

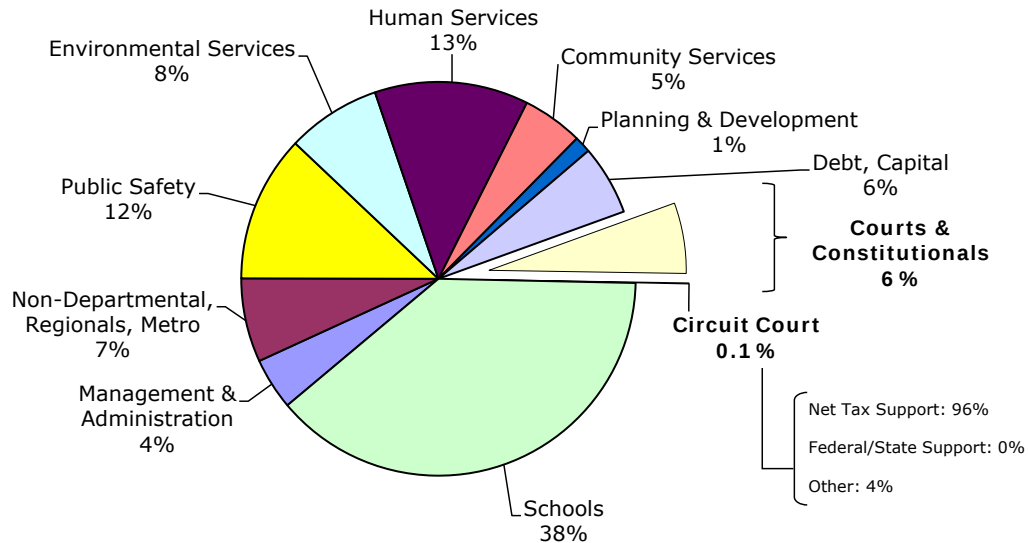
Our Mission: To provide an independent, accessible, responsive forum for just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect all rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions.

The 17th Judicial Circuit is comprised of four judges with jurisdiction over Arlington County and the City of the Falls Church. The Circuit Court is a trial court of general jurisdiction and the highest court in the County for both civil and criminal cases. The Circuit Court has jurisdiction concerning civil claims exceeding \$4,500, with exclusive original jurisdiction for claims exceeding \$50,000. The Circuit Court also has jurisdiction over all equity related matters, which include, but are not limited to, divorce, child custody, child and spousal support and maintenance, guardianship, conservatorship, and disputes concerning wills and estates. Additionally, the court has jurisdiction over all civil cases appealed from the General District Court. The appellate jurisdiction is *de novo* which means that, notwithstanding a final civil judgment in the General District Court, once the case is appealed to the Circuit Court, there is a new or *de novo* trial in the Circuit Court, as if the trial below never occurred.

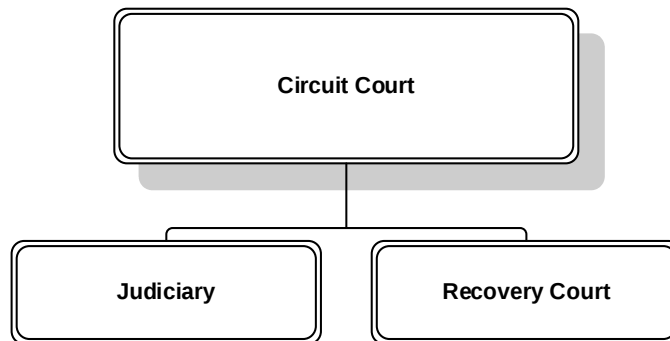
For criminal cases, the Circuit Court has original jurisdiction over all felonies and misdemeanors originally charged in Circuit Court, plus all misdemeanor cases, criminal bond motions, and traffic cases previously adjudicated by the General District Court but appealed to the Circuit Court. Additionally, the Circuit Court has jurisdiction over juveniles aged 15 years and older who are charged with felonies and whose cases have been certified by a Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for trial in Circuit Court and all properly appealed cases previously adjudicated by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

The Circuit Court operates an Adult Recovery Treatment Court (Recovery Court). The Recovery Court is an intensive, community-based treatment, rehabilitation, and supervision program for felony defendants. The mission of the Recovery Court is to enhance public safety by providing a cost-effective, integrated system of treatment and judicial supervision in order to reduce recidivism.

FY 2027 Proposed Budget - General Fund Expenditures



LINES OF BUSINESS



SIGNIFICANT BUDGET CHANGES

The FY 2027 proposed expenditure budget for the Circuit Court is \$1,453,871, a one percent decrease from the FY 2026 adopted budget. The FY 2027 proposed budget reflects:

- ↑ Personnel increases due to employee salary increases, an increase in the County's cost for employee health insurance, and retirement contributions based on current actuarial projections.
- ↓ Non-personnel decreases due to the removal of one-time funding for SCRAM monitoring (\$25,000) and a reduction in the annual expense for maintenance and replacement of County vehicles (\$1,489).

- ↓ Fee revenues decrease due to lower projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2027 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$9,749) and the elimination of Recovery Court fees (\$1,200).

DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Adopted	FY 2027 Proposed	% Change '26 to '27
Personnel	\$1,245,336	\$1,362,576	\$1,368,632	-
Non-Personnel	48,869	111,728	85,239	-24%
Total Expenditures	1,294,205	1,474,304	1,453,871	-1%
Fees	52,664	65,252	54,303	-17%
Total Revenues	52,664	65,252	54,303	-17%
Net Tax Support	\$1,241,541	\$1,409,052	\$1,399,568	-1%
Permanent FTEs	10.00	10.00	10.00	
Temporary FTEs	0.30	0.30	0.30	
Total Authorized FTEs	10.30	10.30	10.30	

Expenses & Revenues by Line of Business

	FY 2025 Actual Expense	FY 2026 Adopted Expense	FY 2027 Proposed Expense	% Change '26 to '27	FY 2027 Proposed Revenue	FY 2027 Net Tax Support
Judiciary	\$986,506	\$1,032,266	\$1,009,764	-2%	\$54,303	\$955,461
Recovery Court	307,699	442,038	444,107	-	-	444,107
Total	\$1,294,205	\$1,474,304	\$1,453,871	-1%	\$54,303	\$1,399,568

Authorized FTEs by Line of Business

	FY 2026 FTEs Adopted	FY 2027 Permanent FTEs Proposed	FY 2027 Temporary FTEs Proposed	FY 2027 Total FTEs Proposed
Judiciary	8.30	8.00	0.30	8.30
Recovery Court	2.00	2.00	-	2.00
Total	10.30	10.00	0.30	10.30

PROGRAM MISSION

To provide an independent, accessible, responsive forum for just resolution of disputes in order to preserve the rule of law and to protect all rights and liberties guaranteed by the United States and Virginia Constitutions.

- The Circuit Court is the trial court of general jurisdiction and the highest court in Arlington County for both civil and criminal cases.
- The Circuit Court has appellate jurisdiction over all cases from the General District Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Cases on appeal are heard *de novo*, which necessitates setting trials for these matters.
- The Court's four judges preside over criminal and civil matters including motions, evidentiary hearings, non-jury trials, jury trials, criminal dispositions, and sentencing.
- Court personnel are responsible for reviewing and approving court orders, maintaining daily court dockets, conducting legal research, preparing legal memoranda as required by the judges, reviewing, and managing statistical information, and administering court programs.
- Court personnel also interact and collaborate with the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Sheriff's Office, attorneys, and parties daily in order to confirm the docketed cases, address pending motions, and to ensure the smooth operations of the Court.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Judiciary

Critical Measures	CY 2022 Actual	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Actual	CY 2026 Estimate
Misdemeanor cases concluded within 180 days (percent)	65%	60%	70%	80%	85%
Felony cases concluded within 365 days (percent)	75%	69%	80%	80%	85%
Domestic relations/divorce cases concluded within 365 days (percent)	90%	85%	88%	85%	90%
Civil equity and other domestic relations cases concluded within 365 days (percent)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Civil law cases concluded within 365 days (percent)	80%	64%	77%	85%	90%
Traffic infractions concluded within 180 days (percent)	80%	85%	98%	95%	100%

- Performance measures for the Circuit Court are reported per calendar year based on caseload statistical reporting guidelines set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia. CY 2025 actuals are based on data through November 30.
- The decrease in concluded case percentages in CY 2023 reflects cases delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic (particularly trials), turnover in administrative staff, and limited courtroom availability due to renovation.
- In CY 2024, the increase in concluded cases was in part to new scheduling procedures and ongoing docket management efforts.

- In CY 2025, the increase in concluded cases was due to continued docket management efforts and the implementation of new scheduling procedures. The court implemented a new process for misdemeanor cases and increased judge assignments of case filings, which improved docket calendaring for more court availability.
- In FY 2025, the County Board approved funding for additional administrative support. This allowed the office to focus on case clean up and closures and civil law cases concluded within 365 days increased eight percent in CY 2025.
- Measures for general litigation (civil and domestic relations) and criminal (felony and misdemeanor) cases show parameters established by the Commonwealth of Virginia for how quickly these cases should be concluded, whether by settlement or by trial. Numerous factors go into the resolution of a case and everyone in Chambers – law clerks, administrative staff, and judges – is critical to achieving these benchmarks.
- Success in achieving these benchmarks has been a longstanding goal of the Circuit Court and past budgets have reflected improvements to properly staff Chambers to meet these goals. Investment in these positions has achieved the desired results: the Court is able to conclude civil and criminal matters within the timeframes determined which is necessary to be a high functioning court and has resulted in the Court achieving the distinction of a top court in Virginia.

Recovery Court

- **Retention** – It is necessary to keep Arlington County Recovery Court (ACRC) program participants (formally referred to as Drug Court) in treatment long enough to realize an effect. Research indicates that three months of substance use treatment may be the minimal amount of time to see a clinical impact, and twelve months is the threshold for seeing a meaningful, long-term clinical impact. The program endeavors to re-evaluate participant needs and adjust treatment as needed throughout the duration of an individual's participation in the ACRC program. In addition, the program seeks to ensure a longer tenure in the program when participants exhibit ambivalence in treatment or are still unsure if they truly have a substance use condition.
- **Accessing self-care services** is the main goal of the ACRC program because it promotes rehabilitation, public safety, and accountability. The ability to recognize the need for treatment and the ill-effects of an untreated substance use disorder and/or mental illness are measured during a participant's participation in the ACRC by assessing their progress in the program as well as following graduation and/or termination to determine if an individual remains connected to services and/or if an individual has reoffended.
- **Units of Service** – The treatment and wrap-around services – including service connections for medical conditions, housing resources, employment skills, nutrition, and mental health and substance use disorder services – are critical for success in recovery. Treating all aspects of a person's life creates a stable base upon which to build a durable recovery. Therefore, the program is designed to meet the individual needs of each participant. Treatment includes, but is not limited to, individual therapy, Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT), group modalities, case management (e.g., money management skill building, accessing training, medical referrals, establishing entitlements), community supports, peer recovery services, recreation therapy services, Court contact, and accountability.

Critical Measures	CY 2022 Actual	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Actual	CY 2026 Estimate
Retention rate	90%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Average treatment hours per participant	N/A	1,184	1,281	1,287	1,500

Critical Measures	CY 2022 Actual	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Actual	CY 2026 Estimate
Post-exit recidivism rate	0%	16%	0%	11%	0%
Average length of time in program for graduates (months)	36	30	29	28	24
Average length of time in program for terminated participants (months)	24	13	24	40	24

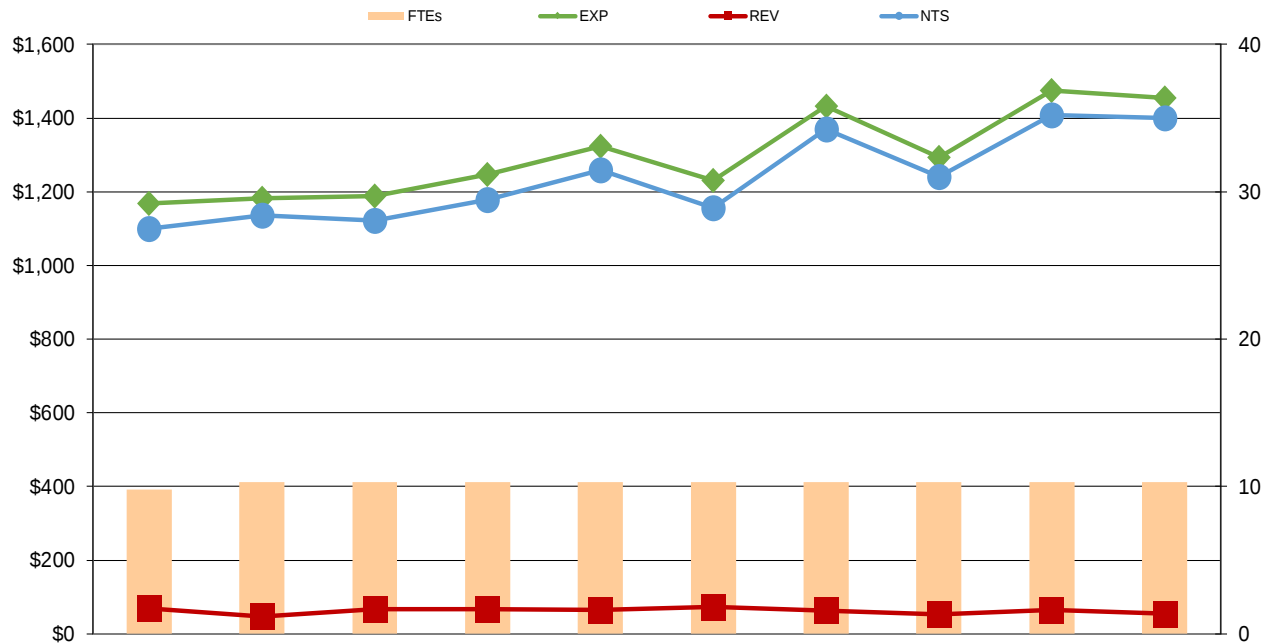
- In CY 2025, participants who successfully graduated or terminated from the ACRC program were involved an average of thirty-four months. The program utilizes a client-centered approach to ensure a greater level of success with all participants, to include a connection with the Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Care and Substance Use Division, following graduation. In addition, the program exhausts all treatment enhancements/supervision interventions prior to seeking out termination for any participant.
- The average treatment hours per participant measure was added in CY 2023 to demonstrate the intense, wrap-around approach for each participant in the ACRC program. This service model is utilized with the hopes of ensuring individuals have greater success with building a durable recovery. Participants have access not only to individual therapy and case management services, but a wide variety of group modalities, psychiatric/medication management services, and higher levels of substance use treatment (i.e., residential substance use treatment). In CY 2025, the average amount of service hours for each participant remained consistent with CY 2024. The significant number of services hours can be attributed to the complex needs of the participants who are being served in the ACRC program.
- The ACRC program examines those re-arrested within two years of graduation from the program. Of the participants who graduated in CY 2023, one participant was re-arrested post-graduation from the ACRC program. The low recidivism rate is attributed to the intense level of treatment and supervision enhancements provided to each participant as well as the focus on aftercare planning and community re-integration in the final phases of the program.
- The average length of time in the program for graduates slightly decreased in CY 2025. This change is a result of revisions to treatment and supervision benchmarks and the ACRC participant handbook in adherence with best-practice standards.
- In CY 2025, five participants were terminated from the program. The ACRC program continues to pursue termination sparingly and only once all treatment enhancements and supervision interventions have been exhausted.

Supporting Measures	CY 2022 Actual	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Actual	CY 2026 Estimate
Percent of Participants that obtained/maintained housing	N/A	86%	88%	89%	95%
Fees and fines collected	\$6,293	\$10,859	\$3,197	\$3,043	\$3,500
Percent of Participants that maintained stable employment	95%	82%	73%	74%	80%
Days between referral and admission	34	34	64	44	30
Days between admission and treatment entry	5	5	3	28	15
Percent of Participants who adhere to Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT)	N/A	100%	100%	91%	100%

Supporting Measures	CY 2022 Actual	CY 2023 Actual	CY 2024 Actual	CY 2025 Actual	CY 2026 Estimate
Percent of Participants lowering or maintaining the risk level as identified by the Risk Need Responsivity (RNR) Tool	N/A	100%	100%	100%	100%

- The percent of participants who obtained/maintained housing demonstrates the importance of community stability in something as basic but as vital as a place to live. The participants require a sober living environment, inclusive of appropriate and safe occupants. Of those participants served in CY 2025, 89 percent obtained or maintained a stable living environment, which was similar to the successes noted in CY 2024. The ACRC team has experienced success with placing individuals in stable home environments by having rapid assessment of needs and referrals for appropriate housing placements.
- The fines and fees collected in CY 2025 were consistent with the total amount of fines and fees collected in CY 2024. The slight decrease may have been caused by the discontinuation of recovery court fees (\$300) that had historically been required of each program participant. There will continue to be a focus on budgeting and money management for all program participants in CY 2026.
- In CY 2025, the number of participants who secured and maintained stable employment remained similar to the outcomes in CY 2024. This outcome remains lower than the Recovery Court's ideal benchmark of 80-90 percent; however, this can be attributed to participants who may have had repeated challenges with maintaining their sobriety and safety in a community-based setting. When a participant requires a higher level of care (i.e., residential substance use treatment) this often results in a loss of employment as participants can be in these enhanced levels of care anywhere from 30-60 days. However, rapid application of targeted case management services that focus on assisting participants with developing the life skills necessary to secure and maintain employment is a primary focus throughout a participant's involvement in the ACRC program. It should also be noted that some of the individuals who were not included as "successes" for this measure were receiving disability benefits and/or engaging in volunteer activities.
- The ACRC program experienced a decrease in the amount of time between the initial referral and admission to the program in CY 2025. This is due to the continued exploration of ways to reduce the length of time it takes for a potential participant to be screened and eventually admitted to the program if deemed clinically and legally eligible. There was an increase in time between ACRC program admission and treatment entry which can be attributed to a higher incidence of individuals requiring a bed-to-bed transfer to residential substance use treatment and bed availability.
- There was one participant who evidenced challenges with Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in CY 2025. MAT can be a significant tool to assist ACRC participants gain stability and progress in their recovery journey. Not all ACRC participants are prescribed MAT; however, when appropriate, this treatment has shown evidence of a high rate of compliance. As noted in the table above, the compliance rate with MAT continued to be high in CY 2025 and can be attributed to the ability to quickly connect participants to physicians through the Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Healthcare.
- The ACRC program targets those who are in high need of clinical services and of high risk of recidivism. It is the hope that through the interventions and treatment modalities available through the ACRC program that a participant's risk score will be maintained or in most situations, decline. This benchmark has been maintained by the ACRC program in CY 2025. This can be attributed to the rapid application of intensive treatment services and immediate access to accountability measures.

EXPENDITURE, REVENUE, NET TAX SUPPORT AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT TRENDS



	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
\$ in 000s	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Adopted Budget	Proposed Budget
EXP	\$1,168	\$1,183	\$1,189	\$1,247	\$1,323	\$1,230	\$1,432	\$1,294	\$1,474	\$1,454
REV	\$69	\$48	\$68	\$68	\$65	\$73	\$63	\$53	\$65	\$54
NTS	\$1,099	\$1,135	\$1,121	\$1,179	\$1,258	\$1,157	\$1,369	\$1,241	\$1,409	\$1,400
FTEs	9.80	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30	10.30

Fiscal Year	Description	FTEs
FY 2018	▪ The County Board added \$15,000 for office supplies, travel, and training. ▪ Converted an Administrative Assistant from part-time to full-time and reclassified that position to a Recovery Court Probation Officer (\$55,482). Prior to 2016, this service was provided in-kind by the state. ▪ Increased fee revenue due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2018 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$822) and the addition of Recovery Court participant fees not previously budgeted (\$2,500). ▪ Decreased grant revenue due to the September 2016 expiration of the Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for the Arlington County Recovery Court (\$26,730).	0.50
FY 2019	▪ Decreased fee revenue due to lower projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2019 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$1,490).	
FY 2020	▪ Added a Law Clerk to support the fourth judge which was added by the Commonwealth of Virginia due to the caseload of the Circuit Court (\$95,480). ▪ Added funding for one-time operating equipment (\$4,000) and on-going operating expenses (\$1,000) for the addition of the fourth judge. ▪ Increased fee revenues due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2020 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments and actual expenditures (\$5,572). ▪ <i>In FY 2019 Closeout, the County Board transferred a Human Services Specialist position to the Department of Human Services for the consolidation of the clinical and administrative supervision of the Recovery Court Treatment Team (\$98,288).</i>	1.00 (1.00)
FY 2021	▪ Removed one-time funding for operating equipment for the addition of a fourth judge in FY 2020 (\$4,000). ▪ Fee revenues decreased due to lower projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2021 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$3,645).	
FY 2022	▪ The County Board added funding for a one percent merit pay adjustment, a five percent increase in the range, and an increase to the one-time bonus for staff from \$500 to approximately \$900.	

Fiscal Year	Description	FTEs
	- Fee revenue decreased due to lower projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2022 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with expenditures (\$2,597). <i>In FY 2021 closeout, funding was added for a one percent merit pay adjustment (\$5,443) and a one-time bonus for staff of \$450 (\$5,126).</i>	
FY 2023	- The County Board added funding for an additional one percent merit pay adjustment for a total increase of 5.25 percent, increased the pay-for-performance budget by an additional 0.5 percent, and increased the pay range movement to five percent. - The County Board added additional one-time funds for training (\$15,000). - Added one-time training funds for the Recovery Court Program (\$15,700). - Fee revenue increased due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2023 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$8,458). <i>A technical adjustment was approved by the County Board in April 2023 to appropriate funding from Non-Departmental to Departments to allocate the budget for bonuses funded in the adopted budget. The funding added to Circuit Court Judiciary was (\$23,490).</i>	
FY 2024	- Increased salaries resulting from the Administrative and Judicial job studies (\$8,911). - Added funding for one-time \$2,000 (gross) employee bonuses (\$27,366). - Added one-time funding for the purchase of electric vehicles (\$37,227).	
FY 2025	- The County Board added one-time funding for court administrative support (\$50,000). - Increased salaries resulting from the Judicial and Legal Services Job Family Study (\$35,167). - Fee revenues increased due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2025 budget and reconciliation of prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$10,354).	
FY 2026	- The County Board added one-time funding for SCRAM monitoring for indigent defendants (\$25,000). - Added funds for contractual increases (\$180). - Decreased annual expenses for maintenance and replacement of county vehicles (\$369). - Fee revenue increased due to higher projections in Falls Church reimbursements based on the FY 2026 budget and reconciliation of	

**Fiscal
Year**

Description

FTEs

prior year payments with actual expenditures (\$4,494), partially
offset by a decrease in Recovery Court fees (\$1,300).