



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2026.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your electronic entry. Contact [Gage Harter](#) with any questions.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Fairfax County

Program Title: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Program Category: Health & Human Services

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Thomas Fleetwood

Title: Director, Housing and Community Development

Department: Department of Housing and Community Development

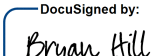
Telephone: 703-246-5103 Website: <https://www.fcrha.org/post/fairfax-county-takes-next-critical-steps-to-bring-more-affordable-housing-to-people-with-serious-men>

Email: Thomas.Fleetwood@fairfaxcounty.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Bryan Hill

Title: County Executive

Signature: 

DocuSigned by:

Bryan Hill

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Executive Summary

To increase housing stability and access to supportive and affordable rental housing options for persons with serious mental illness, the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) established a program to support 300 new permanent supportive housing units. FCRHA accomplished this by entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) in 2025. Through this partnership, DBHDS will provide up to \$20 million to the FCRHA over the course of three years to support the new permanent supportive housing units.

Critical supportive services, such as psychiatry, case management, skill-building, and psychosocial rehabilitation, will be provided under separate MOAs between DBHDS and Pathways Homes and between DBHDS and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB). In addition to the supportive services, funding for leasing-related costs such as moving expenses, security deposits, and other expenses is included, which can help participants successfully find homes.

The model of the program can be used throughout the Commonwealth, as each partner in the program provides unique services aligned with their mission and expertise, providing critical support services for individuals who may otherwise experience significant barriers in the housing market.

Problem/Challenge/Situation faced by the locality

There is a tremendous need for supportive housing throughout the Commonwealth, particularly for individuals living with severe mental illness. One step to address this problem is through Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs, an evidence-based approach that provides permanent rental housing in conjunction with various community-based services that support the treatment and rehabilitative needs of individuals. DBHDS conducted research in 2020, noting that 5,000 units of PSH are needed throughout the Commonwealth ([dbhds-psh-fact-sheet-2020.pdf](#)). Research demonstrates that PSH models can reduce crises, the need for institutional care, and the utilization of emergency services for individuals who may otherwise face substantial challenges in securing and maintaining housing. Importantly, PSH programs can help reduce and prevent episodes of homelessness for individuals with complex needs.

The acute lack of affordable housing for households across all income levels in Fairfax County has only increased the need for PSH. On the night of the 2025 Point-in-Time Count, there were 1,322 people experiencing homelessness in Fairfax County, an increase of three percent (44 people) from 2024. As more low-income households and individuals are priced out of housing in the county, individuals with very low-income levels and other barriers to stable housing are at even greater risk of homelessness.

An Innovative Solution

To address the critical need for more permanent supportive housing, the FCRHA entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DBHDS in 2025. The overall goal of the new program is to increase housing stability and access to supportive, affordable rental housing options for persons with serious mental illness (SMI). Individuals eligible to participate in the program are those who: have at least one adult household member who has SMI; have an adjusted annual income that is at or below 50% of the Area Median Income; and are referred to the FCRHA by either Pathway Homes or the CSB.

Fairfax County was the first to complete a MOA with DBHDS and, through this new partnership, will receive up to \$20 million over the course of three years to support 300 new permanent supportive housing units. Critical supportive services, such as psychiatry, case management, skill-building, and psychosocial rehabilitation, will be provided under separate MOAs between DBHDS and Pathways Homes and between DBHDS and the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB). In addition to the supportive services provided by these MOAs, funding for leasing-related costs such as moving expenses, security deposits, and other expenses are included, which can help participants successfully find homes.

As outlined in the agreement, the FCRHA is administering the program similarly to how it administers the federal housing choice voucher program. Under the program, fifty (50) units of rental assistance are earmarked for ACT participants, with the remaining two hundred and fifty (250) units for people eligible for the DBHDS PSH SMI model. Importantly,

as DBHDS seeks to further expand investment in permanent supportive housing programs in Fairfax, the partnership, as outlined in the MOA with the FCRHA, provides a potential avenue for continued and expanded investment as needed. The agreement established new positions at the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the county agency that supports the FCRHA to implement the PSH program.

The program pairs two evidence-based practices - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) - to form an ACT-PSH program. Together, these practices are intended to address high-priority goals for the Commonwealth and Fairfax County, such as reducing the census at state psychiatric hospitals and resolving homelessness among individuals with SMI. The program prioritizes individuals experiencing long-term or repeated episodes of homelessness; individuals who are frequently in contact with crisis, hospital, or criminal justice systems due to their housing instability; individuals leaving state psychiatric hospitals; and those residing in congregate care settings, especially those with high concentrations of individuals with SMI.

The agreement outlines several key components of the program regarding the administration of rental assistance. Generally, the program is administered in conformance with the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. Program and participant data is shared live between DBHDS and FCHRA program staff, using a housing management platform called Housing Pro. This ensures that real-time data is shared, including referral status, leasing levels, and expenditures. The MOA also includes an annual funding allocation with an approved budget to fund up to 300 households and associated staffing expenses. The

three-year initial MOA is for \$9.7 million with the option to renew the MOA in one-year increments up to five times.

Innovation, dedication, and unwavering determination resulted in the launch of the PSH program. As noted by Tom Fleetwood, Director, HCD, “Increasing access to affordable housing reduces homelessness. To be successful, we need to think about the individual’s whole life and what is needed to get them back on their feet. That is why this funding is so important – it provides critical support services along with rental assistance needed for people to be successful in their new home.” Through its innovative and person-centered design, the program recognizes and capitalizes on the strengths of multiple partners, creatively builds on current expertise, and focuses efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness in Fairfax County among residents with complicated circumstances that can often prevent their success in independent living.

Intergovernmental Partnerships Are Key to Success.

At the core of the PSH program are strong partnerships between the Commonwealth, the FCRHA, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB), and non-profit service providers. From an idea to the signing of the MOA, Fairfax County staff spent innumerable hours developing a strong relationship with DBHDS to identify strategic solutions to challenges and to include other partners in the program. Importantly, the CSB plays a critical role in the program, including planning assistance, the allocation of in-kind resources, the provision of clinical services, and administrative support. CSB

screens and refers individuals most in need of housing assistance to the FCRHA. This focus ensures that priority access to permanent supportive housing units is granted to those transitioning from state hospitals and temporary residential settings, or to those experiencing chronic homelessness. The CSB also administers client assistance funds provided by the state to help cover essential expenses for individuals moving into permanent supportive housing units, helping individuals to have smooth transitions, greater stability, and enhanced positive long-term outcomes.

The CSB has also sought efforts to increase Critical Time Intervention (CTI) workers to expand and enhance its existing supportive housing team. Recognized as an evidence-based practice, CTI workers provide intensive support during transitional periods, crucial for individuals navigating the complexities of securing and maintaining stable housing.

Partnerships between DBHDS, the FCRHA, the CSB, and Pathway Homes are paramount in the success of the program and ultimately the successful housing of individuals with SMI. Each partner plays a unique role, focusing on their expertise, staff knowledge, and experience. As the program evolves, stakeholders anticipate creating a positive impact on individual lives, ultimately resulting in a more inclusive community that everyone can afford to call home.

Results and Replicability of the PSH Model

Conversations with DBHDS were initiated over the course of several years, with the final MOA signed in May 2025. The program has been launched gradually, to assist an

average of eight new households per month and ultimately assist ten households per month. Four new staff positions have been created to manage the program over time. To date, two full-time staff, a housing specialist and supervisor, have been onboarded and are focusing on initial implementation. Of the 36 referrals that the team has processed, 12 households have successfully leased, and 10 remain housed. Given the complex needs of the population, the nature of the program, and difficulties households face in finding housing in Fairfax County, the FCRHA and DBHDS are working collaboratively to address impediments to full utilization.

While the MOA agreement is specific between DBHDS and the FCRHA, the model of the program is one that can be used throughout the Commonwealth. Each partner in the program provides unique services aligned with their mission and expertise. Together, these “puzzle pieces” fit together to build a comprehensive program offering not only rental assistance but critical support services for individuals who may otherwise experience significant barriers in the housing market. This focused and forward-thinking approach will ultimately prevent and reduce homelessness in Fairfax County. While partnerships can take a while to fully form, investing time in cultivating relationships, identifying specific needs, and outlining a PSH program will result in success. The MOA between DBHDS and the FCRHA can also serve as a resource to replicate the model in other areas.