

**Local governments begin budget hearings in March**, starting with the City of Alexandria on March 10. With ample notice that FY2011 would be another year of budget shortfalls and severe cuts to human services, housing advocates organized last fall to discuss the priority of housing needs and funding recommendations to be considered for the coming fiscal year. The result of their efforts was the creation of housing proposals for three jurisdictions to be submitted to elected officials for budget deliberations.

**All Northern Virginia jurisdictions have experienced a dramatic increase in housing needs in the last two years, due to homelessness, foreclosures or job loss.** But many elected officials have expressed an unwillingness to provide the necessary resources for housing, citing budget deficits, a reliance on one-time federal stimulus dollars, and the need to support core local government services. Arlington is a notable exception, stating their commitment to maintaining support for affordable housing programs in budget guidance issued earlier this year.

Housing advocates must make the case for continued commitment to housing for the well-being of our community. Related investments in schools, services and transportation are less effective when families cannot find safe, affordable housing. Advocates are encouraged to become familiar with the proposals put forth for their jurisdictions, and voice their support at the upcoming public hearings. To review the housing recommendations for Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax County click on the links provided below.

Alexandria Housing Action Recommendations for Funding Priorities for FY2011  
<http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org/pdfs/TalkingPointsforCityofAlexandriaCouncilBudgetPublicHearingTestimony.pdf>

Arlington County Housing Commission Recommendations for Funding Priorities for FY2011  
[http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org/pdfs/ArlHousingCommission\\_letterFY2011.pdf](http://www.allianceforhousingolutions.org/pdfs/ArlHousingCommission_letterFY2011.pdf)

Fairfax County Housing Blueprint with Funding Priorities for FY2011  
<http://e-ffordable.org/documents/BlueprintSnapshot2.pdf>

To review the schedule of budget hearings for the various jurisdictions, go to the *FY2011 Budget Deliberations* article on the **News and Events** page.