



Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commission  
Report to the County Board

FY 2023 Proposed Budget

Budget Area:	Department of Human Services, the “new normal”
FAAC Reviewers:	John Tuohy, Gillian Burgess and Lauren Harris
Date of FAAC Action:	24 March 2022
Presented By:	Peter Robertson, FAAC Chairman

**FAAC Opinion:**

FAAC Recommendation #1			
The County Board should approve the Department of Services recommendations of the County Manager included in the FY 2023 Proposed Budget			
Vote	Yes: 9	No: 0	Abstain: 1
Comments			

FAAC Recommendation #2			
Due to the high percentage of vacancies in this area, FAAC recommends that DHS consider competitive compensation and other actions, such as expanding the current relationship with all higher education systems in the Washington Metropolitan Area, to address attract and retain employees.			
Vote	Yes: 8	No: 1	Abstain: 1
Comments			

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**Future Considerations**

- The FAAC recommends the County review the funding for non-profits. These non-profits provide a host of services. The FY 2023 budget holds the budgeted funding of non-profits essentially flat.
- DHS should explore working with the Arlington Career Center & Arlington Tech and Northern Virginia Community College to ensure that these institutions are offering career pathways to meet DHS's needs, such as social work.
- ARPA funding is projected to last until 2026. The County will have to consider if it makes sense to continue with the projects funded by ARPA.
- In common with other departments, DHS faces difficult times with attracting and retaining employees. In addition to offering competitive compensation, other actions should be considered such as expanding the current relationship with all higher education systems in the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- The FAAC is particularly concerned about the state of children's mental health and encourages the County Board and DHS to continue to work with Arlington Public Schools to address the need for mental health and behavioral health services for Arlington's children. For example, Arlington's leaders should work with the School Board and DHS should work with APS staff to ensure there is no decrease in mental health services to APS students in the next fiscal year. Additionally, Arlington County should work to ensure there is adequate private space in schools to provide school-based mental health services.