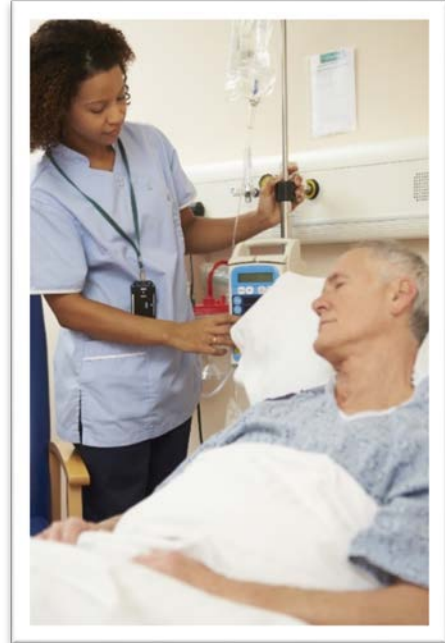


Meeting the Housing Needs of Workers in Fairfax County's Health Sector

Patrice Markham recently became a licensed practice nurse (LPN) after earning her degree at Northern Virginia Community College. She works at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, earning \$52,550 a year (80 percent of Area Median Income).

Patrice loves working at INOVA, but she has found it difficult to find housing she can afford near her work. She currently lives in Stafford County, commuting an hour and a half each way to and from work. She has been looking at job listings at hospitals in the Fredericksburg region, though she would hate to leave her job at INOVA.



Patrice is part of the fast-growing health care sector in Fairfax County. The need for all types of health care workers in the County will increase over the coming years, especially as Baby Boomers age and require health care both at home and in doctors' offices and hospitals. Nurses and home-health aides will be particularly in demand.

Discussion Questions

Many people who work in Fairfax County commute long distances to and from their jobs every day. Should the community be concerned for people who are in similar situations to Patrice? Why or why not?

If health care workers cannot afford to live in Fairfax County, what kind of impact do you think that will have on the community?

Note: The individual reflected in this story is fictional but is a representation of many actual residents in Fairfax County, based on an analysis of demographic data for the County.