

**ARLINGTON VIRGINIA
CONTIUM OF CARE**

ACTION PLAN FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Ayana Bellamy-Bowles

Having been part of Arlington County's Continuum of Care (CoC) for 12 years now, I have been able to see how far we have come and the many lives we've changed in the process, which is amazing. I was a part of the first initiative to end homelessness in Arlington with the 100 Homes Campaign, which launched in 2011. By leveraging existing and new resources and best practices like rapid rehousing, we were able to house 100 Arlingtonians who had been experiencing homelessness. Best of all, with the support of the CoC, the retention rate was high, meaning folks were able to sustain their housing.

Since then, Arlington's CoC has continued the legacy of those efforts, combining best practices in prevention, shelter, housing, and supportive services. As a result, we have seen declines in the number of our neighbors experiencing homelessness (according to the annual Point-in-Time Count), from 531 people back in 2010 to 182 people in 2022. To see all of our CoC partners and volunteers work together to help people experiencing homelessness is the most rewarding experience.

Still, there is work to be done, especially for our Black and African-American residents, who are disproportionately impacted by homelessness due to root causes of systemic racism; for undocumented immigrants and refugees, who face additional barriers in securing housing; for aging populations; and for survivors of domestic violence.

As we conclude our 2018 strategic plan and, in partnership with a variety of community stakeholders, create our next plan, these particular areas of need are among the CoC's top priorities.



CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

A CoC is a regional planning entity that coordinates housing and homeless services funding and policies. CoCs consist of government entities, local nonprofit partners, and community stakeholders (like YOU!).

About this Report

For years, homeless services continuums have presented the annual Point-in-Time Count (known as the "PIT Count") data to help communities understand trends in homelessness from year to year. However, the PIT Count only serves as a snapshot from one winter night, of who is staying in our community's shelters, and who is found living unsheltered on the street. In reality, the work of our Continuum of Care (CoC) continues all day, every day, all year round, and includes prevention and housing services not captured by the PIT Count.

This report offers a bigger picture. In addition to PIT Count data, this report includes highlights from the data our CoC collects throughout the year. The data in this report covers our efforts across all our programs, to help you better understand the issue of homelessness in Arlington, as well as the effectiveness of our CoC's response to it.

As we celebrate the progress that our community has made, and most importantly, all that CoC clients have achieved, we still face significant challenges such as racial inequity and the high cost of living in Arlington. We will continue to work hard for our neighbors in need. But we can't do it alone; the success of Arlington's CoC depends on our community, on your support.

We sincerely thank all who have supported CoC efforts so far by donating to our nonprofit service providers, volunteering, advocating, and more. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in the CoC's next chapter.

If you share our passion for the homeless population but have not yet joined us, I invite you to become part of our efforts to ensure everyone in Arlington has a place to call home. Everyone has a voice, and the CoC would like to hear yours.

In partnership,



Ayana Bellamy-Bowles
Chair, Arlington County Action Plan for Ending Homelessness
Senior Director of Federal/State Housing Programs, PathForward



KEY TERMS

Look for more key terms and their definitions throughout this report, indicated by this orange magnifying glass. More info can be found at www.arlingtonva.us and www.hud.gov.



ABOUT THE ISSUE

HOMELESSNESS IN ARLINGTON COUNTY



About the Issue

WHAT IS HOMELESSNESS?

Most simply, homelessness means you have no home.

Various government agencies, service providers, and community organizations define homelessness more specifically, determining who "counts" as homeless and what support they are eligible to receive.

As a result, understanding homelessness in our community requires us to consider multiple perspectives to better grasp the breadth and depth of the issue, as well as the impact on those experiencing it.

Arlington Public Schools, for example, define homelessness as anyone who, due to a lack of housing, lives:

- In emergency or transitional shelters;
- In motels, hotels, trailer parks, campgrounds, abandoned in hospitals, or awaiting foster care placement;
- In cars, parks, public places, bus or train stations, or abandoned buildings;
- Doubled up with relatives or friends;
- In these conditions and is a child or youth not in the physical custody of an adult (unaccompanied youth);
- In these conditions and is a migratory child or youth.

For Arlington Public Schools to determine homelessness, the permanence and adequacy of the living situation is considered. This broader definition includes more students (and their families) in need of help, helping to ensure they are able to access support.

The Federal Definition of Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), however, which provides federal funding to the Arlington County Continuum of Care (CoC), has a narrower definition of homelessness. HUD defines four categories under which individuals and families may qualify as homeless (outlined below), but enforces that communities prioritize services largely to households who meet categories 1 and 4:

- Category 1: Literally homeless (individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence);
- Category 2: Imminent risk of homelessness;
- Category 3: Homeless under other Federal statutes; and
- Category 4: Fleeing/attempting to flee domestic violence.

HUD's narrower definition of homelessness is used in the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted annually in our community and across the country to monitor trends in homelessness. However, there are many people experiencing homelessness who are not counted in the PIT Count. It is critical that we look at CoC data beyond this singular, annual snapshot to help ensure we are meeting the needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Highlights from that extensive data collection are included in this report to provide a broader understanding of homelessness in Arlington.

People Counted in the 2022 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

182 People experiencing homelessness counted during the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count conducted on January 26, 2022, including sheltered and unsheltered persons
(Includes Domestic Violence Safehouse)

People Served By the Arlington County Continuum of Care (CoC) throughout Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

1,070 Total people served by all Arlington County CoC programs in FY 2022
(Includes Domestic Violence Safehouse)

688 Total people served by Arlington County's Centralized Access System (CAS)
(Does not include Domestic Violence Safehouse)

305 Total people served in Arlington shelters
(Does not include Domestic Violence Safehouse)

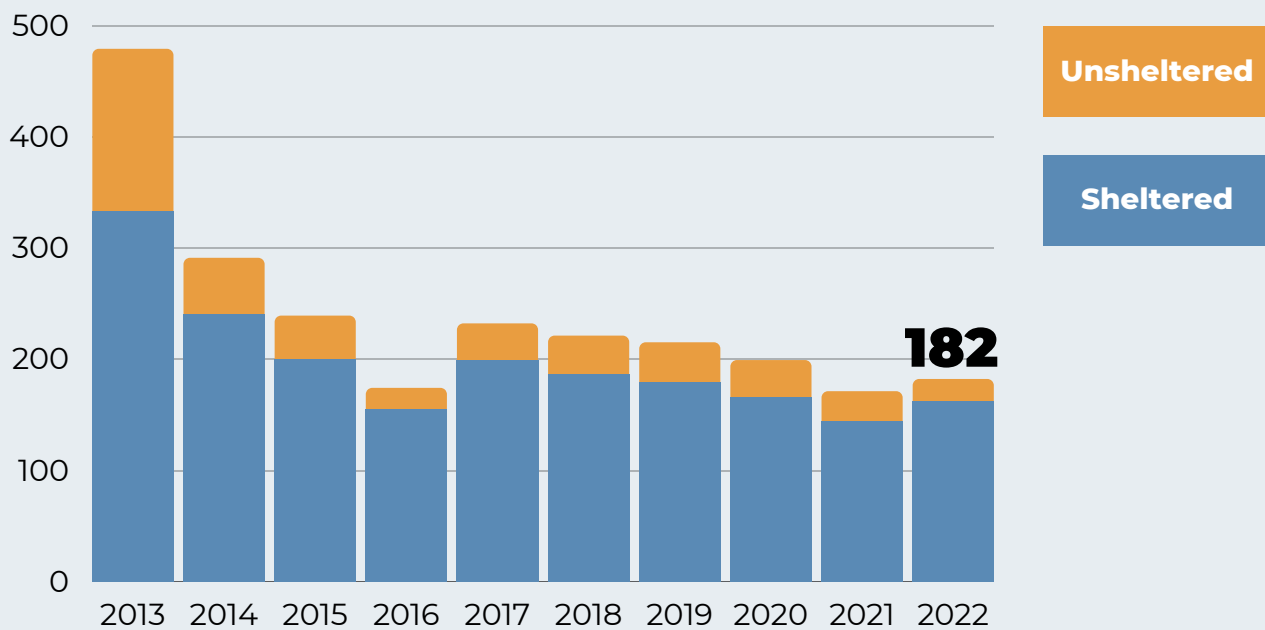
107 Total people served in the Domestic Violence Safehouse

2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count Snapshot

Sustained Goal: Total number of people experiencing homelessness is below 200.

The Arlington County CoC conducted its annual PIT Count on January 26, 2022. It is a one-night census of people experiencing homelessness in Arlington. Sustained goal: Number of persons experiencing homelessness is below 200.

Visit <https://bit.ly/ArIVA2022PITcount> to see the complete snapshot.



6%

Increase in overall homelessness, from 171 in 2021 to 182 people in 2022.

-26%

Reduction in unsheltered homelessness, from 27 people in 2021 to 20 people in 2022.

13%

Increase in sheltered homelessness, from 144 people in 2021 to 162 people in 2022.



POINT IN TIME (PIT) COUNT

The PIT Count is mandated by HUD and requires each CoC throughout the U.S. to "count" how many people are experiencing homelessness on one given night (usually, the last Wednesday in January).



PHOTO CREDIT: PATHFORWARD



"UNSHELTERED" HOMELESS

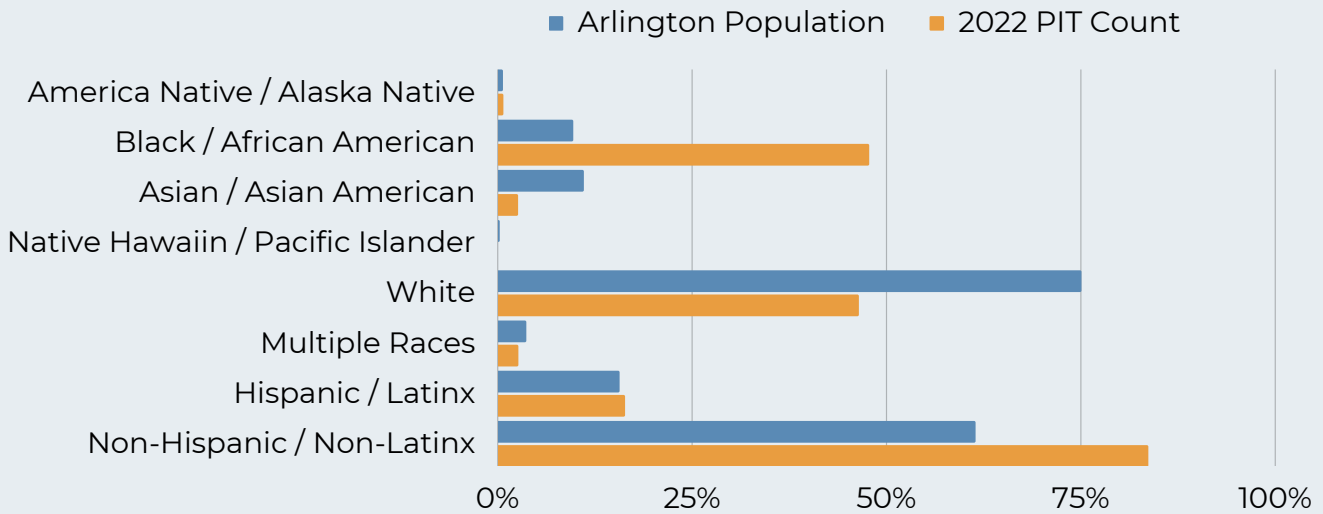
For purposes of the PIT count, who does HUD consider "unsheltered" homeless? For example, would an individual or family sleeping in a garage be counted as unsheltered? Alternatively, would an individual or family sleeping in a friend's kitchen be counted as unsheltered?

In general, for purposes of the PIT Count, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers individuals and families sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g., abandoned buildings, train stations, or camping grounds) as "unsheltered" homeless. Additionally, HUD would generally consider individuals and families sleeping in a garage, shed, or other location outside of a housing structure, but on the property of a housing structure as "unsheltered" homeless for purposes of the PIT count. However, for purposes of counting, HUD would not consider any individual or family sleeping inside of a housing structure as unsheltered homeless, even if the room inside of that housing structure is not typically used for sleeping (e.g., a kitchen or bathroom).

Intersections: Race and Gender

Demographics of Arlington vs. Demographics in 2022 PIT Count

Racial demographics in the homeless system point to roots causes related to systemic racism. While this chart features data from the 2022 PIT Count, these trends are consistent across who receives services in Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, and Permanent Supportive Housing.



People who identify as Black / African American represent:

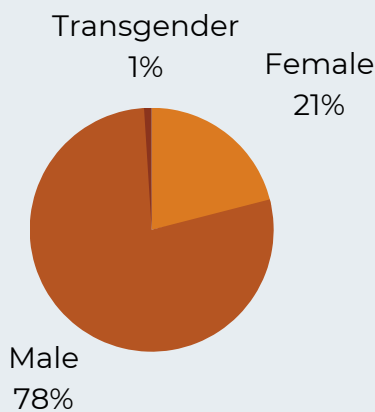
- 45% of single adults surveyed in the PIT
- 66% of adults in families
- 66% of children
- 91% of transition-aged youth (aged 18-24)

This points to the known relationship of historical disenfranchisement and divestment in communities of color, driven by historical and pervasive racist housing and economic policies.

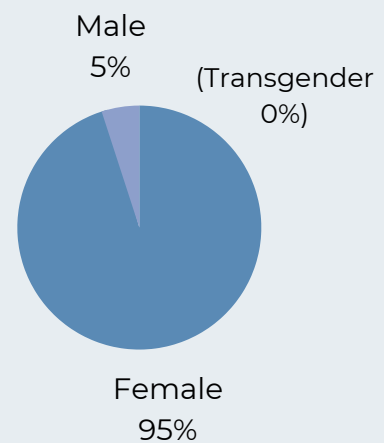
Gender of Adults in 2022 PIT Count

While people who identify as male represent the greatest majority of single adults surveyed in the Point-in-Time Count in 2022, people identifying as female comprise nearly 100% of adults in families surveyed. This indicates a critical intersection between race and gender for families experiencing homelessness.

Single Adults



Adults in Families



About the Issue

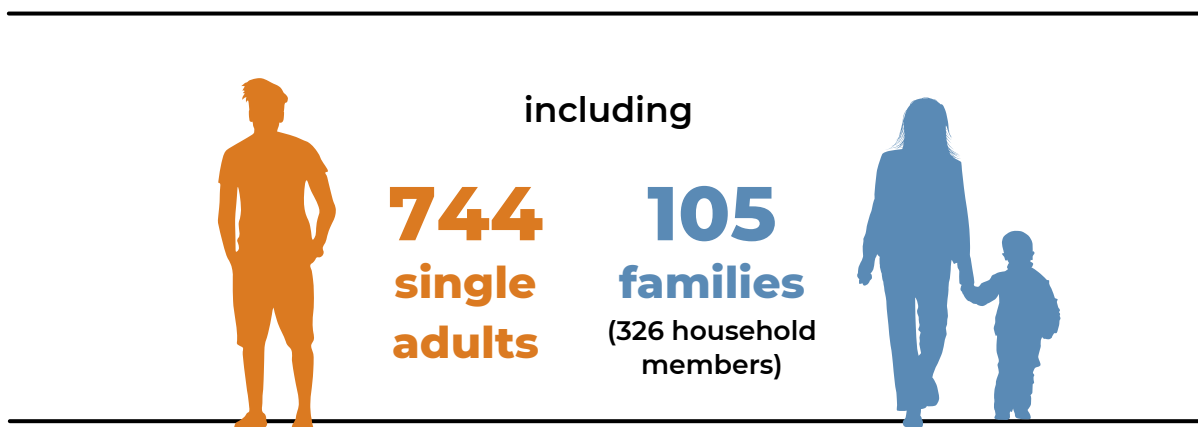
WHO EXPERIENCES HOMELESSNESS IN ARLINGTON?

Homelessness impacts people of all ages, genders, races, ethnicities, and health statuses. There is no single "face" to homelessness, and no one story behind the numbers. Arlington's CoC serves a diverse array of clients every year, from across the county and from all backgrounds. Learn more from the data and their stories.

Clients Served in All CoC Programs

1,070 Total people served by all Arlington County CoC programs in FY 2022

(Includes Domestic Violence Safehouse)



including the following populations with specialized needs:

36
Veterans

74
transition-aged youth
(TAY, aged 18-24)

192
chronically
homeless



CHRONICALLY HOMELESS

Chronicity is defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a person or head of household that has (1) a documented disabling condition and (2) has experienced at least 12 months of homelessness either (a) consecutively or (b) by way of four or more episodes of homelessness over three years or less. There is also guidance on what constitutes homelessness (a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelter) and those residing in institutional settings (less than 90 days are still considered homeless, more than 90 days are no longer homeless).

CATY (OUTREACH & DAY PROGRAM)

"Caty" has been known to the PathForward for years but has never been consistent with coming in for support. Caty has severe mental health issues and PTSD. Thankfully, when Caty began showing signs of a mental break, she came in, and PathForward's whole day program team was able to connect her to the right resources. This resulted in Caty being admitted to care and put on medication to help manage her symptoms.

Unfortunately, when Caty returned to shelter, she refused to take her medicine, which resulted in the decline of her mental health. A family member of Caty's later came into the shelter to try and get Caty admitted for care again.

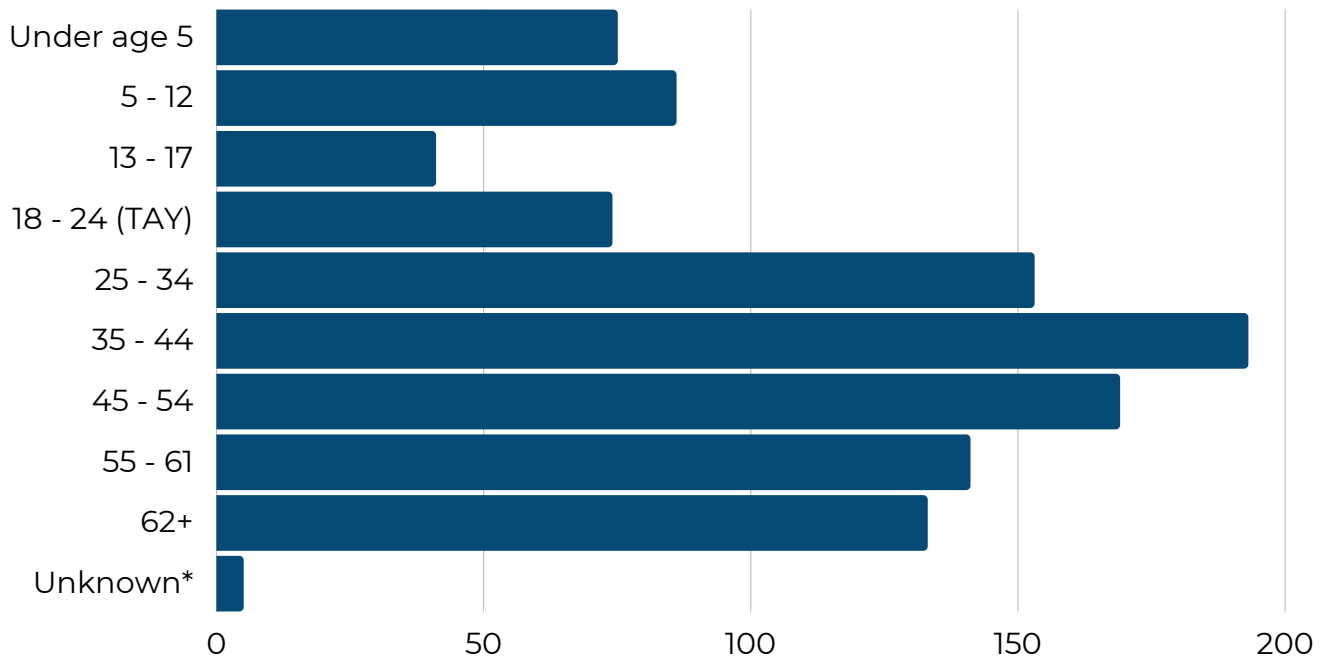
PathForward worked with Caty to get her permission for staff to communicate with her family about her information. This led Caty's family being able to find out about her health issues and her whereabouts while she was coming to the shelter. With her family's help, PathForward was able to get Caty connected to the health/mental health services she needed as well as connect her permanently with her family so they can care for her. Because of this collaborative relationship, Caty's family regularly calls PathForward to provide updates about Caty.



CLIENT STORIES IN THIS REPORT

The client stories in this report come from multiple agencies across our continuum of care and have been anonymized—identifying details changed and stock images used—to protect client confidentiality and safety.

Age of Clients Served in All CoC Programs



* Client does not know or declined to answer

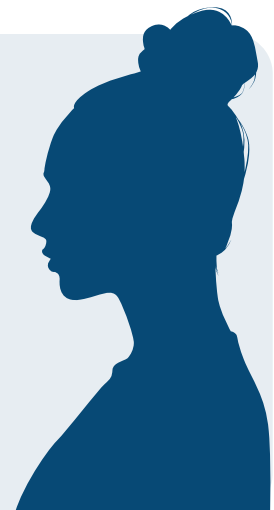


TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH (TAY)

HUD looks at youth homelessness from two perspectives: first, unaccompanied youth (below age 18), and second, transition-aged youth (TAY), aged 18 to 24.

JEAN (FAMILY SHELTER)

"Jean" was in her last semester at school when she was admitted to the shelter. She lost housing with a relative when they refused to accept her identity. The relative had also been physically violent toward Jean, precipitating a protective order. Jean kept busy during her stay at the shelter, working two part-time jobs, training for a third and graduating. Some mental health issues arose during her stay, but with the help of her shelter case worker, she was able to begin therapy. Eventually, with the help of a housing locator, Jean was able to get an apartment of her own.





OUR RESPONSE

ARLINGTON COUNTY'S CONTINUUM OF CARE

PHOTO: HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER



Our Response

THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)

Arlington is dedicated to the goal of ending and preventing homelessness in our community.

The Arlington County Continuum of Care (CoC), a core network of interconnected programs and services, has spent over a decade strengthening its crisis response system to prevent homelessness at every opportunity and resolve it by swiftly connecting individuals and families to permanent housing. We work in alignment with state and federal resources and partners working to address homelessness at the regional and national levels.

Arlington County's CoC develops strategies and assists people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness. Arlington's CoC works toward the shared goals of preventing homelessness before it occurs and returning individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness to stable housing as quickly as possible.

Guided by our mission, principles, best practices, and our Action Plan for Ending Homelessness, the CoC is working to prevent and end homelessness in our community.

Mission

Arlington will sustain an integrated, community-based support system which will help households at risk of homelessness keep their housing, and will assist any household that does become homeless in regaining stable housing within 30 days.

Guiding Principles

The principles that guide our work to prevent and end homelessness include:

- Commitment from all sectors of the community;
- Use of best practice, evidence-based solutions in shaping programs and services;
- Ensuring the availability of affordable appropriate housing options;
- Using culturally competent and consumer-centered services; and
- Committing sufficient financial resources to sustain our work.



Best Practices

The following tools and strategies are components of high-functioning and impactful homeless response systems. In concert, they provide streamlined and effective services, which center on the voices and experiences of people experiencing homelessness as drivers in the services and programs in which they engage. When used together, trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and housing first is the science to ending homelessness in and beyond our community.



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Trauma-informed care is acknowledging that people's behaviors are often a result of the trauma they have endured and involves adapting service delivery models to prevent further traumatizing people receiving care.



HARM REDUCTION

As it pertains to homelessness, harm reduction can be applied by helping a person identify how they can sleep unsheltered as safely as possible. Part of providing harm reduction is about meeting people where they are with the least amount of judgment as possible. An example of this is providing low-barrier services through a housing-first model.



BUILT FOR ZERO (COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS)

Arlington is part of the Built for Zero movement! Since 2015, Arlington's CoC has partnered with Community Solutions to sustain an end to Veteran homelessness. Built for Zero uses functional zero — a measure whether a community has measurably solved homelessness for a population, such as Veterans — to define a functional end to homelessness in a given community or region. Learn more at community.solutions/built-for-zero.



FUNCTIONAL ZERO

Functional zero is a milestone, which must be sustained, that indicates a community has measurably solved homelessness for a population. When it's achieved, homelessness is rare and brief for that population. Communities in Built for Zero are confirmed for achieving functional zero using their quality, by-name data, which is updated at least monthly.

Built for Zero practices in place for preventing homelessness, quickly detecting homelessness when it occurs, and permanently and promptly resolving those incidents of homelessness in Arlington include:

- Outcome-focused and data-driven decision making
- Preventing homelessness at every opportunity
- Increasing housing affordability
- Providing vital services that people need to maintain their housing
- Coordinated homeless intake
- Moving individuals and families from homelessness to permanent, stable housing as quickly as possible, including rapid re-housing for families and individuals
- Permanent, affordable housing paired with intensive services for people with the highest barriers to housing stability (Permanent Supportive Housing)



ARLINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS),
HOME OF THE CENTRALIZED ACCESS SYSTEM (CAS)



CENTRALIZED ACCESS SYSTEM (CAS)

A CAS, or coordinated homeless intake, is a process developed to ensure all people experiencing homelessness have fair and equal access to available housing resources. This often involves using a by-name list (BNL) to ensure people experiencing homelessness are matched to appropriate housing opportunities and prioritized based on their needs and vulnerability.



HOUSING FIRST

Housing first is simply that – connecting people to housing first – and then working on all the other things that contributed to their homelessness. Housing first does not mean that people are rushed into permanent housing and their cases closed. For housing first to work, people need wrap around supports.

Our Response

Action Plan for Ending Homelessness

The Arlington County CoC mission is supported by our Action Plan for Ending Homelessness, based in our shared responsibility, collaborative planning, and alignment of stakeholders and resources.

The Action Plan for Ending Homelessness lays out strategies based in best practices for the Arlington County CoC's continued work to reduce the number of people who experience homelessness, and to help those who do experience homelessness return to housing stability as quickly as possible. The plan also aims to identify, elevate, and address critical gaps, including in the areas of racial equity, immigrant and refugee households, and the aging population.

The Action Plan for Ending Homelessness has multiple committees with responsibilities that focus on the continued implementation of the Action Plan as well as federal and state requirements of a CoC:

- Executive Committee
- Leadership Board
- Strategic Initiatives Subcommittee
- Data and Evaluation Subcommittee
- Housing Subcommittee
- Outreach, Education, and Advocacy Subcommittee

Goals

1: AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ensure new housing development projects in Arlington County continue to include affordable housing units.

2: COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

Provide households supportive services that may follow them for extended periods to ensure housing stability.

3: PREVENTION

Prevent new cases of homelessness and assist other, previously homeless households in maintaining their housing.

4: INCOME MAXIMIZATION

Combine permanent housing with employment readiness and job placement to increase households' earning potential and contribute to their housing stability.

5: EVALUATION

Data collection and evaluation has become increasingly important to our work. Data helps the us identify needs and successes, aids us in shaping policy, and indicates where and how resources can be best used by the CoC. Data is especially in our efforts to provide focused assistance to the subpopulations with particular needs, including Black, African-American and other people of color, youth and families experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence, immigrants, and the aging population.

Data is collected in a CoC-wide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) (excluding domestic violence, due to heightened confidentiality). All stats presented on Arlington County's response to homelessness is pulled from HMIS, including the Point In-Time (PIT) data.



HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

HMIS refers to the software used to collect personal identifiable information on individuals and families who interact with a homeless services provider. HUD requires each CoC to comply with certain data collection requirements and report statistical information annually.

Strategic Initiatives

EMPLOYMENT

In support of these goals, a key objective is increasing the employment opportunities for low-income families to overcome homelessness and earn a livable wage that allows them to afford housing. An increasing number of clients served by CoC programs have a limited path to employment which can be due to a lack of citizenship, educational attainment, limited work experience and/or other barriers. The CoC's Strategic Initiatives Committee is working on goals to broaden the entry level skills and employment path for those being served. These include:

- Deepening partnership with the Arlington Employment Center for soft-skills, training and employment opportunities that will produce living wage income for working adults.
- Engaging with the Workforce Development Council to identify key workforce demands for employment in the local/regional area.
- Continuing and deepening engagement with community partners around strategies and best practices regarding employment.

CHILDCARE

Another key objective is to examine and advocate for affordable and accessible childcare options for families with identified needs. Lack of affordability continues to be a barrier for low-income families, reducing their ability to earn sufficient income to afford rent, utilities, food and other necessities. This puts them at increased risk of homelessness.

A primary strategy under this objective is for the CoC to engage with partners around solutions for affordable childcare so that parents are able to seek employment. Efforts by partners have included:

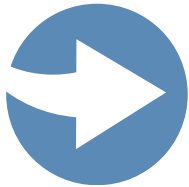
- Arlington County's Child Care Initiative (CCI) was created in 2017 to address the need for need for more accessible, affordable and quality childcare. The Child Care Initiative identified a variety of barriers to increasing the supply of affordable childcare and developed an action plan. See more at arlingtonva.us.
- The Arlington Community Foundation's Shared Prosperity Initiative built on this prior community work by developing a set of strategies and policy actions that can be taken to support both low-income families and childcare providers to utilize subsidies and other supports. See more at arlc.org.
- Arlington Thrive secured a Community Development Fund grant in 2022 to increase access to affordable childcare in Arlington County for low-income families and those at risk for eviction. The primary goals are to reduce barriers to employment for low-income families that are unable to work due to unaffordable childcare costs as well as support both families and childcare providers to access the childcare subsidies to make care affordable.



Our Response

Preventing Homelessness

The best way to prevent homelessness is to stop it from happening in the first place. Efforts to divert/prevent homelessness before it occurs are anchored in two programs: targeted prevention and shelter diversion.



SHELTER DIVERSION

Shelter Diversion is a strategy that helps people experiencing a housing crisis quickly identify and access safe alternatives to emergency shelter through creative problem-solving conversations, connecting with community resources and family supports, housing search and placement, and flexible financial assistance.



TARGETED PREVENTION

Targeted Prevention services are provided by the Department of Human Services in the Clinical Coordination Program (CCP). It provides short-term housing stabilization services (financial assistance and case management) to households at imminent risk of losing housing. As a partnering agent of Arlington County government and the CoC leading the community's efforts in eviction prevention and rental assistance, Arlington Thrive provides same-day emergency financial assistance to Arlington residents facing a financial crises that could lead to eviction.

Street Outreach and Engagement

Social workers and mental health counselors connect with people living on the streets, in parks, under bridges, and in encampments to help them move forward on paths to stability and housing. Additionally, the CoC offers Day Programming services offered in the heart of the community to engage unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness. These CoC outreach and day program/drop-in services offer a safe space for building relationships and navigating residents toward permanent and/or supportive housing.

Treatment on Wheels (TOW)

Through Arlington County's Behavioral Health Division, a Treatment on Wheels (TOW) program is deployed into the community offering ongoing behavioral health and case management services for persons living on the streets who may not engage with traditional shelter services.

How many people
were served?

65
individuals

Our Response

Centralized Access System (CAS)

Arlington County's CAS, operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS) Community Assistance Bureau (CAB), provides access to services across the entire CoC or homeless response system. The Community Assistance Bureau's Clinical Coordination Program helps Arlington residents find shelter, emergency food and other vital DHS and community services. Referrals can be made to all Arlington County shelters for those whose housing loss cannot be prevented. Utilizing comprehensive, client-centered assessments, CAS connects households as quickly as possible with the interventions that will most effectively and efficiently prevent or end their experience of homelessness and lead to greater stability.

688 Total people served by
Arlington County's CAS
(Does not include Domestic Violence Safehouse)

How many people
requested shelter?

181 **24**
singles **families**

How many people were
served in shelter?

179 **24**
singles **families**
(2 singles declined shelter)

How long does it take from their request to shelter move in?

2 days - 2 weeks
depending on available shelter space

What to Do If You or Someone You Know Needs Help

If you or someone you know is experiencing homeless or at risk of experiencing homelessness in Arlington:

- Contact the Department of Human Services Community Assistance Bureau at 703-228-1300 for help.
- In case of shelter need during non-business hours, households should call 703-228-1010 for assistance.

Our Response

Shelter

Shelter is a temporary option for people who have nowhere else to go. Five Arlington County homeless shelters operate year-round, providing safe shelter, food, and access to needed services for single adults and families who are experiencing homelessness as well as survivors of domestic violence:

- Domestic Violence Safehouse and Safe Apartments for survivors (Doorways)
- Family Home for youth and families (Doorways)
- Homeless Services Center for individuals (PathForward)
- Residential Program Center for individuals (New Hope Housing)
- Sullivan House family shelter (Bridges to Independence)

305 Total people served in
Arlington shelters

(Does not include Domestic Violence Safehouse)

including
13
Veterans

including
25
chronically homeless

How long did people stay in shelter?

3 months

Median Length of Stay (LOS)

Shelter-Based Services

Arlington's emergency shelters provide critical services to help immediately address basic needs and life-saving services on people's way to stabilizing in housing. These services include:

- Case management (goal planning, service coordination, resource referrals, etc.)
- Financial counseling
- Employment support
- Children's services
- Mental health support
- Substance abuse services
- Nursing services

MR. DOUGLASS (RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM CENTER)

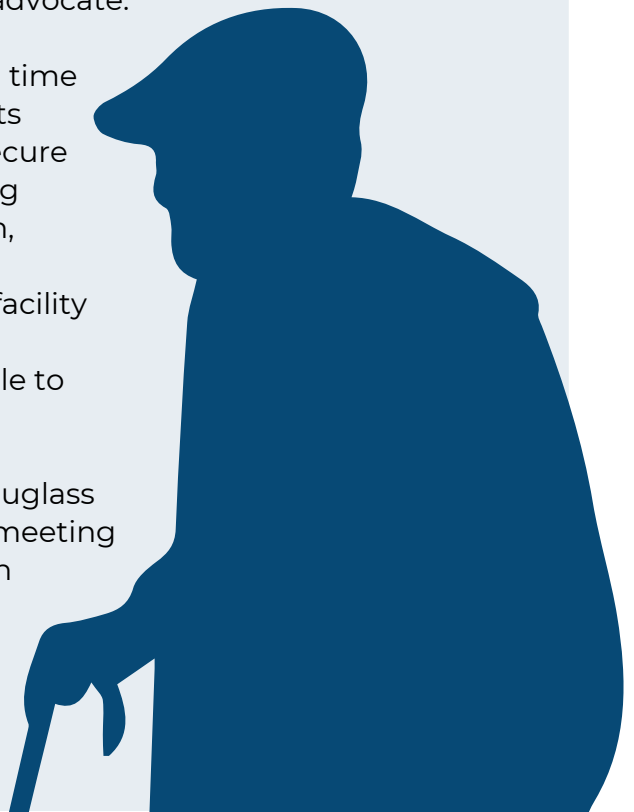
Mr. Douglass was an artist and activist most of his life. Over the last 10 years, he traveled through South America researching long-term solutions for global warming and other issues. He also took much of his time to volunteer his artistic abilities to different communities within the United States.

In 2019, Mr. Douglass noticed he was losing his vision and elected to move in with a friend. He was able to stay there until his friend suffered some health complications and was admitted to the hospital for a few months. Due to this, Mr. Douglass was asked to leave his friend's home because he was not named on the lease. This would begin Mr. Douglass's journey through homelessness at the age of 82.

Over the last year, Mr. Douglass has faced the uncertainty of shelter life head on. He has put his health first in attending all his appointments. He made efforts to visit the library and ask for assistance in researching eye doctors and what he could do to better his vision on his own. Mr. Douglass made sure to stay connected with his case manager each week and was not afraid to self-advocate.

Mr. Douglass's housing process has been a long time in the making. After looking at many apartments throughout the last 7 months, he was able to secure a Housing Voucher to a great independent living facility. He will have social workers to speak with, meals created with advice from an in-house nutritionist, and support staff around 24/7. The facility was able to provide Mr. Douglass a bed and our amazing volunteers at Spread the Vote were able to donate and assist in furnishing his apartment.

During his first few weeks being housed, Mr. Douglass has been acclimating to his new environment, meeting new people, and getting connected to Arlington County aging and rehabilitation services. He plans on teaching an art class for his fellow residents, planting some vegetables in the resident garden beds, and enjoying daily walks by the gardens and pond on the property.



FROM SHELTER TO HOUSING

To reduce the trauma of homelessness, Arlington shelters strive to limit how long people stay in shelter and increase how many people move directly to housing using a Housing First approach.

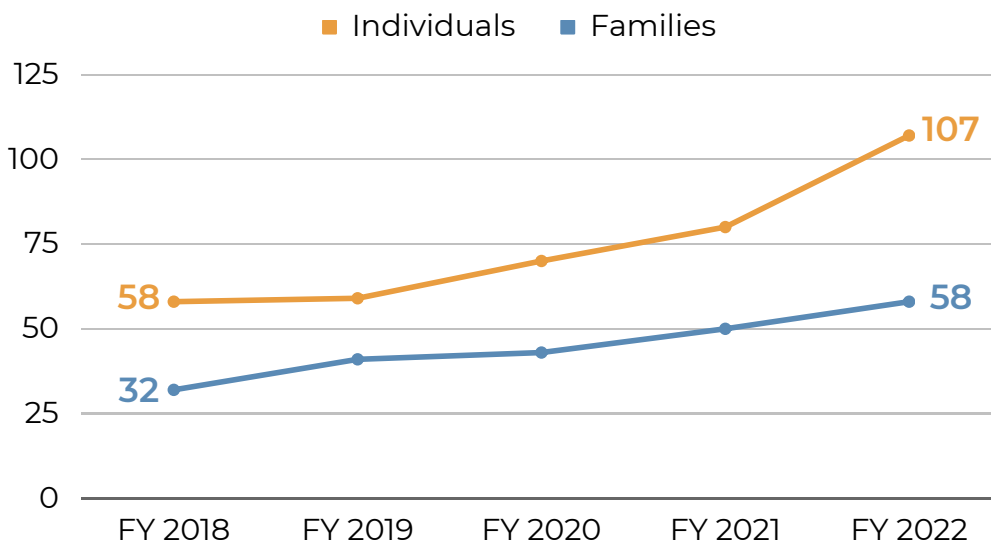
Domestic Violence Safehouse

Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of homelessness for families, and the leading cause of homelessness for women. Our strategic efforts to support households experiencing these forms of abuse are vital, including emergency shelter for survivors in imminent danger.

In fiscal year 2021-2022, Doorways' 24-Hour Domestic and Sexual Violence Hotline (703-237-0881) answered 1,251 crisis calls, including 1,039 where Doorways advocates provided crisis and supportive counseling for adults and children experiencing domestic and/or sexual violence.

Need for Safeguarding Has Been on the Rise

Doorways provides Arlington's only emergency shelter (safeguarding) for survivors of intimate partner violence and their children. The Domestic Violence Safehouse is accessible via Doorways' 24-Hour Hotline to all Arlington residents in imminent danger.



84%
increase



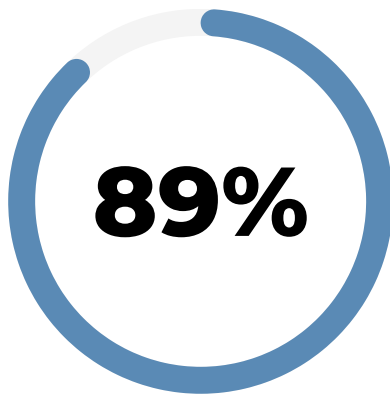
IMMINENT DANGER

Imminent danger, or imminent risk, is defined as the threat and likelihood that serious harm or death could occur within a short time due to intimate partner violence. In fiscal year 2021-2022, 80% of adults at the Domestic Violence Safehouse experienced increased or severe lethality risk.

ANA'S STORY (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFEHOUSE)

"Ana" and her child initially came to Doorways via their Court Advocacy Program. She was requesting a Protective Order against the father of her child after experiencing sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

Ana feared for her life after repeated death threats from her abuser. Ana was granted a protective order for 15 days and her abuser was arrested and charged with numerous crimes. When her abuser was unexpectedly released from jail, Ana and her child were admitted to the Safehouse. While at Safehouse, she worked closely with Doorways' Mobile Advocate to safety plan and explore secure safe housing options, and she continued her work with the Court Advocate. She was connected to Doorways' Revive counseling program for support processing the trauma she and her child endured. Eventually, with the support of the Court Advocate, Ana was able to secure a permanent protective order for two years. Ana had numerous concerns about remaining in the Arlington area for independent housing, so Doorways assisted her in achieving her goal of finding safe, stable housing, and she successfully relocated out of the area with family.



Of the 107 survivors served by Doorways in their Domestic Violence Safehouse, 87% broke the cycle of violence and did not return to abusive living situations after leaving shelter.

What to Do If You or Someone You Know Needs Help

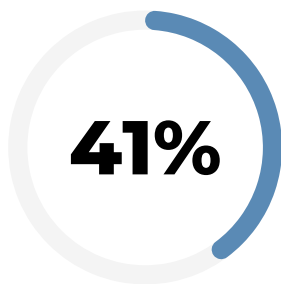
Free and confidential crisis support, information and referrals are available 24/7 through the 24-Hour Domestic & Sexual Violence Hotline at 703-237-0881. Whether you need emergency shelter, hospital accompaniment, in-person individual or group counseling, court or mobile advocacy, and/or a listening ear and helping hand, call Doorways to discuss your situation or that of a loved one.

Our Response

Housing

The ultimate goal of the CoC is for everyone in our community to have a home of their own. From our temporary shelters, CoC partners support clients in securing housing that meets their needs. Arlington's housing programs include rapid rehousing (RRH), transitional housing (TH), and permanent supportive housing (PSH).

Where do people go after shelter?



non-permanent
or temporary
housing

Non-Permanent Housing (PH)

"Non-permanent" housing means that the person leaves shelter for somewhere other supportive housing. Non-permanent destinations include, but are not limited to:

- Transitional housing (TH)
- Institutional settings such as hospitals, substance abuse treatment centers, foster care homes (for youth 18-24 and children <18)
- Staying with friends or family temporarily



permanent
housing
supported by
homeless funding

Permanent Housing (PH)

"Permanent" housing (PH) for people formerly experiencing homelessness means that the unit the client is renting is being supported by a homeless funding source. Permanent destinations include, but are not limited to:

- Rapid rehousing (RRH)
- Scattered-site or site-based supportive housing where the rental subsidy is from Shelter Plus Care
- Supportive housing program
- Local source of subsidy for people experiencing homelessness

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transitional housing programs provide housing services to help Arlington families and individuals prepare for permanent housing.

- Independence House transitional housing for individuals recovering from substance abuse (National Capital Treatment & Recovery, formerly Phoenix House Mid-Atlantic)
- HomeStretch Family Transitional Housing provides housing to families with children under the age of 18 that are experiencing homelessness

RAPID REHOUSING (RRH)

Rapid rehousing programs help households move quickly out of shelter into housing with short/medium-term rental support and services to help them maintain housing. RRH provides a temporary rental subsidy and case management for a period of no longer than 24 months.

- Bridges to Independence
- Doorways
- New Hope Housing
- PathForward

What is the average annual rent subsidy per household?

\$5,671.19

How long do people stay in rapid rehousing?

10 months

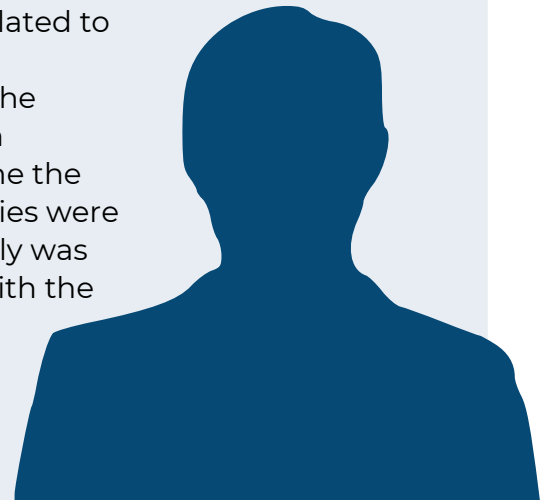
Median length of stay (LOS) at exit



of people leaving rapid rehousing programs had permanent housing when they exited RRH

JAMES (RAPID REHOUSING)

left his managerial position due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, which precipitated his family's eventual homelessness and entry into Sullivan House. One of the disabled adults in the family had a debilitating health condition, preventing him from working as he became the caregiver. Not one to sit idly by, James' creative abilities were on full display, wowing staff with his talents. The family was selected to receive a Housing Choice Voucher and, with the help of their case manager, was able to secure an apartment. They continued to receive support and case management while in rapid rehousing and successfully graduated from the program.



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)

PSH is a permanent, long-term rental subsidy (group home or individual unit) with ongoing case management services. These programs provide permanent housing and intensive supportive services for households who experience homelessness and live with a disabling condition.

- PathForward
- Department of Human Services (also serves youth transitioning out of foster care)
- New Hope Housing

What is the average annual cost of PSH per household?

\$11,330.85

How long do people stay in PSH?

31 months

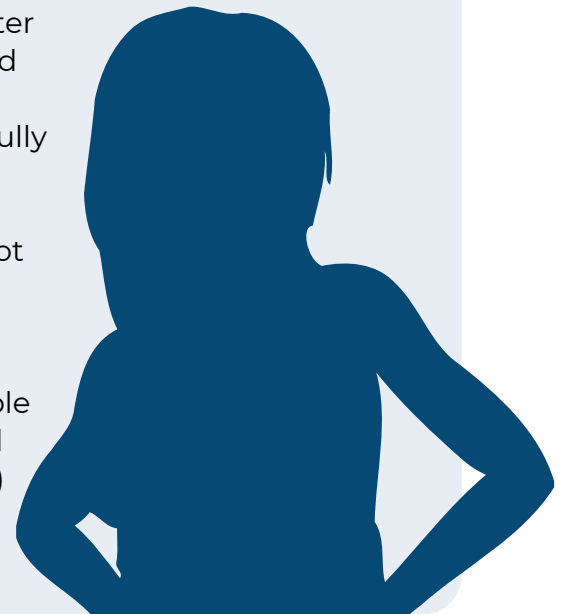
Median length of stay (LOS) at exit



of people leaving permanent supportive housing (PSH) programs maintained current or left for new permanent housing

ANDY (PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING)

32-year-old "Andy" entered the Homeless Services Center (HSC) shelter program during the winter. Andy reported being homeless since they dropped out of high school. Once entering the shelter program, the client successfully found employment and successfully got connected to the Arlington County Behavioral Health Department. However, due to their medical condition, Andy could not sustain employment. Therefore, the case manager connected Andy to the Nurse Practitioner at HSC and assisted the client with applying for disability. While Andy's disability application was pending, they were able to receive General Relief. Andy's case manager referred them to the CoC Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program, and just recently, Andy moved into their first apartment with a smile on their face.





JOIN US



HOW YOU
CAN HELP



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You can help prevent and end homelessness in Arlington. Arlington's network of community homeless services relies on financial contributions, donations of food, clothing, and other items, and community volunteers.



BECOME A COC MEMBER

The CoC is governed by a number of Boards and Committees who guide and support implementation of local priorities, resource allocation, and the implementation of its Strategic Plan. If you are interested in becoming part of the Arlington County CoC, please visit https://bit.ly/ArlingtonVA_CoC to download a membership application. Whether you are someone who has been served by the CoC, someone with skills matching subcommittee goals, or a concerned community member, we want to hear from you!



SHARE YOUR FEEDBACK

The CoC Executive Committee wants to know about the priorities, needs and questions across the County. Please send your comments to the Executive Committee by emailing tvan@arlingtonva.us. You can also share public comment during Executive Committee meetings (typically first Mondays of every month).



GET THE COMMUNITY GUIDE

The Department of Human Services Community Assistance Bureau (CAB) is the first call to make for help if you or someone you know is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We help Arlington residents find shelter, emergency food, housing and other vital services. Learn more in the Community Guide available at <https://bit.ly/ArlingtonVACommunityGuide>.



STAY INFORMED

Sign up for Inside Arlington, the County's weekly newsletter, to get updates and information on projects, feedback opportunities, events, and more. To subscribe, visit <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Subscribe>.



PHOTO: HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER



SUPPORT COC PARTNERS

Visit our CoC members' website to learn about opportunities:

- Arlington County: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/>
- Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing: <https://apah.org/>
- Arlington Thrive: <https://arlingtonthrive.org/>
- Bridges to Independence: <https://bridges2.org/>
- Doorways: <https://www.doorwaysva.org/>
- HomeStretch: <https://www.homestretchva.org/>
- National Capital Treatment & Recovery (formerly Phoenix House) <https://www.natcaptreatment.org/>
- New Hope Housing: <https://www.newhopehousing.org/>
- PathForward: <https://pathforwardva.org/>

For more information on how you can help, visit Volunteer Arlington at <https://volunteer.leadercenter.org/>.



Contact Us

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