

# Arlington County FY 2017 Action Plan Citizen Summary

## What is the Action Plan?

The Annual Action Plan is a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that provides a summary of the actions, activities, and specific resources that will be used over the next year to address priority needs and specific goals identified by the 5-Year Consolidated Plan.

Arlington County's 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan, completed April 2015, identified housing and community development priorities. The Community Development Fund (CDF) was established to support programs that contribute to accomplishing the goals of the Consolidated Plan. The CDF consists of federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and local Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) Housing Services funds.

This Citizen Summary provides a snapshot of Arlington's community development needs, and describes strategies that the County will undertake over the next year to meet intended goals.



## New Programs and Initiatives

In addition to funding current economic development and public service programs, the FY 2017 Community Development Fund provides funding for several new programs.

- ▶ Arlington Landlord Risk Reduction Fund, Arlington THRIVE: The purpose of this program is to create financial incentives for landlords to reduce screening criteria for homeless households, enabling them to access permanent housing.
- ▶ Money Smarts, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE): VCE will develop a financial literacy program to help economically vulnerable Arlington residents make smart money management decisions, meet financial obligations, and save for short and long-term goals.
- ▶ Resident Services Program at the Springs, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH): APAH will receive start-up funding to develop and implement a resident services program at the new Springs Apartments.

## Funding Snapshot

### FY 2017 Action Plan Funding

Federal Sources	
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)	\$1,166,896
HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME)	\$538,986
HOME / CDBG Program Income	\$100,000
Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)	\$207,000
Local Sources	
Affordable Housing Investment Fund (AHIF) Housing Services	\$200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,207,882</b>

The above figures represent federal and local funding sources for FY 2017. These numbers do not directly correspond to the Program Table amounts (Page 3). The Program Table reflects direct spending amounts for CD programs and services in FY 2017.



View of Rosslyn in Arlington, Virginia



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## Housing & Community Development Needs | Goals | Strategies

### Goal 1: Create and Sustain Affordable Housing

- ▶ Between 2000 and 2013, the average home sale price in Arlington increased by 140.3 percent while the average rent increased by 90.9 percent.
- ▶ More than 20,600 of renter households (40 percent) are cost burdened.
- ▶ In 2000, average rent was \$1,013; by 2013 the average rent had nearly doubled to \$1,934.

*Goal 1 focuses on increasing the supply and improving the quality of rental or owner-occupied housing. This includes developing, preserving, and rehabilitating affordable rental housing, including permanent supportive housing; rehabilitating or repairing rental housing; improving owner-occupied housing; and assisting households to become homeowners.*

### Goal 2: Promote Healthy and Self-Sufficient Families

- ▶ Of the Arlington residents who are cost burdened, certain populations face more pressing challenges including elderly households, racial or ethnic minority households, families with children, persons with disabilities, and low-income households.
- ▶ 30-50 percent of jobs in the Washington metro are middle-skilled, but the number of skilled employees able to fill these jobs is lagging.
- ▶ Most common barriers to starting a small business as identified by residents include lack of business planning skills, language and cultural barriers, and limited access to capital.
- ▶ An estimated 22,000 Arlington residents do not have health insurance.

*Goal 2 focuses on helping residents succeed, both financially and physically, enabling them to maximize self-sufficiency. This includes supporting programs that focus on skills development, job training, microenterprise assistance and small business development; as well as programs that help individuals and families develop and build assets through financial education and literacy programs; and services that help create and maintain physical, social and financial well-being.*

### Goal 3: Stabilize Households at Risk of Homelessness

- ▶ Arlington County's 2015 Point-In-Time count showed 18 percent decline for sheltered and unsheltered individuals and families in the community.
- ▶ During the course of the past year, more than 1,000 households sought assistance finding or keeping a home and, on any given night, nearly 240 individuals were still in shelter or safe havens or on the streets.
- ▶ Arlington's new Homeless Services Center combines shelter with support services such as employment and life skills training, mental health and substance abuse counseling, and nursing as well as meals, showers, laundry, and assistance finding permanent housing.

*Goal 3 focuses on supporting individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness. This includes providing permanent supportive housing for homeless persons with disabilities, rapidly rehousing homeless persons through case management and/or rental subsidies, preventing households from becoming homeless, and providing emergency housing for persons who are not able to be diverted.*

### Goal 4: Foster Vibrant and Sustainable Neighborhoods

- ▶ 11 Arlington census tracts have a population that is at least 65 percent low- or moderate-income (LMI); 15 census tracts are between 51-65 percent LMI, and 18 census tracts are between 36-50 percent LMI.
- ▶ Outreach and education to low- and moderate-income residents, particularly those with primary languages other than English, has been identified as a priority, specifically in tenant issues, homeownership counseling, and home improvement resources.

*Goal 4 focuses on activities that foster safe, well-maintained housing and neighborhoods. This includes inspecting units to ensure safe and energy efficient housing; providing technical assistance and referrals to tenants, landlords, and homeowners; conducting events and workshops on fair housing issues, code enforcement, and homeownership; and neighborhood cleanups.*



# Arlington County FY 2017 Action Plan Citizen Summary

## FY 2017 Community Development Fund Program Table

	Activity	Organization	Amount and Source	Expected Accomplishment
Goal 1	1.2 Improve owner occupied housing	▶ Arlington Co., Single Family Program Delivery	\$100,000 (CDBG)	10 properties rehabilitated
		▶ Rebuilding Together, Home Repair	\$70,000 (CDBG)	15 properties rehabilitated
	1.3 Rehab or repair rental housing including energy conservation	▶ ACE, Energy Masters	\$18,000 (CDBG)	70 CAFs receive improved energy efficiency
		▶ Arlington County, Outreach	\$125,280 (CDBG)	220 CAF units inspected
1.4 Homeownership assistance	▶ Arlington County, MIPAP	\$100,000 (CDBG)	9 first-time homebuyers assisted	
Goal 2	2.1 Provide job training / skills development	▶ Arlington Employment Center Training Programs	\$183,000 (CDBG, CSBG)	154 individuals trained
		▶ Goodwill, Career Navigation	\$35,000 (CDBG)	25 enrolled, 16 finish program
		▶ NVFS, Training Futures	\$20,000 (CDBG)	16 enrolled, 14 finish program
		▶ OAR, RCEP	\$25,000 (CDBG)	40 enrolled, 30 finish program
	2.2 Technical and financial assistance for microenterprise business owners	▶ BDAG, Small Business Assistance	\$43,500 (CDBG)	16 businesses assisted
		▶ EDG, Micro-Enterprise Loan Program	\$45,000 (CDBG)	10 loans; 18 businesses assisted
	2.3 Reduce barriers to unemployment such as lack of transportation, literacy skills, affordable childcare, or legal issues	▶ Just Neighbors, Immigration Legal Services	\$20,000 (CSBG)	60 families assisted
		▶ LAJC, Immigrant Advocacy	\$20,000 (CSBG)	140 individuals assisted
		▶ Liberty's Promise, Empower Immigrant Youth	\$20,000 (CDBG)	40 youth participants
	2.4 Building assets through financial literacy, credit counseling	▶ AHOME, Achieve Your Dream	\$35,000 (CDBG)	35 first time homebuyers
		▶ VCE, Money Smarts	\$29,500 (AHIF)	141 participants succeed
		▶ APAH, Springs Resident Services	\$20,000 (AHIF)	50 residents assisted
	2.5 Support increased educational attainment for low and moderate income residents, including youth	▶ Arlington Employment Center, Project Discovery	\$30,000 (CSBG)	52 youth participants
▶ BUGATA, Buckingham Youth Brigade		\$19,000 (CDBG)	15-20 youth participants	
▶ Greenbrier, Learning Rocks!		\$45,000 (AHIF)	40 youth participants	
▶ Service Source, Aspire.Skills.Determined.		\$30,000 (CDBG)	25 individuals assisted	
▶ WHDC, Building Communities of Promise		\$24,000 (CDBG)	34 individuals assisted	
2.6 Support increased access to health and community resources	▶ CRI, Mental Health Transitions	\$25,000 (CDBG)	17 individuals assisted	
	▶ CRI, Stabilization Technology	\$30,000 (AHIF)	9 individuals assisted	
	▶ Northern Virginia Dental Clinic	\$20,000 (CSBG)	90 individuals assisted	
Goal 3	3.2 Rapidly rehouse homeless persons through case management and rental subsidy	▶ Arlington Thrive - Landlord Risk Reduction Fund	\$25,500 (AHIF)	44 individuals obtain housing
	3.3 Prevent homelessness for households	▶ VOAC, Diversion Homeless Services	\$50,000 (AHIF)	200 residents assisted
	3.4 Provide emergency shelter	▶ ASPAN, Volunteer Coordinator	\$25,000 (CDBG)	120 volunteers trained
Goal 4	4.1 CAFs inspected to ensure, safe, decent and energy efficient housing	▶ Arlington County, CAF Services Program	\$81,811 (CDBG)	300 units inspected
	4.2 Technical assistance, referrals to tenants, landlords, homeowners	▶ Arlington County, Housing Services/Outreach Program	\$125,280 (CDBG)	211 persons served
	4.3 Educate community on fair housing, code enforcement, homeownership with workshops, expos, fairs			1,000 persons served
	4.4 Neighborhood Cleanups			1,100 persons served
	4.5 Small Grants Program	▶ Arlington County Housing Division	\$5,000 (CDBG)	1,000 persons served

\*Program Table numbers reflect the spending amounts for CDF programs and services in FY 2017 and do not directly correspond to the Funding Sources Table found on Page 1.



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## Fair Housing Initiatives

In 2015, Arlington County identified several barriers to fair housing in its Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. Barriers to fair housing and action steps that will be taken in FY 2017 to address these barriers include:

Limited supply of affordable housing for residents with disabilities:

- ▶ Arlington County's Affordable Housing Master Plan provides that 10 percent of new affordable units should be permanent supportive housing.
- ▶ Rebuilding Together to receive funding to support elderly and disabled homeowners by providing accessibility improvements and repairs for their homes.
- ▶ Community Residences, Inc. to provide supportive technological equipment for residents with intellectual disabilities to assist them in living independently.

Residents have limited knowledge of rights and of the complaints process:

- ▶ Arlington County's Housing Outreach Program will conduct a minimum of two Fair Housing workshops that will educate residents on their rights, the fair housing complaint process and other information to increase awareness of fair housing laws.

Residents face language barriers when seeking services:

- ▶ Arlington County's Language Policy makes accommodation for limited English speaking clients by accessing translation resources and utilizing staff who are familiar with and proficient in several languages.

Residents face individual barriers, such as poor credit history and criminal background:

- ▶ Virginia Cooperative Extension to receive funding to deliver financial literacy courses to help low-income individuals to increase self-sufficiency and reduce barriers to obtaining housing.
- ▶ Arlington Landlord Risk Reduction Fund project to receive funding to create financial incentives for landlords to lessen leasing restrictions, enabling individuals with high housing barriers to access permanent housing.



Children at RAFOM Summer Fiesta



BUGATA's Buckingham Youth Brigade Students



Arlington Employment Center, Culinary Arts Program Graduation



Goodwill Career Navigation Graduate

## Opportunities for Public Comment

CDCAC / Housing Commission  
Action Plan Public Hearing  
March 2, 2016 | 6:30 pm  
Courthouse Plaza, Room 715

County Board Budget Hearing  
March 29, 2016 -or- March 31, 2016 | 7:00 pm  
Courthouse Plaza, County Board Room

Copies of the FY 2017 Action Plan are available  
online beginning February 26, 2016 at  
[www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us), search "FY 2017 Action Plan"

Email [housing@arlingtonva.us](mailto:housing@arlingtonva.us) with comments