

COVID-19 Response in Northern Virginia

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Addressing Housing Needs for Vulnerable People in NoVA

Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax County, Loudoun County

Elected leaders have reinforced VA Supreme Court moratorium on non-emergency evictions through April 26. (includes Prince William)

Jurisdictions have created rental assistance programs for residents effected by COVID. Who is being served and eligibility requirements are evolving as circumstances arise.

Leveraged state funding to securing hotel rooms for homeless individuals at risk of COVID-19 to create social distancing.

Community-based Organizations on the Front Lines

NoVA Affordable Housing Owners Respond

- Nonprofit owners are working with residents to document job loss and assist with access to rental assistance, food distribution and information about other basic services
- As unemployment insurance and stimulus checks have yet to reach most residents, property owners are coordinating with local governments and area philanthropic funds that have been established for rent, food, medical assistance
- Owners report April rent delinquencies were not as bad as anticipated; but are planning for worse outcomes in May.

Affordable Housing and FY2021 Budgets

Revised Local Budget Impacts on Housing Production and HTFs

- Pipeline projects in all jurisdictions are expected to move forward with development approvals and allocation of local gap financing.
- Fairfax County loses \$25 million for their Affordable Housing Fund due to elimination of a one cent increase in the RE tax.
- Housing policy initiatives begun before COVID will continue in Fairfax County and Alexandria; Arlington will suspend work on Missing Middle Study.
- All local jurisdictions will undertake quarterly reviews of their budgets to gauge economic climate to see whether deferred initiatives can move ahead.

Budget Advocacy for Housing

Across NoVA – Housing Stability for vulnerable residents

- Create a rental subsidy program for residents impacted by COVID-19 and undocumented households ineligible for federal assistance
- In collaboration with homeless service providers, secure vacant hotel rooms for shelter families and individuals for SD
- Support food banks – food insecurity is very high
- Maintain at a minimum FY2020 levels of funding for housing and prioritize housing as quarterly budget reviews take place

Virginia's COVID Response

State Declarations and General Assembly Budget Considerations

- Eviction protection for renters and mortgage forbearance for owners through April 26
- Mortgage forbearance for VHDA financed projects
- “Unallot” funding for HTF, PSH, eviction defense - \$80 M over the biennium budget

COVID-19 Regional Response

COVID-19 Website Focused on Northern Virginia Response

<https://nvaha.org/covid-19-resources-and-updates/>

Looks at each jurisdiction and updates their activities on:

- Rent/mortgage and utilities relief
- Food assistance
- Homeless services
- Revised FY21 budgets - impact on housing
- State actions; tenants' rights (VPLC)
- Data analysis of COVID on race, gender (VA Dept of Health, NVRC)

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