



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of May 16, 2009**

DATE: April 30, 2009

SUBJECT: Expansion of Arlington's Community Action Agency Service Area

C. M. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Authorize expansion of Arlington's Community Action Agency service area into the City of Falls Church.
2. Designate one seat for a City of Falls Church representative on the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee (CDCAC) Low Income/NSA Sector.
3. Authorize the County Manager or his designee to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the County and the City of Falls Church.

ISSUE: Expansion of Arlington's Community Action Agency service area into the City of Falls Church will increase resources available to both jurisdictions.

SUMMARY: The City of Falls Church will submit a formal request to the State of Virginia's Department of Social Services asking that Arlington County be designated as the Community Action Agency serving residents of the City of Falls Church. The federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Act and the state Community Action Act provide for localities not currently being served by community action agencies to be served through the expansion of existing community action agencies. Expansion into Falls Church will increase Arlington's CSBG formula allocation by approximately \$40,000 and allow the City to benefit both from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds and FY 2010 funds available to Community Action Agencies.

BACKGROUND: The federal CSBG program, administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides funds to alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty in communities. In 2006, Arlington became the local Community Action Agency receiving CSBG funds through the state Department of Social Services, for the County. The City of Falls Church is not currently served by a Community Action Agency and including its population in the formula calculation for Arlington County's CSBG will increase the award.

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Jane M. Eboch, CPHD/Housing Division

DISCUSSION: The County has established a relationship with the City of Falls Church by way of a Cooperation Agreement for the receipt and use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME funds. The City Council has requested the County to expand our Community Action Agency service area into the City of Falls Church and will adopt a resolution to that effect on May 11, 2009.

Expansion will require that a seat representing the City of Falls Church be added to the CDCAC Low Income/NSA sector of the tripartite board. The Falls Church representative would be endorsed by the City Council and serve for no more than two 2 and 1/2 year terms.

Unlike the annual formula allocation of CDBG and HOME funds, the City will not receive any CSBG funds directly as a result of this action. Arlington will continue to receive and manage the funds through DCPHD and the Housing Division. The proposed expansion will allow the City to access activities delivered in Arlington County. Employment training and placement services for adults and youth are priority activities identified by the City at this time. These programs are offered at several locations easily accessible by Falls Church residents. Other programs to include Falls Church residents may be identified in the future, as funding allows.

The state Department of Social Services is unable to calculate the exact amount of FY 2010 CSBG and CSBG ARRA that will be available as a result of the expansion because other Community Action Agencies may also expand. Final amounts will be provided after May 18, 2009.

Citizen Comment: The CDCAC will review this request on May 6, 2009. The Committee's recommendation will be sent to the Board. The Falls Church City Council allowed opportunity for public comment.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact on net tax support. This action will increase Arlington's formula FY 2010 CSBG and CSBG ARRA funds slightly.