

# NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

## ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

### Arlington County Housing Activities September 2020

[Eviction Prevention & Food Assistance](#) This summary provides a good snapshot of who is being served, and the amount of CARES Act and local financial assistance provided through the County's eviction prevention and food assistance programs. Eighty-five percent of households receiving emergency rental assistance are Black (45%) or Latinx (40%). These figures are consistent with statistics from other jurisdictions in Northern Virginia that show COVID-19 disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities. How we respond to this racial and health disparity post-COVID is a looming challenge that our region must face.

**CDC Eviction Moratorium Invokes Public Health Crisis** Attached are three documents to help you better understand the implications of the recent CDC Eviction Moratorium Order: [CDC Eviction Moratorium Fact Sheet](#); [FAQs on the Agency Order to the US Housing Committee on Financial Services](#); and the [CDC Declaration that Tenants must present to Landlords](#). In the absence of clarity as to whether the Trump Administration has the authority to issue this order, Governor Northam requested that the VA Supreme Court again extend the eviction moratorium until October 1, 2020. In a ruling late last week, [the Court refused](#). NVAHA has developed the [Northern Virginia Eviction Prevention and Housing Stability Toolkit](#) and a newly created [Tenant Supplement](#) to provide residents, landlords and support networks with a guide to eviction prevention resources available at the state and local level. This is a living document that is updated frequently. We hope you find it useful.

[What you need to know about public schools in Arlington this fall](#). To facilitate virtual learning and close the digital divide, Arlington Public Schools is providing electronic devices, iPads and laptops, for all students K-12 and partnering with Comcast Internet Essentials to ensure all students have internet access—but families will still need additional supplies to ensure their students are prepared for virtual learning, and advocates for digital justice have also highlighted the need for technical assistance for households who are not familiar or comfortable with online technology. As reported earlier, a statewide task force led by the Governor's office has been meeting throughout the summer to develop policy recommendations for legislation to be brought to the 2021 General Assembly session. The organization [Arl Fiber](#) recently hosted a panel [presentation](#) on broadband and their advocacy for creation of a County

authority that would provide accessible, affordable broadband for all Arlington residents.

**MWCOG Regional Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments (AI)** The Council of Governments (COG) will conduct a multi-year regional Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice, and is seeking an [Intergovernmental Agreement](#) for jurisdictions to participate. [endorse their participation](#) in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Regional Fair Housing Analysis of Impediments (AI). We hope to be able to report soon as to when Arlington's County Board will place this item on an upcoming agenda. Also, see COG's response in the August [memo from their Board of Directors](#) to the recent Administration attack on Affirmatively Affirming Fair Housing (AFFH).

[Commonwealth of Virginia Amendments to the 2020 Appropriations Act Disposition of 2020 Unallotments](#) The top of page 4 of this documents identifies key housing and community development related programs that were included in the FY21-FY22 budget approved in March, but then 'unallotted' (set aside) due to the pandemic. We are pleased to see that the Governor has included reinstating funding for the Housing Trust Fund for FY21 and FY22 at the originally approved amounts of \$23 million annually. Persistent advocacy will be needed to retain that funding through the budget approval process.

**Confronting Barriers: Sustaining the Fight for Fair Housing** Plan to attend [Virginia's Fair Housing Summit](#) sponsored by Home of VA, Wednesday September 16, 9 AM. Tickets are \$50; register [here](#)

**2020 Regional Housing Leaders Awards and 15th Anniversary Celebration September 17** Over 140 of your housing colleagues and friends from across the DMV have registered for our [2020 Annual Awards Ceremony and 15th Anniversary Celebration](#). We hope you'll join us as we toast **Christian Dorsey**, Vice-Chair of COG's Board of Directors and Arlington County Board member, who will accept the COG 2020 Regional Housing Leader award for their Regional Housing Initiative, and **Delegate Alfonso Lopez**, Virginia House of Delegates, and champion for housing affordable in the General Assembly, securing approval to create the Virginia Housing Trust Fund. Bring your champagne glass and join the celebration! Free register is [here](#).