

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

Alexandria Housing Activities December 2020

The Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority (ARHA) is opening the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) and Public Housing waitlists. Applications will be accepted starting, January 11th, 2021 at 8:00 am until January the 13th, 2021 at 11:59 pm. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, **ARHA will only be accepting applications electronically. Paper, faxed and written applications will not be accepted at any ARHA locations.** Reasonable accommodation may be granted for those, who due to a disability, are unable to fill out an application electronically. Requests for reasonable accommodations will be accepted starting, December 21, 2020 at 8:00 am and will end on January 10th, 2021 at 5:00 pm. To request a reasonable accommodation, please contact Jermaine Clemmons at 703-549-7115, ext. 174, or email waitinglist@arha.us. If emailing, please put "Reasonable Accommodation" in the subject field of the email. Beginning, January 11, apply [here](#), and download the [announcement](#).

Eviction Prevention and State Rent and Mortgage Relief Program As of December 15, residents seeking rental assistance due to COVID-related loss of job or income, should apply directly to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development [RMRP portal](#). The City's Office of Housing and the Office of Community Services will no longer process applications for the state program. Landlords can apply for all eligible tenants in one complex through Housing Virginia's [landlord portal](#). Over \$120 million has been designated for rent and mortgage relief by the Northam administration for rent payments owed beginning April 1, 2020. The city, human service providers and faith community volunteers are working to disseminate information about these assistance programs, but challenges remain, including language barriers, access to technology, securing the appropriate paperwork, and a reluctance to work with landlords. The [Alexandria Eviction Prevention Program](#), - a collaboration with ALIVE!, Lazarus Ministries of Christ Church, Legal Services of Northern Virginia, and NVAHA, - is working to engage tenants who are unaware of rental assistance and assist them with the paperwork necessary to prevent eviction.

Just In: [Congress Moves to Extend Pandemic Aid for Jobless and Renters](#)

Celebrating Housing Achievements Even in these distressing times, it's important to celebrate achievements. The [virtual ribbon-cutting ceremony](#) for **The Bloom** and **Carpenter's Shelter** gave us all something to cheer about. This innovative project started with leadership by the City Council, but dozens of dedicated city staff, multiple community-based organizations and countless volunteers were also involved. The development has made all Alexandrians proud. Congratulations to Carpenter's Shelter and Alexandria Housing Development Corporation for a job well done! **And if that isn't enough...**Two Alexandria affordable housing developments were recognized by the **Urban Land Institute Trends Awards Program: Parkstone Alexandria** (AHDC) received the [Juror's Choice Award](#) and **St. James Plaza** (AHC Inc) was the [Winner for Housing Affordability](#).

Virtual 2021 Northern Virginia Housing Expo Looking for resources or information related to affordable housing in Northern Virginia? Join the virtual 2021 Northern Virginia Housing Expo beginning January 1, 2021. The free, online public event will be hosted at [NoVaHousingExpo.org](#) and will be available for the entire year. The expo will feature monthly workshops and exhibits designed to educate participants about COVID-19-related housing assistance, location options, being prepared for buying or renting, understanding and improving credit scores, improving energy efficiency and more. The virtual expo will also offer confidential individual financial counselling and provide a 24-hour Exhibitor Hall featuring lenders, property management companies, developers, contractors, real estate agents, service providers, local jurisdictions and more. This event, now in its 11th year, is made possible through a cooperative effort of representatives from the cities of Alexandria and Falls Church; the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William; and Virginia Housing (formerly VHDA).

2020 has been a year like no other, but we have survived through the efforts of Alexandria's extraordinary community, unwavering advocacy, and public policy solutions that advance housing affordability in the City. Now our charge is to go from surviving to thriving as we begin to address COVID impacts and our recovery. We appreciate all that you do, and we hope that NVAHA's monthly summaries, our policy research and advocacy work have been helpful in navigating housing issues in the City. **However, our ability to continue this work depends on your financial support.** We are grateful to those who have supported us in the past. Please consider joining the effort to hold ourselves and our elected leaders accountable to our goals and [donate to NVAHA](#).