

**CHARTER
AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVISORY COUNCIL**

- TITLE:** **Affordable Housing Advisory Council (AHAC)**
This Charter is intended to promote a common understanding as to the Affordable Housing Advisory Council's purpose, duties and method of operation.
- DATE INITIATED:** July 1, 2021 (*To be revised for FY2024 due to new Homelessness Board)
- PURPOSE:** Recognizing that housing is foundational for all, the purpose of the Council is to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, consistent with the One Fairfax initiative, regarding the implementation and achievement of the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan, County resource requirements identified in the annual Budget Guidance, any additional adopted affordable housing development or preservation guidance, as well as overarching policies and programs that address housing in the context of related County efforts, programs and initiatives.
- STRUCTURE:** The Affordable Housing Advisory Council (AHAC) is an officially appointed Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission, and operates under VFOIA. AHAC is governed by a set of bylaws that guide the selection and appointment of members and scope of authority.
- RESTRICTIONS:** None
- STAFF:** Director, Department of Housing and Community Development
- TERM:** Each Council member will serve a two-year term on alternating annual fiscal year cycles. The Co-Chairs will each serve four-year terms on alternating biennial fiscal year cycles.
- DUTIES:** The Council will:
- Use an equity lens in all its work and recommendations to determine who benefits and who is burdened by past and current actions, how to mitigate burdens, and how housing benefits might be more broadly shared and, by cultivating an inclusive culture that intentionally includes diverse perspectives and interests represented by individuals who reflect the County's diversity and are committed to housing affordability for all throughout the County;
 - Monitor and provide advice regarding the progress toward achieving the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan recommendations, with a particular focus on the housing unit production and preservation goals specified by the Affordable Housing Resource Panel, included in the annual Budget Guidance, and any additional adopted affordable housing development or preservation guidance;
 - Enhance community outreach by communicating with and educating the public about the benefits to the whole community of having housing that is affordable to all residents; the importance of preserving the affordable housing opportunities to prevent displacement and maintain affordable housing opportunities throughout the County; the importance and goals of the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan, the Countywide Strategic Plan and any additional adopted or successor affordable housing development or preservation guidance, and resource requirements to achieve the goals;
 - Recommend affordable housing development and preservation fund goals and priorities;
 - Review and provide guidance for the use of funds allocated for the equitable development and preservation of affordable housing;
 - Monitor effectiveness of affordable housing fund(s) on a biennial basis and suggest course corrections as needed;
 - Recommend innovative affordable housing strategies;
 - Synthesize and make overarching policy recommendations for affordable housing focused on the needs of persons experiencing homelessness and other special populations.
 - Understand housing affordability challenges in the broader context of poverty, homelessness, education, health, ability, economic mobility, and systemic racism.
- METHOD OF OPERATIONS:** The Council will meet on a quarterly basis, and as needed. The Council may establish an Executive Committee, committees or working groups as needed to accomplish its goals. The Council will provide regular reports to the Board of Supervisors and County Executive, the Fairfax

County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and other related boards, authorities and commissions, as needed to ensure progress in achieving the Communitywide Housing Strategic Plan, the Countywide Strategic Plan and any additional adopted or successor affordable housing development or preservation guidance.

