

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations approved the following Resolution on January 28, 2009.

HHS-09-01

2009 "Critical Needs in Human Services"

1. WHEREAS the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) has long recognized that strategic investments in human services programs can and do save public funds by minimizing need for more costly responses to community crises;

2. WHEREAS Fairfax County has a long record of combining local with state and federal funds to support effective programs that are valued and demanded by County residents;

3. WHEREAS many publicly supported programs provide human services so essential that they are mandated through Federal or State statutes, such as: services for children, under the Comprehensive Services Act and foster care; certain services in public health, mental health and mental retardation; early intervention and child and adult protective services; and some services for senior citizens; and **whereas** state funding to maintain these programs cannot be reduced further without shifting a significant additional burden to localities, unless state requirements are also reduced;

4. WHEREAS declining state revenues and county revenues, in the midst of a national economic downturn, are threatening to weaken the safety net for many of our most vulnerable citizens, now at the very moment of increasing need; and

5. WHEREAS County staff prepared for approval by the Board of Supervisors a DRAFT *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program* that included a *Supplement*, an Issue Paper titled *Critical Needs in Human Services*; and this DRAFT *Program* for County advocacy with Commonwealth officials and agencies was posted on the County's web site and distributed by Supervisor Hyland to the MVCCA General Council in November 2008; and the *Supplement* on human services was also distributed to MVCCA's Health and Human Services Committee in December for consideration as described in their Report to the January *MVCCA RECORD*;

6. WHEREAS the Issue Paper *Critical Needs in Human Services* recommends for remedial actions at the State level (1) historically under-funded mandatory programs that are being weakened as populations in need grow and (2) particular health and human services where cuts in State funding will be especially short-sighted and counter-productive now, increasing both state and local costs over time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations expresses support for the Issue Paper *Critical Needs in Human Services*, now approved by the Board of Supervisors as part of the *2009 Fairfax County Legislative Program*, and commends this statement of recommended state actions to the attention of our elected state legislators in the 2009 Virginia General Assembly.