



## **Suggested Talking Points for the FY2010 Budget**

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is making their final decisions right now about funding for affordable housing and programs for people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. We suggest you make the following points when communicating with Supervisors and include your personal experience with people in need of affordable housing or who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

### ***Homelessness is on the rise during the current economic crisis.***

- Homelessness among Fairfax County students is up 20% from a year ago and Fairfax shelters are serving more two-parent families.
- Many of the newly homeless (families) are renters whose landlords were foreclosed on, members of families in which a parent lost a job or low-wage workers who were living on the edge even before losing their jobs. (Washington Post, 2/16/09).

### ***Keep the following programs to fight homelessness--included in the proposed County Budget—in the final Budget.***

- The Penny for Affordable Housing Fund
- The Consolidated Community Funding Pool
- The establishment of a \$1M Emergency fund for non-profits
- Additional case worker positions to address needs of low income citizens

### ***Reducing or eliminating the Penny Fund would seriously compromise the ability of the county to provide affordable housing and prevent homelessness.***

- The Board of Supervisors last year approved the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, based on a cost-effective “housing first” strategy. Sufficient affordable housing is essential to ensuring success of the Housing First approach.
- Pulling funds now would disrupt projects already committed to and would prevent the County from making additional purchases at a time when the need is growing and purchasing power is at its highest.

### ***Restore proposed program cuts in final budget, including funding for:***

- Homeless shelter contracts
- The Homeless Prevention Program
- Mental health services for the homeless

### ***Support revenue proposals that fund programs in the proposed budget and additional revenue proposals to allow proposed program cuts to be restored***

- Support the proposed increase in the Real Estate tax rate of \$1.04 per \$100 dollars of assessed value recommended by the County Executive. This would hold taxpayers’ payments relatively level (at current reduced residential assessment levels).
- Consider supporting raising the Real Estate tax rate to \$1.05 per \$100 dollars of assessed value. This would generate \$20 million in additional revenue.
- Consider supporting reinstatement of a vehicle registration fee of \$33 per vehicle. This would generate an additional \$27 million.