

Human Services Goal

The County will provide efficient, effective, integrated, and accessible human services that support individual and family efforts to achieve independence and self-sufficiency. The County shall focus on leveraging state and federal funding and maximizing community partnerships.

Community Outcomes:

- Prevent homelessness from exceeding 1.60 per 1,000 population.
- Prevent the suicide rate from exceeding 7.50 per 100,000 population.
- Prevent juvenile drug and alcohol arrests from exceeding 1.60 and 1.42, respectively, per 1,000 youth population.
- Prevent adult drug and alcohol arrests from exceeding 5.35 and 14.97, respectively, per 1,000 adult population.
- Prevent the number of substantiated cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of children from exceeding 2.0 per 1,000 youth population.
- Prevent the number of substantiated cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of adults from exceeding 0.50 per 1,000 adult population.
- Prevent the average length of State hospital stays from exceeding 52 days for mentally ill clients.
- Serve in the community no less than 92% of youth at-risk of out-of-home placement.
- Prevent the two year re-offense rate of juvenile offenders from exceeding 44%.
- Promote child health by preventing low birth weight from exceeding 6.5% of all births.

Strategy 1: Provide increased housing options for the homeless, people with disabilities, the elderly and low-income residents.

Objectives:

1. Work with homeless providers and the non-profit community to establish transitional housing targets for specialized populations to ascertain need and develop an implementation plan based on targets.
2. Encourage non-profit organizations to pursue federal/state funding sources to meet transitional housing needs and collaborate with these organizations in their efforts.
3. Increase the availability of supportive services such as financial counseling, home buying seminars and life skills classes to give people/families tools to attain self-sufficiency.

Strategy 2: Expand substance abuse prevention, reduction and treatment programs.

Objectives:

1. Explore and collaborate with Northern Virginia jurisdictions to develop a regional crisis/detoxification facility.
2. Explore, identify and implement evidence-based prevention programs.
3. Maximize external funding to expand on-site substance abuse prevention and/or treatment services at homeless shelters, detention centers and group homes.

Strategy 3: Prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation of County residents of all ages.

Objectives:

1. Strengthen prevention programs that encourage parenting skills for parents of children at high risk of abuse and/or neglect.
2. Expand public/private partnerships with providers of domestic violence education, prevention and intervention services to prevent duplication of effort and facilitate delivery of services.
3. Actively support public/private partnerships about public education regarding abuse and neglect of children, senior adults and other vulnerable populations.

Strategy 4: Assist elderly residents, low-income residents and persons with disabilities to remain in the Community as independently and productively as possible.

Objectives:

1. Reduce wait lists for in-home services by providing more hours of service.
2. Increase support for Family Economic Success efforts including financial literacy, employment training and the use of tax credits.
3. Educate developers, builders and consumers on the benefits of universal design for accessibility.
4. Expand access to daycare and day-support services for families with developmentally disabled children and the elderly.

Strategy 5: Improve the continuum of appropriate community-based services that ensures timely access for persons with chronic or serious mental illness.

Objectives:

1. Identify State funding to implement evidence-based programs to minimize psychiatric hospitalization.
2. Develop partnerships to implement non-hospital programs that will address the needs of mentally ill who are in crisis.
3. Expand psychiatric medical services to address underserved clients and wait lists.

Strategy 6: Develop, implement and fund a continuum of community-based services for at-risk youth, juvenile offenders and their families.

Objectives:

1. Explore post-dispositional detention services for females.
2. Collaborate with juvenile justice, Department of Social Services (DSS), Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board and public/private partnerships to provide meaningful job placement and mentoring to court-involved youth.
3. Explore partnerships with neighboring jurisdictions to provide a regional facility to treat at-risk youth locally as opposed to sending them out-of-region.
4. Develop a community effort involving schools, police, juvenile justice, At-Risk Youth and Family Services (ARYFS), community organizations and churches to provide early intervention for juvenile offenders involved in gangs.

Strategy 7: Improve customer service to non-English speaking persons.**Objectives:**

1. Expand partnerships with faith-based and other multi-cultural organizations to provide programs including interpretive services, classes to learn English and education on available government programs and how to access them, for non-English speaking persons.
2. Support training for staff on cross-cultural communication and multi-lingual competency.
3. Explore County compensation incentives to actively recruit employees with targeted language skills.
4. Expand recruiting efforts to target geographic areas, conferences, institutions and organizations that have applicants with desirable language skills.
5. Increase the availability of written materials and signage in targeted languages.

Strategy 8: Identify successful community pre-natal education programs and services and develop a Prince William County model for such a program.**Objectives:**

1. Support a public/private collaboration in developing a local pre-natal care delivery system, to include serving women experiencing at-risk pregnancies.
2. Explore inter-jurisdictional alternatives to ensure service to women with high-risk pregnancies.
3. Explore alternatives and make recommendations to increase the capacity of pre-natal care to medically indigent women so that all unborn children and women have access.