Alexandria through Bailey's Crossroads, Seven Corners, and Falls Church. When completed, the project will provide as many as 45,000 transit trips each day, connect vital business and residential areas, and provide high quality transit along this important historic corridor. The County has taken a variety of actions in support of this effort, including approving Memorandums of Agreement on various phases of the study, endorsing the preferred alignment for the Fairfax County Route 7 BRT study between West Falls Church Metrorail Station and the Spring Hill Metrorail Station, and authorizing a Comprehensive Plan amendment adding the preferred alignment and associated potential station locations, as outlined in the County's study. *(New position.)*
- **Potomac River Crossings:**
 The need to cross the Potomac River creates major transportation challenges in the National Capital Region. The American Legion Bridge, one of the most heavily used in the region, is also the most congested, with traffic volumes expected to increase over the next 25 years. Since the largest number of vehicles traversing the American Legion Bridge travel between Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, the chokepoint created by this bridge requires long-term solutions which are currently being considered by Maryland and Virginia.

Additionally, approximately 170,000 people cross the river each day through the Rosslyn Tunnel on Metrorail Blue, Orange, and Silver Line service. In the next 25 years, that number is expected to increase to 185,000 passengers crossing per day. The volume of commuters demonstrates that another crossing is essential to mobility in the area. Unfortunately, the capacity constraints of the Rosslyn Tunnel already create significant limits on transit service. It is vital that the capacity needs across the Potomac River be addressed, including at the American Legion Bridge and Rosslyn Tunnel, to alleviate the existing congestion and ensure the movement of people and goods throughout this economically vibrant region. Such action is essential to the economic success of Fairfax County and the National Capital Region. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

FEDERAL FACILITIES

Federal Agency Relocation, Consolidation, and Related Activities

Support relocation of federal facilities to sites in Fairfax County with close proximity to transit and numerous transportation options, to mitigate transportation impacts while encouraging redevelopment and job growth in the County. Also support the inclusion of sufficient funds to address the planning, infrastructure, and transportation issues raised by the federal agency relocations.

Both the Commonwealth and Fairfax County have strong connections to the federal government, which provide tremendous economic growth opportunities, but also create a unique vulnerability to fluctuations in federal funding, particularly as it relates to defense spending. In the FY 2021 US Department of Defense (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) “Defense Spending by State” report, the Commonwealth of Virginia ranked first in total defense spending (\$62.7 billion), first as a percentage of state GDP (including \$42.6 billion in defense contract spending), and first in defense personnel spending (\$20.1 billion) – Fairfax County is vital to those placements, ranking first nationally in defense contract spending at \$17.5 billion (a significant increase from \$9.9 billion in FY 2016). Additionally, the Commonwealth ranked second in defense personnel, employing over 251,000 individuals, including over 22,600 in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County has a strong partnership with the federal government, and the County supports continuing that relationship by seeking additional federal agency relocations and consolidations, accompanied by appropriate federal funding and coordinated planning to ensure impacts are mitigated and a successful outcome is achieved for both the County and the federal government. Fairfax County will continue to focus on the County’s role in the National Capital Region, its well-educated workforce, strong business climate, and connection to the functioning of the federal government, while closely monitoring potential future federal funding cuts that could affect the County and local economy.

In particular, Fairfax County supports:

- ***Relocation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Headquarters to Springfield, and other federal facilities to locations within Fairfax County.*** There are several pending opportunities to leverage Fairfax County’s strategic location in Northern Virginia for federal agencies considering relocations, including the relocation of the FBI headquarters from its current location in downtown Washington, DC. In June 2022, the General Services Administration, in a report to Congress, identified three viable locations for construction of a new FBI headquarters in the National Capital Region, and one of those locations is in the Springfield area of Fairfax County. The Springfield site is well situated for the headquarters – it is located less than 40 miles from Quantico, which houses the FBI’s Laboratory Division, Operational Technology Division, and FBI Academy, along with the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Training Center and other federal facilities. This site is also located next to the newly opened headquarters for the TSA, which has reaffirmed the robust collaboration between the County and the federal government. Further, it is well served by the existing transportation network, within walking distance of the Franconia-Springfield Transportation Center that is served by WMATA’s Metrorail; the Virginia Railway Express commuter rail system; local, regional, and intercity bus services; and, near several equity emphasis areas within the County. Moreover, the establishment of such a workplace increases the economic vitality of those areas

along with the County by encouraging business development, supporting small businesses, and growing the tax base, among other benefits. These continued partnerships underscore the opportunities that exist, the importance of sustained relationships, and the benefits the County provides to the federal workforce. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

- **Legislative language requiring greater coordination between a federal agency and host communities in any future federal government relocation and consolidation proposals for both new facilities and the use of existing facilities.** Any future federal government relocations or consolidations should include a requirement that the appropriate federal agency analyze the transportation impacts of such a recommendation, both on the facility and the surrounding community, before final recommendations (including provisions addressing the identified transportation impacts) are made (as was done when the relocation of the FBI was being considered). Coordination should continue following such relocations as well – for example, agencies should provide Transportation Demand Management services and strategies, including offering information on transit options, mandating that employees stationed at the facility telecommute or arrive at work before or after peak rush hour, assigning preferential parking to carpool users, and other options. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Funding for transportation projects essential to DOD relocation and consolidation.** Continued collaboration between Fairfax County and its federal partners is necessary to provide transportation improvements in the areas most directly affected by ongoing operations at Fort Belvoir. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- **Distribution of full funding (\$180 million) for widening US Route 1.** The Defense Access Roads program, administered by the DOD OLDCC, appropriated \$180 million in federal funds to widen US Route 1 from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, to improve road access and traffic flow to the Fort Belvoir Army Hospital. This phase of the Route 1 widening is complete, and approximately \$30-34 million in unspent funds remains in the program; such funding could be used for additional improvements in the Route 1 corridor within the scope of the Defense Access Roads requirements. However, OLDCC personnel have stated that after completion of all six Veterans Affairs Hospital infrastructure improvement projects, OLDCC will seek guidance from the relevant Congressional committees on how the remaining funds should be spent. All projects are complete and the OLDCC expects the administrative process to close out all accounts will be completed by the end of FY 2023. Thereafter, OLDCC will submit a report to Congress. The County continues to work with its Congressional delegation, federal agencies, and state partners on efforts to ensure that available revenue can be utilized to mitigate impacts in the Route 1 corridor as intended. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position)*

TAXATION AND FINANCE

Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

Support maintaining the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds as a critical tool generating investments in vital public infrastructure for localities, saving state and local governments nationwide hundreds of billions in interest costs over the last century.

As the primary source of funding for local infrastructure projects, municipal bonds have provided localities throughout the US with a valuable funding tool for decades. In Fairfax County, such bonds are vital for strengthening economic development efforts. Fortunately, the 2017 Tax Reform and Jobs Act continued the tax deduction for municipal bonds, but there is still a risk that the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds could be eliminated. While the 2017 tax law protected tax-exempt municipal bonds, it eliminated the advanced refunding of such bonds. Fairfax County supports reinstating advanced refunding and preserving tax-exempt municipal bonds. Large municipalities would be particularly damaged if similar proposals are considered in the future, as the repeal of tax-exempt status would increase the debt service burden on counties nationwide by over \$9 billion annually. The County urges Congress to maintain this critical exemption. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Federal Funding for Costs of Educating Federally-Connected Students

Support full funding for Impact Aid, which provides funding to school divisions that educate federally-connected students, and revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility process to ensure all students with military student identifiers are automatically included in the program. Also support increased Impact Aid funding for schools with a substantial population of military-connected families, as well as increased funding for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions. Additionally, support federal reimbursement for costs associated with educating and providing supportive services to unaccompanied minors placed in Fairfax County by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Impact Aid serves many federally-connected families and provides the well-educated workforce and strong business climate that is so vital to the functioning of the federal government. Serving nearly 18,300 federally-connected children places a significant cost on Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) (data from the 2021-2022 school year). The federal government attempts to compensate localities for these costs through the Impact Aid program, which is designed to assist local school districts that have lost property tax revenue due to the presence of tax-exempt federal property, or that have experienced increased expenditures due to the enrollment of federally-connected children. However, this program does not adequately compensate localities for the actual cost of providing a quality K-12 education as a result of consistent underfunding. In FY 2023, FCPS expects to receive approximately \$3.7 million in Impact Aid, which covers only one percent of the costs incurred by FCPS to educate such children. If this program were fully funded, FCPS would have received approximately an additional \$22.1 million in FY 2023. FCPS receives less Impact Aid than other school divisions partially because when Impact Aid is not fully funded, as has been the case for decades, the funding formula prioritizes school districts with a higher percentage of military-connected students, rather than school districts like FCPS that have both more military-connected children overall and specific schools with high concentrations of military-connected students. Additional Impact Aid funding is needed to mitigate the effect of that component of the formula. Furthermore, revising the Impact Aid eligibility identification process to automatically “opt in” any student with a military student identifier would be extremely helpful in reducing the administrative burden of identifying relevant students and ensuring that FCPS receives Impact Aid funding for all military-connected students. In addition to basic Impact Aid funding, school districts also receive payments for federally-connected children who have disabilities resulting in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), but in FY 2022 this payment was only \$640 per child, despite the fact that it costs FCPS more than \$28,000 per year per child to provide special education services (FCPS has nearly 1,300 military-connected students with IEPs). Increased Impact Aid funding is needed for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions.

Additionally, significant numbers of federally-connected, school-aged children have been placed in Fairfax County through the federal ORR over the last decade. In fact, between October 1, 2014, and September 30, 2022, Fairfax County had the eighth highest number of placements in the country (nearly 9,200). Though the County celebrates its diversity, and recognizes that a diverse student population benefits all children in the school system, these placements (and the corresponding financial impacts on FCPS) are unpredictable, fluctuating dramatically over the past several years, and frequently occur after the adoption of local budgets. In addition, many unaccompanied children need supportive services, including case management, basic needs assistance, employment preparation, and health care, which are no longer provided by ORR once children are placed with sponsors. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Position on Impact Aid funding is consistent with the Fairfax County School Board’s position.)*

Social Safety Net

Support federal funding for programs and services that provide a critical social safety net for vulnerable Americans.

It is the responsibility of government at all levels – federal, state, and local – to help Americans who are unable to fully meet their own needs. Healthy and engaged individuals, families, and communities are the foundation of the US’ present and future security and prosperity, and ensuring this foundation requires a strong partnership across all

levels of government to maintain the critical safety net. Fairfax County opposes changes that shift additional responsibilities to localities, weakening the federal/state/local partnership, particularly in a state where financial support for the social safety net tends to be minimal, and supports programs and funding streams that:

- Help residents of Fairfax County meet their basic needs, from nutrition programs to homelessness prevention, emergency rental assistance, and affordable housing, such as the Community Services Block Grant and Homeless Assistance Grants (including Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants).
- Support expansions to the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program which plays a key role in financing affordable housing. In Fairfax County, approximately 10,000 affordable homes have been constructed, preserved, or rehabilitated utilizing the LIHTC program. The ability to encourage private investments in affordable housing through tax credits is critical to helping meet the demand in the County.
- Ensure a workforce equipped for emerging, high-growth industries by providing affordable and accessible learning opportunities (including through funding workforce development programs) for all ages and stages of development.
- Improve access to affordable, quality child care for families with low incomes, including increased funding for the Child Care and Development Block Grant.
- Provide local flexibility to meet the needs of a changing and challenging economic climate, while avoiding penalties to localities that exhibit prudent fiscal management.
- Promote school readiness for at-risk children, including increased funding for Head Start.
- Protect the health and well-being of residents through programs such as the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Provide sufficient funding to meet federal mandates, or at a minimum, adequate flexibility to ensure the success of priority programs.
- Ensure that the basic needs of low-income military families are met (many are paid so little that they are forced to use public assistance to feed their families).
- Incentivize affordable housing creation and preservation, including full funding for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), which provides funding for affordable housing through acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, and tenant-based rental assistance, and other innovative financing tools.
- Help older adults and people with disabilities remain safe and independent in their communities, such as the Older Americans Act programs.
- Assist states in providing adult protective services and long-term care ombudsman programs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Support funding to address housing, water, infrastructure, and human service needs, and to expand economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals and communities.

CDBG provides flexible funding for localities to address the needs of low- and moderate-income individuals, including community development activities to address threats to health or safety, rehabilitation of housing, construction and improvement of public facilities (such as water, sewer, and sidewalks), and job creation/retention activities (in FY 2022, Fairfax County received an estimated \$6.1 million in CDBG funds). Congress provided formula/entitlement funding for CDBG at \$3.3 billion in FY 2019, \$3.4 billion in FY 2020, and \$3.5 billion in FY 2021. For FY 2023, the Biden Administration proposed \$3.8 billion, the House proposed \$3.3 billion, and the Senate proposed \$3.5 billion for CDBG. Fairfax County supports increasing CDBG funding to \$4.2 billion in FY 2023, which is the level requested by NACo. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Department of Justice (DOJ)

Support federal assistance to state and local governments to develop and implement programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health issues involved in the criminal justice system. Also support continued funding for DOJ programs that provide critical support to local law enforcement.

The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) provides funding for state and local governments to develop and implement programs designed to improve outcomes for individuals with behavioral health issues who are involved in the criminal justice system. Law enforcement officers are often the first responders when an individual is in a mental health crisis – the Fairfax County Police Department responded to over 10,000 mental health-related calls in calendar year 2021. Such calls, at times, can lead to incarceration for non-violent offenses, precluding individuals from receiving appropriate treatment for behavioral health issues. Locally, Fairfax County’s “Diversion First” initiative offers alternatives to incarceration for people with behavioral health issues who come into contact with the criminal justice system. Additionally, a co-responder team, comprised of both behavioral health and law enforcement professionals, has been initiated to enhance the County’s response to behavioral health crisis calls. Diversion First has already had a significant impact – since 2016, more than 3,000 people have been diverted from potential arrest. Additionally, there has been a 35 percent decrease in the behavioral health population with misdemeanor charges from 2015 to 2021. Over the same period, the number of inmates referred to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) jail-based services increased by 33 percent. Though the average daily population has decreased since FY 2008, the medical complexities of inmates have increased, with complex substance use and mental health disorders becoming more common. Federal funding is needed to sustain and expand this critical initiative; Fairfax County supports full funding (\$50 million) of the JMHCP, which has not been fully funded since its inception in 2004. The program received \$40 million in FY 2022. For FY 2023, the Biden Administration requested \$40 million, and the House and Senate each proposed \$45 million.

The County also supports increased funding, or at a minimum, level funding, for DOJ programs that provide critical support to County law enforcement, including: the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program (Byrne/JAG); the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP); the COPS Hiring Grant Program; and the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) grant program. Federal funding from these programs assists the County in combatting crime, managing better outcomes for youth, providing crucial resources to law enforcement officers, and achieving the highest level of public safety for its residents. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Substance Use Disorder

Support efforts that increase capacity to address the ongoing substance use disorder epidemic through community-based treatment (including detoxification, medication-assisted, residential, and intensive outpatient programs) and innovative efforts to limit the supply of opioids. Also support coordinated strategies to meet the growing need for substance use disorder services that target specific high-risk age groups. In particular, regulatory action and innovative approaches to prevention and nicotine addiction treatment are necessary to address the vaping crisis that is affecting teens and young adults at an alarming rate.

Across Virginia, the number of fatal overdoses set a new record high for the second year in a row, with about 2,700 fatalities in calendar year 2021 – an increase of over 60 percent from 2019. In the Fairfax Health District (including Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church), opioids are the number one cause of unnatural death, with 111 opioid overdose deaths in 2021; all but eight of these fatalities were due to fentanyl. Though federal actions in recent years to expand prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery programs, make reforms to Medicaid and Medicare to better serve program participants with substance use disorders, and provide greater support for federal drug courts are positive steps, more funding is needed for treatment, prevention, and drug courts to respond to the increasing need for services.

Another concerning trend is the widespread use of e-cigarettes, which have been the most used tobacco product among youth since 2014. In 2020, more than 3.6 million American middle and high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days. In Fairfax County, among students surveyed in the 8th, 10th and 12th grades, more students reported vaping within a month of the survey date in November 2021 than using any other substances,

and lifetime prevalence rates were 7.2 percent of 8th graders, 15.0 percent of 10th graders, and 23.4 percent of 12th graders. Though e-cigarettes became popular because they have been considered less harmful than regular cigarettes, the discovery of severe respiratory illness in otherwise healthy young people as a deadly complication of vaping has raised alarm throughout the US. In April 2022, the US Food and Drug Administration announced a proposed rule to ban menthol from cigarettes, as well as to ban flavored cigars, which are popular with youth. The County supports a federal effort to accelerate the evaluation of the health impacts of e-cigarettes and vaping products; allocate funding to increase communication of the risks associated with vaping THC and products purchased on the street; and, strengthen enforcement to ensure e-cigarettes and vaping products are not marketed or sold to youth. It is essential that all substance use prevention programs and services are adequately funded, cost-efficient, accessible, and outcome driven. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

CONTINUING PRINCIPLES

Census

- Support continued funding for the US Census Bureau as it continues 2020 Census data release and prepares for the 2030 Census and its subsequent data releases, which have major implications for the distribution of federal funding, Congressional redistricting, and the availability of social, demographic, and economic data used to guide policy decisions. An accurate Census count is critical to state and local government operations, and various survey programs (primarily the American Community Survey – a demographic, housing, and socioeconomic survey program conducted by the Census Bureau) provide data annually, as essential tools for state and local governments, informing decision-making and program development. It is estimated that Virginia will lose up to \$2,000 annually for each person not counted, or more than \$20,000 per person over a decade. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the use of accurate, equitable methodology in carrying out Census operations. The Census Bureau is required to keep personally identifiable information confidential – in order to do this, they utilize a disclosure avoidance system (DAS) to anonymize the data. In 2020, a new methodology was implemented for the first time to modernize the DAS. This new method injects extraneous information into the data, leading to concerns about data accuracy (which could have a significant impact on larger jurisdictions like Fairfax County, since a possible effect of the practice is to shift population counts from larger to smaller jurisdictions). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the timely dissemination of 2020 census data, including demographic and housing characteristics, which have critical applications for local government programs, policies, and decision making. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the Census Bureau’s ongoing surveys and programs, and the technology developed to aid data distribution and data application. *(New position.)*
- Support continued funding for the Census Bureau in the long-term, as the agency conducts research and development of information-gathering technology to be used in anticipation of the 2030 Census. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Consumer Protection

- Support efforts to enhance consumer protections in products sold by alternative financial services, such as payday loans and vehicle title loans, to minimize the negative financial impact of such products on financially vulnerable consumers. Payday and vehicle title loans are often associated with practices that drive consumers further into debt. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Education

- Support full funding for Impact Aid, which provides funding to school divisions that educate federally-connected students. Also support increased Impact Aid funding for schools with a substantial population of military-connected families, as well as increased funding for military-connected students with disabilities who receive special needs exemptions. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

- Support revisions to the Impact Aid eligibility process to ensure all students with military student identifiers are automatically included in the program, reducing the administrative burden of identifying relevant students. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support fully funding the costs of implementing federal mandates, such as the requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), and support broad flexibility and additional resources to carry them out. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support elimination of the current “prior use” rule for tax credits on school renovation and reconstruction, which disallows these credits when the building is rehabilitated and used in the same manner as before the rehabilitation. This could provide a tool for rehabilitating aging County schools. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Elections

- Support federal efforts, especially those of the US Department of Homeland Security, to ensure the security and reliability of voting technology and operations, and elections results as part of the nation’s critical infrastructure, including funding for technical improvements. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support sufficient, ongoing federal funding to assist states and localities in implementing any new federal mandates for elections equipment and infrastructure, including accessibility and security requirements. The Virginia Department of Elections received approximately \$20.9 million in cybersecurity Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds in FYs 2018, 2020, and 2022 but HAVA funding for other aspects of election administration is needed. If states are the recipients of federal funding for improvements to election administration, consultation with localities should be required in determining the use of the funds. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Monitor potential impacts of the Supreme Court decision striking down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act, which eliminated the requirement that changes to Virginia’s election laws be “pre-cleared.” *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support legislation that enhances collaboration between federal agencies, states, and localities for election administration and security, including funding for federal agencies (such as the US Election Assistance Commission) that disseminate research and information on elections administration and infrastructure. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Environment

- Support incentives and innovations that encourage environmental preservation, enhancement, and resource conservation, including solid waste management improvements (such as extended producer responsibility, which ensures producers of consumer products are appropriately responsible for the treatment and disposal of the post-consumer products that they generate). *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support incentives for open space preservation and enhancement, including within developed areas. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support adequate funding to local governments and achievable timelines for any new federal environmental regulations or mandates, particularly requirements related to the Chesapeake Bay watershed. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support initiatives to enhance tree canopy in urban areas. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the utilization by FCPS of federal funding opportunities made available by the IRA for energy efficiency projects in school facilities. *(New position.)*

Federal Contracting

- Support efforts to streamline and increase efficiency and productivity in federal government operations, by maximizing the strengths of both federal contractors and federal government employees. Such efforts to strike this balance should be accomplished in a thoughtful, open process that is not arbitrary in nature. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support the critical partnership that exists between the public and private sectors in the conduct of federal government operations. This is particularly important in Fairfax County, where federal employees and

federal contractors each contribute significantly to the local and state economy. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Health

- Support close monitoring of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), safeguarding the provision of critical health coverage and an efficient allocation of resources, while providing clear direction and appropriate incentives for consumers and employers, and avoiding both service reductions and restrictions on access to care. Also support actions to ensure equitable access to care and reasonable health care costs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support close collaboration between the federal government and the Commonwealth to maximize Medicaid expansion in Virginia. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for skilled nursing care. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support appropriate oversight by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of Medicaid-funded transportation service, in order to resolve ongoing complaints stemming from consistent poor performance and ensure adequate service is restored. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support federal funding initiatives that will advance research, surveillance, reporting, and diagnostics for Lyme disease. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support parity between primary healthcare and behavioral healthcare to ensure reimbursement parity for critically important behavioral health services. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Homeland Security/Emergency Operations

- Support greater funding for “high risk” areas such as Northern Virginia and Fairfax County. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support timely delivery of funds and ways to achieve greater flexibility for use of funds, while maintaining strong accountability standards. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support federal assistance for the implementation of “Next Generation 911,” a major change in the provision of 911 services that is particularly critical for the National Capital Region. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support efforts to allow local governments to perform hazard mitigation work when a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant application is pending to ensure essential mitigation efforts are not delayed while awaiting award decisions. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Immigration

- Oppose actions that would compromise the County’s ability to deliver local government programs and services that benefit or protect the community as a whole. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Oppose legislation that would mandate local governments to enforce federal immigration laws, especially in the area of law enforcement. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Land Use

- Oppose any diminution of local land use authority, either by further limiting the scope of local regulatory authority or by creating new and more elaborate land use regulatory structures. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- The County supports the concept that disputes over land use authority are local in character and should be solved at the local level. Further, the County requests that the development community and regional entities discuss any concerns or problems with the County before seeking legislative solutions. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Libraries

- Support increased federal aid to state library agencies and local public libraries. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) provides critically important federal funding for the nation's libraries, including resources which allow the Library of Virginia to support local libraries, early learning, summer reading, training for library staff, and access to Virginia's documentary history. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support reducing barriers to libraries acquiring eMaterials under reasonable terms and costs. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Local Taxation

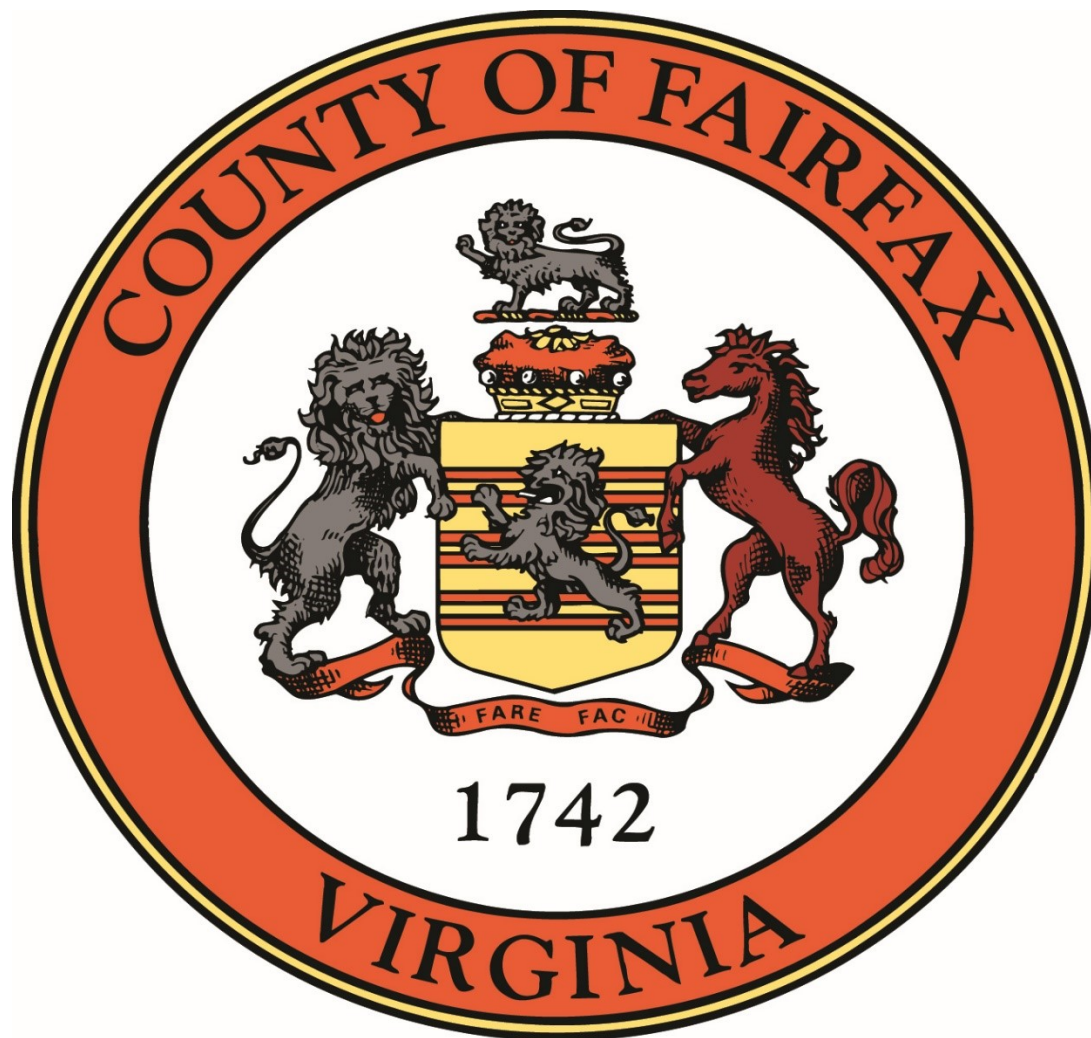
- Preserve existing local taxing authority. Encroachment upon local authority skews local accountability and hampers efforts to provide for constituent needs in the most cost effective and efficient manner. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support legislation allowing local governments to participate in the Federal Offset Program, which would improve the ability of local governments to collect delinquent local taxes by offsetting the owed taxes with reductions in the federal income tax refunds of the delinquent individual. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Oppose federal efforts to limit or delay the ability of states to collect sales tax from remote sellers. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*

Public Safety

- Support efforts to reauthorize the federal assault weapons ban included in the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support enhanced federal efforts to assist localities with gang prevention and intervention programs, as well as stronger gang prevention measures. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Support additional resources to ensure gang prevention and intervention programs are adequately staffed with specialized personnel (including law enforcement data analysts and gang coordinators, among others). *(New position.)*

Telecommunications/Communications

- Oppose any preemption or circumvention of local governments' control over land use decisions, including restrictions on the placement, construction, and modification of small cell and other wireless facilities, undergrounding requirements, and the implementation of time limits for reviewing wireless facility applications. Also oppose any attempt to eliminate local governments' right to charge, on a non-discriminatory basis, fair and reasonable compensation for use of public property. Monitor implementation of Federal Communications Commission (FCC) action to expand Section 6409 rules (including ruling on commencement of shot clock and expansion of the 30-foot area to deploy transmission equipment) or otherwise further diminish local authority over telecommunications facilities and equipment. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*
- Oppose any reduction or diminution of local government authority to: address consumer needs; regulate consumer services; and, negotiate and enforce cable franchises that include provisions such as redlining prohibitions, franchise fees, public, educational, and governmental channels and financial support, customer service provisions, and technical construction standards. *(Reaffirms previous position.)*



FAIRFAX COUNTY

2023 HUMAN SERVICES ISSUE PAPER [DRAFT]

NOVEMBER 1, 2022

2023 Fairfax County Human Services Issue Paper [DRAFT]

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Introduction

The Human Services Issue Paper is a supplement to the 2023 Fairfax County Legislative Program as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has long recognized that investments in critical housing, health, and human services programs are essential to maintaining a healthy and vibrant community that provides all residents an equitable opportunity to thrive.

As the nation continues to experience the various stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, substantial and sustained investments in health, housing, and human services remain essential in addressing the challenges facing Fairfax County. With inflation and significant housing cost increases, it has become increasingly challenging to live in Fairfax County, especially for residents who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. These challenges must be addressed so that all residents have financial security, stable housing, and the opportunity to thrive. Residents who were experiencing vulnerability pre-pandemic will most likely experience the greatest hardships, so services must be administered equitably to avoid exacerbating disparities in Fairfax County. In addition to the economic impact, there have been increases in mental health crises and substance use overdoses since the pandemic.

Although Fairfax County has one of the highest median household incomes in the nation, significant and complex needs are prevalent in this community. Over 80,000 residents live in poverty and over 248,000 residents (22 percent) earn less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL, \$38,640 for an individual or \$79,500 for a family of four). In addition, negative impacts on income, employment, and health are pervasive, and disparities specific to certain racial groups and neighborhoods have been identified.

Historically, the state has underfunded health, housing, and human services, which puts enormous pressure on localities to fund critical services and new state mandates with local revenues. The \$4.3 billion in federal relief funding that the Commonwealth received provided an unprecedented opportunity to address community needs magnified by the pandemic, including affordable housing, substance use disorder, mental health services, early childhood, health care, economic self-sufficiency, and home and community-based services for older adults and people with disabilities. As those needs existed long before the pandemic, even this substantial federal investment cannot solve decades of inadequate funding. Therefore, the General Assembly (GA) must commit to investing sufficient state funding going forward to build on these important investments.

Strong partnerships between the Commonwealth and local governments are essential in addressing the pandemic's lingering impact and the diverse needs in our communities.

This can be accomplished by making policy and budgetary decisions that:

- Invest in initiatives that offer all residents access to opportunities that equip them for lifelong success;
- Support residents experiencing vulnerability so they can live independent lives to their fullest potential;
- Address racial, gender, and social inequities that have created systemic and institutional barriers; and,
- Create evidence-based, outcome-driven programs that are innovative, incorporate best practices, and adapt to localities' unique needs.

Priorities

Affordable Housing

Support state funding and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible and integrated housing options and prevent homelessness, including expanded investments in tools and programs to address affordable housing needs, particularly in high cost-of-living areas like Northern Virginia, and to mitigate evictions resulting from the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also support retaining existing local land use authority, allowing localities to craft solutions that are appropriate for their communities, including innovative ideas and solutions that require the flexibility and agility to respond to changing conditions and circumstances as opportunities present themselves.

Affordable housing is the underpinning of all human services programs, improving physical and mental health, reducing stress, and improving nutrition, educational outcomes, and family stability. It also provides vital benefits to communities, from helping to attract and retain employees to reducing congestion, improving the environment, and stimulating economic growth.

- Support substantially increasing funding for the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, as well as increasing the funding cap that each development can request. This is essential to create and preserve affordable housing and reduce homelessness in Northern Virginia, where housing affordability poses substantial challenges for the economic competitiveness of the region.
- Expand resources to ensure legal assistance and aid to tenants facing eviction, including outreach and prevention services for potential beneficiaries.
- Expand the pool of resources available for down payment assistance, as down payment costs are a major barrier to homeownership for low- and moderate-income earners.
- Enhance and create additional state-funded housing tax credits and rental assistance programs for individuals with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness, such as the Livable Homes Tax Credit, State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP), Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP), and previously provided Housing Choice Vouchers.
- Increase funding for permanent supportive housing units for individuals with severe mental illness, substance use disorder, and developmental disabilities.
- Consider changes to state law to protect residents of mobile home parks, including more assistance with relocations, expanded notification requirements for both tenants and localities, and longer timelines. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Behavioral Health

Support sustainable funding, allocated based on localities' needs and population size, for public safety and mental health services that connect people who come into contact with the criminal justice system for non-violent offenses to treatment. Also support sufficient state funding for intensive community resources – such as Assertive Community Treatment and Discharge Assistance Planning – and intensive residential services, to alleviate the state hospital bed crisis and allow individuals to transition safely and expediently from psychiatric hospitals to community care. Oppose any state actions which disproportionately rely on local funding for service implementation.

- Provide full funding, commensurate with the size of the population served, and flexibility for the Commonwealth's System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA) Crisis Services and for Marcus Alert implementation. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth has not provided adequate funding to implement the newly mandated services.

- Ensure that any future mandates are fully funded by the state, include flexibility for implementation, and are coordinated with Community Services Boards (CSBs).
- Oppose the use of a local ability to pay factor in the distribution of CSB funds and funding for related behavioral health programs like Marcus Alert, which would penalize localities that make funding behavioral health programs with local dollars a priority.
- Increase the availability of community-based crisis services, community residential capacity for early intervention to prevent hospitalization, and local psychiatric beds for people with behavioral health issues.
- Remove the barriers that exist in alternative transportation and alternative custody options for individuals in need of psychiatric hospitalization.
- Enhance reintegration and discharge planning services for youth and adults at high risk of rapid re-hospitalization or re-offending.
- Increase funding for mental health services and substance use treatment for individuals incarcerated for offenses that make diversion programs unavailable to them.
- Remove barriers to the exchange of health information of individuals among law enforcement, the court system, CSBs, health care providers, and families and guardians.
- Provide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid training to law enforcement personnel, dispatchers, Fire and Rescue, jail personnel, and health and human services staff to educate those interacting with individuals with developmental disabilities, substance use disorder, and mental illness.
- Provide adequate funding for forensic discharge planning and post-incarceration services to remove the barriers to community reentry. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position. See also the Courts position in the 2023 Legislative Program.)*

Substance Use Disorder

Support increased capacity to address the Commonwealth’s ongoing substance use disorder epidemic through community-based treatment, including detoxification, medication-assisted, residential, and intensive outpatient programs, and innovative efforts to limit the supply of opioids, particularly fentanyl which is involved in most fatal overdoses in Fairfax County and the Commonwealth. Also support coordinated strategies to meet the growing need for substance use disorder services that target specific high-risk age groups, including youth. Innovative approaches to prevention, such as expanding county cigarette taxing authority to include e-cigarettes and nicotine addiction treatment, are necessary to address the vaping crisis that is affecting teens and young adults at an alarming rate. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Position Statements

Medicaid Waivers

Support state funding and expansion for Virginia’s Medicaid waivers that provide critical home and community-based services for qualified individuals. Also support increased funding for developmental disability (DD) Medicaid waivers and slots, to provide appropriate community services and ensure the Commonwealth fulfills its responsibility to implement the federal settlement agreement.

Fairfax County supports the following adjustments in Medicaid waivers:

- An increased number of DD Medicaid waiver slots to meet, at a minimum, the Priority One waiting list, which averages over 3,000 annually in Virginia.
- Automatic rate increases, including an increase in the Northern Virginia rate differential.
- Improvements to the process for negotiating the approval and re-approval of customized rates for individuals with intensive behavioral and health needs who cannot be adequately served through the standard DD waiver rate structure.
- Expansion of home and community-based services by incorporating the Community First Choice (CFC) option into Virginia’s 2023 Medicaid state plan.
- Enforcement of Olmstead rights for people with disabilities and older adults to remain in the community following hospitalization for medical crises, including COVID-19 and related conditions.
- Ensuring a living wage for personal care attendants, consumer-directed personal assistants, respite care workers, and other caregiving roles that are funded through Medicaid waivers.
- Enhancement and preservation of the CCC Plus Waiver, and elimination of the weekly 56-hour cap on personal care services.
- Restoration of respite hours that were reduced from 720 to 480 per year in 2011. Respite care allows caregivers to better manage crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic (if unused, there is no cost to the state).
- Fully funded reimbursements for nursing and behavioral consultation, training, monitoring, and supports.
- Increased state funding to support a sustainable, well-trained workforce in residential, employment and day support settings, including higher reimbursement rates to hire and retain professional nurses.
- Expansion of Regional Education Assessment Crisis Services and Habilitation (REACH) in-home crisis supports, access to appropriate intensive residential support options, and community-based crisis services for individuals with disabilities. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (The 2022 GA directed the Department of Medical Assistance Services to convene a workgroup to study the development of a Medicaid waiver for individuals with brain injury and neuro-cognitive disorders. A report is due November 1, 2022.)*

Children and Families

Children's Services Act (CSA)

Support continued state responsibility for funding mandated CSA services on a sum sufficient basis. Oppose changes to CSA that shift costs to local governments, disrupt the responsibilities and authorities assigned to the County by CSA, or alter current funding formulas and increase costs to Fairfax County (where the aggregate local match is currently approximately 46 percent). Also support the current structure, which requires that service decisions are made at the local level and are provided based on the needs of each child, ensuring that service expenditures are approved through local processes. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (The GA directed the Secretaries of Education and Health and Human Resources to convene a workgroup to consider the administration and use of CSA funding for private special education day schools and residential facilities. A final report is due November 1, 2022.)*

Child Care

Support state child care funding for economically disadvantaged families not participating in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)/Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW), and support an increase in child care service rates. Also support maintaining Fairfax County's local permitting process for family child care providers serving four or fewer non-resident children.

- Support a waiver from the Virginia Department of Education allowing Fairfax County to permanently increase program income eligibility above the current 250 percent of the FPL for state subsidy, to help address some of the challenges families experience due to the high cost of living in Northern Virginia.
- Ensure updates to the state's maximum reimbursement rates for child care subsidy vendors are made on a regular basis to reflect the cost of care and continue to assess the family copayment scale to support child care access and affordability. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Early Intervention Services for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities/Part C

Support increased and sustainable funding and infrastructure for Part C Early Intervention, which is a state/federal entitlement program that provides services for Virginia's infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Also support increasing rates for early intervention services to reflect current costs. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

School Readiness

Support increased state resources and operational flexibility for early childhood education programs, including the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI), in order to eliminate barriers and allow localities to expand these critical programs.

- Continue to allow flexibility to provide VPI services in community early childhood programs, including centers and family child care homes, to address capacity challenges in public school settings (if Fairfax County were to use all available slots to serve four-year-old children in only public school classrooms, approximately 68 additional classrooms would be needed, creating a substantial capacity challenge).
- Provide flexibility for teacher credentials and licensure in community early childhood programs, allowing grant funding to be used equitably across all programs participating in VPI.
- Continue to have an additional verification window to confirm VPI eligibility for families enrolling after the initial fall verification date, which allows improved access to this important program. *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.)*

Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Independence and Self-Sufficiency for Older Adults and People with Disabilities

Support funding for programs that promote the independence, self-sufficiency, and community engagement of older adults and people with disabilities. Also support additional funding for home care workers and resources for family caregivers. (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Support state funding for additional APS social workers. As the older adult population has increased in Virginia, so has the demand for APS services, but state funding has remained stagnant (in FY 2022, Fairfax County APS received over 3,200 reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation). (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Long-Term Care (LTC) Workforce Needs

Support legislation to improve the quality of LTC in Virginia's skilled nursing facilities, in order to ensure better health outcomes and quality of care for medically frail individuals, including older adults and individuals with disabilities. Also support legislation that helps nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities to recruit and retain highly qualified, well-trained staff (which is currently difficult due to low wages, limited benefits, and stressful working conditions). (Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (The GA directed the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to study the current oversight and regulation of nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other congregate living settings. A final report was due to the GA by October 1, 2022, but has not yet been released.)

Health, Well Being, and Safety

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Support a continued increase in TANF reimbursement rates, as current Virginia TANF benefit levels remain at or below 32 percent of the FPL for all family household sizes. (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Support additional state funding and efforts to increase the capacity for localities to implement culturally specific prevention and intervention services to eliminate domestic and sexual violence, including continued support for evidence-based, quality programs that provide education and rehabilitation for those who cause harm to help end the cycle of violence and provide victims more choice in addressing safety concerns and housing needs. Also support legislation to strengthen protective orders (POs), such as: requiring family abuse PO respondents to immediately surrender firearms directly to law enforcement; expanding the prohibition on knowingly possessing a firearm to include non-family abuse PO respondents; and, providing judges with greater discretion to extend and/or increase the time period of POs. (Updates and reaffirms previous position.)