



Red, White,
and Blue Book

NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

VIRGINIA
Spring 2010

www.icprwb.org

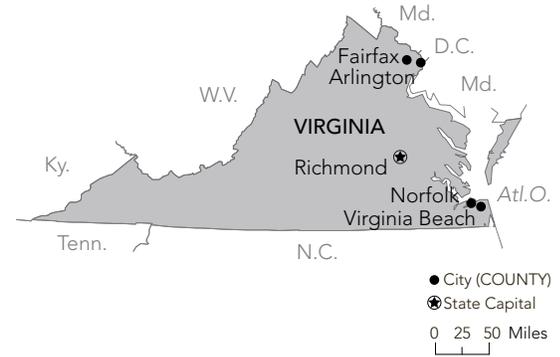
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND POVERTY

Virginia had an estimated 1,166 homeless families on a single night in 2008, with providers serving nearly three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness (VIACH) has been inactive since 2007. VIACH was tasked by former Governor Warner with creating an action plan to end homelessness, developing programs to reduce homelessness, and improving communication and interagency collaboration.

Governor's Appointee: None.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Virginia	Fairfax County ²	Virginia Beach	Norfolk	Arlington County
Persons in homeless families ³	3,631	1,091	251	139	126
Number of family shelter beds ⁴	4,574	1,141	263	174	212
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁵	13	27	15	17	22
Percent of families in poverty ⁶	10.78%	4.93%	7.72%	22.27%	7.27%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	No plan	2007	2007	2005	2006
10-Year plan target population	No plan	All	All	All	All
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments	Virginia Beach Homeless Advocacy and Resource Partnership	Norfolk Office to End Homelessness; Norfolk Homeless Consortium	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Homeward	Fairfax County Department of Administration for Human Services	Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation	The Planning Council	Arlington County Department of Human Services
Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant or main organizing agency	Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development	Fairfax County Department of Systems Management for Human Services	City of Virginia Beach Department of Housing and Neighborhood Preservation	The Planning Council	Arlington County Department of Human Services

Programs Administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development administers several statewide programs to prevent homelessness or connect homeless families and their children with needed services. The State Shelter Grant (SSG), in conjunction with the federal Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG), provides funding to emergency and transitional shelters serving families and individuals. Similar to ESG, SSG defrays shelter operating costs and supports service delivery to homeless clients. In 2009, SSG and ESG served 29,232 persons, including 7,893 children.⁷

The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Virginia and other states, visit www.icprwb.org



The Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) works to prevent homelessness by providing case management and housing counseling, as well as rental and mortgage assistance for up to nine months to individuals and families experiencing a temporary financial crisis. In 2009, HIP assisted 2,292 households with 2,905 children. Over half (57%) of households served were able to maintain or obtain housing. Although funding levels for the program remained stable despite a weak economy, the number of households turned away increased from 484 households in 2008 to 1,061 in 2009.⁸

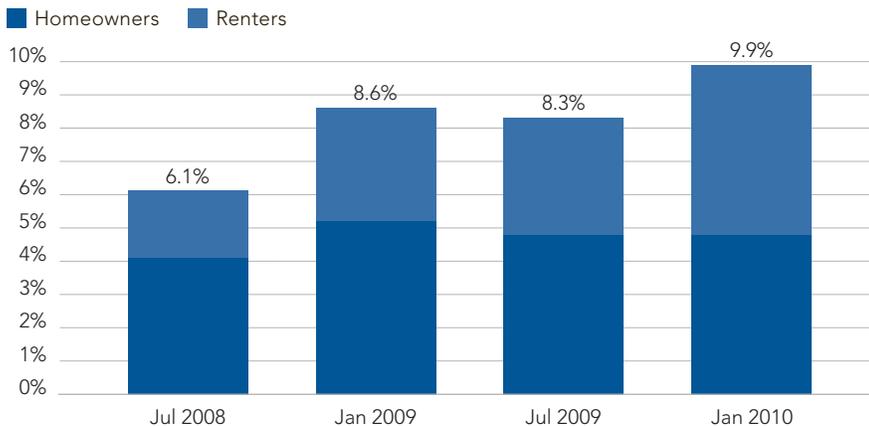
The Child Care for Homeless Children Program (CCHCP) provides funds to homeless parents living in emergency or transitional shelters to acquire off-site childcare services for up to 90 days. Eligibility is limited to parents who are currently employed or enrolled in job training or educational programs, while excluding parents actively seeking employment. Although CCHCP funding is generally capped at \$300,000 per year, the number of children receiving childcare through the program increased from 395 in 2008 to 452 in 2009.⁹

The Child Services Coordinator Grant (CSCG) provides funding to emergency and transitional shelters to employ in-house Child Services Coordinators (CSCs). The CSCs are responsible for screening all homeless children entering shelter to ensure that their health care, mental health, and educational needs are met. In 2009, CSCG funding ensured that 5,350 children residing in 51 facilities were screened and received services, primarily in the form of general health assessments and referrals to health care professionals.¹⁰

Foreclosure and Homelessness in Richmond

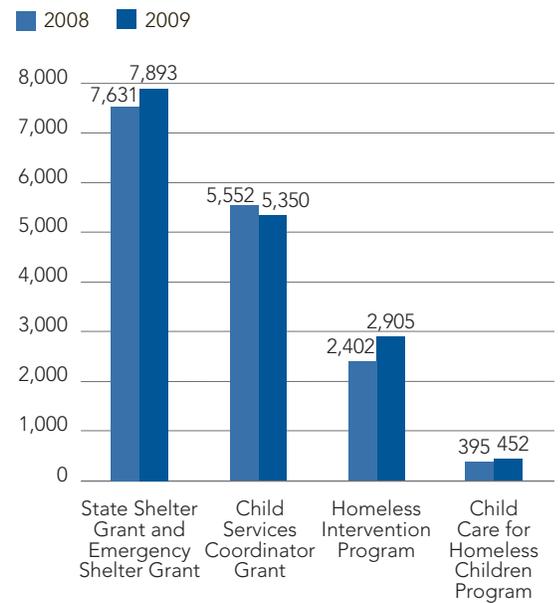
In the Richmond area, the percentage of homeless persons that have also gone through foreclosure has increased from 6% to 10% in the past two years.¹¹ Homeward, an organization that plans and coordinates homeless services in the Richmond area, has collected data on the impacts of foreclosure on homelessness biannually since July 2008. Although comparative data predating the recession has not been collected, Richmond serves as a unique example of a locality collecting data to explore the connection between foreclosures and homelessness. In July 2008, two thirds (67.7%) of surveyed homeless individuals and families affected by foreclosure owned the home that went into foreclosure, while in January 2010, just under half (48.5%) were homeowners.¹²

Percent of Persons Experiencing Foreclosure Prior to Homelessness



Source: Homeward, *Foreclosure data from the Richmond region: July 2008–January 2010*, March 30, 2010.

Number of Children Served by Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Programs (by year)



Source: Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Virginia Homeless Programs 2008–09*; Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Virginia Homeless Programs 2007–08*.

Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2008 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
- Statistics for Fairfax County include Fairfax and Falls Church cities.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Housing Inventory Chart Report*.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *2008 Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*.
- U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Virginia Homeless Programs 2008–09: House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees Report*.
- Ibid.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Virginia Homeless Programs 2008–09*; Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Child Care for Homeless Children Grant Program: Operations Manual—Fiscal Year 2009*.
- Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Child Services Coordinator Grant Program: Operations Manual—Fiscal Year 2009*; Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, *Virginia Homeless Programs 2008–09*.
- Statistics include the City of Richmond and the counties of Hanover, Henrico, and Chesterfield.
- Homeward, *Foreclosure data from the Richmond region: July 2008–January 2010*, March 30, 2010.