



**SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING
ADVOCATES
FAIRFAX COUNTY 2011 BUDGET COMMUNITY DIALOGUES**

The questions below, in italics, will be asked in the facilitated small group discussions at the Community Dialogue meetings. These suggested responses speak from an affordable housing perspective. When answering we suggest you add your personal experiences with persons who are homeless or near homelessness – in hypothermia, with emergency services, with volunteering.

1. *Based on your experience, which FY 2010 budget decisions were a) most acceptable b) least acceptable?*

The most acceptable decisions were to:

- Fund the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- Restore services for homeless people and those with very low incomes.
- Set up a \$1M emergency fund.
- Increase the tax rate to provide these and other critical services.

The least acceptable decisions were to:

- Cut the Penny Fund in half, which eliminated funding of any new projects.

2. *Potential Strategies for Expenditures and Revenue – from the list provided:*

Expenditure Strategies: CFUH suggests that the best expenditure strategy is to:

Distribute reductions across County and Schools but allow for some exceptions.

- Restore the Penny Fund and re-direct focus to increase housing opportunities for homeless people and those with extremely low incomes.
- Provide rent subsidies so that those with very low incomes can be housed.
- Preserve funding for services for homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Revenue Strategies: of the various revenue strategies, CFUH suggests that the best strategy is to:

- Increase the tax rate 11 cents, which would keep the average homeowner's tax bill at slightly less than the 2010 level.
- Pursue other sources of revenue, such as local vehicle registration fees.
- Continue to aggressively identify and leverage federal and state housing dollars.