

Implementation Plan for Housing Policy Recommendations

Completed Activities			
Recommendation	Goal/Success	Strategy	Status Update
1.3 Eliminate undue barriers to the provision of loss mitigation counseling.	Enactment of SB 786	1.3.1 Support a technical amendment to the SAFE Act to eliminate undue and burdensome licensure requirements for certified foreclosure mitigation counselors engaged solely in activities that do not constitute traditional loan origination functions.	SB 786 was signed into law by the Governor as Chapter 301. Subsequently, nonprofit housing counselors were exempt when performing loss mitigation services. However, state requirements are now more restrictive than federal. Federal law has exempted Housing Finance Authorities and local governments.
1.4 Enhance economic literacy among Virginia's high school students.	Maintain funding for teacher training on new high school requirements	1.4.1 Work with the Virginia Council on Economic Education (VCEE) to monitor and support the implementation of the new economic literacy curriculum in k-12 education.	Budget cuts to VCEE (part of VCU budget) restored by Conferees will enable teacher training on the high school requirement to continue as planned.
2.2 Enhance the ability of state and local agencies to offer consistent incentives for housing developments that incorporate "visitability" and Universal Design standards.	Enactment of HB 1950	2.2.2 Enhance Virginia's Easy Living home public-private partnership.	HB 1950 regarding the Livable Homes Tax Credit was signed into law by the Governor as Chapter 365. The program's informational brochure has been updated to reflect the latest program changes.

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2011 Priorities				
Lead Agency(s) and Lead Staff	Recommendation	Goal/Success	Strategies	Status Update
DHCD (Bill Shelton)	1.1 Initiate a review of existing regulations with a major impact on housing to streamline processes and mitigate costs.	Completed review process providing specific recommendations for modifying/streamlining regulatory processes or the content of regulations	1.1.1 Establish a task force convened by the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.	The task force met on August 26 and October 14. At the initial meeting group identified priority areas of concern in transportation, stormwater-related regulations and sewage handling. Other areas of lesser concern were noted and problematic areas of local and federal regulation discussed. At the October meeting, representatives of VDOT, DCR and the Health Department reviewed major relevant regulations and recent policy or regulatory changes that relate directly or indirectly to the ability of the housing industry to produce affordable housing. Agencies were encouraged to follow through with changes currently in process. A third meeting with the Governor's Washington liaison is scheduled for December 5 to identify efforts to address relevant federal regulatory policies affecting housing.
			1.1.2 Evaluate regulations impacting housing to streamline processes and ensure benefits justify associated costs.	
	1.2 Develop an enhanced administrative process to ensure adequate review of the impact of proposed regulations on housing.	Implementation of an enhanced process for identifying and evaluating the impact of proposed regulations on key aspects of housing	1.2.1 Modify the existing regulatory review process to require state policy-making bodies to prepare written statements identifying and responding to any significant impact by proposed regulations on housing accessibility, cost, and availability.	Draft of possible additional language for E.O. 14 (2010) and a brief discussion of the points included have been submitted to the Office of the Secretary for review by the Policy Office. No changes in the E.O. are currently anticipated.

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	2.2 Enhance the ability of state and local agencies to offer consistent incentives for housing developments that incorporate “visitability” and Universal Design standards.	Adoption of consensus visitability/Universal Design standards by agencies for the purpose of offering program incentives	2.2.1 Establish a stakeholder workgroup convened by the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to develop voluntary “visitability” and Universal Design standards.	Internal workgroup has been created and a draft concept plan for process and timeline, and an outline of discussion points have been prepared for discussion. Final report is anticipated in 2012.
	3.7 Address ongoing concerns regarding rental housing non-compliance with federal fair housing accessibility requirements.	Identification of specific, systemic problems followed by appropriate corrective actions if necessary	3.7.1 Review building codes and code enforcement practices to determine if changes in regulatory requirements or enforcement procedures are warranted.	Agreement was made between HOME and DHCD to convene a small working group to explore concerns with the existing regulatory construct and whether changes were needed. Participants have been identified. Staff is still working on finding a mutually convenient time for the meeting. Information from the HOME Accessibility Compliance report has been reviewed and is being used to guide the allocation of future training resources for local building officials with the intent of assuring that local inspections are effective in assuring compliance with the accessibility features of the building code. Four building code academy training sessions specifically addressing accessibility in commercial and residential properties have been added to the continuing education offerings for March-June 2012

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DHCD (Bill Shelton)	4.0 Implement Homeless Outcomes Action Plan	Reduce homelessness by 15%		
			Increase flexibility of funding to prevent homelessness and support rapid re-housing	DHCD has changed the federally-funded Emergency Shelter Grant to allow for prevention and rapid re-housing activities. DHCD has launched a pilot program with state homeless services funds to begin implementing rapid re-housing activities. DHCD has entered into collaboration with the Freddie Mac Foundation, the National Alliance to End Homelessness and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness to provide training, technical assistance and challenge grants for homeless service providers undertaking rapid re-housing.

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			Increase statewide data collection and system coordination	<p>A coordinating council has been established comprised of state agency heads, CoC representatives and service providers. It meets regularly and coordinates state agency resources and activities to more efficiently reduce homelessness. Four committees work under the Council. A pilot project is in the planning stages to improve HMIS data quality and consistency.</p> <p>DHCD and DBHDS are undertaking a joint survey to assess housing needs and development interests from CSBs. The two agencies are also planning a joint training on development options.</p> <p>A Homeless Advisory Committee has been established to provide feedback to the Coordinating Council. It meets two to three times a year.</p> <p>Funding from the Freddie Mac Found. collaboration will be used to hire a Coordinating Council staff person.</p> <p>2011 Point in Time data has been compiled. A training session for the 2012 PIT was scheduled for late October.</p> <p>Both DBHDS and DMAS have hired housing coordinators.</p>

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			Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units	DHCD has reserved \$200,000 for predevelopment activities for special needs housing. DBHDS conducted four regional trainings for CSBs and local housing and service organization on providing housing and services through a permanent supportive housing model.
			Increase access to substance abuse and mental health treatment	A Lynchburg area nonprofit has asked DHCD for assistance in identifying potential resources to develop a regional Healing Place facility. DBHDS conducted a training conference on crisis intervention and jail diversion programs. DBHDS is conducting cross-system mapping to improve linkages between regional criminal justice and behavioral health systems. DBHDS has added a new SOAR project coordinator.
			Implement statewide pre-discharge policies for the foster care system, hospitals, mental health facilities and correctional facilities.	VDOC is re-evaluating existing pre-discharge practices in light of new electronic offender management system requirements. Identifying ways to educate hospital discharge planners on alternatives to discharging patients to homeless shelters.

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VHDA (Susan Dewey)	Establish the Virginia Foreclosure Task Force	Provide timely state response to foreclosure issues	Recommend actions to the GA on 2010 foreclosure bills referred to the Task Force for review	Monthly Task Force meetings were held to review the issues contained in each of the 2010 bills referred by the GA in preparation for a response following the November Task Force meeting. A draft response has been created and is being reviewed by the task force.
			Monitor and respond to emerging foreclosure issues	VHDA is providing in-depth quarterly analytic updates to the Task Force on foreclosure trends in Virginia. An update is being prepared for posting on the website in early December.
			Maintain a state foreclosure information web portal for consumers and policy makers	VHDA is providing ongoing management and updating of www.virginiaforeclosureinfo.com
DHCD/VHDA (Bill Shelton/ Susan Dewey)	3.2 Create a structure authorizing a state housing trust fund to enable a consistent source of “gap” financing for affordable housing development.	Decision on whether to proceed for 2012 session, and, if so, the recommended funding strategy to pursue	3.2.1 Establish a workgroup convened by the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade to consider legislation creating the authority, structure, source of revenues, and funding priorities for a state housing trust fund.	Draft “white paper” prepared reviewing aspects of the housing trust approach and discussing possible financing alternatives submitted to the Secretary’s Office. At their request, DHCD staff met with the Deputy Secretaries of Finance and a Governor’s Fellow on June 7 to discuss issues relating to housing trust funds in general and financial options.
	3.6 Address local barriers to affordable housing.	Consensus on a revised bill, and passage of that bill in the 2012 GA	3.6.1 Participate in the Virginia Housing Commission’s 2011 workgroup to reach consensus on a bill that can pass the GA.	The 2011 bills were referred back to the Virginia Housing Commission for further work. The Commission still has the bills under review but no consensus has been reached to date. The final Housing Commission meeting for 2011 will be on December 13.

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HHR (Secry. Hazel/ Office of Community Integration)	3.3 Establish and align state priorities and program resources to promote a continuum of quality housing options for special needs populations.	Create community housing alternatives to state training centers	3.3.1 Develop and implement a response plan to DOJ Audit findings	Secry. Hazel is centralizing interagency community integration planning within his office under the leadership of a new permanent head of Virginia's Office of Community Integration.
	3.4 Maintain and enhance administrative structures that support inter-agency and inter-secretariat collaboration in addressing special housing needs.	Appointment of new Community Integration leader to direct ongoing efforts in this area.	3.4.1 Affirm commitment to 2007 Executive Directive #6, establishing an interagency collaborative structure for completing and annually updating a comprehensive, cross-governmental strategic plan to assure continued community integration of Virginians with disabilities.	
	3.5 Reform existing state assisted-living funding programs to expand access to non-institutional, community housing options.	Reach consensus on program reforms, which the GA will support	3.5.1 Establish an inter-agency workgroup to develop funding structure recommendations that support an array of quality supportive housing alternatives.	Secry. Hazel may need to shift this to a 2012 priority in light of the criticality of a timely response to the DOJ Audit.

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2012 Priorities				
Lead Agency(s) and Lead Staff	Recommendations	Strategies	Agencies Involved	2011 Interim Actions and Status Update
DHCD/VHDA (Bill Shelton/ Susan Dewey)	1.5 Address the integral linkage of housing, employment and transportation through establishment and alignment of land use priorities and incentives.	1.5.1 Charge state agencies with identifying specific means for promoting state priorities (as outlined in report) and stimulating local/regional economic development, affordable housing development and funding sources.	DHCD, VHDA, CLG, VEDP, VDOT, DRPT, VBPD, Aging, DRS	<p>VDOT—continues to oversee local UDA planning grants with the initial round closing out by year’s end</p> <p>VDRPT – continues to provide planning and technical assistance to local and regional bodies in developing mixed –use transit corridors to better link housing and jobs</p> <p>VPBD—provide local technical assistance on use of Housing/ Transportation Tool Kit</p> <p>VHDA—conduct analysis of location of affordable rental housing relative to employment centers and public transit</p> <p>Establish baseline of current activities and use Housing Conference to consider policy options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency meeting held May 18 to identify current activities • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee met on July 12 to discuss priorities for 2012. • VHDA, DHCD and DRPT staff met on Oct. 12 to discuss TOD policy related activities and prepare for Governor’s Housing Conference TOD policy session • Interagency meeting held on Oct. 21 to discuss UDA planning • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 12
	2.1 Establish and align state priorities and incentives to promote private housing development that supports sustainable communities.	2.1.1 Charge state agencies with identifying specific means for promoting state priorities (as outlined in report) and stimulating local/regional action through development of program incentives, provision of technical assistance, and public/private partnerships.	DHCD, VHDA, VRA, DMME, DHR, VBPD, SILC, Aging, DRS	<p>HHR/DRS—complete Blueprint for Livable Communities</p> <p>VHDA—implement enhanced Green Building incentives in Tax Credit Program</p> <p>DHCD—invest new federal energy funds</p> <p>Establish baseline of current activities and use Housing Conference to consider policy options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee met on July 12 to discuss priorities for 2012. • Interagency meeting scheduled for Oct. 18 to discuss status of work plan activities. • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 12.

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2012 Priorities				
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	3.1 Establish and align state priorities and incentives to expand housing options	3.1.1 Charge state agencies with identifying specific means for promoting state priorities (as outlined in report) and stimulating local/regional action through development of program incentives, provision of technical assistance, and public/private partnerships.	DHCD, VHDA	<p>DHCD—review use of state and federal funds</p> <p>VHDA—review QAP allocations and REACH priorities</p> <p>Establish baseline of current activities and use Housing Conference to consider policy options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHDA is currently engaged in a review of the REACH programs to ensure the most effective and efficient use and alignment with housing initiatives in Virginia. • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 12.
HHR (Secy. Hazel/ Office of Community Integration)	3.3 Establish and align state priorities and program resources to promote a continuum of quality housing options for special needs populations.	3.3.1 Charge state agencies with identifying specific means for promoting state housing priority (as outlined in report) through development of housing assistance programs, provision of technical assistance, program/regulatory requirements, inter-agency memoranda of understanding, and public-private partnerships.	DHCD, VHDA, DBHDS, VBPD, Aging, DRS, SILC	<p>HHR—Develop/implement a response plan to DOJ Audit findings (see 2011 priorities)</p> <p>HHR—Coordinate state agency priorities and responses through Community Integration planning process</p> <p>Establish baseline of current activities and use Housing Conference to consider policy options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee met on July 12 to discuss priorities for 2012. • HP Workgroup and Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for Dec. 12.