

NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE HOUSING ALLIANCE

HOUSING IN ACTION SERIES

Arlington Housing Summary November 2021

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery Funds In the spring, the **County Board** allocated [\\$19 million of ARPA funding](#) to support critical COVID-19 response and recovery efforts and address significant financial challenges for residents (e.g., eviction prevention, food security, and rental assistance). The **County Manager** now projects that only \$6 million in ARPA funding will be required this fiscal year for pandemic-related responses, and is recommending a variety of other community priorities. Based on the County Manager's recommendation, \$15.5 million will be used for innovative strategies to tackle some of the community's most critical needs over the next few years, including:

Housing Assistance: Eviction prevention, a conditions assessment of affordable housing properties, and options for alternative landlord-tenant dispute resolution;

Community Recovery: Small business and workforce development programs;

Equity & Disadvantaged Neighborhoods: Expansion of the Crisis Intervention Center, support for food insecurity, childcare, homeless services, digital equity and other programs to meet critical community needs;

Transit & Transportation: Pilot program to waive ART fare revenue for students as well as a short-term low-income bus fare assistance to residents who meet certain income requirements and need transit to access jobs, healthcare, schools, and other opportunities.

You can share your thoughts on the County Manager's proposed ARPA allocations and FY2021 Closeout Funding [here](#).

Expanding Housing Choice: Missing Middle Study During [Phase 1 of the Missing Middle Housing Study](#), the county study team relied on **community engagement to identify priorities and concerns** related to expanding housing supply and choice in Arlington and determine housing types to study in Phase 2. This included activities like an online kick-off event, a virtual dialogue on the study's [Research Compendium](#), a virtual listening tour, and two online feedback

opportunities. Staff also made presentations to multiple county advisory boards for their feedback. The Manager will present the [full report](#) to the County Board at their **November 16** meeting.

Centering Residents in Building Decisions [Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future](#) has studied the relationship between different building upgrades and benefits that flow to residents. That research was used to develop a **resident benefits framework** to help housing providers maximize resident benefit within the bounds of cost-effectiveness; prioritize measures that have no natural life cycle; and encourage resident-led upgrades and beneficial use of systems. The full report on these findings can be found [here](#).

Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) Planning Grant NVRC has issued a [Request for Applications](#) to fund affordable housing projects in [Planning District 8](#). NVRC's \$2.5 million allocation is part of a \$40 million funding initiative by **Virginia Housing** to **21 Planning District Commissions (PDCs)** across the Commonwealth. Each PDC will have an opportunity to tailor the funding to suit their District's housing needs, whether they be rental, homeownership, low-interest loans or grants. You can access the application with information on eligible activities and timeline [here](#). The Intent to Apply deadline is November 17.

New Rental Assistance Portal at the Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development Effective December 1, 2021, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will begin administering the federal rental assistance program for both landlords and tenants. Currently, **Virginia Housing** administers rental assistance to landlords through a separate portal. DHCD is working with **Virginia Interactive**, a digital service provider who will offer an updated, secure and user-friendly portal known as Gov2Go. While no system is perfect, we are fortunate that the state agencies have worked closely with local governments and community based organizations to identify and address bottlenecks in the rental relief process and adopt best practices to ensure that residents and landlords are aware of this program and receiving assistance as quickly as possible. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

The Role of Houses of Worship in Housing Enterprise Community Partners has been a regional leader in promoting the role of houses of worship in housing. In partnership with mission-oriented organizations, faith communities have contributed their land to develop affordable housing. There are examples of these partnerships in Arlington - [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#). To learn more about this strategy, join Enterprise for their **Faith-Based Development Initiative Annual Summit, Gatekeepers: The Role of Houses of Worship in Creating Equitable Community Development, Thursday, November 18, 1- 5:00 PM.** This year's summit explores the growing nationwide movement by houses of worship to develop their land into affordable homes and community amenities, and what the implications are for expanding racial equity. This event is free, but you must [register](#) to attend.

3D Printer Houses The recent announcement by Lennar Homes about their plans to build a 3D community in Austin, TX has taken this prototype concept to the next level. The first 3D homes are being constructed in Virginia and **HousingForward Virginia** has produced a fascinating video on our statewide progress, and the potential for how this exciting concept

might address development costs and affordability. We encourage you to watch [HousingX - 3D Printer House](#).

Alliance for Housing Solutions (AHS) Ellen Bozman Awards Event The annual **Ellen Bozman Affordable Housing Awards Ceremony** will honor those who represent three key levels of leadership - political, organizational and resident - that help make affordable housing a success. This year's honorees are: The Honorable Mary Margaret Whipple, Nina Janopaul and Elder Julio Basurto. This free, online event will be held on Sunday, November 14, 7 - 8:30 PM. Kindly register [here](#).

Finally, we say goodbye to **AHS Executive Director Michelle McDonough Winters**, who is stepping down from that position after five years of leading the organization. NVAHA has benefited from our partnership with AHS under Michelle's leadership, as has Arlington and the greater metro region. We will miss 'the other Michelle' as we jokingly refer to each other, and wish her the best in whatever path she chooses in her journey.