

NEIGHBORHOOD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The restructured program uses a neighborhood classification system with three tiers, each defining a level of need and establishing the foundation for the type and scope of assistance that is provided. Assignment to one of the three tiers is based on an assessment of socio-economic and other conditions in each neighborhood. The three tiers are: Neighborhood Focus Areas, Neighborhood Enhancement Areas and Neighborhood Outreach Areas.

The neighborhood classifications are as follows:

Tier 1: *Neighborhood Focus Areas* are the areas with the greatest socio-economic needs and receive the highest level and scope of services. Neighborhood planners take part in strategic planning, which involves the identification of 3-5 major needs and an implementation program to address them. The Neighborhood Focus Areas are the only areas to receive CDBG-funded neighborhood-specific programs and services.

Tier 2: *Neighborhood Enhancement Areas* face challenges to neighborhood stability which warrant early intervention. They are designated to receive focused attention—or priority planning—which involves identifying the need for enhanced County services to meet 1 or 2 priority needs. This will allow the County to devote limited resources to the most critical neighborhood issues as opposed to a broad spectrum of community needs to meet. The County may choose to expand a CDBG-funded program to an Enhancement Area to meet its priority need. The County will rely more on other local resources to meet Enhancement Areas' identified priority needs.

Tier 3: *Neighborhood Outreach Areas* are stable neighborhoods with high populations of low income persons but without major revitalization needs. They are designated to receive outreach, civic engagement support and monitoring. The focus in Outreach Areas is to ensure that low income households are aware of County-funded programs they are eligible for and to foster their participation in civic affairs.

The purpose of the classification system is to bring the attention of the County, community and nonprofits to the needs of all income-eligible areas. Another objective of the restructured program is that all areas receive increased outreach and advocacy based on their needs, planning and technical assistance from NSA planners, resident capacity building, and ongoing monitoring of physical conditions and trends.

Low income residents in all of the NSAs are underrepresented in civic activities. Resident capacity building efforts, such as the Neighborhood College, are designed to empower residents to participate in community dialogs and enhance their ability to advocate for services. Neighborhood College therefore will be open to residents of all NSAs.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS ANALYSIS

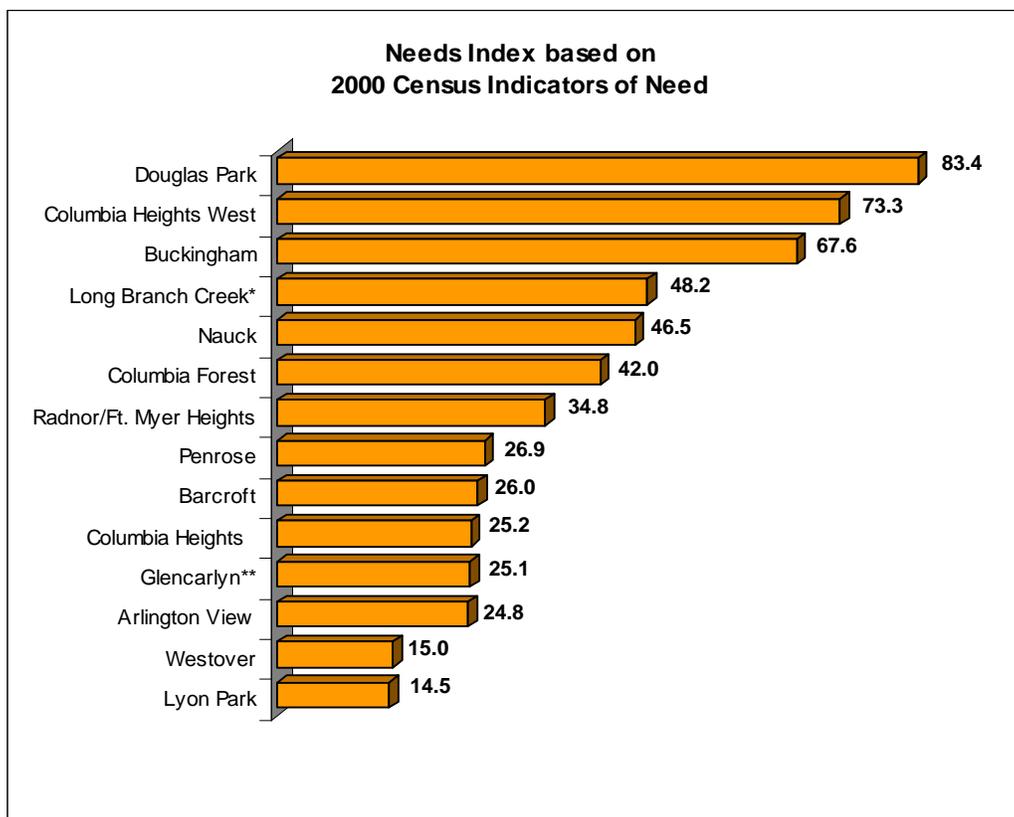
To spearhead the County's NSA re-designation process in 2003, an Interdepartmental Team reviewed the 14 eligible areas¹ and recommended classification within the tiers. The designation process consisted of a team analysis of 2000 Census socio-economic data, an assessment of neighborhood conditions and resident participation at community meetings.

Needs Index based on Census Data: Census data was analyzed to provide demographic profiles of the eligible areas. A Needs Index was developed to facilitate comparison of need in the 14 neighborhoods based on the economic and demographic data most indicative of need from the 2000 Census. The data used to compute the Needs Index is displayed in the following tables. Key indicators of economic need included unemployment, limited education, housing need, households paying over 30% of income for rent and age of housing.

¹ NSA designation is limited to areas where at least 51% of the residents are low and moderate income, making the areas eligible under Federal regulations for "area benefit" CDBG activities.

Needs Index based on 2000 Census Indicators of Need		
Eligible Block Groups are in these Neighborhoods	Need Index	Ranking of Need
Pike Village Center	83.4	1
Columbia Heights West	73.3	2
Buckingham	67.6	3
Long Branch Creek*	48.2	4
Nauck	46.5	5
Columbia Forest	42.0	6
Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights	34.8	7
Penrose	26.9	8
Barcroft	26.0	9
Columbia Heights	25.2	10
Glencarlyn**	25.1	11
Arlington View	24.8	12
Westover	15.0	13
Lyon Park	14.5	14

Census Need Indicators Used to Determine Needs Index (Using both percentages and numbers)
Low and Moderate Income Persons
Persons in Poverty
Paying over 30% of Income for Rent
Unemployed Persons
Persons with No High School Degree
Female Single Parent Households
Linguistically Isolated Households
Units Over 50 Years Old



*This neighborhood's Census data is no longer accurate. It does not reflect higher income residents who have moved into new buildings (e.g., Avalon at Arlington Square, The Metropolitan) or lower income residents moving out of The Colonies.

**This Census data reflects low income elders whose needs are being served through subsidized units at Woodland Hill

Eligible Block Groups are within these Neighborhoods:

	Census Tract	Block Groups	% Low and Moderate Income Persons	Number Low and Moderate Income Persons	% Persons in Poverty	Number Persons in Poverty	% Paying over 30% of Income for Rent	Number Paying over 30% of Income for Rent	% Unemployed Persons	Number Unemployed Persons	% Persons with No High School Degree	Number Persons with No High School Degree	% Female Single Parent Households	Number Female Single Parent Households	% Linguistically Isolated Households	Number Linguistically Isolated Households	% Units Over 50 Years Old	Number Units Over 50 Years Old
Pike Village Center	26; 27	1; 1, 2	80.2%	7,046	13%	1,126	37%	929	5.1%	342	35%	1,896	13%	374	25%	733	57%	1,790
Columbia Heights West	22	1, 2	75.8%	5,736	18%	1,333	41%	654	4.1%	240	39%	1,828	10%	257	24%	591	47%	1,205
Buckingham	20	1, 3-5	67.8%	5,446	14%	1,146	39%	1,169	3.1%	212	30%	1,713	4%	155	24%	853	54%	1,998
Long Branch Creek*	38	1	60.9%	2,735	9%	415	35%	362	3.7%	130	41%	1,118	11%	150	30%	415	49%	704
Nauck	31	1,2,3,4	67.1%	2,784	13%	530	40%	282	3.5%	117	31%	856	14%	221	8%	131	52%	842
Columbia Forest	28	1, 4	65.6%	4,212	8%	517	37%	687	2.1%	109	25%	1,106	7%	178	12%	338	35%	942
Radnor/Fort Myer Heights	17	1, 3, 5	58.3%	2,948	13%	656	33%	818	2.1%	97	10%	376	2%	66	13%	402	51%	1,746
Penrose	24; 25	2; 2	58.6%	1,786	9%	288	33%	387	1.8%	48	12%	280	5%	84	10%	151	70%	1,098
Barcroft	23	3	57.4%	1,155	17%	347	26%	123	3.2%	49	21%	277	9%	61	17%	116	47%	353
Columbia Heights	32	1	63.8%	2,875	8%	339	34%	791	1.1%	43	11%	346	4%	95	9%	219	28%	717
Glencarlyn**	21	2	56.9%	406	27%	190	35%	96	0.6%	5	38%	277	2%	8	37%	144	21%	86
Arlington View	33	1	60.9%	736	10%	116	24%	39	3.8%	39	32%	274	15%	57	1%	6	59%	267
Westover	9	4	59.5%	858	5%	68	21%	120	1.4%	16	10%	103	6%	40	7%	50	93%	676
Lyon Park	18	2	57.8%	1,138	7%	146	27%	276	0.5%	8	10%	149	2%	26	7%	79	73%	825

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Assessment of Neighborhood Conditions: The Needs Index was one tool to identify needs in the eligible areas. In addition, the Interdepartmental Team provided quantitative and qualitative information regarding neighborhood conditions, needs, requests for service and County efforts to address code enforcement, human services and public safety needs. The group developed criteria to utilize this information to classify areas into NSA tiers. The evaluation of information on neighborhood conditions for the eligible areas resulted in ratings of High, Medium or Low.

- **Code Enforcement Needs:** To assess current conditions in the eligible areas, staff considered critical factors that help to gauge the conditions that threaten a neighborhood's overall health. The team reviewed the level of code enforcement activity in each of the areas. Code Enforcement staff are responsible for enforcement of the Arlington County's Zoning Ordinance, Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code/ Maintenance of Existing Structures, Condition of Private Property, and Noise Control Ordinance. Staff rated the level of activity in each of the areas, evaluating the number of open cases, whether the caseload was primarily multifamily or single-family housing, and the existence of chronic ongoing and recurring code problems in order to form an overall assessment of property maintenance throughout the areas.

The neighborhoods were rated High if code enforcement activity involved both single-family and multifamily housing, if the majority of the cases involved serious or life threatening violations and if the area had a large number of open cases. The neighborhood was rated Medium if, in general, the code activity affected a small number of individual rental apartment units within apartment complexes and if the area had a few problem properties scattered throughout the area. Eligible areas received a Low rating if there were few ongoing cases.

- **Human Services Needs:** To determine the level of human services needs in the eligible areas, staff identified the number of households being served through the Department of Human Services' major assistance programs. The Interdepartmental Team assessed the level of service by examining the number of households being served and comparing the areas to each other. Scores were developed for each of the neighborhoods computing the percentage of households within the area receiving public assistance. With that data, the neighborhoods were ranked.
- **Public Safety Needs:** In evaluating public safety, staff reviewed counts of police incident reports by general types of crimes for each area over a one year period. Staff focused on four types of incidents to gauge the level of police activity in the eligible areas: aggravated assault, simple assault, vandalism and public

drunkenness. Rankings were based on the number of calls received per resident in these areas.

Attachment V devotes a page to each eligible area and provides additional demographic and housing data; the area's need index; a rating of high/medium/low for revitalization, human service and public safety needs; and additional information on specific issues in the eligible area.

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