



City of Fairfax, Virginia

Report and Recommendations of the City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force

June 7, 2024

The mission of the City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force is to address the impacts of homelessness within the City of Fairfax both for individuals experiencing homelessness and the greater community with the end goal of the City of Fairfax being a community that supports all people.

The mission will be accomplished through facilitated community dialogue and interface with existing systems serving individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness.¹

This report meets the Task Force's goal to develop recommendations on how the City of Fairfax can engage on current issues connected to homelessness that include budget, legislative matters, and the current service system in place with our collaborative partners. It serves to inform future planning to support policy development and programming.



Table of Contents

Overview of this Report	3
About the City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force	4
Background	4
The creation of the Homelessness Task Force.....	4
The outcome	5
HTF members	5
Meetings and process	6
About Homelessness in the City of Fairfax Today	8
The Homeless Task Force Makes the Following Recommendations to the Council of the City of Fairfax	12
How the Task Force developed recommendations.....	12
How the Task Force evaluated and finalized draft recommendations	12
How the Task Force sought feedback from stakeholders on draft recommendations	14
Final recommendations after incorporating community feedback.....	17
Three Subcommittees Set and Accomplished Specific Objectives During the Term of the Task Force	31
Accomplishments of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee	31
Accomplishments of the Data/Research Subcommittee	32
Accomplishments of the Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee	33
Appendices	35
Appendix A. Homelessness Task Force Rules of Engagement.....	35
Appendix B. Homelessness Task Force Community Values Statements	36
Appendix C. Data/Research Subcommittee: Data Report on Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness	37
Appendix D. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: PowerPoint presentation of HTF activities	43
Appendix E. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: Homelessness Task Force Engage Fairfax Webpage	53
Appendix F. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Best Practices Identified in Meetings with Representatives from Myrtle Beach, Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Charlottesville	55
Appendix G. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Unhoused Individuals	58
Appendix H. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Homeowners Association and Civic Association Presidents	65
Appendix I. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Local Businesses	75
Appendix J. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Homeless Services Provider Staff	78
Endnotes: Definitions and Additional Resources/Information	83



Overview of this Report

This report reflects the work of the City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force (HTF), a stakeholder group selected by Mayor and City Council to develop recommendations for the City of Fairfax leadership to identify problems and a range of solutions connected to people experiencing homelessness. Representation included elected officials, business owners and representatives, nonprofit representatives, those who have experienced homelessness, and residents from the City of Fairfax. In its work, Task Force members recognized essential partners—notably Fairfax County—as well as members within the faith and nonprofit communities, residents, and stakeholders in the business community.

The Task Force discussed the timing of implementation, challenges of funding and administration, and application of best practices deployed by other jurisdictions, without applying limits to its varied recommendations. The HTF generated a pool of ideas for future action, knowing that additional strategic implementation would follow the work of the Task Force.

With draft recommendations in hand, the HTF invited the public to comment and respond through an evening Feedback Roundtable. Participation generated insight into public opinion, preferences, concerns, questions, and ranked importance of draft recommendations. The Task Force applied this feedback to inform edits and add clarifying language to 13 recommendations, the merging of 2, and the creation of a new recommendation for a total of 38 final recommendations. In addition, the Task Force recognized public input in its deliberative process to identify 10 high priority recommendations.

As such, this report, along with its appendices and recommendations, provides a launching ground to inform future planning and next steps for the City of Fairfax as its leaders and community seek to address a complex and multifaceted social issue.

The report also includes definitions of terms and additional information at the first mention of many key terms in the document as *endnotes* at the back of the report. The endnotes serve as both a glossary and a resource for additional learning about this topic.



About the City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force

Background

Fairfax City enjoys picturesque, welcoming neighborhoods built on economic and social diversity that gives the city a competitive advantage in Northern Virginia. Its businesses offer local employment, provide quality services, and attract visitors. One of the City Council's goals is to strengthen the city's welcoming and safe community, known for its distinctive quality of life, through community engagement, connectivity, a safety net for those in need and exceptional city services. The City's blend of small-town charm, walkability, convenient location, cultural expression, and Old Town heritage makes the City of Fairfax a highly desirable, opportunity-filled place to call home.

Safe, stable homes are foundational to prosperity and opportunity for individuals and families. Housing is a crucial factor in the social determinants of health for everyone, particularly the unhoused population. Conditions such as work, age, education, and where we live each directly influence and predict individual and family-unit outcomes. Those who are unhoused or experiencing homelessness face narrow opportunities and substantive challenges tied to stigmatization, discrimination, financial instability, social isolation, and health and safety issues, as well as legal issues and regulatory barriers. Communities face a similar list of challenges with unhoused living within and nearby, such as strains on resources, negative impacts on business and tourism, personal health and safety concerns, and challenges in strategically addressing root causes and deploying realistic and compassionate solutions.

The creation of the Homelessness Task Force

The City of Fairfax Mayor and City Council established a homelessness task force by resolution (No. R-23-09)² on February 14, 2023. The mayor and two council members committed to providing representation on a task force to be formed along with 8-12 community members. HTF members were chosen in April 2023 with the initial meeting occurring May 1, 2023.

Per the resolution, the HTF was created to “facilitate a better understanding of and initiate a community dialogue focused on mitigating the impacts of homelessness on both the individual residents experiencing homelessness and the greater residential and business communities.”

Recommendations in this report will help inform future City of Fairfax initiatives.



The outcome

Thirty-eight recommendations were approved by the HTF through consensus and are provided in this report in the section titled: *Final recommendations after incorporating community feedback*. Recommendations are organized by topic:

- Legal and Policy
- Administrative
- Business Community
- Services and Support
- Shelter and Housing
- Education and Outreach
- Data and Research

In addition to developing these recommendations for City Council, the Task Force conducted an array of policy and advocacy activities, research, education, and outreach throughout their one-year term serving on one of three subcommittees. That work is included in the section titled *Three Subcommittees Set and Accomplished Specific Objectives During the Term of the Task Force* and in the appendices.

HTF members

Amini Bonane, Chair (resident)

Jim Gillespie, Vice Chair (resident)

Susan LaCroix, Vice Chair (resident)

Mark Light, Vice Chair (resident)

Jennifer Rose (business)

Josh Alexander, Earp's Ordinary (business)

Catherine Read (government: City of Fairfax Mayor)

Kate Doyle Feingold (government: City of Fairfax Councilmember)

So Lim (government: City of Fairfax Councilmember)

Grace Francis (resident)

Melinda Gaber (resident)

Zia Hassan, First American Real Estate (business)



Lesley Hatch, Lamb Center (nonprofit)

Michael Dykes, FACETS (nonprofit)

Heather Thomas, A Place to Stand (nonprofit)

Also formally serving on the Task Force at varied stages of its work:

Katherine Cordero, Vice Chair, Scout on the Circle (business)

Deb Haynes, Lamb Center (nonprofit)

Carole Huell, FACETS (nonprofit)

Members were selected by the City Council from applications submitted by residents. City Council ensured that it included varied stakeholder groups including representation from business, residents, and nonprofit organizations in addition to support and consultation from City of Fairfax staff and other constituents.

Meetings and process

To inform the work, City staff and elected officials hosted three listening sessions from April to June 2023. These sessions were designed to gain input from approximately 46 participating community members who responded to the following questions:

- How do you perceive the issue of homelessness?
- How does homelessness in the city impact you?
- By working together as a community, what could the potential outcomes be related to homelessness and housing insecurity?
- What could you do to address homelessness?

Notes and summaries from these sessions served as a starting place for a newly forming HTF. First convened in May 2023, HTF members were selected from individuals who applied for volunteer service on the Task Force. Selection incorporated varied sector representation from business, nonprofit, government, and citizen-resident.

The HTF developed Rules of Engagement (Appendix A) and Community Values (Appendix B), plus established working Subcommittees. The HTF generally met twice monthly, while Subcommittees met ad hoc. Early meetings explored topical educational discussions, benefited from guest speakers, and provided updates from subcommittees.



Three Subcommittees were formed to serve varied roles on behalf of the HTF:

- **The Education and Outreach Subcommittee** focused on developing strategies to inform the City of Fairfax community about the work and efforts of the Task Force.
- **The Data/Research Subcommittee** interviewed other jurisdictions around best practices and deployed informational surveys within the City's local community.
- **The Policy/Advocacy Subcommittee** drafted legal, administrative, and policy recommendations to address homelessness through legal, financial, business, health, and service systems.

The subcommittees collaborated with Joe Savage, PhD, Senior Regional Advisor from the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) to develop action plans that included objectives and tasks for the subcommittees to undertake in order to establish ongoing communication with the community and stakeholders as well as collect data and information about the City's current homelessness situation. Highlights of Subcommittee accomplishments are provided in the section of this report called *Three Subcommittees Set and Accomplished Specific Objectives During The Term of the Task Force*.

To help the HTF, the City contracted with Zelos, LLC, a small women-owned business located in Northern Virginia, for facilitation and report coordination expertise. Zelos facilitator Amy Owen began supporting the Task Force in February 2024.

Image 1 provides a graphical representation of the HTF Timeline.

Image 1. The HTF Timeline





About Homelessness in the City of Fairfax Today

The Point-in-Time (PIT) survey is a count of sheltered and unsheltered people who are experiencing homelessness³ on a single night in January. Below are key findings of the January 2024 PIT Count, as reported by the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH). Summary conclusions are offered below, with Appendix C containing a full data report.

It is essential to recognize that homelessness programs in the City of Fairfax are supported by and dependent upon the OPEH, which is part of Fairfax County's Department of Housing and Community Development. The OPEH manages and coordinates services to help people experiencing homelessness regain housing stability, including street outreach⁴, emergency shelters⁵, hypothermia prevention, and permanent supportive housing⁶. The agency also serves as the lead for the Continuum of Care⁷; and collaborates with City partners, other County agencies, nonprofits, faith and business communities, and those with lived experience of homelessness.

The numbers and data below represent all of Fairfax County unless specifically cited.

- **Total Count:** There were 1,278 people experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 PIT Count that includes all of Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and Falls Church. This is a decrease of 2 percent (32 people) from the 2023 PIT Count in which there were 1,310 people identified as experiencing homelessness.
- **Overall Trend:** After a steady reduction of people experiencing homelessness on the nights of the PIT Counts between 2008 and 2017 (a decrease of 47 percent or 871 people), the number of people experiencing homelessness identified through the counts increased 27 percent (258 people) between 2017 and 2021 and then decreased 3 percent (31 people) in 2022 before another increase in 2023 (10 percent or 119 people). The overall decrease in 2024 is primarily driven by the lower number of families in shelter (facilities and motels) and the lower number of unsheltered individuals.
- **Different Trends by Household Type:** The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness decreased by 8 percent (58 people) between the 2023 and 2024 counts. This decrease is attributed partially to improved and increased diversion efforts through which family housing crises are resolved without needing to go to a shelter. Enhanced eviction prevention⁸ efforts – such as emergency rental assistance, landlord and tenant outreach, and increased legal assistance – have also reduced the demand for family shelter. Meanwhile, the number of single adults experiencing homelessness increased by 5 percent (26 people) during the same time.



The full report provides greater detail on such subpopulations as the chronic homeless, veterans, transition age youth (18-24), and survivors of domestic violence as well as demographics of those counted.

The Number of Individual and Families experiencing homelessness and *specifically* in the city is difficult to determine for multiple reasons:

- The County reports its homeless data by region.⁹ The City of Fairfax is in region 4, and regions 2 and 3 directly adjoin the city, so it is difficult to get counts for either the city or the areas very close to it.
- The PIT Count does not disaggregate city data.
- Even if City data could be disaggregated within the PIT Count, individuals who may normally sleep in the city could be counted at a hypothermia shelter site located in a county- based church resulting in an under-count.
- Unhoused individuals may frequently move between the City and County.
- The 2024 PIT Count for Fairfax County included 201 families with children, an 8% decrease from 2023. Within the region, 36% of all people experiencing homelessness are families. The decrease in families experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County is due, in part, “to improved and increased diversion efforts through which a family’s housing crisis is resolved without the family needing to go to a shelter”. (OPEH)

It is less difficult to estimate the number of unhoused individuals who spend a portion of their day in the city. On any given day, the nonprofit Lamb Center providing day-time drop-in services serves approximately 100 to 130 individuals, many of whom are currently experiencing homelessness. In the winter when overnight hypothermia centers are set up by the faith-based community in the city, approximately 60 to 110 unhoused individuals are sheltered each night. Most hypothermia shelter participants are picked up and dropped off in the city by nonprofit FACETS vans. Many individuals participate in both the Lamb Center and hypothermia shelter systems, but not all.

In a recently completed survey by the Data/Research Subcommittee, of 50 hypothermia shelter participants, 90% said they are also being served by the Lamb Center, indicating that the Lamb Center and hypothermia shelter service statistics are a somewhat duplicated count. In addition, 54% of survey respondents said they sleep in the City of Fairfax in a variety of such places as motels, car/trunk, and public spaces when not in hypothermia shelters.

It is likely—but not certain—that the number of unhoused individuals spending a portion of their day in the city has increased over the past several years. This is similar to information from other jurisdictions and media reports from across the country.



Employed Homeless account for 30-35% of the unhoused population at any given time (Fairfax County OPEH). The high cost of housing in Northern Virginia means that even a person working full-time may not have enough income to secure and maintain housing (see the *Availability of Affordable Housing* section below). In addition, there are many challenges to maintaining employment while homeless, including finding reliable transportation to work and having the necessary clothing and hygiene for the workplace.

Public Safety¹⁰ Activity and arrests of unhoused persons in the City has increased significantly from pre-pandemic times (2019) to the present. During the pandemic, arrests of both housed and unhoused persons declined; but in 2022 and 2023, arrests of unhoused persons increased to above pre-pandemic levels, while arrests of housed persons remained below pre-pandemic levels. It is unknown whether the increase in arrests is the result of increased criminal activity, heightened enforcement, or both

Availability of Emergency Shelter Beds:

- There is “no room at the inn.” A homeless individual seeking shelter in the Fairfax City/Central Fairfax area is likely to find all the County’s emergency shelters to be full, especially outside of hypothermia season. Even if a bed is available, it will be at a shelter 10 to 17 miles away from the city
- Hypothermia shelter is available December through March via a rotating church program, but shelter is limited to the hours of 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM, with little ability to store possessions and limited transportation beyond pick up and drop off at fixed points. Maintaining employment and/or participating in services is difficult in that situation.
- The Baileys Crossroads Shelter was renovated in 2019, however, the other two shelters for adults are older and usually at capacity or extremely crowded. The other two County shelters located in Reston and South County are scheduled for renovation, but completion is years away.
- Overall, Fairfax County has substantially fewer emergency shelter beds than neighboring Montgomery County, especially for adults, which may be why representatives from the homeless services departments in the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville report relatively few encampments in their areas. In summary, there appears to be a significant local shortage of emergency shelter beds for adults. Fairfax County has 502 year-round emergency shelter beds of which 170 are for adults only. Montgomery County 613 emergency shelter beds, 429 for adults only.



Permanent Supportive Housing provides individuals and families with low-cost housing options, typically with wrap-around and case-management services. Fairfax County has substantially fewer permanent supportive housing units than neighboring Montgomery County, which may be why representatives from the homeless services departments in the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville report relatively few encampments in their areas. There appears to be a significant local shortage of permanent supportive housing. Fortunately, the Lamb Center/Wesley Housing project will narrow the gap through increasing county-wide supply from 496 to 550 (+11%). The Lamb Center/Wesley Housing is approved to develop 54 units of permanent supportive housing in the City of Fairfax for persons with incomes less than 50% of AMI. This will be an extremely useful resource for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The project's estimated completion date is 2026.

Availability of Affordable Housing¹¹:

- HUD Area Median Income (AMI) for a single person household in Fairfax County is \$106,450 per year. To earn even half of that, a person would need a full-time job paying \$26 per hour. To afford a monthly rent of \$1,700, a person would need to earn \$68,000 per year or \$32.70 per hour. People with low incomes often pool their resources and live together. That is more difficult for people experiencing homelessness who are also suffering from trauma, mental illness, or substance abuse issues. Affordable housing for those earning 50% of AMI is extremely limited.
- The lack of affordable housing contributes directly to a higher risk of homelessness. Households paying substantially more than a third of their income for housing must continually judge when and how to pay for other expensive needs such as for healthcare, transportation, and food. An unexpected expense, such as a hospitalization or car repair, can prevent a household from making a rent or mortgage payment. A second unexpected expense, such as a significant rent increase (an all-too common occurrence), often leads to eviction and homelessness.



The Homeless Task Force Makes the Following Recommendations to the Council of the City of Fairfax

How the Task Force developed recommendations

Recommendations from the Education and Outreach Subcommittee were informed by the Subcommittee's early and ongoing efforts to connect with interested residents around the work of the Task Force.

The Data/Research Subcommittee final recommendations were informed by the Subcommittee's ongoing efforts in local data collection, gaps in that data, and best practices gleaned from other jurisdictions.

The Policy Subcommittee recommendations focused on legal, financial, business, health, and service practices and policies.

All subcommittee draft recommendations were presented, discussed, and refined in a quorum-based HTF during a series of meetings.

How the Task Force evaluated and finalized draft recommendations

The Task Force together designed a method to evaluate each draft recommendation and to affirm a final recommendation that included a set of evaluation criteria, also known as its "Good Recommendation" Funnel. (See *Image 2. The HTF "Good Recommendation" Funnel* below.)

Throughout the review and approval process, final recommendations were collaboratively reviewed, edited, and/or combined with other recommendations. In all circumstances, recommendations were accepted through 100% consensus.

All recommendations moved forward in quorum-based public meetings. Then, after each meeting, newly approved recommendations were distributed to the full Task Force so that even those who could not attend the meeting could provide feedback. Members unable to attend were invited to review them and reach out to the Task Force Chair with any concerns along with recommended changes for discussion at a following meeting. There were no such occurrences.



Image 2. The HTF “Good Recommendation” Funnel

“GOOD RECOMMENDATION” FUNNEL





How the Task Force sought feedback from stakeholders on draft recommendations

In May, City Staff, Zelos, and the Education and Outreach Subcommittee planned and facilitated a **Feedback Roundtable** inviting public comment on the HTF's draft recommendations. The two-hour event was held on May 16, 2024. Of the 78 individuals who signed in, 2 identified as business owners, 10 represented a nonprofit/first-responder/education, 61 identified as a resident, and 5 elected not to self-identify. All 38 draft recommendations were displayed on large, printed posters stationed at 13 tables. A representative from the HTF, City staff, or HTF facilitation team was present at each table.

Participants visited each table during five- to six-minute segments and, using printed response cards on each table, could reply to four questions for each recommendation:

1. What do you like about this recommendation?
2. What are your concerns about this recommendation?
3. What questions do you have about this recommendation?
4. How would you rank the importance of this recommendation?
Low-Medium-High

Responses generated multiple comments on each of the 38 recommendations across a total of 957 comment cards. Zelos transcribed, organized, and summarized all stakeholder comments in a detailed report, included as a separate attachment to this report given its length (142 pages). This report was provided to the HTF on May 22, 2024, for its review prior to its next meeting.

The Task Force then met after the Feedback Roundtable to consider public comments and final edits.

Stakeholder Conversation with Lamb Center Guests

Date: 6/7/2024

Homeless Task Force Participants: Susan Lacroix, Melinda Gaber
Lesley Abashian(staff)

This conversation engaged five Lamb Center guests in a discussion about their personal experiences being unhoused within the city along with their recommendations about what needs to happen to address the impacts of homelessness.



General feedback about being homeless:

- *“I am not a bad person-I go to church. My family isn’t involved. I am scared and worried”.*
- *“Homeless individuals don’t stop being homeless on Sundays or holidays”.*
- *“We just need a place to be warm, dry, and safe”.*
- *“We are a part of the community too”.*
- *Sometimes me and my friends walk all night because it isn’t safe”.*
- *“Trying to do the right thing (like get sober, stay under the radar) doesn’t always get you at the top of the housing list”.*
- *“Homeless people stick together. We care about our community too.”*
- *“Many of us make choices of who to spend time with, staying away from the knuckleheads that ruin it for all of us”.*

The five individuals engaged in this discussion had different histories leading up to their current situations, but shared experiences once they found themselves homeless.

- A white middle-aged male reported he became homeless in Boston after losing his job and getting evicted. He said he didn’t have a specific reason he ended up in Northern Virginia, said it just happened. Stated that he can’t go home (currently) but *“maybe if I get a job and was better off I could try to unburn those bridges”.*
- A young adult black female state that *“I went to Daniels Run and Fairfax High School”.* Was living in her vehicle but lost the vehicle when she was recently jailed for violating a protective order. Reports she has medical issues that impact her. Admits making mistakes along the way. Talked about safety concerns for unhoused females, pointing out *“there are always people lurking in he shadows”.* A young adult male reported he became homeless when his family died. *“I do drugs and fuck up but there needs to be help for people who are trying to do better”.* Talked about how difficult it is to obtain and maintain a job when you are living in the woods.
- A middle- aged black female reported she became homeless when her aunt died in 2021. Spoke about her ongoing concerns for personal safety and how she sometimes observes individuals who make poor decisions to survive.
- A middle- aged Hispanic male stated he had been homeless since 2014 but also noted he lost his apartment in January. Reports his family are in Maryland and he has no contact with them. Currently *“sleeps”* near a restaurant on Columbia Pike. Is divorced and owes child support that he can’t pay. Talked about experiencing chronic pain because *“I fell and cracked my bones”.* He is currently uninsured.



Necessary Services and Supports (the city can make available)

- All agreed that the Lamb Center services are helpful. “Home base”, “Family”
- Increased access to mental health, addiction and trauma services.
- Housing options.
- A place to go when the Lamb Center and Library are closed. Important to include access to computers, a quiet location to engage in telehealth (if you choose to) and a place where you can access larger lockers for your personal stuff.
- Four out of five agreed having an emergency shelter closer to the city would be helpful.
- All five stated that the current structure of the hypothermia program “works” other than the disconnect between when the hypothermia locations require participants to leave and when the van transportation is available. (“standing out in the bitter cold is hard”).



Final recommendations after incorporating community feedback

The HTF finalized its recommendations in a public, quorum-based meeting on May 29, 2024. The final recommendations are presented below. They are numbered for reference; the numbers do not denote priorities. (Note: The numbering and ordering here differs from that in the attached Recommendations Roundtable Report.)

#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
1	Coordinate with the City Attorney, Fairfax Police, Community Response Team ¹² , Human Services ¹³ Department, nonprofit partners, and City Council to develop guidance and expectations on levels of intervention with people experiencing homelessness. [Legal and Policy]	There will be a consistent approach to intervention with people experiencing homelessness.	See Appendices F, H, I, J
2	Coordinate with the City Attorney to conduct a review of legal parameters for issues such as encampments, sleeping in parks, sleeping in cars, sleeping in bus shelters, sleeping on sidewalks, shared housing and single room occupancy (SRO), etc. A report on existing City laws and policies should be given to the City Council for review. [Legal and Policy]	There will be a uniform approach to the myriads of issues that are encountered by various residents and businesses and City staff.	See Appendices C, F, G, H, I
3	Support the City Attorney’s development of language to the Mayor and City Council for trespassing and behaviors that negatively impact the rights and safety of everyone and are consistently enforceable without regard to housing status. [Legal and Policy]	Residents and businesses will know expected actions that may occur when there are reported issues.	See Appendices C, F, H, I
4	Evaluate and consider amending the City Zoning Ordinances to allow more opportunities for diverse housing types that could include, but are not limited to, detached accessory dwelling units, tiny homes, and duplexes to be built. [Legal and Policy]	More affordable housing options are available for City residents.	See Appendices C, G



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
5	<p>Explore the feasibility and opportunities for establishing a Homeless docket¹⁴ in conjunction with area court systems. To counter the effect of criminal cases pushing unhoused defendants further outside society, homeless courts across the country combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, assurance of “no custody,” and proof of program activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses.</p> <p>[Legal and Policy]</p>	<p>A successful Homeless Court should achieve the following outcomes for participants: reduction in re-arrests; increase in employment; increase in permanent housing.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, I</p>
6	<p>Review best practices and evaluate current processes dealing with temporary encampments and safe-parking areas in the city and the County; and review areas that can potentially be designated as encampment and safe-parking areas and defined enforcement procedures.</p> <p>[Legal and Policy]</p>	<p>Establishing policies and procedures for interim safe-sleeping locations that are clear to the community.</p> <p>People experiencing homelessness have safe places to sleep when shelter beds are unavailable.</p> <p>Complaints on encampments are reduced.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H, I, J</p>
7	<p>The City Council should establish a permanent Housing and Homelessness Advisory Commission/Board.</p> <p>[Administrative]</p>	<p>The Commission/Board will report to the City Council no less than yearly; and will make recommendations on housing needs and actions needed to continue to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness in the city.</p>	<p>See Appendix J</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
8	<p>Consideration for additional staffing or other resources may be needed to assess the implementation of affordable housing strategies, human services programs, and homelessness prevention initiatives in the city.</p> <p>[Administrative]</p>	<p>Dedicated City staff will be able to pursue funding and additional resources and collaborate with residents, City officials, and people experiencing homelessness daily as an assigned job. Thus, there will be a higher level of resident and business satisfaction as the City is addressing the issue of homelessness.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H</p>
9	<p>Explore all funding opportunities from federal, state, local, and foundation sources to address housing and homelessness issues.</p> <p>[Administrative]</p>	<p>Homelessness services will be increased with minimal impact on the city budget. Unmet needs are addressed.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G</p>
10	<p>When appropriate, grant zoning special exceptions to reduce the impact of misdemeanor crime on City businesses. Examples could include fencing, enhanced lighting, and using trees and shrubs for natural access control.</p> <p>[Business Community]</p>	<p>Reduced criminal charges/incidences and behaviors to be reflected in a reduction of crimes reported.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, I</p>
11	<p>Police and Fire and Rescue responses to public intoxication reports are tracked, timely, and provide referral for treatment providers where appropriate.</p> <p>[Business Community]</p>	<p>Safety of the involved individuals and the public is enhanced; and the City of Fairfax has a mechanism for tracking.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, H, I</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
12	<p>Establish a strategic approach for the Fairfax Circle area that increases resources based on service demand for that area. These may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of extending the Lamb Center hours or identifying additional safe spaces for extended services between 3-6 PM, including evening meal distribution. • Implement a litter control plan for the entire area with frequent cleanups. • Add additional police staffing and assign permanent officers to work in the Fairfax Circle area. • Increase innovative law enforcement programs such as bike patrols, foot patrols, Segways, etc. • Provide advanced training for law enforcement officers in dealing with homelessness-related issues. • Increase the interaction between police officers and the businesses in the area. • Consider increasing the capacity of the Community Response Team (CRT) in the area. • Develop proactive approaches to respond to changes that occur because of the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan implementation. <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>People and businesses will have a better sense of safety in that area. Crime will be reduced through a proactive response for the community. Businesses will have a reduced concern about homelessness and a better rapport with the city and law enforcement. Homelessness services are improved.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H, I, J</p>
13	<p>Invite the faith community and local service organizations to engage with the city to address the complexities of homelessness, increase affordable housing opportunities, and explore other ways that the faith community may be willing and able to provide additional services for individuals experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>The faith community is engaged in developing solutions and implementing accepted solutions. Homeless services are increased; and the faith community is a critical partner in proactive efforts.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, G, H</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
14	<p>In consultation with the County and nonprofit community, develop implementation strategies for the prevention of homelessness through best practices in partnerships, programs, and development of additional resources specific to the city, such as an eviction prevention program.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>The number of unhoused people is decreased. Homelessness in the City is brief, rare, and non-recurring.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, J</p>
15	<p>Invite the Continuum of Care, its members, and other providers to explore expansion and/or enhancement of existing rapid re-housing programs to better meet current needs and market conditions.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>The continuum of services is strengthened. Those who do not require permanent supportive housing are quickly placed in housing and subsidized for a time sufficient to stabilize.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, H, J</p>
16	<p>Encourage the Lamb Center, FACETS, the City of Fairfax Human Services Department, and other service providers to coordinate with the Community Services Board (CSB) to ensure eligible unhoused individuals in the City of Fairfax or at risk of homelessness gain access to 300 newly available certificates for permanent supportive housing¹⁵ for individuals with serious mental illness. These housing units are located in apartment complexes throughout the County.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>Eligible City residents have access to the 300 additional certificates for permanent supportive housing units for individuals with serious mental illness available through the CSB.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, H, J</p>
17	<p>Explore possibilities with the County and other providers to increase financial, legal, medical, social security, and educational services in proximity to the City for individuals at risk of homelessness.</p> <p>Some examples include life skills training, financial literacy, technology, literacy, and GED Prep. Consider the Fairfax City Library and other community partners as providers and/or sites for such programming.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	<p>Medical, financial, and educational services for individuals and families at risk of homelessness are increased.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H, I</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
18	Develop programming to connect unhoused residents with family, friends, and other informal supports who can house them and provide coordination and travel funding as necessary. [Services and Support]	When possible and appropriate, unhoused residents are supported to gain stable housing through connection with family, friends, and other informal supports.	See Appendices C, F, G
19	Explore expanded services to address food insecurity for individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness such as a mobile food truck and a community garden farmed by community volunteers along with homeless individuals. [Services and Support]	Services, programs, and systems for homeless persons and individuals at risk of homelessness are expanded.	See Appendix H
20	Assess the need for expanded “street outreach” services to meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in unsheltered locations by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, and critical services. Ensure that outreach services link effectively with the Community Response Team and public safety agencies and respond promptly to resident and business reports. [Services and Support]	More individuals, families, and vulnerable individuals at risk of homelessness are quickly engaged in services to ensure timely, stable housing and services such as Social Security and other benefits.	See Appendices F, H, J
21	Support and encourage systems that expand and coordinate case management ¹⁶ services for vulnerable individuals and families. [Services and Support]	More vulnerable individuals and families are engaged in all appropriate services to ensure safety and support to gain and maintain stable housing.	See Appendices G, J
22	Continue to monitor and address solutions, in collaboration with community partners, for the notable population of unhoused senior-citizens, their lack of enrollment in state and/or federal benefits such as Social Security, and extreme vulnerability to weather and safety. [Services and Support]	Unhoused seniors receive focused attention to address housing and other needs that place them at high risk of adverse outcomes.	See Appendices G, J



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
23	Collaborate with the County, FCPS, nonprofits, and local colleges and universities to address the needs of the population of youth, vulnerable young adults, and youth aging out from foster care who are at risk of homelessness, less visible to the public, and missed in Point-in-Time Counts. [Services and Support]	Unhoused and at-risk youth receive focused attention to address housing and other needs that place them at high risk of adverse outcomes.	
24	Partner with providers such as INOVA, universities, and local health care providers to explore funding and resource opportunities for preventative care and management of chronic healthcare issues that impact unhoused residents in the City. Collaborate with Fairfax County as appropriate. [Services and Support]	Additional funding and resources are available at minimal cost to the city to enhance and increase identified services.	See Appendix G
25	Coordinate the use of space in the future with City-based partners that might include Willard Sherwood, the Lamb Center, GMU, and other locations within the city that increases access to health services in direct proximity of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. [Services and Support]	Health services for people experiencing homelessness have increased beyond their current levels.	See Appendices G, J
26	Partner with the County to evaluate the current availability of mental health and substance abuse services for the unhoused and at-risk individuals and determine if a gap exists between demand and capacity and consider a plan to eliminate the gap. [Services and Support]	Unhoused and at-risk individuals who seek mental health and substance abuse services receive them at an appropriate and timely level.	See Appendices G, H, I, J
27	The City will develop affordable housing preservation strategies ¹⁷ in conjunction with property owners, corporate partners, and local businesses to prevent a loss of existing affordable housing units. [Shelter and Housing]	Increased retention of current affordable housing as appropriate and balanced with the needs of the city. Additional affordable housing units may be a result of a successful partnership.	See Appendices C, F



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
28	<p>Coordinate with the County to evaluate the establishment of shelters in the Human Services Region 4 that includes the Burke/Centreville/Chantilly/Vienna/Oakton/Fairfax City areas. There is a significant countywide shortage of shelter beds. County shelters are consistently more than 95% full. The shortage is particularly acute in central Fairfax County, since it is the only area of the County with no adult shelter.</p> <p>[Shelter and Housing]</p>	<p>People experiencing homelessness will have a safe place to sleep. Increased safety and feelings of security of both housed and unhoused City residents where encampments are currently located.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H, J</p>
29	<p>Assess whether the current system of rotating hypothermia shelter sites impedes the ability of participating unhoused individuals to engage in services and achieve permanent housing. If assessment indicates, in conjunction with Fairfax County and FACETS, consider a permanent Hypothermia Shelter in Central Fairfax.</p> <p>[Shelter and Housing]</p>	<p>The potential of a set location for Hypothermia Centers in Central Fairfax will provide stability and consistency for those that use the centers.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, J</p>
30	<p>Further develop, refine, and fund programs to actively engage landlords to support programs to retain, find, or construct affordable housing at different levels throughout the City. Explore nonprofit partners that can promote and establish a City-specific emergency eviction-prevention program.</p> <p>[Shelter and Housing]</p>	<p>Appropriate housing stock and public/private resources are used to reduce the number of unhoused people.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, H, I, J</p>
31	<p>Evaluate the potential of establishing a City of Fairfax Housing Trust Fund¹⁸ to encourage cost-share partnerships, stimulate affordable housing, and maximize public properties.</p> <p>[Shelter and Housing]</p>	<p>Funding systems are in place to stimulate public/private partnerships to support affordable housing construction and reconstruction and programs.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, I</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
32	<p>Continue providing public updates about homelessness and affordable housing programs, policies, and systems through City Scene, a monthly E-Newsletter, the Engage page, and direct HOA/Civic Association outreach. Include a newly developed FAQ page.</p> <p>[Education and Outreach]</p>	<p>Community is provided a space to stay informed, voice concerns, and provide constructive input.</p>	<p>See Appendices F, H</p>
33	<p>Inform first responders, the City Council, and frontline representatives¹⁹ on access to resources for unhoused persons, such as Coordinated Services Planning and the Human Services Resource Guide. Access should include QR scan codes in public places such as buses and a possible printed pocket guide to services.</p> <p>[Education and Outreach]</p>	<p>Knowledge of and access to services is increased.</p>	<p>See Appendix H</p>
34	<p>Encourage City Council members and other local policy makers to tour the shelters and interact with unhoused individuals and families staying in local shelters and to encourage shared understanding of homelessness.</p> <p>[Education and Outreach]</p>	<p>All participants have the opportunity to share, learn, and express needs.</p>	<p>See Appendices H, J</p>
35	<p>Establish a process to semi-annually assess the number of people experiencing homelessness and accessing services in the City of Fairfax to determine seasonal variations, increase or decrease in the population, and to assist in ongoing needs assessments. This may include the number of meals served, number of daily visits to the Lamb Center, number of transports to hypothermia centers, direct counts, and other available data points that may be available.</p> <p>[Data and Research]</p>	<p>A realistic demographic profile of homelessness in the city is gained.</p> <p>Data will be shared with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to provide a higher level of service in the Central Fairfax area based on actual needs throughout the year.</p>	<p>See Appendix C</p>



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
36	<p>Seek data specific to unhoused family units in multiple ways including conducting and/or accessing surveys and/or focus groups to identify systems to help prevent families with children from becoming unhoused, support them in re-gaining permanent housing, and meet their needs while unhoused, working directly with homeless families. Involve school systems, nonprofit service providers, and Fairfax County partners as appropriate.</p> <p>[Data and Research]</p>	<p>Community needs are better understood, and solutions identified.</p>	<p>See Appendix H</p>
37	<p>With partners, explore approaches to quantify health and morbidity occurrences among unhoused persons.</p> <p>[Data and Research]</p>	<p>Gaps in medical and system services are identified and solutions enabled.</p>	<p>See Appendix H</p>
38	<p>Conduct an analysis of crime against and by people experiencing homelessness. If data shows trends or patterns, then develop and implement programs to assist in the prevention of crime and provide safety information to people experiencing homelessness, residences, and businesses.</p> <p>[Data and Research]</p>	<p>Crime in high homelessness areas will be reduced and residents will feel safer.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, H</p>



Ten (10) Priority Recommendations

The Task Force worked together to develop a top-10 priority list from the final 38 recommendations. In that process, each Task Force member independently selected 10 recommendations of their own priority. Recommendations were then ranked by number of “votes.” The final top ranking 10 represented an uncontested consensus vote among all Task Force members with the following themes: (a) recognized as a high-ranking priority based on the public’s statements at the Feedback Roundtable, (b) were “doable” in the short term, (c) facilitated cooperative partnerships, (d) increased data gathered, and (e) added first-step resources to aid in next-step initiatives.

#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
2	Coordinate with the City Attorney to conduct a review of legal parameters for issues such as encampments, sleeping in parks, sleeping in cars, sleeping in bus shelters, sleeping on sidewalks, shared housing and single room occupancy (SRO), etc. A report of existing City laws and policies should be given to the City Council for review. [Legal and Policy]	There will be a uniform approach to the myriads of issues that are encountered by various residents and businesses and City staff.	See Appendices C, F, G, H, I
5	Explore the feasibility and opportunities for establishing a Homeless docket in conjunction with area court systems. To counter the effect of criminal cases pushing unhoused defendants further outside society, homeless courts across the country combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, assurance of “no custody,” and proof of program activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses. [Legal and Policy]	A successful Homeless Court should achieve the following outcomes for participants: reduction in re-arrests; increase in employment; increase in permanent housing.	See Appendices C, F, I
6	Review best practices and evaluate current processes dealing with temporary encampments and safe-parking areas in the city and the County; and review areas that can potentially be designated as encampment and safe-parking areas and defined enforcement procedures. [Legal and Policy]	Establishing policies and procedures for interim safe-sleeping locations that are clear to the community. People experiencing homelessness have safe places to sleep when	See Appendices C, F, G, H, I, J



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
		shelter beds are unavailable. Complaints on encampments are reduced.	
7	The City Council should establish a permanent Housing and Homelessness Advisory Commission/Board [Administrative]	The Commission/Board will report to the City Council no less than yearly; and will make recommendations on housing needs and actions needed to continue to prevent, reduce, and end homelessness in the city.	See Appendix J
8	Consideration for additional staffing or other resources may be needed to assess the implementation of affordable housing strategies, human services programs, and homelessness prevention initiatives in the city. [Administrative]	Dedicated City staff will be able to pursue funding and additional resources and collaborate with residents, City officials, and people experiencing homelessness daily as an assigned job. Thus, there will be a higher level of resident and business satisfaction as the City is addressing the issue of homelessness.	See Appendices C, F, G, H
12	Establish a strategic approach for the Fairfax Circle area that increases resources based on service demand for that area. These may include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the feasibility of extending the Lamb Center hours or identifying additional safe spaces for extended services between 3-6 PM, including evening meal distribution. • Implement a litter control plan for the entire area with frequent cleanups. 	People and businesses will have a better sense of safety in that area. Crime will be reduced through a proactive response for the community. Businesses will have a reduced concern about homelessness and a better rapport with the city and law enforcement.	See Appendices C, F, G, H, I, J



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add additional police staffing and assign permanent officers to work in the Fairfax Circle area. • Increase innovative law enforcement programs such as bike patrols, foot patrols, Segways, etc. • Provide advanced training for law enforcement officers in dealing with homelessness-related issues. • Increase the interaction between police officers and the businesses in the area. • Consider increasing the capacity of the Community Response Team (CRT) in the area. • Develop proactive approaches to respond to changes that occur because of the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan implementation. <p>[Services and Support]</p>	Homelessness services are improved.	
13	<p>Invite the faith community and local service organizations to engage with the city to address the complexities of homelessness, increase affordable housing opportunities, and explore other ways that the faith community may be willing and able to provide additional services for individuals experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	The faith community is engaged in developing solutions and implementing accepted solutions. Homeless services are increased; and the faith community is a critical partner in proactive efforts.	See Appendices C, G, H
16	<p>Encourage the Lamb Center, FACETS, the City of Fairfax Human Services Department, and other service providers to coordinate with the Community Services Board (CSB) to ensure eligible unhoused individuals in the City of Fairfax or at risk of homelessness gain access to 300 newly available certificates for permanent supportive housing for individuals with serious mental illness. These housing units are located in apartment complexes throughout the County.</p> <p>[Services and Support]</p>	Eligible City residents have access to the 300 additional certificates for permanent supportive housing units for individuals with serious mental illness available through the CSB.	See Appendices C, H, J



#	Recommendation [Category]	What does it look like when done well?	Supporting Information
28	<p>Coordinate with the County to evaluate the establishment of shelters in the Human Services Region 4 that includes the Burke/Centreville/Chantilly/Vienna/Oakton/Fairfax City areas. There is a significant countywide shortage of shelter beds. County shelters are consistently more than 95% full. The shortage is particularly acute in central Fairfax County, since it is the only area of the County with no adult shelter.</p> <p>[Shelter and Housing]</p>	<p>People experiencing homelessness will have a safe place to sleep. Increased safety and feelings of security of both housed and unhoused City residents where encampments are currently located.</p>	<p>See Appendices C, F, G, H, J</p>
35	<p>Establish a process to semi-annually assess the number of people experiencing homelessness and accessing services in the City of Fairfax to determine seasonal variations, increase or decrease in the population, and to assist in ongoing needs assessments. This may include the number of meals served, number of daily visits to the Lamb Center, number of transports to hypothermia centers, direct counts, and other available data points that may be available.</p> <p>[Data and Research]</p>	<p>A realistic demographic profile of homelessness in the city is gained. Data will be shared with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to provide a higher level of service in the Central Fairfax area based on actual needs throughout the year.</p>	<p>See Appendix C</p>



Three Subcommittees Set and Accomplished Specific Objectives During the Term of the Task Force

Accomplishments of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee

The Education and Outreach Subcommittee (EOS) came together as a group in the summer of 2023. The purpose of the EOS was to understand and identify issues related to homelessness for those who are unhoused and those in the greater community, collaborate with the other Subcommittees, and identify milestones that measure progress in addressing homelessness in the City of Fairfax. Its work is summarized in a short presentation attached as Appendix D. The end goal of the EOS was to collaborate with the Data/Research Subcommittee and the Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee to determine how the community and partners could successfully navigate the escalating homelessness challenges faced through education and outreach.

The EOS accomplished the following action items:

- Develop a five-minute elevator speech – this is a tool that provides a common message for use by HTF members during outreach opportunities, planned and unplanned.
- Distribute community resources and information to individuals experiencing homelessness during FACETS hot meal distribution.
- Provide regular updates on homelessness issues in the City of Fairfax and HTF progress to inform City residents. This began in December 2023 via City publications such as City Scene, an HTF monthly E-newsletter, and an HTF webpage. A screenshot of the HTF-specific webpage is shown in Appendix E.
- Update and monitor content on the Engage Page <https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/homelessness-task-force>. Also beginning in December 2023, the HTF section of the Engage Page was available to residents to provide a safe space to voice concerns and provide constructive input. Members of the EOS and City staff monitored the Engage Page and regularly updated content such as videos, book suggestions, and articles.
- Investigate and evaluate information concerning homelessness and best practices provided by the Data/Research Subcommittee guide the work of the EOS.
- Interview Dr. Joe Savage, Senior Regional Advisor of the United States Interagency on Homelessness (USICH). Two members of the EOS met with Dr. Savage via Zoom in December 2023. Information received during the meeting was used to brief the EOS and update the Subcommittee's Action Plan.



- Enroll in and complete the Fairfax County OPEH 101 courses (five sessions), completed by the EOS chair during the fall of 2023. Handouts from the classes were shared with all Subcommittees.
- Attend the day-long 2024 Fairfax County Housing Symposium, which explores the impact and importance of affordable housing in preventing and addressing homelessness; and tour One University, a new affordable housing project at George Mason University.
- Research and create a PowerPoint presentation made available through the Engage Page – viewable in Appendices D and E – as an additional tool to inform and educate the City of Fairfax community and partners.

Accomplishments of the Data/Research Subcommittee

The Data/Research Subcommittee was formed with the goal of providing the Task Force with accurate, relevant, and useful information to enhance knowledge of homelessness and housing issues and, ultimately, to aid decision-making on recommendations to support those who are experiencing homelessness as well as other City residents and local businesses.

The Data/Research Subcommittee accomplished the following three objectives as they developed and submitted a series of reports to the Task Force:

1. **Create a statistical profile of the unhoused community** in the City of Fairfax and Central Fairfax area, intended to support and inform the Task Force's recommendations and subsequent City decisions. This *Data Report on Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness* (Appendix C) includes data from local nonprofit providers such as the Lamb Center and FACETS, the Fairfax County OPEH and its PIT Counts, Fairfax County Public Schools, the City of Fairfax Police Department, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
2. **Identify best practices** of cities known for successfully supporting homeless individuals and families and integrating them into the community. Members of the Data/Research Subcommittee, along with City staff, met with representatives of the four comparable cities that were identified with the assistance of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and the Fairfax County OPEH. The resulting report can be found in Appendix F: *Report on Best Practices Identified in Meetings with Representatives from Myrtle Beach, Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Charlottesville*.
3. **Survey the following stakeholder groups:**

Unhoused individuals, to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of current services in helping with gaining housing as well as what services could help with maintaining



stable housing. The team surveyed 50 unhoused individuals through structured interviews. The resulting report can be found in Appendix G: *Report on Survey of Unhoused Individuals*.

Homeowners Association and Civic Association Presidents and local businesses, to obtain feedback on incidents in or near their neighborhoods and businesses involving persons experiencing homelessness, their level of concern regarding the impact of homeless individuals to local quality of life, and their input on how HOAs, civic associations, nonprofits, government, and businesses can address the needs of homeless individuals and families and the concerns of local businesses and residents. The team sent surveys to the presidents of the 61 City of Fairfax homeowners associations and civic associations, emailed surveys to members of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and the Old Town Business Association, and hand-delivered surveys to all Fairfax Circle area businesses and businesses in Fair City Mall, Turnpike Shopping Center, Main Street Marketplace, and Courthouse Square. The resulting reports can be found in Appendix H: *Report on Survey of Homeowners Association and Civic Association Presidents* and Appendix I: *Report on Survey of Local Businesses*.

Homeless Services Provider Staff, to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of the service system and suggestions on how to improve services and relationships with residents and businesses. The team sent surveys to the staff of the Lamb Center, FACETS, A Place to Stand, and Britepaths. The resulting report can be found in Appendix J: *Report on Survey of Homeless Services Provider Staff*.

Accomplishments of the Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee

The Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee was appointed to develop recommendations and strategies to address homelessness in the City of Fairfax, and to serve as advocates for the plan and proposal to all stakeholders. This Subcommittee met multiple times over the course of the HTF timeline; and developed more than two dozen recommendations with an emphasis on policy, legal, and stakeholder communities.

This Subcommittee's process included the following activities and accomplishments:

- Ask for feedback from the Task Force members, residents, businesses, nonprofit partners, City officials, and people experiencing homelessness.
- Meet with the Data/Research Subcommittee and the OES to discuss their findings and ensure alignment across the work of all Subcommittees.
- Leverage the valuable findings of the Data/Research Subcommittee (i.e., empirical data and real-life, personal experiences) to support and refine the recommendations.



- Review and evaluate the recommendations and possible policies and programs with the full Task Force and determine which to include in developing the report to City Council to guide future decision-making and action in the City of Fairfax.



Appendices

Appendix A. Homelessness Task Force Rules of Engagement

Approved June 5, 2023

1. Members agree to be kind and respectful of one another.
2. Members will actively listen to opinions and ideas shared by other members, focusing on understanding other perspectives.
3. Members will ensure that Task Force meetings provide a safe space that supports open dialogue and the sharing of different viewpoints.
4. Members agree to discuss any disagreements or concerns that arise during Task Force meetings to provide opportunities for conflict resolution.
5. Members will include “out of box” thinking when discussing possible solutions.
6. Members will coordinate with City staff to provide opportunities for community member engagement.
7. Members will collaborate to develop clear goals and action steps.
8. Members understand the Task Force is a public process but are committed to supporting the group process required to complete the necessary work.
9. Members agree to participate in at least 75% of scheduled meetings.



Appendix B. Homelessness Task Force Community Values Statements

1. Our Community Feels Safe and Secure with a Sense of Well Being

- Our community will be a safe place for residents, businesses, and visitors by exemplifying a high quality of life where all levels of socio-economic need are proactively addressed through public, private, and partnership approaches.
- We strive to have safe shelter and access to nutritious food for everyone in our community, specifically those in a time of need, offering supportive services that provide a return to a state of well-being.
- We use innovative emergency response systems to address homelessness and understand that homelessness is not a crime.

2. Excellent Training and Education is Available for All

- We value an educational process that strives for excellence at all levels of education and addresses the range of economic needs including basic life-skills, workforce skills, elementary through doctoral formal education, vocational training, technical training, and retraining.
- We prioritize being a leader in future educational excellence by renewing basic educational knowledge, coupled with job skills to meet the changing workforce requirements within our community and region.
- We endeavor to provide the pipeline of skills and knowledge before the need is realized, to give people the skills and knowledge they need before they know they need it.

3. We Anticipate Our Future as Forward Thinkers

- Our community will lean into and focus on the most challenging needs of our community including homelessness, drug addiction, affordable housing, hunger, abuse, exploitation, health care, immigration, mental health, and transportation; ensuring our youth and our senior adults are valued and cared for.
- We value new ideas and approaches that are supported by data to make informed decisions, mitigating the challenges with long-term solutions, while remaining cognizant of the impacts our decisions have on our entire community.
- We value our ability to pivot and alter or end programs that may have outlived their purpose or are no longer effective.

4. We Are a Welcoming City and We Exemplify Inclusiveness and Diversity in All We Say and Do

- We value diversity of culture and background in our community, and encourage diversity of thought and opinion, resulting in the best solutions to complex challenges for our community.
- We strive to positively impact the public perception of the challenges within our community by being welcoming to all, and by acknowledging that all residents have a right to provide input on the well-being of the City.
- We strive to create programming and activities that are inclusive by soliciting input regarding personal insights, experiences, and perspectives.



Appendix C. Data/Research Subcommittee: Data Report on Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness

Report dated May 20, 2024

How many homeless and unsheltered individuals and families are in Fairfax County (including the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church)?

Below are key findings of the January 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count as reported by the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

- **Total Count:** There were 1,278 people experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count. This is a decrease of 2 percent (32 people) from the 2023 Point-in-Time Count in which there were 1,310 people identified as experiencing homelessness.
- **Overall Trend:** After a steady reduction of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the Point-in-Time Counts between 2008 and 2017, a decrease of 47 percent (871 people), the number of people experiencing homelessness identified through the counts increased 27 percent (258 people) between 2017 and 2021 and then decreased 3 percent (31 people) in 2022 before another increase in 2023 (10 percent; 119 people). The overall decrease in 2024 is primarily driven by the lower number of families in shelter (facilities and motels) and the lower number of unsheltered individuals.
- **Different Trends by Household Type:** The number of people in families with children experiencing homelessness decreased by 8 percent (58 people) between the 2023 and 2024 counts. This decrease is attributed partially to improved and increased diversion efforts through which families' housing crisis is resolved without needing to go to a shelter. Enhanced eviction prevention efforts, such as emergency rental assistance, landlord and tenant outreach, and increased legal assistance, have also reduced the demand for family shelter. Meanwhile, the number of single adults experiencing homelessness increased by 5 percent (26 people) during the same time.
- **Subpopulations:**
 - **Chronic Homelessness:** There were 257 adults identified as experiencing chronic homelessness during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (30 percent of the total adults counted) and 192 adults identified to be experiencing chronic homelessness during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (22 percent of total adults counted).
 - **Veterans:** There were 34 people that identified as veterans identified during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (4 percent of the total adults counted) and 26



people that identified as veterans during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (3 percent of total adults counted).

- **Transition Age Youth (18-24):** There were 73 transition aged youth identified during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (9 percent of the total adults) and 53 transition aged youth identified during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (6 percent of total adults).
- **Survivors of Domestic Violence:** There were 87 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 227 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2023 Point-in-Time Count (11 percent and 30 percent of total households counted). There were 59 households identified as currently fleeing domestic violence and 194 households that reported a history of domestic violence during the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (8 percent and 25 percent of the total households counted).

- **Demographics:**

- **Race:** The most significant disparity in the demographics of those experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count remains the disproportionate representation of people identifying as Black or African American. While 10.9 percent of the general population in Fairfax County is estimated to identify as Black or African American, 48 percent of people experiencing homelessness on the night of the count identified as Black, African American, or African. The imbalance remained the same as in the 2023 count, when 48 percent of people identified as Black or African American.
- **Age:** There were 19 individuals aged 70 years and above experiencing homelessness on the night of the 2024 Point-in-Time Count (2 percent of the total adults), including an individual in emergency shelter at the age of 98 years old.

In contrast to the Point-in-Time Count, it is important to note that the number of people experiencing homelessness over a full year is higher. Fairfax County reported to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development for federal fiscal year 2023 ending in September that the total number of sheltered homeless persons, not including dedicated domestic violence shelters, was 3,616 people. Meanwhile, Fairfax County Public Schools report that a total of 2,019 students have been identified as homeless over the school year so far as of April 24, 2024, as defined by the US Department of Education's broader "homeless" definition.

How many homeless individuals and families are in the City of Fairfax?

This is difficult to accurately ascertain since the PIT Count and other County OPEH statistics do not disaggregate City data. Also, the nature of being without stable housing means that people may frequently cross jurisdictional boundaries in search of safe shelter. It is possible to estimate overarching trends.



- The Lamb Center is a city-based day support center that serves individuals experiencing homelessness as well as some housed individuals in Central Fairfax. The average daily census increased from 96 in May 2019 to 112 in May 2023 (12%), and from 107 in January 2020 to 118 in January 2024 (10% increase). Unique individuals served annually increased from 1,532 in 2019 to 1,713 in 2022 and 1,819 in 2023, a total increase of 19% (10/24/23 City Council presentation and the Lamb Center).
- The number of people provided winter hypothermia shelter in region 4 (Fairfax City and Central/Western Fairfax) remained relatively stable, from 302 in 2018-2019 winter to 288 in the 2022-2023 winter (Fairfax County OPEH). This winter, 380 individuals were served, a very large one-year increase of 32%. The hypothermia shelter service is not capped.
- The number of homeless students in City public schools in School Year 2022-2023 was 79 (FCPS Homeless Liaison).

Conclusion: The number of individuals experiencing homelessness living in the city is difficult to determine for several reasons. First, the County reports its homeless data by region; the city is in Region 4, and Regions 2 and 3 directly adjoin the City, so it is difficult to get counts for either the City or the areas very close to it. Second, the PIT count does not disaggregate City data. Third, even if City data could be disaggregated within the PIT Count, individuals who may normally sleep in the city would be counted at the hypothermia shelter site, which is usually IN A FAIRFAX COUNTY church, resulting in an under-count. Fourth, unhoused individuals may frequently move between the City and County.

It is less difficult to estimate the number of unhoused individuals who spend a portion of their day in the City. On any given day, the Lamb Center serves between about 100 and 130 individuals, the great majority of whom are experiencing homelessness. In the winter, between about 60 and 110 unhoused individuals are sheltered each night in Central Fairfax churches. Most hypothermia shelter participants are picked up and dropped off in the City by FACETS vans. Many individuals participate in both the Lamb Center and Hypothermia Shelter, but not all. In the recently completed survey of 50 hypothermia shelter participants, 90% said they are also being served by the Lamb Center, indicating that the Lamb Center and Hypothermia Shelter service statistics are a somewhat duplicated count. In addition, 54% of survey respondents said they sleep in the City of Fairfax in a variety of such spaces as motels, car/truck, and public spaces when not in hypothermia shelter.

It is likely but not certain that the number of unhoused individuals spending a portion of their day in the City has increased over the past several years. This is similar to information from other jurisdictions and media reports from across the country.



How many adults experiencing homelessness are employed?

At any given time, 30-35% of the homeless are employed (Fairfax County OPEH). The high cost of housing in Northern Virginia means that even a person working full-time may not have enough income to secure and maintain housing (see the affordable housing section below). In addition, there are many challenges to maintaining employment while homeless, including finding reliable transportation to work and having the necessary clothing and hygiene for the workplace.

How much public safety activity is generated by homeless people and is such public safety activity increasing?

- City arrests of unhoused persons increased from 140 in 2019 to 179 in 2022, an increase of 28 %. In 2023, the number of arrests increased by 85% to 242.

(City of Fairfax Police Department)

- Similar trends are evident in areas of the County near Fairfax Circle (FCPD).

Note: CFPD data on “unhoused persons” is based on persons with “no fixed address” (when the subject address field contains no information/blank or the subject uses the Lamb Center as their home address).

Note: The number of arrests does not equal the number of persons arrested, since one person may be arrested several times.

Conclusion: The number of arrests of unhoused persons in the City has increased significantly from pre-pandemic times (2019) to the present. During the pandemic, arrests of both housed and unhoused persons declined; but in 2022 and 2023, arrests of unhoused persons increased to above pre-pandemic levels, while arrests of housed persons remained below pre-pandemic levels. It is unknown whether the increase in arrests is the result of increased criminal activity, heightened enforcement, or both.

What is the availability of emergency shelter beds?

- The County (including the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church) has 502 year-round emergency shelter beds for individuals, families, and the victims of domestic violence, of which 170 are for adults only (HUD 2023 Housing Inventory Count Report). In 2023, occupancy rates averaged 90 to 100% (10/24/23 City Council presentation).
- Emergency shelter beds for adults (not domestic violence victims) are in three shelters located in South County, Baileys Crossroads, and Reston (OPEH). These shelters are 17, 10, and 10 miles away from Fairfax City, respectively.



- By comparison, Montgomery County Maryland, with a similar population size and demographics, has 613 emergency shelter beds, of which 429 are for adults only. That is 22% and 152% higher than in Fairfax County, respectively.

Conclusions:

- *There is “no room at the inn.” A homeless individual seeking shelter in the Fairfax City/Central Fairfax area is likely to find all the County’s emergency shelters to be full. And if a bed is available, it will be at a shelter 10 to 17 miles away.*
- *From December through March, hypothermia shelter is available through a rotating church program, but shelter is limited to 5:00 PM to 7:00 AM, with little ability to store possessions and limited transportation beyond pick up and drop off at fixed points. Maintaining employment and/or participating in services is difficult in that situation.*
- *The Baileys Crossroads Shelter was renovated in 2019, but the other two shelters for adults are old and perceived by some to be crowded and possibly unsafe, likely leading some unhoused individuals to choose the street over shelter, even when available. The other two County shelters are scheduled for renovation, but completion is years away.*
- *Fairfax County has substantially fewer emergency shelter beds than neighboring Montgomery County, especially for adults, which may be why representatives from the homeless services departments in the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville report relatively few encampments in their areas. There appears to be a significant local shortage of emergency shelter beds for adults.*

What is the availability of permanent supportive housing?

- Fairfax County has 642 permanent supportive housing units, of which 496 are for adults only. Montgomery County has 2,112 permanent supportive housing units, of which 925 are for adults only. That is 224% and 86% higher, respectively. Even when all categories of permanent housing for those at risk of homelessness are considered, Montgomery County has 45% more units overall and 52% more units for adults only than Fairfax County, respectively.

Conclusion: Fairfax County has substantially fewer permanent supportive housing units than neighboring Montgomery County, which may be why representatives from the homeless services departments in the cities of Gaithersburg and Rockville report relatively few encampments in their areas. There appears to be a significant local shortage of permanent supportive housing. Fortunately, the Lamb Center/Wesley Housing project will narrow the gap through increasing county-wide supply from 496 to 550 (+11%).

What is the availability of affordable housing?



- In the City, there are 107 dedicated units (39 <50% AMI, 36 <60% AMI, 5 <70% AMI, 15 <80% AMI, 12 <95% AMI); 85 planned units (54 <50% AMI, 13 <70% AMI, 18 <80% AMI); and 919 “naturally occurring” affordable housing units (one-bedroom rents from \$1,550 to \$1,923, requiring an income of \$62,000 to \$76,920 not to be rent burdened) (10/24/23 City Council presentation).
- In a 2019 report, COG identified the need for 320,000 new housing units in the DC area, 75% of which to be affordable for low- and middle-income households (COG Website).
- Fairfax County has set a goal of adding 10,000 affordable housing units by 2034. The City’s pro rata share would be 205 units (County website).

Conclusion: The HUD Area Median Income (AMI) for a single person household in Fairfax County is \$106,450 per year. To earn even half of that, a person would need a full-time job paying \$26 per hour. To afford \$1,700/month in rent, a person would need to earn \$68,000/year or \$32.70/hour. People with low incomes often pool their resources and live together. That is more difficult for people experiencing homelessness who are also suffering from trauma, mental illness, or substance abuse issues. Affordable housing for those earning 50% of AMI is extremely limited. The Lamb Center/Wesley Housing plan for 54 units of permanent supportive housing for persons with incomes less than 50% of AMI will be an extremely useful resource for those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The lack of affordable housing contributes directly to a higher risk of homelessness. Households paying substantially more than a third of their income for housing must continually judge when and how to pay for other expensive needs such as for healthcare, transportation, and food. An unexpected expense, such as a hospitalization or car repair, can prevent a household from making a rent or mortgage payment. A second unexpected expense, such as a significant rent increase (an all too common occurrence), often leads to eviction and homelessness.



Appendix D. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: PowerPoint presentation of HTF activities

Homelessness Task Force City of Fairfax, VA



April 2024

The City of Fairfax City Council
established the
Homelessness Task Force
to address the impacts of homelessness
on our community.



2



The Purpose of the Homelessness Task Force

- Understand and identify issues related to homelessness for those who are unhoused and those in the greater community;
- Collaborate with city, county, federal, business and non-profit partners to:
 - Better understand the challenges and impact of homelessness more as it relates to those with lived experience dealing with homelessness, as well as the community as a whole.
 - Benefit from the resources, knowledge and experience offered by our partners.



3

The Mission of the Homelessness Task Force

The mission will be accomplished through facilitated community dialogue and interface with existing systems serving individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness by:

- Collaborating with community and partners through outreach and education;
- Informing through research and data collected;
- Analyzing existing policies and suggest possible new policies that will support all residents of the City of Fairfax;
- Providing a report of recommendations to the City Council in June 2024 on how our community can navigate the increasing challenges we face.



4



Members of the Task Force

The Task Force is Comprised of a diverse group appointed by the City of Fairfax City Council:

- City Residents
- City Business Representatives
- City Council Members
- City of Fairfax Mayor
- Non-profit Organization Representatives
- Supported by the City of Fairfax Staff



5

Task Force Collaborative Partners

- The City of Fairfax Departments (Human Services, Police, Fire, Economic Development, Park Department)
- The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Old Town Fairfax Business Association
- Residents with lived experiences with homelessness
- Britepaths - <https://britepaths.org/>
- A Place to Stand - <https://aplacetostand.org/>
- The Greater Fairfax Homelessness Continuum Nonprofit Organizations
- The Fairfax County Continuum of Care
- The City of Fairfax Regional Library
- The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
- The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



5/21/24

6



Services and Supports Currently Available

- **The Lamb Center** – A daytime Drop-In Center providing basic needs: <https://www.thelambcenter.org/>; 3160 Campbell DrFairfax, VA 22031; (703) 691-3178
- **Facets** – Hot meals and food assistance, and other programs: <https://facetscares.org/>; 11215 Route 29Fairfax, VA 22030; (703) 352-5090
- **Emergency Shelters:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/emergency-shelters>; [Coordinated Services Planning](#) at 703-222-0880 (TTY 711), Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- **Hypothermia Prevention Program:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention-program>; runs from December through March; If you see someone who is unsheltered ad you think they are at risk of hypothermia, call the County's non-emergency Police phone number 703-691-2131
- **Homelessness Services Handout:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/sites/homeless/files/Assets/documents/Homelessness%20Services%20Handout/Homelessness%20Services%20Handout.pdf>
- **Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP):** information and referrals for emergency food, shelter, clothing, transportation, health care, employment, or legal assistance: 703-222-0880, TTY 711
- **The City of Fairfax CUE Bus**



7

Why the Task Force Work is Important

- It considers the challenges of homelessness from many perspectives: residents, businesses, law enforcement, etc.;
- It encourages people to consider possible solutions and share them on the Engage Page;
- It allows all residents and businesses, both housed and unhoused, to have a voice;
- It provides the community with information about work being done – both federally and locally - to address homelessness;
- It educates the community, both housed and unhoused, on the resources available to them;
- It is a resource to City leaders as they work to provide programs and funding to support efforts to end homelessness.



8



Notable Statistics: Federal

- Fact Sheet: 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report - Key Findings from the Point-in-Time Counts
https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/PA/documents/Fact_Sheet_Summarized_Findings.pdf
- At any given time 30-35% of the homeless are employed. (Fairfax County OPEH).



9

Notable Statistics Regional

- In 2023, over \$30 million was spent on issues relating to homelessness in Fairfax County, VA;
- 35% of people experiencing homelessness are under 18, according to the Point in Time (PIT) count from 2017-2023;
- The number of elderly people experiencing homelessness has increased.



10



Notable Statistics City of Fairfax

- The City of Fairfax receives funding and services for individuals experiencing homelessness;
- 79 students in the City of Fairfax were experiencing homelessness in the 2022-2023 school year (per the FCPS Homeless Liaison) indicating families with children, as well as adults, are experiencing homelessness in Fairfax;
- At any given time 30-35% of the homeless are employed. (Fairfax County OPEH)



11

Surveys to Obtain Feedback from Stakeholders

The Homelessness Task Force has developed a cadre of surveys to deploy to several groups to receive data that will inform the City leadership. They include:

- Homeless individuals and families
- Homeowners associations and civic associations
- Businesses
- Service provider agencies



12



The Point In Time Count

The City is a part of the overall Fairfax County Point in Time (PIT) count of people experiencing homelessness. The count occurs at these locations in January of each year.

- Lamb Center
- Facets hot meal distribution locations
- Street outreach – meeting people experiencing homelessness where they are
- Hypothermia Centers

2023 PIT county-wide was 1,310 (10% increase), of which 255 are chronically homeless and 113 unsheltered (50% increase).



13

Continuum of Care Program

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program provides significant financial resources to communities throughout the country and mandates procedures and policies for implementing a local housing crisis response system. Notices regarding the Fairfax CoC Program local competition and Fairfax County's CoC Consolidated Application (our community's request for funding) are available on this page, which will be updated throughout the competition. Information on accessing services and homeless data are also located on this page.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/continuum-care>



14



What We've Learned



15

Homelessness is Increasing

The number of people experiencing homelessness is increasing in the City of Fairfax due to:

- Lack of affordable housing;
- High cost of living in urban areas;
- Evictions resuming after the Pandemic;
- Temporary housing making way for development, with the affordable housing on Fairfax Blvd. being torn down and displacing long term residents.



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16



Collaboration with Similar Communities

The City's Homelessness Task Force members are connecting with similar sized communities to learn from their efforts and lessons learned. Those communities include:

- Myrtle Beach, SC
- Charlottesville, VA
- Gaithersburg, MD
- Rockville, MD



17

Addressing Impacts

The efforts of the City of Fairfax to address the impacts of homelessness requires a multifaceted community approach. A successful approach will include efforts to support, create and increase access to:

- Emergency shelters, supportive housing programs and affordable housing options;
- Basic needs assistance (clothing, food, sanitary needs, etc.);
- Mental health, substance abuse and medical services;
- Legal, diversion and advocacy supports;
- Targeted and specialized case management;
- Addressing impacts to residents and businesses;
- Job training and employment services.



18



Next Steps

The Homelessness Task Force is:

- Developing a report of recommendations based on feedback from education and outreach current and future efforts, data and research collected through surveys, and analysis of current policies within and outside of the City of Fairfax.
- The recommendations will be previewed to the community through a Town Hall meeting in May, prior to submitting the report to the City of Fairfax City Council in June 2024.



19



Appendix E. Education and Outreach Subcommittee: Homelessness Task Force | Engage Fairfax Webpage

Homelessness Task Force | Engage Fairfax

5/21/24, 9:34 AM



Home / Homelessness Task Force

Homelessness Task Force



UPDATE: The Homelessness Task Force hosted a Community Feedback Roundtable from 6-8 p.m. May 16 at the Sherwood Community Center (3740 Blenheim Blvd.) for feedback on the [draft of recommendations](#) ([click here to review and download](#)). For those unable to attend the roundtable, please leave your feedback below in the

<https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/homelessness-task-force>

Page 2 of 17



"Feedback: Recommendations" section. The task force will present their final recommendations to the City Council on June 25, 2024.

Fairfax City has established a homelessness task force to address the impact of homelessness within the city, for both individuals experiencing homelessness and the greater community.

Led by Councilmember So Lim and Councilmember Kate Doyle Feingold, with Mayor Catherine Read, the task force is comprised of city residents and representatives from city businesses (including at least one representative from Fairfax Circle businesses). Lesley Abashian, director of the [City of Fairfax Human Services Office](#), serves as advisor and staff support for the task force.

On the task force are representatives from human service organizations connected to the [Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness service continuum](#), including the [Lamb Center](#), [FACETS, A Place to Stand](#), and the [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board](#).

Key partners of the task force include the City of Fairfax Human Services Office, [City of Fairfax Police Department](#), [City of Fairfax Fire Department](#) (including a community paramedic), the [Fairfax City Office of Economic Development](#), the [Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), [City of Fairfax Regional Library](#), and the [Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce](#).

Task force members were chosen through an application/interview process to ensure membership reflects diverse stakeholder

REGISTER

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**Video:
Community
Feedback
Roundtable**





Appendix F. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Best Practices Identified in Meetings with Representatives from Myrtle Beach, Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Charlottesville

Report dated March 18, 2024

Background:

In November 2023, the Data/Research Subcommittee finalized the following objective and task: “Research best practice communities in Virginia and nationally through consulting with experts in the field and reviewing professional and general literature. With the assistance of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), identify best practices from comparable cities and counties across Virginia and nationally for successfully supporting homeless individuals and families and integrating them into the community.”

In January and February, members of the Data/Research Subcommittee, along with City staff, conducted 60-90 minute meetings with representatives of four communities identified by USICH or OPEH: Myrtle Beach, South Carolina; Rockville and Gaithersburg, Maryland; and Charlottesville, Virginia. Notes from those meetings are available to Task Force members. Below is a summary of best practices relevant to the Task Force’s mission. They are not presented in priority order.

Best Practices:

1. City staffing for homeless services (Gaithersburg): Gaithersburg has an eleven-person homeless services division, four of whom are full-time. It should be noted that Gaithersburg has twice the population of Fairfax City, and directly operates two residential programs.
2. Pro-active engagement with the business community and residents and respond to their needs (Charlottesville): For example, in Charlottesville, the day support center had an open house for the businesses and residents.
3. Pro-active engagement with landlords: Gaithersburg holds an annual event for landlords to share information from their Code division as well as community services. They stay in touch with the landlords continually to: coordinate emergency rental assistance for their tenants that have applied; ensure their tenants know about area programs for food, youth programs etc.; answer questions around tenant/landlord issues; and set up on-site community based distribution and informational service fairs.
4. Financial empowerment center²⁰ (Gaithersburg): Financial empowerment centers are family-friendly places where people can access a range of financially



empowering services to move themselves out of poverty and achieve long-term financial stability. Services offered in Gaithersburg are free and available to the public, and include:

- Financial Coaching
- Workforce Development Coaching and workshops
- Tax Preparation Consulting (year-round) and VITA Income Tax Assistance (Jan-Apr)
- Small Business Consulting and workshops
- Food Entrepreneurship Consulting
- Classes and workshops
- Workforce Development career training and preparation courses

Britepaths, a Fairfax City-based nonprofit, operates a financial empowerment center in South County. They may provide some of the services here, but it's worth exploring the advantages of establishing a full-service center in the City (www.britepaths.org).

5. "Humanitarian" or "humane" approaches to unhoused residents by police and other City agencies (Gaithersburg): Such an approach holds unhoused people accountable but does not seek to sanction them for not having a home. Perhaps it could become the underlying philosophy for the City's approach to those experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable residents.
6. Homeless Court (Myrtle Beach): Fairfax County (including the City) already has specialized drug and mental health dockets, and some localities have homeless dockets, in which defendants agree to participate in lieu of traditional criminal sanctions. To counter the effect of criminal cases pushing homeless defendants further outside society, homeless courts across the country combine a progressive plea bargain system, alternative sentencing structure, assurance of "no custody," and proof of program activities to address a full range of misdemeanor offenses. Alternative sentencing substitutes participation in agency programs for fines and custody; they include life-skills, chemical dependency or AA/NA meetings, computer or English literacy classes, training or search for employment, counseling, and education.
7. Multi-unit housing for the homeless (Charlottesville): It's called The Crossing in downtown Charlottesville and is in an older high-rise building.
8. Police officers designated to build relationships with homeless residents (Myrtle Beach) and develop mechanisms/standards for doing so: Our CIT team might be doing some of this, but perhaps it could be expanded. Periodic reports to City Council would enhance accountability.
9. Rental and mortgage assistance (Gaithersburg, Charlottesville): [Federal Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) funding is one possible source. In Gaithersburg, City residents for the most part need to access County funding first and then the County will send a referral to the City if more funds are needed to prevent the eviction or utility cut off. Gaithersburg belongs to a county-wide rental collaboration



that includes nonprofit agencies, jurisdictions, and the County to stay on top of programs and changing policies and procedures to ensure funds are being used most effectively. Fairfax City works with Fairfax County in a similar way. This might be an area where City funding could directly help City residents in preventing homelessness, beyond what County programming can do. It also has the advantage of targeting City residents for funding; whereas once people are homeless, the responsibilities of the City versus the County are more amorphous.

10. Shelter beds for adults without children in Central Fairfax, to address a county-wide shortage and support adults to stay in or near their home community and place of employment: There is no emergency shelter for homeless individuals in Central Fairfax. Montgomery County has more shelter beds and permanent supportive housing units than Fairfax County. That may be why Rockville and Gaithersburg report relatively fewer encampments than in our area.
11. Shelter beds for adults with children in Central Fairfax to address a county-wide shortage and support families staying in or near their home community and base schools: [The Kate Hanley Shelter](#) is near Fairfax City, but there is still a shortage of beds.
12. Street outreach, either with City staff or through partnering with nonprofits (Rockville and Gaithersburg): FACETS already does this, so we would need to research whether an increase is necessary. Perhaps FACETS' street outreach could be expanded to include increased work with the police.
13. Substance use recovery houses, funded through Federal Continuum of Care or other sources (Myrtle Beach, Gaithersburg): These are transitional living houses, where residents stay for up to two years while they progress in their recovery and seek permanent housing.
14. Transitional housing²¹ through CoC funding for families or individuals (Myrtle Beach): These are "joint" programs for people with mental health and/or substance use issues who also have specialized needs such as domestic violence victims or veterans. This would require a nonprofit partner.
15. Transportation back to their previous localities for those who are homeless, have resources/supports elsewhere, and desire to return (Rockville): This could be helpful if done in a humane way for people who have support systems in other areas of the country. It would not mean pressuring people to leave Fairfax City. NOVA has among the highest housing costs in the country, so it's not punitive to help people return to areas with lower housing costs, if they want to return and have supports there.
16. Triage response to the most vulnerable unhoused residents (Rockville).



Appendix G. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Unhoused Individuals

Report dated April 15, 2024

On March 14 and 15, 2024, fifty unhoused individuals at a Central County Winter Hypothermia Shelter Site were surveyed through structured interviews conducted by three Task Force members and four volunteers experienced with hypothermia shelter. Feedback was obtained on the effectiveness of current services in helping them gain housing, and what services could help in maintaining stable housing.

Demographics and Income

Age:

As a group, respondents were significantly older than the overall County homeless adult population as measured by the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count. 48% were 55 years and over and 30% 45 to 54 years, compared to 32% and 17% for the County. Conversely, only 10% of the adult hypothermia shelter respondents were age 34 or younger, compared to 29% for the County.

Gender:

64% of respondents identified as men, 36% as women, and none as non-binary. This closely tracks the 67% men and 32% women in the County's PIT Count.

Race/Ethnicity:

37% of respondents identified as Black, 33% as White, and 9% as Asian, compared to 48%, 40%, and 6% for the County. The biggest difference is that 17% (n=9) of respondents identified as being of more than one race, compared to 3% for the County.

Income:

24% of respondents are employed. Of those, 56% work less than 20 hours a week, 11% (one person) 30-40 hours a week, and 33% 40+ hours a week. 57% were employed less than 6 months and 43% more than 12 months. Sixteen respondents (33%) reported receiving SSI, SSDI, or Social Security.

Demographic and Income Conclusions

The group surveyed at winter hypothermia shelter was significantly older than the County homeless population as a whole, as measured by the PIT Count. Given their age (78% aged 45 or older), it is surprising that only 33% are receiving SSI, SSDI, or Social Security. Additional outreach may be useful in assisting individuals to access Social Security benefits, as well as other services and supports for seniors, and services targeted to seniors who are unhoused.



Housing and Residency

62% of respondents have been without stable housing for a year or more. 16% had been homeless 6-12 months, 16% for 3-6 months, and just 6% (3 persons) for less than three months. 70% reported having had one episode of homelessness in the past two years; and 21% (10 persons) reported having been homeless three or more times in the past two years. When not in hypothermia shelter, 54% report sleeping in the City of Fairfax. Respondents report sleeping in a wide variety of settings at some time over the past two years:

Where Slept in Last 2 Years	# Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
Your apartment/house	16	32%
Homeless shelter	15	30%
Hypothermia shelter	48	96%
Domestic violence shelter	0	-
Motel/hotel	23	46%
Car/truck	22	44%
Friends/relatives home	10	20%
Outside	26	52%

Of the 23 respondents who were asked how many nights they spent outdoors in Fairfax City in the past two years, nine said it was several months or longer. Of those, five had interactions with the police, making the following statements about their interactions:

(The Police) say to move on if standing too long.

It could be worse. Got asked to move.

Generally pretty good.

Police think you are drunk by the way you walk.

Terrible, police mistreat people, being questioned for no reason.

Housing and Residency Conclusions

Of the 50 respondents, 31 (62%) have been homeless a year or more. Only 11 (22%) have been homeless for less than six months. Given the chronicity of their lack of housing, it is surprising that less than a third (15) have been in a homeless shelter over the last two years. Rather, most have stayed at multiple places, such as a motel/hotel (46%), a car/truck (44%), and outside (52%). Sadly, only 20% stayed with friends or relatives, reflecting a lack of informal support. Just over half report sleeping in various



places within Fairfax City while not in hypothermia shelter. Overall, the 50 respondents have stayed in 160 settings over the past two years, just over three settings per person.

Shelter

Fourteen respondents reported having stayed in a Northern Virginia emergency shelter, and none in a domestic violence shelter. Of the 14, 11 have stayed in the Baileys Shelter, 6 in the Emery Rucker Shelter in Reston, and 3 in the Kennedy Shelter in South County. Of those who stayed in shelters, 65% found it easy or somewhat easy to get in and 35% found it hard or somewhat hard. Sixty-two percent got in within a week, for 23% it took one to four weeks, and 15% (two persons) waited more than four weeks.

Of the 14 people who had stayed in a Northern Virginia emergency shelter, all had at least one negative comment, and six also had positive comments. The most frequent negative comments (n=6) concerned staff, including that staff prefer certain people over others and generally make it difficult. Four people commented on the challenge of living in a community with people of different personalities. Two people mentioned having to leave early in the morning and not being able to stay during the day. Two people said the shelter was dirty. Four respondents positively noted the quality or availability of food. Some sample comments:

Made to leave early in the morning, even in cold weather conditions.

Hard adjusting to different personalities.

Employees made it difficult. Living with a community made it difficult.

Great food!

Those who had not stayed in an emergency shelter were asked why not. Five people mentioned personal safety concerns or fear of crime. Another two reported conflict between residents. Four said the shelters had been full and another four were not aware of them. Respondent statements included:

The conditions (are) unsanitary, feeling unsafe, located in red zones, high crime and drug zones.

Concerns - no info and safety and transportation.

Not safe. Staff not helpful.

Shelter Conclusions

Most people who had stayed at a Northern Virginia emergency shelter had concerns about the staff and/or their fellow residents. The staff were perceived as somewhat unhelpful, in that they enforce strict rules, and may be unfair. Residents were described



as having different personalities, which sometimes led to conflict. There were no concerns expressed about crime or personal safety.

In contrast, several of those who had not stayed in a shelter related safety/crime concerns as a rationale. Two of the four who said the shelters were full alluded to telephone difficulties in staying current on bed availability. Another four said they were unaware of shelters, which is surprising in that nearly all of the respondents received Lamb Center services and would presumably have been informed.

Services to Gain and Maintain Housing

Respondents were asked what services might have prevented them from becoming homeless and what services could help them regain housing. The responses were similar enough to be combined. Nine people (18%) mentioned rental assistance and 6 (12%) affordable housing. Eight respondents noted that a caseworker would be helpful, and another 2 requested assistance to find housing. Five said getting a job would help them find housing. Two people each identified emergency funds, temporary housing, and sober living arrangements as needed services. Although not specifically asked, 5 respondents said losing a job had caused them to become homeless, 4 identified medical issues, and 3 cited domestic violence. Sample comments included:

Lost house (after) husband had stroke. Both (of us) have medical challenges.

A fresh start. Find a place and get in there. Finding affordable housing. Some assistance to get her stable.

Rental and financial assistance, access to affordable housing. Haven't been able to find those services for me.

Job search help. Find businesses who will hire homeless. 6 month housing so can have time to find job and get stable paycheck.

When wife died no longer had enough. Social security not enough to pay for room and food and car, so stays in car.

Only 22% of respondents reported having been offered emergency rent or mortgage assistance in the last two years, and 88% believe there is not enough of such assistance available. Some comments:

Financial assistance (is) available but need to be able to find a place.

Was offered it but it was taken away.

Got housing assistance one time (but it) needed to continue.



Services to Gain and Maintain Housing Conclusions

Most respondents identified affordable housing in general and rental assistance in particular as essential to gain and maintain housing. Many also cited the need for case workers/case management to help with finding housing, employment, and support services.

Other Services

Day Support Services:

90% of respondents report attending the Lamb Center. Twenty-three of those were asked what they found helpful and what could be improved at the Lamb Center. As for what is helpful, food (n=7) and laundry (n=7) were mentioned often. Five respondents were very complimentary of case management services. As for what could be improved, overcrowding (n=6) and dirty showers (n=3) were noted. Four respondents suggested improvements to case management services. Sample comments:

They help people with housing, work, food and washing clothes. Very thankful. They don't steer people wrong. Men's shower gets messy. But it's good!

Most: Laundry and food. Least: system for signing up for casework. Wanted more permanent assignment of caseworker and regular assistance.

It's great. They have all the resources. Case worker has been great and very helpful.

Needs to be bigger. Needs a computer room. Need resources to look for jobs. Too many people focused on situation instead of moving forward.

Chick fill a sandwiches and Anita's burritos provided at Lamb Center. Coordination of timing between shelters during cold months is important and could be improved. There are in between moments where we have nowhere to go. Shower conditions could be improved.

Winter Hypothermia Shelter:

Since the survey was conducted at winter hypothermia shelter, it is not surprising that 48 out of 50 respondents reported staying there. All of those participated in the church-based Central Fairfax program. Twenty-seven respondents were asked about their hypothermia shelter experience. Twenty-one had positive feedback and ten had suggestions for improvement. Some comments:

Start mid November when it starts getting cold. Have them leave at 7 am instead of 6 am (because Lamb Center doesn't open until 8).

FACETS team is in control. Ethics of church.



Good to get people off the street. Need to better assist medical and physical challenges. How to help people that can't sleep on floor.

So grateful to have a roof over (my) head. Had food and family and God. It was great. Some more medical services would be great.

Most helpful a place to lay down... Keep mentally ill separate from healthy guests ...Use larger churches so everyone can be accommodated.

Case Management:

Of the twenty-seven respondents who were asked, 65% said they have received case management in the last two years. Of those, 47% got it from the Lamb Center, 33% from FACETS, and 20% from another agency. Case managers were identified as being helpful with finding a job (n=3), finding housing (n=2), and with other needs (n=3). Three respondents cited the need for more case managers and five had concerns about the quality of case management services. Comments:

They helped with a voucher²² for housing, but with (my) car, still couldn't pay 30% of (my) income.

Too much turnover among staff.

Helped with immediate needs. Trying to help with part time job.

Didn't do anything for me, didn't follow through or connect with me.

Mental Health and Substance Use Services:

22% of respondents reported using mental health services and 17% used substance use services. They were generally positive about the services but had some suggestions for improvement:

Oxford House: Extend the time, better transition to next step, more single rooms.

They helped get (me) a housing voucher.

Could be improved by access to therapist, efficient access to medication, more funding for mental health services, more mental health service buildings in different places, accessibility.

Respondents were asked what else they would like to share with City leadership:

More police trained in mental health assigned to the Circle.

Emergency support fund for rental assistance.

Allow people to camp (in) designated campsites. Require people to pick up their own trash.



*(It is) tough being outside. More employment opportunities for homeless people.
Program to transition to housing, medical care, job.*

A lot of drugs and alcohol and violence among campers.

Addressing homelessness would make City look better.

Some people who need psychiatric services don't get them.



Appendix H. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Homeowners Association and Civic Association Presidents

Report dated April 12, 2024

Demographics

Number of respondents: $n=16$

HOA/CAs Represented	<i>n</i>	Distance from Fairfax Circle
Foxcroft Colony Condominium Unit Owners' Association	1	.2 miles
Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association	5 ¹	.2 miles
Preserve at Great Oaks	1	.4 miles
Great Oaks Homeowners Association	1	.4 miles
Daniels Run Woods Civic Association	3 ¹	.9 miles
Country Club Hills	1	.9 miles
Little River Hills	1	1.2 miles
Maple Trace	1	1.6 miles
Farrcroft Homeowners Association	1	1.6 miles
Boltons Homeowners Association	1	1.7 miles

¹ We included written statements from all respondents, but excluded numeric data from respondents who were not a Fairfax City Homeowners Association or Civic Association president, to prevent misrepresentation of data and in alignment with the aims of the survey to gather information from HOA/CA/CA presidents.

Demographic Conclusions

A total of eight HOA/CAs were represented, 13% of the 61 HOA/CAs in Fairfax City, with the Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association ($n=5$) and Daniels Run Woods Civic Association ($n=3$) maintaining the largest number of respondents. All HOA/CAs represented are within 0.2 to 1.7 miles of Fairfax Circle.

Respondent Concerns Regarding Unhoused Individuals

Survey Item	<i>n</i>	Very Concerned	Concerned	Neutral	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
Homeless individuals on local quality of life.		5	2	-	2	1



Homeless families with children on local quality of life.	-	5	-	3	2
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70% of respondents indicated that they were “very concerned” or “concerned” about the impact of unhoused individuals on the quality of life of Fairfax City residents; and 50% of respondents were “very concerned” or “concerned” about the impact of unhoused families.

Respondent Concerns Conclusions

Although the percent of respondents “very concerned” or “concerned” about the impact of unhoused individuals (70%) vs. families (50%) were similar, far more respondents indicated they were “very concerned” (n=7) about individuals vs. families. Further, the respondents who reported being both “very concerned” and “concerned” about unhoused individuals and families lived within .2 and 1.6 miles from Fairfax Circle: (a) Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association (.2 miles), (b) Preserve at Great Oaks (.4 miles), (c) Daniels Run Woods Civic Association (.9 miles), and (d) Farrcroft Homeowners Association (1.6 miles).

Respondent Recommendations to Support Unhoused Individuals

In this section we provide direct quotes from the surveys organized by recommendations for: (a) police and government agencies, (b) nonprofit organizations and places of worship, (c) businesses, and (d) HOA/CA and civic associations.

A. Police and Government Agency Recommendations

General

- Provide them adequate support or program to help get them back on their feet.
- Services need to be available that address the needs of the homeless individuals. These include mental health, employment, food security, and housing among others.
- The setting up of camps on (and just off) the local walking paths should not be permitted. There are sanitation issues, safety issues, gathering issues, trash issues, and financial impact on businesses that must be considered. In addition, while we certainly agree that affordable housing and charitable assistance services are vital, it is important to spread these resources out geographically not only so that more unhoused individuals and families can be helped, but so local residents and businesses are not disproportionately affected by negative aspects of this concern.

Housing and Shelter

- Give them temporary housing accommodations and assistance with finding permanent housing. I don't believe police need to be much involved with the process other than identifying individuals who need assistance.
- Affordable housing.
- Provide more resources and shelter options.



- Provide needed services within a formal program to get all clients into permanent housing.
- Discourage camping, sleeping outdoors, and loitering.
- When the cop looks at the homeless people in the park and tells them they have to leave and they ask where they should go, the response can't just be like the bar at closing time "you don't have to go home, but you can't stay here." There needs to be a "you can go here" answer... If the City provides a home by that definition, those in need of one should not be given other options in the City (before forced to go).

Employment

- Offer them help to get clean and get a potential job.
- Homeless individuals should be afforded food and temporary housing proving those individuals agree to rehabilitation and/or job training services which will allow them to be productive members of the community.
- Counseling/job assistance.

Relocation

- Clean up the streets of homeless individuals, especially ones who pose a threat to our children: drug addicts, mental issues, and violent ones.
- Relocation to a more safer area. If relocation isn't an option, maybe bike police that monitor the area.

Food Distribution

- Any food or other services provided to the homeless should not take place near our residential neighborhoods. For example, the free food handed out to the homeless every day in the Home Depot parking lot is within feet of several residential neighborhoods and local businesses. Police should monitor the free food distributions to ensure the safety of all and to also prevent any of the homeless from loitering in the surrounding neighborhood.

Enforce Laws

- Police should prioritize enforcing trespassing laws on private property.
- The police should enforce the law, and should be empowered to do so (sleeping in City parks).
- Please empower our Police to enforce the laws for everyone. Those few individuals who are causing most of the problems should be dealt with for the safety of the housed and unhoused...

Prevention

- Identify potentially homeless individuals (such as upon eviction from housing or discharge from hospital or other institution) and provide housing options quickly.
- Provide outreach services to identify vulnerable individuals and connect them to agencies for housing, assessment of needs, and treatment.
- ...There needs to be a plan in place for dealing with Homeless with drug problems and mental illness that keeps both the homeless person as well as the general public safe. The hospital systems needs to be involved and part of that plan.



Community Information and Outreach

- More awareness education on how homelessness is an integral part of our lives. More information on How did the homeless come to be here? How did they get to be homeless? Sensitivity campaign from the City on how to handle interactions with the homeless and not be afraid but be cautious.
- Please also be upfront with crime situations. If residents are given accurate and timely information there is more trust in the system and confident in those leading and protecting us and the community is in a better position us and the community is in a better position of awareness to keep themselves and loved ones safe.

B. Nonprofit Organizations and Places of Worship Recommendations

General

- Provide them adequate support or program to help get them back on their feet.
- Food drives and other nutrition assistance, shelters, assistance navigating bureaucracies to access government resources.
- NPOs and churches should be in a position to help feed, clothe, and temporarily house the homeless.
- Residents should involve local police/social services when homeless individuals are identified in their neighborhood.
- The churches and nonprofits carry a huge load with the food distribution and Hypothermia Clinics. They should continue offering the services. ...but they should also have support when they are over capacity...Can we advocate for similar Lamb Centers in other parts of Falls Church and the Country?

Substance Abuse Support

- Offer assistance on getting clean from drugs and assisting with AA meeting/ substance abuse meetings.

Materials and Resources

- Help with clothing drive to cloth them and get them interviews to get a job.
- I find it deeply disturbing that many of these organizations give camping supplies (which can only be understood as encouraging unlawful activity) to homeless individuals. Food and medical care are needs that generally cannot be criticized when distributed.

Government Collaboration and Support

- Businesses with employment opportunities should be incentivized by local governments to train homeless individuals for full time employment proving those individuals have the necessary desire and motivation to succeed.
- Echo and support the City's lead.
- Government funding would be needed for them to be able to do more.

Housing

- Temporary housing.
- Seek to expand sponsorship of supportive housing options throughout the area (not only at Fairfax Circle).



- When placing clients in local rental housing, carefully monitor their compliance with community standards such as noise, drug use, pest control, and disturbances from guests of the client (congregating in hallways, etc.).

Food Distribution

- Soup kitchens.
- Currently, food is being distributed each day in the Home Depot parking lot. This encourages people to gather and linger there, as well as in front of other nearby businesses and the path behind Home Depot. Since we have the Lamb Center specifically designed to assist this population, these charitable organizations should distribute meals there so that resources are more concentrated.
- Provide evening meals closer to shelters rather than Fairfax Circle to discourage sleeping in cars and outdoors.

Prevention

- Addressing the underlying issues needs to be the second priority after food and medical care.

C. Business Recommendations

General

- Echo and support the City's lead.

Public Availability

- I believe that restroom facilities should be accessible to the public, and

Reduced Cost Materials/Donations

- When viable (financially as well as depending on the type of establishment) businesses should offer reduced-price options for unhoused people.
- When possible, donate leftover food, clothing, or other items that might be thrown away.
- Donate to local homeless shelters.
- Hold food drives.
- Stop throwing food away. Package food that is about to expire and give to the homeless.
- Donate items that are unneeded or destined for disposal.
- Provide financial support for local homelessness services and affordable housing options.

Employment Opportunities

- There are plenty of entry level jobs/positions throughout the County that businesses can make available to local jurisdictions to provide homeless individuals path to a productive life.

None

- Nothing, this isn't a business problem, it's a State and County problem.
- Business seem to be doing more than their share to deal with this issue.



- This is not for local businesses to address.
- Not sure it's incumbent upon businesses to do anything.
- The City needs to remove this burden from the businesses, not vice versa.
- ...To ask a business that does not feel supported and is losing business due to vagrancy to help support those causing problems at their business is not a good game plan. Start with supporting the businesses and then they will be more willing to partner with those helping the unhoused.

D. HOA and Civic Association Recommendations

General

- Provide them adequate support or programs to help get them back on their feet.

Leadership Knowledge

- I think it is helpful if those of us in positions of authority within these organizations understand the basics of how to get someone in contact with those groups that can help further.
- I also think a general familiarity with the laws around loitering/etc. is good to reduce the need for LEO interaction in scenarios where there's no need for them to be involved. Avoiding spurious demands on police time should always be a goal.

Safety

- I can only say maybe a local neighborhood watch to enforce the safety of the neighborhood.

Community Volunteer/Donation Opportunities and Neighbor-to-Neighbor Support

- Food drives.
- Encourage residents to volunteer at shelters.
- Organize clothing or hygiene product drives.
- Sponsor food and clothing drives regularly.
- Encourage donation of serviceable household items to individuals and families obtaining housing.
- Work to anticipate the needs of those facing the loss of their current housing, and connect them with support services.
- We should and are happy to cooperate with the City to achieve better results and improve security, but we are officially limited to the purpose of our establishing documents.

HOA/CA Regulations

- Restricting how many unrelated individuals can live in a residence adds to the problem. The # of persons in a home does not necessarily make for a bad neighbor.
- Laws to address noise, trashy yards, etc. help maintain and teach "full" households.
- Follow the City's lead in its campaign.

None

- Not much HOA/CAs can do.
- We are not certain what role HOA/CAs can or should play here.



- ... my association is not a charity and does not have a responsibility to solve this issue.
- ...We want the best for those in need but many (neighborhood residents) are not in a position to help due to financial and work/family situations.

Recommendation Conclusions

Respondents primarily considered local government, nonprofits, and places of worship as leading efforts to prevent homelessness, support unhoused individuals, and maintain community safety and adherence to laws. Likewise, respondents overwhelmingly lauded the work of the Lamb Center and looked to local government, nonprofits, and places of worship for leadership to guide their own actions. Community safety, outdoor sleeping/camping, and loitering were the largest concerns. Respondents reported concerns regarding the proximity of housing designed to support unhoused individuals and resource allocation locations to neighborhoods.

Respondent Interactions with Unhoused Individuals

1. How many times have you legally trespassed an individual from your property?

Number of Times	<i>n</i>
0	6
Twice	1
3	1
~2-3 <i>n</i> =1	1

The Foxcroft Colony Condominium Unit Owners' Association, Great Oaks Homeowners Association, and Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association reported legally trespassing a person.

2. In calendar year 2023, have the following activities taken place at or near your neighborhood?

Survey Item	<i>n</i>	Not Witnessed	Witnessed 100 feet from homes	Witnessed 200 feet from homes
Sleeping overnight outdoors	4	4	3	2
Loitering	3	3	5	1
Intoxication	3	3	4	2
Public nudity, urination, or defecation	4	4	2	3
Panhandling	4	4	2	3



Shoplifting	6	2	1
"Catcalling" or other verbal assaults	5	3	1
Physical Assault	6	2	1
Robbery	7	1	1

The majority of instances reported within 100 or 200 feet of homes were reported by Farrcroft Homeowners Association and Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association. Violent crimes, including robbery and physical assault were reported by Little River Hills, Farrcroft Homeowners Association, and Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association.

3. In calendar year 2023, how often have the following activities taken place at or near your neighborhood?

Survey Item	☺	Never	Seldom	> Monthly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Sleeping overnight outdoors	2	2	2	2	2	1	-
Loitering	-	3	1	1	3	1	1
Intoxication	1	2	3	3	-	-	-
Public nudity, urination, or defecation	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
Panhandling	3	1	2	1	2	-	-
Shoplifting	5	2	-	1	1	-	-
"Catcalling" or other verbal assaults	3	4	2	-	-	-	-
Physical Assault	6	2	1	-	-	-	-
Robbery	5	3	-	-	1	-	-

Loitering was the most frequently observed behavior and the only behavior that was observed by all respondents. Physical assault and robbery were the least observed behavior, with the exception of one respondent who indicating observing robbery weekly.

4. In any of the above instances, did the involved individual(s) appear to be homeless, as evidenced by carrying belongings?

- Yes: $n=7$
- No: $n=2^1$

¹One of the two respondents indicated they have not had any interactions with individuals engaging in the aforementioned behaviors.



Interactions with Unhoused Individuals Conclusions

The most frequent behavior reported was loitering across all respondents, consistent with data on respondents' largest concern. The least frequent behaviors reported included robbery, physical assault, and shoplifting, which were localized to specific communities Little River Hills (1.3 miles from FFX Circle), Farrcroft Homeowners Association (1.6 miles from FFX Circle), and Fairfax Oaks Homeowners Association (.2 miles from FFX Circle).

Interactions with Police Regarding Unhoused Individuals

In this section we provide direct quotes responding to the survey question: "What was the response of the City Police and/or other government agencies? What was effective about that response and what could be improved?" We organized responses into the following themes: (a) Investigation/Follow-up, (b) Relocation Request, (c) Satisfaction, and (d) Barriers.

Investigation/Follow-up

- They came out and did investigations; especially the murder that happened behind my house by two homeless individuals!
- Police did reply/respond and indicated they were informed minutes before I called about the individual. It may have been intoxication or a medical anxiety episode. Police agreed to follow up immediately.

Relocation Request

- Another incident was a homeless individuals bathing nude in our creek in the back of my house. Police came and made him leave.

Satisfaction

- FCPD is always very prompt, helpful, and professional. Problem is always resolved.
- The Fairfax City Police were always responsive to our calls for help.

Barriers

- They cannot legally do anything to make them move from the area for 3 days. After 3 days they can come ask them to relocate. Daily there are tents, broken beer bottles, even naked homeless people bathing in the creek water. A parent of small children, it's quite alarming and unsafe.
- The police responded fairly quickly to calls of homeless encampments, loitering, drug use, and sleeping on my property or on the trail and woods behind my home, as well as on the common area property adjacent to my house, but told me that there was little they could do other than try to talk to the individual(s) - if they could find them - and the police said they had little authority to arrest or do anything more.
- After a few attempts, we were successful in enabling the City Police to enforce trespassing law on our property, and we have used it several times recently.



Interactions with Police Regarding Unhoused Individuals Conclusions

Loitering and intoxication represent the most common calls made to law enforcement, followed by public nudity (bathing in natural bodies of water). Outdoor sleeping and panhandling are the only behaviors for which respondents did not contact law enforcement. Respondents reported high levels of satisfaction with law enforcement response and lamented limitations of existing laws that officers could enforce to prevent behaviors of concern.



Appendix I. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Local Businesses

Report dated April 15, 2024

Background

Surveys were emailed to the 331 Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce members and to the Old Town Business Association members (close to 100 members). Surveys were hand-delivered to 200 businesses in the Fairfax Circle area, Fair City Mall, Turnpike Shopping Center, Main Street Marketplace, and Courthouse Square. Sixteen surveys were completed and returned (two of the 16 were from the same business). The surveys requested feedback on incidents at or near their businesses involving persons experiencing homelessness, their level of concern regarding the impact of homeless individuals to local quality of life, and their input on how HOAs, civic associations, nonprofits, government, and businesses can address the needs of homeless individuals and families, and the concerns of local businesses and residents.

Respondent Overview

Of the 15 businesses that responded,

- 12 respondents were from the Fairfax Circle area.
- 2 respondents were from Fair City Mall.
- 1 respondent was from Old Town Fairfax.

Because of the small number of respondents, statistics have not been compiled. Only one respondent was not concerned about the effect of homeless individuals on businesses and the community. The other 14 were either concerned or very concerned. Those closest to Fairfax Circle had the greatest concern and reported the greatest number of issues. While a couple of respondents thought that services for those experiencing homelessness should be moved outside of the City, most responded that additional services were probably needed and that someone other than businesses needed to offer those services in ways that did not impact businesses negatively.

Summary of Responses

To summarize the responses, the 12 respondents in the Fairfax Circle area were divided into three groups based on proximity to the Circle. This proximity seemed to correspond to the level of disturbance and concern experienced.

Group 1:

1. Owner of 9607 – 9625 Fairfax Blvd
2. Circle Shell
3. Okonomi Grill (9625 Fairfax Blvd)
4. Dental Esthetics (9621 Fairfax Blvd)



Group 2:

1. Alpine Ski Shop
2. Mama Chang
3. SE Impression
4. Haileys Laundromat

Group 3:

1. Bladerunners (Spring St)
2. NOVA Strong (Spring St)
3. Building owner 3156 – 3160 Spring St
4. Fairfax Towing (Draper Dr)

Group 1

All stated that they were very concerned about the effect of homeless individuals on businesses and the community. Sleeping overnight, loitering, intoxication, public urination, panhandling, and shoplifting were noted as happening daily on their premises. One business said that these activities happened less than daily. Assault and robbery were also issues but were said to happen less frequently.

Comments on what should be done about these issues ranged from moving services for homeless people from Fairfax City to Fairfax County to providing education/training for those who are homeless.

A major concern seemed to be with enforcement and repeat offenders who are not arrested, including those who have been trespassed.

Group 2

Of the four businesses, two were very concerned and two were concerned about the effect of homeless individuals on businesses and the community. Loitering, sleeping outside, and intoxication were mentioned as happening most frequently, either daily or weekly. For the Alpine Ski Shop and the Laundromat, these were noted as happening on premises.

Suggestions for what should be done included more rehab services, housing, and food programs. Enforcement of open container laws and greater police presence were also suggested.

Group 3

Of the four businesses, two were very concerned and two were concerned about the effect of homeless individuals on businesses and the community. Almost all the issues asked about in the survey were mentioned by the businesses. Loitering and intoxication were mentioned by two businesses as happening daily. Two businesses noted issues as happening weekly or monthly. One business noted that the issues happened on premises and the other three stated that issues were within 100 or 200 feet of their businesses.



Comments on what should be done included greater law enforcement (e.g., drug deals in front of Wawa), more services, and places for people to go so that they will not be causing issues for businesses.

Respondents from outside of Fairfax Circle area

Among these three respondents, one was very concerned, one was concerned, and one was not concerned about the effect of homeless individuals on businesses and the community. Of the two in the Fair City Shopping Center, one had very little interaction with individuals who are homeless, and one said that daily issues included sleeping outside, intoxication, loitering, panhandling, and weekly issues with public urination and shoplifting. The respondent from Old Town Fairfax said that loitering and panhandling occurred weekly on premises.

Comments on what should be done included offering more affordable housing and providing bathrooms and gathering options that are not in/near the businesses. A concern about the jail exiting people without proper resources was mentioned by the business in Old Town Fairfax.

Conclusion

While there were very few respondents compared to the number of surveys sent, it seems appropriate to conclude that the effect of homeless individuals is a large issue for businesses in the Fairfax Circle area. The most widely noted issues were public intoxication and loitering. These activities make the areas around the businesses inhospitable for customers and staff. Services such as rehab and job training were suggested. These are good suggestions, but they are long-term solutions. The businesses would like something in addition that is short-term that will provide a different place for people to stay (or be sent) when they are intoxicated and/or have no place to go. Most of the businesses are open to nonprofit organizations and churches offering services to help, but not in the middle of the business areas. There was also a concern that trespassing and public intoxication laws were not being enforced.



Appendix J. Data/Research Subcommittee: Report on Survey of Homeless Services Provider Staff

Report dated April 25, 2024

Three responses from FACETS and two from the Lamb Center.

1. What is the process for a single adult to get into shelter? Do you feel that the process is easy or hard? *Hard: 2, Easy: 3*

If hard, explain why?

- *Clients are will call and cannot leave a voice mail or if they do they do not get a call back in a timely manner.*
- *It is very difficult as there are not enough beds.*

2. On average how long does it take for an unhoused individual who wants shelter to get a bed? *4+ weeks: 5*

3. How often do unhoused individuals turn down available shelter beds?
Sometimes: 4, rarely: 1

4. What are the most common reasons they turn down shelter beds?
Safety: 3, location: 2

- *Guests, particularly females, have reported feeling unsafe. I've also heard concerns about theft and violence.*

5. How can local shelters be improved?

- *Less beds per shelter but more shelters.*
- *More beds, more staff training on trauma.*
- *Ensuring that if someone is receiving a shelter bed that they are offered case management services at admittance. I have heard from clients that some shelter locations are lacking in this area.*

6. How can winter hypothermia services be improved?

- *For each region stay within the region for hypo so it can be accessed by all easily.*
- *Having a single location through the season rather than rotate through churches.*
- *We make improvements every year by coordinating with Facets. Communication is critical, especially during inclement weather. During weather events, we sometimes face difficult decisions about opening the Lamb Center and transporting guests under dangerous circumstances because partnering churches (who are deeply appreciated) have limited staff and food resources. Anticipating this need and having reserve resources would help. The shelter gap on Sundays is a real hardship for people carrying all their possessions, as is the early morning drop-off at the Lamb Center when guests arrive at 6:30 AM when we open at 8 AM.*
- *Providing shelters that are not so far away and having properly trained staff on site.*



7. What services are generally most effective in preventing individuals from losing their housing?
 - *More time for prevention instead of 14 days.*
 - *CSP can sometimes be effective in keeping individuals from losing their housing as well as prevention services offered by an organization if those services begin in a timely fashion.*
 - *Clinical behavioral health services, emergency rental assistance, and case management.*
 - *Transitional services that include wrap-around case management.*
8. How available are those services? *Somewhat unavailable: 3, very unavailable: 2*
9. How available is emergency rent or mortgage assistance?
Somewhat unavailable: 4, somewhat available: 1
10. How can emergency rent and mortgage assistance services be improved?
 - *More money and more time to work with the clients to make sure that they do not come back to services.*
 - *The process of requesting payment for security deposits and applications has cost clients housing opportunities. For prevention, waiting on the writ does not allow the organization enough time to get payment to the landlords.*
 - *Allowing case workers more time when the client becomes a prevention case to assist the client.*
11. How available are case management services for unhoused individuals?
Very available: 1, somewhat available: 2, somewhat unavailable: 2
12. What is most helpful about case management services?
 - *Budgeting.*
 - *Case managers are able to meet clients in the community.*
 - *Case management services allow clients the supports to access needs such as housing and wrap around services.*
 - *Case management is our core program and encompasses spiritual, psychological, life, and employment dimensions. Critical services include document restoration, veterans' assistance, and social security assistance. It's all about encouraging and empowering our guests to overcome obstacles.*
 - *Case managers are educated, trained, and committed to improving the lives of others. Their insights can help the poor achieve transformational success.*
13. How available are mental health services for unhoused individuals?
Very unavailable: 1, somewhat unavailable: 3, somewhat available: 1
14. How can mental health services be improved?
 - *More locations.*
 - *Easier access and quicker assessments.*



- *By having a clear concise approach to dealing with certain situations and knowing the guidelines in order to access the resources accordingly.*
- *A strategic priority of the Lamb Center is to provide clinical behavioral health services. As a low-barrier shelter with strong case management rooted in trust and professionalism, we are a logical site for these services. We are just beginning conversations with potential partners to create this capability.*
- *Increase the availability of case managers.*

15. How available are substance use disorder services for unhoused individuals?

Very unavailable: 1, somewhat unavailable: 3, somewhat available: 1

16. How can substance use disorder services be improved?

- *Have more detox centers and rehab centers.*
- *More services are needed, easier access to programs.*
- *By knowing the guidelines for accessing these services.*
- *The City should ensure equity in accessing these services.*

17. What is most helpful about the Lamb Center?

- *It is a safe place for people to go and get a meal and shower and to be inside.*
- *The case managers are great and collaborative.*
- *Provided assistance in completing tasks such as retrieving vital docs, laundry, and showering.*
- *Provides holistic care rooted in dignity and love.*
- *The Lamb Center provides a safe place for individuals to connect with more resources.*

18. How could the Lamb Center be improved?

- *The laundry set up stresses out guests and some feel the bathrooms are unsanitary.*
- *By having guidelines set in place prior to referring a client over.*
- *Adding a new data-focused staff position and clinical services will help us understand and better meet our guests' needs.*

19. What is most helpful about FACETS services?

- *Helpful in helping connect to long term housing options and completing referrals.*
- *Are most helpful through their case management services and hot meals.*

20. How could FACETS services be improved?

- *Rapid Rehousing is extremely difficult due to landlords not wanting to work with FACETS, the process of getting payment for security deposits is too long, and the income limit after the first three months has prevent FACETS from ensuring successful long term stabilization.*
- *Can be improved by additional resources and staff being provided to better assist the needs of clients as numbers continue to rise.*
- *More case managers to help with the clients.*



21. What is the response of the police and local government to someone who is “camping” and/or seems to be homeless?

- *I think it is unfortunate people have to be moved when they are not visible from the road and are not disturbing anyone. There have been instances where the encampment were either cleared without warning, or before the posted date. This resulted in their belongings, shelter, and documents such as birth certificates to be thrown away by the County.*
- *Some personnel are empathetic and try to work with the individuals while others are very put off and upset knowing that someone is living in a tent and they have to see it. Certain members of the community does not like having to look at those who appear to be homeless and believe that if more resources are bought to the area that more people experiencing homelessness will appear and that it will bring down the value of the area.*
- *The police are in a difficult situation, carrying out an unworkable policy of moving people who have nowhere to go.*
- *The police have been excellent. We are so grateful for their assistance with our guests.*

22. What is most helpful about the police and local government response?

- *Police have helped during instances where guests need to be escorted off property.*
- *Some individuals are very good with contacting organization in order to assists individuals prior to clearing them from places like campsites. When calling the police, they can be very responsive and understanding to what the clients needs are and the situation at hand.*
- *Improving communication is making a difference. Regular coordination across departments, including Facets and the CSB, is much appreciated. I'd like to see the City build on the community education and engagement begun by the Homelessness Task Force.*
- *The police response has been terrific. When I place a 911 call or call the non-emergency line, the police have always arrived promptly. The police I interact with have always had great attitudes and have been cooperative. Thank you, Police!!*

23. How can the police and local government response be improved?

- *A way that the responses can be improved is interacting with this population with a trauma informed approach and being aware of how things are phrased to clients as well as response times when the police are called.*
- *If an organization calls for police assistance the police should not take longer than 5 mins to get to the call.*

24. What would you like Fairfax City leaders to know about the experience of unhoused individuals in the City?

- *A lot want to be housed but the rent is too high.*
- *Our clients experience significant barriers such as criminal and eviction history. Rapid Rehousing has not been an effective housing option for the last few years and it is getting worse every year. Between the landlords not willing to engage, and the process of requesting payment, it is rare we are able to house someone, especially*



using a housing first model. We need more PSH for clients, and we need a better program than rapid rehousing for the non-chronic individuals.

- Not everyone who is experiencing homelessness wants to be help. We have individuals who have been homeless for years and will not engage around services and that is their right. Clients have expressed feelings of being unsafe, unwanted, or unworthy of help and it does take time to build those relationships in hopes of helping them in any capacity.*
- The anonymity of homelessness may be the most difficult issue our guests contend with on a daily basis. I welcome City leaders who haven't visited the Lamb Center to come and spend a few hours with us. They might also consider visiting our City Jobs crew at Van Dyke Park or another City worksite.*
- When an individual has been arrested and has "no fixed address," that doesn't necessarily mean they are a guest at the Lamb Center.*
- We have a growing senior and disabled population. They rely on SSI/SSDI which is never enough to pay rent, let alone other expenses. The elderly and disabled typically cannot work, meaning they are fully dependent on SSI/SSDI and if they are newly homeless, it's almost impossible to house them. Many have had to wait a year for PSH (permanent supportive housing) because there is no progress with RRH (rapid re-housing).*



Endnotes: Definitions and Additional Resources/Information

¹ City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force Charter, available at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/20634/638140398713030000>. See also the Resolution Establishing Homelessness Task Force, R-23-09, available at <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/20636/638140398854130000>.

² Resolution to Support the Establishment of a Homelessness Taskforce, <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/20636/638140398854130000>

³ Types of Homelessness

- *Chronic homelessness* is like someone stuck in a deep rut, needing a significant intervention to get out.
- *Transitional homelessness* is like someone who has fallen down a temporary pothole, needing a helping hand to get back on track.
- *Episodic homelessness* is like someone who keeps tripping over uneven ground, needing support to identify and address the underlying causes of their falls.

Here's a breakdown of how Chronic, Transitional, and Episodic homelessness differ:

Feature	Chronic Homelessness	Transitional Homelessness	Episodic Homelessness
Duration	Long-term (often years)	Short-term (weeks to months)	Multiple short periods throughout a year (at least 3)
Cause	Often due to a combination of factors like chronic health issues, mental illness, addiction, and lack of affordable housing.	Caused by a single crisis event like job loss, domestic violence, eviction, or medical emergency.	May have underlying causes like mental illness or addiction, but the episodes are triggered by various circumstances.
Support Services	May benefit most from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) with intensive support services.	Well-suited for Transitional Housing programs that offer temporary housing and support to get back on their feet.	May benefit from various programs depending on the cause of each episode, such as rapid re-housing or mental health services.
Frequency	Less common than other types	Most common type of homelessness	Relatively common
Stability	Least stable, often experiencing homelessness for extended periods with limited breaks.	More stable than chronic homelessness, with temporary housing serving as a bridge.	Less stable than transitional homelessness, with recurring episodes of homelessness.
Examples	An individual with chronic mental illness who has been homeless for several years.	A family who lost their home due to a fire and is staying in a shelter while they find new housing.	Someone with a disability who experiences homelessness a few times a year due to challenges finding affordable housing with necessary accessibility features.



⁴ **Street Outreach** is a service designed to directly connect with people experiencing homelessness where they are at. It's like bringing essential resources and support systems to them on the streets.

How street outreach works:

- *Proactive Engagement:* Outreach workers actively seek out individuals living in encampments, on the streets, or in other unsheltered locations.
- *Building Trust:* A key aspect is establishing rapport and trust with people experiencing homelessness. This allows for open communication and a willingness to accept help.
- *Needs Assessment:* Outreach workers assess the immediate and long-term needs of each person, considering aspects like food, shelter, healthcare, mental health, and employment.
- *Service Connection:* They connect individuals with various resources and services, including shelters, food banks, mental health services, addiction treatment programs, and job training opportunities.
- *Support and Advocacy:* Outreach workers can offer ongoing support and advocate for the person's needs when dealing with bureaucracies or applications for assistance programs.

Goals of Street Outreach:

- *Increase Access to Services:* By meeting people where they are, outreach helps bridge the gap between those experiencing homelessness and the services available to them.
- *Promote Stability:* The goal is to help individuals move towards a more stable living situation and improve their overall well-being.
- *Prevent Crisis:* Early intervention through outreach can help prevent situations from worsening and potentially avoid emergency room visits or hospitalization.

Organizations that often provide street outreach services:

- Homeless shelters
- Mental health agencies
- Faith-based organizations
- Nonprofit social service providers

⁵ **Emergency shelter** is a temporary haven for people who are unable to stay in their own homes due to an immediate crisis. One type of emergency shelter is a homeless shelter. These shelters serve people experiencing homelessness, offering temporary housing and supportive services to help them get back on their feet. They may cater to specific populations like families, veterans, or people with disabilities.

Common services offered by emergency shelters:

- **Safe Place to Sleep:** A cot or bed in a shared room or dormitory-style setting.



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- Meals: Basic meals, often including breakfast, dinner, and sometimes snacks.
 - Showers and Laundry Facilities: Access to basic hygiene amenities.
 - Clothing: Sometimes shelters offer spare clothing or connections to resources for obtaining clothing.
 - Referral Services: Help connecting with resources for permanent housing, employment assistance, or social services.

⁶ **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** is a long-term solution designed to help chronically homeless individuals and families achieve stability by combining two key elements:

Affordable Housing: PSH programs provide participants with access to safe and decent permanent housing units. This could involve subsidized apartments, vouchers, or individual housing units.

Voluntary Supportive Services: Unlike shelters or transitional housing, PSH doesn't require meeting specific conditions (like sobriety) to maintain housing. Instead, it offers voluntary supportive services to address the underlying causes of homelessness and help tenants succeed in their permanent housing. These services can include:

- *Case Management:* Regular check-ins and support from a case manager to connect participants with resources and develop a plan for self-sufficiency.
- *Mental Health Services:* Assistance with managing mental health conditions that may have contributed to homelessness.
- *Employment Assistance:* Help with job searching, resume writing, or interview skills.
- *Healthcare Services:* Connecting participants with medical care and addressing any health needs.

Key aspects of PSH:

- *Housing First Approach:* PSH prioritizes getting people into stable housing quickly, believing that secure housing is a foundation for addressing other challenges.
- *Long-Term Stability:* The goal is to provide permanent housing, not just temporary shelter.
- *Voluntary Services:* Supportive services are offered but not mandatory for maintaining housing.
- *Focus on Self-Sufficiency:* While providing support, PSH programs aim to empower participants to develop the skills and resources to live independently over time.

Benefits of PSH:

- *Reduces Chronic Homelessness:* Proven strategy to help chronically homeless individuals and families achieve lasting housing stability.
- *Improves Health and Well-being:* Stable housing can lead to better physical and mental health outcomes.



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- *Cost-Effective:* Studies suggest PSH can be more cost-effective than shelters or emergency room visits for those experiencing chronic homelessness.

⁷ **Continuum of Care (CoC)** Fairfax City doesn't have its own separate Continuum of Care (CoC) program. The CoC program is administered at the county level, so Fairfax City falls under the umbrella of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership CoC.

Here's some information about the CoC program in Fairfax County:

- **Managed by:** Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership CoC Committee [Fairfax County]
- **Function:** Works collaboratively to address homelessness in the region. This includes securing funding, developing strategies, and coordinating services provided by various organizations [Fairfax County].
- **Website:** Fairfax County Continuum of Care [<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/continuum-care>].

Additionally, here's how Fairfax City is involved with the CoC:

- **Homelessness Task Force:** The city has a Homelessness Task Force that is currently working on recommendations to address homelessness [Engage Fairfax]. This task force likely collaborates with the CoC.
- **Service Providers:** Fairfax City has organizations like The Lamb Center that partner with the CoC to offer services to people experiencing homelessness [Engage Fairfax].

While Fairfax City doesn't run its own CoC program, they are still involved in efforts to address homelessness through collaboration with the county-level CoC.

⁸ **Eviction/Homelessness Prevention** refers to programs and strategies aimed at helping tenants stay in their homes and avoid eviction. These programs typically focus on two main areas:

Financial Assistance: This is the most common form of eviction prevention. Programs provide short-term financial aid to renters facing eviction, usually due to non-payment of rent. This can cover rent arrears, current rent, and sometimes even future rent payments.

Support Services: Some eviction prevention programs offer additional resources beyond just money. This might include:

- **Mediation:** Help with communicating and negotiating with your landlord to reach an agreement.
- **Legal Aid:** Advice and representation in court if the eviction process moves forward.
- **Housing Search Assistance:** Help finding new housing if staying in your current unit isn't possible.

The goal of eviction prevention is to stabilize the housing situation for both the tenant and the landlord. By helping tenants catch up on rent or find alternative housing, eviction prevention programs can help avoid the negative consequences of eviction for everyone involved.



The City of Fairfax falls within Fairfax County, and there are resources available for eviction prevention within Fairfax City limits. Here are some options to explore:

- *Fairfax County Emergency Rental Assistance Bridge Program (ERA-BP 2.0)*: This program offers financial assistance to eligible residents in Fairfax County, including Fairfax City. You can qualify for up to four months of assistance for rent arrears, current month's rent, and potentially two months of future rent. Check the eligibility requirements and apply through Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) at 703-222-0880 or visit [Fairfax County Eviction Prevention](#).
- *Non-Profit Organizations*: Several non-profit organizations in Fairfax County offer eviction prevention assistance, including those serving residents in Fairfax City.

Additional tips for eviction prevention:

- *Communicate with your landlord*: If you're facing financial hardship and can't make rent, talk to your landlord as soon as possible. They may be willing to work with you on a payment plan.
- *Review your lease agreement*: Understand your rights and responsibilities as a tenant.
- *Seek legal aid*: There are legal aid organizations that can provide free or low-cost legal advice and representation in eviction case.

⁹ **Human Services Regions**: Fairfax County established Human Services Regions to deliver social services within specific areas of the county. Human Services Region 4 (aka: Central Fairfax) encompasses several communities including: Burke, Centreville, Chantilly, City of Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Town of Clifton & West Springfield.

¹⁰ **Public Safety** Fairfax City, Virginia works on public safety through a combination of law enforcement, community programs, and emergency preparedness efforts. Here's a breakdown of some key aspects:

- *Fairfax City Police Department*: The FCPD is responsible for patrolling the city, responding to calls for service, and investigating crimes. They also have community policing programs that aim to build relationships with residents and address neighborhood concerns.
- *Community Programs*: Fairfax City offers various programs to promote public safety. Here are a couple of examples:
 - *Neighborhood Watch*: This program encourages residents to look out for each other's homes and property.
 - *Citizen Police Academy*: This educational program provides residents with insights into police operations and fosters better understanding between the community and law enforcement.
- *Emergency Preparedness*: The city has plans in place to respond to emergencies like fires, floods, and other disasters. This includes collaboration with Fairfax County emergency services.

Here are some resources for you to learn more about public safety in Fairfax City:



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- City of Fairfax Police Department: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/police>
 - Public Safety and Emergencies (Fairfax County): <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/>

¹¹ **Affordable housing** refers to housing that is within the financial reach of a person or family. There isn't a one-size-fits-all definition, because affordability depends on income.

Generally, though, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers housing affordable if a household spends no more than 30% of its gross income on rent or mortgage and utilities [National League of Cities]. Those who spend more than 30% are considered cost-burdened, and if they spend more than 50%, they are severely cost-burdened.

¹² **Community Response Team (CRT)** of Fairfax City focuses on mental health crisis intervention. It's a specialized team designed to provide a comprehensive response when residents are experiencing mental or behavioral health issues.

Key aspects of the Fairfax City CRT:

- A Specialized Team consisting of mental health professionals who can offer real-time crisis intervention alongside law enforcement and emergency medical services if needed.
- Multi-Disciplinary Approach: This ensures a well-rounded response that addresses both immediate needs and long-term support.
- De-escalation Techniques: The team is trained to de-escalate crisis situations and connect with individuals in a safe and calming manner.
- Reducing Involuntary Hospitalization: The CRT aims to connect people with appropriate services and resources, potentially avoiding unnecessary hospitalizations.
- Crisis Response and Follow-Up: The team provides support during the crisis and offer targeted outreach, follow-up care, and short-term case coordination to promote long-term well-being.

This program aligns with the state's Marcus Alert system, which aims to improve responses to mental health crises.

If you're looking for help with a mental health crisis in Fairfax City, you can still contact the Merrifield Crisis Response Center at 703-573-5679. They can assess the situation and connect you with the most appropriate resources.

¹³ **Fairfax City and Fairfax County Human Services**

Community Services Board (CSB): The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) is a local government agency that provides mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services to residents of Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/>.

Here's some information about the CSB:

Contacts:



Phone: (703) 324-7000 (TTY: 711)

Email: csb@fairfaxcounty.gov

Address: 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031

Website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/>

Services: The CSB offers a variety of services for adults, children, and adolescents, including:

- Mental health assessments and treatment
- Substance abuse treatment
- Developmental disability services
- Crisis intervention services
- Case management services
- Prevention and education programs

Department of Family Services (DFS): DFS promotes the well-being of the County's diverse community by protecting and improving the lives of children, adults and families through supportive services, education and advocacy

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS): HHS oversees a vast array of human services programs provided primarily by contract with regional and Fairfax County agencies. Among services included are adult and aging services, child care, public assistance, health and mental health, substance use disorders and services to persons with disabilities

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health-humanservices/>.

Fairfax City Department of Health and Human Services promotes the well-being of the City's diverse community by protecting and improving the lives of children, adults and families through supportive services, education and advocacy

<https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/human-services>.

Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning (CSP): CSP provides information, referrals, and linkages to various human services available to Fairfax County residents experiencing homelessness. They can help with basic needs, financial assistance, healthcare services, and shelter referrals [<https://www.fcps.edu/family-resources/family-engagement/information-homeless-families>].

Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS): NCS operates a network of Human Services Regional Offices located throughout Fairfax County. Has a Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) that serves as homelessness coordinated service entry. Additionally, the offices provide residents with information and referral services, as well as access to a variety of human services programs <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/>.

Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH): This department takes the lead role in managing and coordinating services for people experiencing homelessness. They offer



street outreach, emergency shelters, hypothermia prevention, and supportive housing programs [<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>].

¹⁴ **Specialty treatment dockets** or courts are research-based options to help participants obtain treatment for underlying issues, to reduce recidivism and to improve public safety. Fairfax County currently has three types of specialty dockets – drug treatment court, veterans’ treatment court, and mental health court. Defendants charged with specific non-violent crimes are eligible for these dockets. Participants receive treatment and rehabilitation services. If they complete 14-24 months of intense court supervision and programming successfully, they may have their non-violent felony charges dismissed. Specialty courts can reduce recidivism and promote other positive outcomes.

¹⁵ **300 Housing Certificates for Permanent Supportive Housing** – Fairfax County and Fairfax City Partner to Expand Permanent Supportive Housing (announced April 12, 2024). This initiative offers 300 housing certificates for residents with serious mental illness, providing stable housing and supportive services to help them thrive in the community.

Expanding permanent housing options for residents with serious mental illness:

- *Funding:* \$20 million grant to provide 300 housing vouchers over 3 years.
- *Who qualifies:* People transitioning from hospitals/temporary housing or experiencing chronic homelessness.
- *Role of the CSB:* Screening referrals, managing client assistance funds for moving expenses, and hiring support staff (Critical Time Intervention workers and nurses).
- *Overall Goal:* Improve well-being of residents with serious mental illness by providing stable housing and support services.

For more information, check out the CSB website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/>

¹⁶ **Case Management** for someone experiencing homelessness is like having a personal guide to navigate the path back to stable housing and a better life. It's a collaborative effort between a case manager and the individual to get the resources and support they need.

Key idea: It's a planned approach to connect individuals with the right services.

¹⁷ **Preservation (of affordable housing) Strategies.** Fairfax City and Fairfax County (which surrounds the city) are working together to preserve affordable housing. Here's what you need to know:

- *Goal:* "One-for-one replacement" of existing affordable units that are being redeveloped [Fairfax County]. This means that if an affordable housing complex is torn down, new affordable units should be built to replace them.
- *Fairfax County Policies:* Fairfax County has a few key policies in place:
 - *Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force:* This group studies how to best preserve affordable housing and makes recommendations [Fairfax County].



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- *Affordable Housing Preservation Policy*: Adopted in 2023, this policy aims to achieve the one-for-one replacement goal [Fairfax County].
 - *Administrative Guidelines*: Adopted in September 2023, these guidelines help developers navigate the process of preserving affordable units during redevelopment [McGuireWoods].
 - *Fairfax City*: While Fairfax City has its own zoning ordinance with provisions for affordable dwelling units, they partner with Fairfax County for administering the program [City of Fairfax, VA].

¹⁸ **Housing Trust Fund (HTF)** is a local or national pool of money set aside specifically to fund affordable housing initiatives. It's like a dedicated savings account to address the lack of accessible housing options.

Here's how Housing Trust Funds work:

They are typically funded by reliable sources, like government allocations, real estate transfer taxes, or even private donations.

- *Focus on Affordability*: The money goes towards creating or preserving affordable housing units for low-income individuals and families.
This can involve funding new construction, rehabilitation of existing buildings, or assisting with homeownership programs.
- *Long-Term Commitment*: These funds are designed to be a long-term resource, ensuring a steady stream of funding for affordable housing projects.

Benefits of Housing Trust Funds:

- *Increased Availability of Affordable Housing*: By providing dedicated funding, HTFs help increase the overall stock of affordable housing units in a community.
- *Stability for Low-Income Residents*: More affordable housing options allow low-income families to find safe and secure housing, promoting stability in their lives.
- *Community Revitalization*: Affordable housing developments can contribute to the revitalization of neighborhoods.

Examples of Housing Trust Funds:

- There's a National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that allocates funds to states.
- Many states and cities also have their own Housing Trust Funds tailored to address local needs. For instance, Virginia has a Housing Trust Fund that supports the creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout the Commonwealth.

¹⁹ **Frontline representatives** are the employees who directly interact with the public. They are essentially the face of the organization.



²⁰ **Financial Empowerment Center (FEC)** is a nonprofit organization that offers free financial counseling and education to individuals and families. Their goal is to help people improve their financial situation and achieve their long-term financial goals.

Services typically offered:

- *One-on-one financial coaching:* A financial counselor will meet with you to discuss your financial situation, goals, and challenges. They will help you create a budget, manage your debt, save for the future, and make informed financial decisions.
- *Financial workshops:* FECs often offer workshops on a variety of financial topics, such as budgeting, saving for retirement, and buying a home.
- *Tax preparation assistance:* Some FECs offer free tax preparation assistance, especially during tax season.

²¹ **Transitional housing** is a temporary housing solution that bridges the gap between homelessness and permanent housing. It is designed to be a steppingstone, offering stable housing along with supportive services to help people experiencing homelessness get back on their feet.

Key features:

- *Temporary Stay:* Stays in transitional housing typically last from a few months to a couple of years, depending on the program and the individual's progress.
- *More Stable Than Shelters:* Unlike emergency shelters, transitional housing offers private rooms or apartments, providing more stability and privacy.
- *Supportive Services:* This is a key aspect that sets transitional housing apart. Programs offer various services to address the root causes of homelessness, such as:
 - Life skills training: Budgeting, cooking, job searching, etc.
 - Employment assistance: Help with finding a job and developing career skills.
 - Mental health and addiction treatment: Addressing underlying issues that may have contributed to homelessness.
 - Help finding permanent housing: The goal is to equip residents with the tools and resources to secure stable, long-term housing on their own.

Benefits of Transitional Housing:

- *Provides Stability:* A safe and secure place to live allows residents to focus on getting back on their feet.
- *Develops Life Skills:* Programs help residents develop the skills they need to live independently.
- *Increases Chances of Finding Permanent Housing:* Supportive services improve residents' chances of securing stable, long-term housing.
- *Reduces Time Spent Homeless:* By providing temporary housing and support, transitional housing helps people move out of homelessness faster.



Who Qualifies for Transitional Housing?

Eligibility requirements vary by program, but generally, transitional housing is for individuals and families experiencing homelessness who are motivated to improve their situation. Some programs may prioritize specific populations like veterans, families with children, or individuals overcoming chronic health issues.

²² **Housing Voucher** is also known as a Housing Choice Voucher or Section 8 voucher (referencing the former national program name), is a rental assistance program funded by the federal government and administered locally by Public Housing Authorities (PHAs).

How it works:

- *Rental Assistance:* The program doesn't directly provide housing but offers a subsidy to help low-income families and individuals afford rent in the private market.
- *Finding Housing:* Voucher holders are responsible for finding suitable apartments, townhomes, or even single-family homes that meet the program's standards and are willing to accept vouchers. There are no geographical restrictions within the PHA's jurisdiction.
- *Subsidy Payment:* The PHA pays a portion of the rent directly to the landlord on behalf of the voucher holder. The tenant is responsible for paying the remaining balance, typically around 30-35% of their adjusted income.
- *Income Eligibility:* Eligibility is based on income, with priority given to extremely low-income, very low-income, and low-income households. There are also restrictions on citizenship and criminal background in some cases.

Benefits of Housing Vouchers:

- *Expands Housing Options:* Voucher holders can choose housing that best suits their needs in the private market, unlike public housing which may have limited options.
- *Increased Affordability:* The voucher helps bridge the gap between a renter's income and market rent prices.
- *Improved Housing Quality:* Voucher programs ensure units meet minimum health and safety standards.

Things to Consider:

- *Waiting Lists:* Due to high demand, there may be waiting lists to receive a housing voucher.
- *Landlord Participation:* Not all landlords choose to participate in the program, so finding a suitable unit might take some time.
- *Program Rules:* Voucher holders must comply with program rules to maintain their voucher and tenancy.

If you're interested in learning more about housing vouchers in Fairfax County, Virginia, you can contact the Fairfax Housing Authority (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/>). They can provide information on eligibility requirements, the application process, and current wait times.