

**SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY COMMENTS AND STAFF
RESPONSES
on the Draft FY 2008 Annual Consolidated Plan**

This summarizes comments from the community on the draft FY 2008 Annual Consolidated Plan. Staff has received this community feedback through the County Board budget hearing on March 27, 2007 and other community meetings and contacts.

Restoration of LPACAP-Funded Programs: Several members of the Community Services Board and the Arlington Interfaith Council urged the County Board to restore \$400,000 in funding for two programs (school-based and out patient therapists and dual diagnosis services) and \$370,000 in funding for three programs (to address substance abuse, support Clarendon House, and provide mental health services for the inmate population).

A petition signed by 71 Queen of Peace parishioners was presented at the budget hearing. The petition urged full restoration of the \$7.5 million originally funded by LPACAP from local tax revenues.

Staff Response: The following is a comparison of Community Services Board priorities (as laid out in a March 19, 2007 letter) and the priorities in the County Manager's proposed budget.

Community Services Board Request LPACAP Restoration – Tier I	County Manager's Human Services Policy Priorities
School-based Mental Health Therapists (\$261,541, 4.0 FTE)	Yes
Substance Abuse Therapist (\$66,675, 1.0 FTE)	Yes
Dual Diagnosis Therapist. (\$77,544, 1.0 FTE)	Yes
Arlington Assisted Living Residence (\$130,000)	Yes – costs predicted over \$2M by FY 2010
Permanent Supportive Housing (\$370,000)	No
Substance Abuse Prevention in Schools Program (\$75,000, 1.0 FTE)	No
Mental Health – Clarendon Clubhouse temporary support (\$25,000)	No
Mental Health Therapists in Jail Mental Health Unit (\$150,000, 2.0 FTE)	No
Residential Substance Abuse Services (\$120,000)	No

Permanent Supportive Housing: A member of the Community Services Board (CSB) asked that the Board continue its support of supportive housing. One member of the public specifically requested \$500,000 in supportive housing for persons with mental disabilities, noting that the ratio of clients to case managers were particularly high.

Staff Response: Staff agree that supportive housing should be prioritized. The County Manager's Proposed FY 2008 Budget includes \$130,000 for the pre-opening costs for the Arlington Assisted Living Residence, which will require additional funding for the full

operating costs. The proposed FY 2008 budget does not include the additional \$370,000 for a supportive housing funding pool as requested by the CSB.

Support for Homeless Services: Representatives from Doorways for Women and Families urged the County to provide matching funds for costs related to its Freddie Mac Foundation Home.

Staff Response: The County Manager's Proposed FY 2008 budget includes \$471,358 in operating costs for Doorways. Increasing funds for Doorways ranks below restoring other LPACAP cuts to human services such as the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. The Manager's budget recommends that \$25,000 in Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) Housing Services funds be allocated for Doorways for its Financial Independence Track (FIT) program, an educational financial literacy service for women/fathers at shelters and in transitional housing.

Expand the Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) to a Year-Round Shelter: Representatives from the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN) and other community members recommended that EWS, which currently limits shelter access to November 1 through March 31, be expanded to a year-round shelter. Most of the shelter users are working adults who cannot afford the cost of housing in Arlington. A-SPAN provides services to over 800 persons per year.

A petition signed by 55 Queen of Peace parishioners supported the Emergency Winter Shelter operating year round.

Staff Response: The staff recommendation is not to expand services year-round at this time at the current location. This policy can be re-assessed when the shelter moves because of development in the area. .

Increased Funding for Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC): Several speakers requested \$120,000 in County funding for AFAC, which serves over 600 families weekly.

Staff Response: Staff supports additional funding.

Support for the Re-engineering of the CD Program: The Chair of the Community Development Citizen's Advisory Council (CDCAC) spoke to the Board about the success of the new Community Development Fund and the review of proposals. The Committee endorses the administrative guidelines developed by staff and subrecipients to ensure that nonprofit service providers are moving toward long-term sustainability. The Committee appreciates the County Manager's adjustments to the budget that have made it possible to preserve the essential mission of the program.

Arlington Public Schools: Representatives spoke on behalf of the Young Fathers/Caring Equation Program, listing the many benefits gained by men enrolled in

the program. It encourages young fathers to be involved in parenting and will lose federal funding at the end of FY 2007.

Staff Response: Community Development Fund guidelines preclude FY 2008 funding requests for County and School programs. The Young Fathers Program is receiving limited CSBG support in FY 2007.

Liberty's Promise: Representatives from Liberty's Promise described this program which encourages teenagers from immigrant families to become informed about civic participation in the United States. It also places them in internships in the community. The Executive Director noted that no support was provided for the program in FY 2008.

Staff Response: Although Liberty's Promise appears to be a successful program model, it is similar to several programs currently funded by CDBG and CSBG, such as Project Discovery and the Youth Brigade. With limited funds, this new program was not considered high priority by staff or CDCAC.

Culpepper Gardens: The Chair of the Board of Directors spoke about the challenge that the organization faces with many elders in need of daily living assistance. At this time 30 of the 73 units in the assisted living wing receive added subsidy from the County for assisted living services.

Staff Response: Staff concurs that over time there will be a growing number of elders who will need this additional subsidy.

Appreciation for Funding: Representatives of the following organizations expressed appreciation for the recommended funding for their programs.

L'Arche: Mr. Norton thanked the County for its support of its new group home for persons with disabilities in south Arlington. The home will be fully accessible outside, thanks to a onetime CD Housing Development grant for a ramp to the home's backyard.

AHC: Several representatives from AHC thanked the County Board for its continuing support and reminded the Board of the continuing affordable housing challenges. Both pointed out the critical need for the County operated Outreach Center at AHC's Berkeley Apartments.

Ethiopian Community Development Council (ECDC): Representatives from ECDC thanked the Board for their support of programs to assist immigrants. Many services are provided by ECDC, including micro enterprise loans and space for small business incubator.

Shirlington Employment and Education Center (SEEC) and Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC): The Executive Director of SEEC thanked the Board for funding its program to assist day laborers in finding employment. He also noted the

need for increased funding for AFAC, where he is a member of the Board. AFAC has been serving more than 700 families each week.

Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR): Representatives thanked the Board for support of its programs, including a nonprofit business. It will launch a faith-based mentoring program to encourage community support for ex-offenders, funded by CSBG.