

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

ADVOCACY ACTION ALERT

Arlington Housing Activities September 2021

The Eviction Moratorium Has Ended On August 26, the Supreme Court overturned the most recent eviction moratorium issued by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Read our blog ["The Supreme Court Ended the Eviction Moratorium - Now What?"](#) for a recap of the Court's ruling, as well as what protections and resources are in place for Virginia's COVID-impacted tenants. Arlington landlords and tenants can access Eviction Prevention Act (ERA) funds through the **Rent Relief Program (RRP)** administered by the **VA Department of Housing and Community Development** for tenants and **Virginia Housing** for landlords. To get help with applying for RRP assistance, **call the Eviction Legal Helpline** at 1-833-NoEvict (1-833-663-8428) or **call the Statewide Legal Aid Helpline** at 1-866-LEGLAID (1-866-534-5243) **to reach rental assistance navigators in your area.**

NVAHA has developed an [Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Dashboard](#) to track eviction filings, case outcomes and disbursement of RRP funds at the ZIP code-level. The dashboard also monitors eviction filings and case outcomes over time as different pandemic-related protections are enacted and expire. The goal is to help local governments and human service providers conduct more targeted outreach for protections and rental assistance resources, identify neighborhoods that are not being served through existing efforts and evaluate the impact of pandemic-related protections on housing stability in our region. The dashboard covers six jurisdictions, so you can review Arlington data and compare the County's statistics on filings, evictions, judgments and rental assistance with neighboring jurisdictions. The data on eviction filings and case outcomes is made available through an arrangement with the [RVA Eviction Lab](#) at Virginia Commonwealth University. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development is providing data on rental assistance disbursed through RRP. Our recent series of blog posts have looked at the definition and implication of [default judgements](#) and [where housing insecurity is most severe](#). We've also explored [how to redesign landlord tenant relationships and the legal system related to evictions](#) to create more equitable outcomes.

Broadband Investment The budget approved during the 2021 Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly included \$700 million for broadband investment. In Northern Virginia, the cost of monthly internet subscriptions and lack of access to appropriate devices are significant hurdles for low-income households to secure broadband service, but the state funding appears to be focused on rural areas without any service. Recent [analysis](#) from the **Brookings Institution** states that: "Although a larger share of rural households lack broadband ([about 19% of rural](#)

[households, as opposed to 14% of urban households](#), according to the Census Bureau), in absolute numbers, about [three times as many](#) households without broadband are in urban areas. Many urban families already have broadband network infrastructure physically available, but are unable to afford internet services. In their 2020 budget, Arlington allocated \$50,000 to study the feasibility of creating a broadband authority to provide internet service to low-income residents in the County, and **Arl Fiber** has published a [set of recommendations](#) that go beyond the feasibility study and consider creating a community-owned, county-wide, fiber-to-the-home broadband provider by establishing a broadband authority in Arlington. We believe Arl Fiber's recommendations warrant serious consideration as they align with the County's [Digital Equity](#) goals.

Profile 21 The Arlington County Profile is an annual report providing statistical information including demographics, development, employment, transportation, community resources and more. [The 2021 Profile](#) includes the following features: data topics, key facts and takeaways, and planning corridor statistics. A few interesting statistics include the following: 52% of Arlington residents live in Planning Corridors which have a combined population density of 34 persons per acre, 4 times greater than non-corridor areas of 9 persons per acre; since 1980, the majority of Arlington households consist of a single person or non-related individuals; there are 119,700 housing units in the County, 8,650 of which are committed affordable. We were disappointed not to find information about broadband access and affordability, and believe it's an item that should be in the Profile.

2020 Census The [Virginia Public Access Project](#) has a treasure trove of **2020 Census** data that include maps and visualizations on population growth, race, ethnicity and regions of the Commonwealth that will gain or lose representation as the result of redistricting. Check out the [Census data for Arlington County](#).

AHC Interim CEO Susan Cunningham, a long-time Arlington resident, has been selected as the interim CEO for AHC as the Board conducts a national search for a permanent CEO. Susan's 25 years of experience leading mission-driven organizations through challenges and changes makes her the right person for AHC at this time. One immediate change for the organization is to broaden and diversify the Board of Directors. To that end, AHC has extended an invitation to residents to fill two positions. [AHC was pleased to host a number of elected officials, including Congressman Don Beyer, Mayor Justin Wilson and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge during a tour of The Spire](#), 113 units of affordable housing, developed in partnership with The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Alexandria. The tour highlighted a broader discussion about the national crisis regarding affordable housing.

Bob Adams Retires Many of you have had the pleasure of working with **Bob Adams**, outgoing Executive Director of [HousingForward Virginia](#). Bob has spent his entire career dedicated to expanding and improving housing opportunities for the citizens of Virginia. In this [final blog](#), Bob looks back on our accomplishments as a housing and community development industry, but notes how much more remains to be done. Those of us who have worked with Bob will miss his thoughtfulness and his leadership. Thank you, Bob!