



Arlington County 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Arlington's Vision

"Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important."



HOUSING PRINCIPLE

Households with children should never be homeless.

Adopted by the County Board
December 9, 2000

HOUSING TARGET

Provide permanent housing to at least 95% of sheltered homeless elders and families with children and for 65% of the sheltered homeless persons with disabilities by FY 2010.

Approved by the County Board
December 6, 2003

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PLAN

This Plan established a 5-year goal to add 375-425 permanent supportive housing units for persons and families with disabilities. A portion of the units are to serve the homeless.

Approved by the County Board
April 16, 2005

"A Passageway Home: A 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness"

Arlington is a caring community. The County strives to create an environment in which individuals feel a part of a larger, supportive community, sensitive to their needs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is encouraging localities nationwide to develop 10-Year Plans to End Homelessness. The goal of Arlington's Plan is that no individual or family lack access to decent, affordable housing. The Plan details how the County is working to find ways to make that a reality.

The plan provides a multi-pronged approach, outlining strategies and action steps related to permanent affordable housing, transitional programs, supportive

services, prevention, and access to employment and training opportunities. It is based on best practices that take a comprehensive approach to addressing the various needs of homeless individuals and families.

Cost Benefit: Data shows that preventing eviction is less costly than the average cost of housing a family in an emergency shelter. Significant savings in public monies can be realized when individuals with mental illness are stabilized on medication, thus reducing the number and frequency of hospitalizations.

Facilitating access to benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Veterans' benefits can save local tax dollars.

Range of Programs Serving Homeless

Transitional Housing Program: Rent subsidy program for families with issues such as mental illness or domestic abuse who are leaving shelters and entering transitional programs.

Traditional Housing Grants Program: Rent subsidies for low income elders, persons with disabilities, and working families with children, with priority given to those leaving shelters.

Project-based Rental Assistance: Some committed affordable units are designated to serve persons with disabilities, including homeless, needing permanent supportive housing.

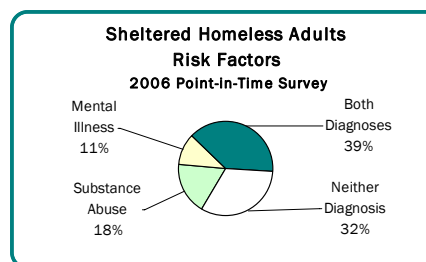
Milestones Program: HUD-funded program providing permanent housing to chronically homeless persons with severe mental illness, substance abuse and dual-diagnoses.

Who's At-Risk for Homelessness & Why

Causes of homelessness include the lack of affordable housing, as well as low income due to low wages, underemployment and unemployment.

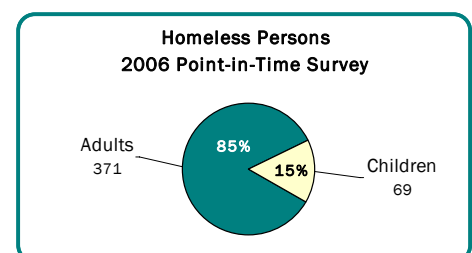
Low income persons and families at particular risk of homelessness include:

- chronic substance abusers,
- persons with serious mental illness,
- persons formerly in the foster care system,
- victims of domestic violence, and
- persons with limited education, language barriers, immigrant status problems, or criminal history.



440 Persons Homeless in Arlington in January 2006

- 40% of the homeless population were considered unsheltered, chronically homeless or both.
- 73% of sheltered homeless adults had a diagnosis of serious mental illness, alcohol or drug abuse or dependency, or both.
- 114 of the adults were employed.
- 101 persons had a chronic illness.
- 50 were victims of domestic abuse.
- 20 adults were Veterans.



“Universal access to safe, decent, accessible, affordable, and permanent housing is a measure of a truly just society.” — *National Coalition for the Homeless*



Homeless persons who receive support services (e.g., job training, mental health treatment, budget counseling) and rent subsidies can stabilize their lives and housing.

What is supportive housing?

Housing that is formally linked with supportive services that are available to the individual in his or her home.

Who needs permanent supportive housing?

A person who, without support services, would probably not be able to live in a unit independently.

What are some examples of supportive services?

Independent living skills training, (e.g., cooking, bill paying), mental health treatment services, vocational services, personal care and home health services, transportation, assistance with applications for financial assistance, access to recreation, development of social skills.

How often are services provided?

Ranges from daily to monthly.

10-Year Plan Vision

Arlington will have an integrated, community-based support system which will prevent homelessness and provide the necessary resources to end homelessness for individuals and families living in the County.

Principles

- Commitment from all sectors of the community
- Based on Best Practice models
- A continuum of appropriate, affordable housing options
- Culturally competent, consumer-centered services
- Sufficient financial resources

5-Year Action Plan

The Action Plan lists a range of strategies to address four goal areas. Highlighted strategies and some action steps associated with them is shown here.

Goal: Affordable Housing



- Increase the supply of housing affordable to homeless persons.
 - Develop studio apartments in committed affordable housing projects.
- Increase the supply of rental assistance provided to homeless individuals and families.
 - Increase the number of slots available in the Transitional Housing Program.

Goal: Supportive Services



- Enhance resources for supportive services to those in supportive housing.
 - Expand the demonstration program for 18-21 year olds aging out of foster care.
- Promote an integrated, comprehensive system of care.
 - Increase access to innovative psychosocial rehabilitation programs/services.

Goal: Prevention



- Develop additional proactive homeless prevention strategies.
 - Coordinate with institutional staff (hospitals, jails, prisons) to ensure implementation of effective discharge plans.

Goal: Income



- Expand access to employment and training opportunities for homeless persons.
 - Partner with local businesses to provide training and/or jobs to homeless individuals in supportive housing (i.e. Training Center, Goodwill).

ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

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