



FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA
2024 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

Housing

Affordable Housing

Support state funding and actions to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, integrated housing 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 **strengthen tenant protections against** evictions resulting from the **lingering** economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic **combined with market conditions that have led to surging rental prices.** 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.

Affordable housing is the **foundation** 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 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 **in plain language** 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, and Virginia Homeless Solutions Program.
- 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.) (Note: The Long Term Care Coordinating Council recommended that the Board of Supervisors retain this position in the 2024 Legislative Program.)*

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 **2023**, Fairfax County APS received over **3,500** reports of adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation). *(Updates and reaffirms previous position.) (Note: The Long Term Care Coordinating Council recommended that the Board of Supervisors retain this position in the 2024 Legislative Program.)*

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. *(Reaffirms previous position.) (Note: The Long Term Care Coordinating Council recommended that the Board of Supervisors retain this position in the 2024 Legislative Program.)*

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 **Federal Poverty Level** for all family household sizes. **Also support continued TANF funding of programs which meet the needs of low-income families.** *(Updates and reaffirms previous*