

To: Members of the Arlington County Board
cc: Mark Schwartz

Re: Housing and Services Advocates' FY 2017 Budget Recommendations

Date: March 31, 2016

Arlington County's commitment to an economically diverse and supportive community for is a model for the region. Of that, we are proud and work hard to support.

In addition to supporting the County's Vision statement, our recommendations below:

- 1] **Provide holistic support** for lower-wage households and the vulnerable. Secure housing is the platform that allows effective support service delivery;
- 2] **Support implementation of the Affordable Housing Master Plan**, adopted unanimously last September;
- 3] **Leverage County support** with federal and state funds, private contributors, and countless volunteer hours; and
- 4] **Efficiently provide services** by organizations with special expertise and the flexibility to timely adjust to changing needs.

First, we thank the Board and Manager for the following:

1. Additional funding for **Housing Grants** to meet projected need.
2. **Other commitments to provide for the vulnerable**, including:
-support for the Arlington Free Clinic, including provision of space for provision of oral health care;
-Operating support for the Homeless Services Center;
-Support for the Mary Marshall senior facility; and
-Funding for a Fair Housing Study.
3. Proposed **raising minimum County wage to \$14.50/hour** (currently \$13.13) for all permanent employees and some contractors.
4. Increased assistance for the **Live Where You Work Program**
5. **Streaming and archiving** County Board work sessions

Recommendations for New or Continued Funding

1. **AHIF**—The Manager has recommended \$12.56 million, of which, \$8.2 million is one-time funding from the FY 2015 closeout process.

We believe that **additional County funding for AHIF is needed bringing the general revenue contribution to \$15.5M**, especially given the goals adopted in the AHMP and that the near term includes a cycle of lower loan repayments and developer contributions. According to

the AHIF Balance and Project Pipeline chart shared with the County Board at the March 17 work session, **a deficit of \$17-25M is projected for potential FY2017 requests.**

Along with the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, we also urge that **AHIF funds be moved from “one-time” to “on-going” status.**

2. Restore and make on-going \$50,000 in funding for BuGATA’s “promotora” outreach program that helps overcome existing barriers faced by Latinos and other immigrants to accessing County services and that encourages and empower these residents to more fully engage in the community.

3. Support for two Community Service Board requests:

-County funding (\$327K) for a total of **4 permanent peer specialist positions**, three of which will continue when grant funding expires and the fourth new position would support young adult mental health.

-Endorsement of a **DHS request to be allowed to use unallocated grant funds** to continue paying the salary of a *Peer Health Navigator* who is currently working with the primary health care program for clients with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues.

4. Support for request of Nonprofit Resource Center for \$75K to support its work in assistance of nonprofits, including strengthening the interface between the County and nonprofits. The County has discontinued the non-profit capacity-building program previously housed in the Economic Development Department.

5. Support for \$30K for Arlington Neighborhood Village to assist aging-in-place goal of AHMP.

6. Support for AFAC’s request for an additional \$50K to meet growing family need.

Finally, we are concerned about the level of planning capacity given the Planning Division’s on-going work load, APS expansion and community expectations. The Planning Commission is recommending, for example, that an additional planner be hired to work on public facilities. **Our focus is on the capacity for planning support to timely implement the AHMP.** A successful AHMP will intersect with and rely on other efforts like the Lee Highway Vision process.

**We thank you for your continued support and consideration of these requests.
Sincerely,**

Mary Rouleau, Executive Director, Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS)

Michelle Krocke, Executive Director, Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance (NVAHA)

Sam Kelly, Executive Director, Bridges to Independence

James Mack, Chairman, Arlington County Community Services Board

Charles Meng, Executive Director, Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)

Nina Janopaul, President & CEO, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH)

Saul Reyes, Executive Director, BU-GATA (Buckingham and Gates of Arlington Tenants Association)

Jon Smoot, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia
Elizabeth Jones, Executive Director, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR)
Shelley S. Murphy, President & CEO, Wesley Housing Development Corp.
Kathy Sibert, Executive Director, Arlington Street people's Assistance Network (A-SPAN)
Karen Serfis, Executive Director, Arlington Home Ownership Made Easier (AHOME)
Caroline Jones, Executive Director, Doorways for Women and Families
Linda Chandler, Executive Director, Linden Resources
Kari Galloway, Executive Director, Friends of Guest House
Anne Vor der Bruegge, Director, Nonprofit Resource Center
Walter Webdale, President & CEO, AHC, Inc.
Nancy White, Executive Director, Arlington Free Clinic
Dennis Jaffe, BRAVO (Buyers and Renters Arlington Voice)
David Leibson, Co-Chair, Arlington's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness
Michelle M. Knight, Social Justice and Outreach Minister, Our Lady Queen of Peace
Andrew Schneider, Executive Director, Arlington Thrive