Virginia Housing Policy Framework Initiative Update

Virginia Housing Commission
November 17, 2010
Bob Sledd
Senior Economic Advisor to Governor McDonnell

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE
RICHMOND

Why a State Housing Policy Framework?

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE
RICHMOND

2

Housing is an Important State Priority

- Housing helps define communities and is a major component in determining the quality of life for individuals, families, and the Commonwealth's general prosperity.
- Along with a good job, affordable housing provides the building blocks for the American Dream.
- Housing is a major force in the prosperity of the Commonwealth.
- A healthy economic environment for housing significantly contributes to the vitality of the overall economy.

Housing Intersects with Other Important State Policy Priorities

- Clear and consistent housing policy is an essential factor in economic development, the provision of human services, and the development of transportation systems.
- Location, arrangement and cost of housing also intersects with broad urban and rural policies.

Housing is Impacted by Decisions in Other Policy Arenas

- Regulatory actions and land use decisions that impact residential development need to consider their effect on housing costs and the ability of Virginians to access a full array of quality, accessible housing options.
- Shifting people from an institutions to a community-based disability service focus has increased the already existing need for affordable, accessible community housing choices.

Housing Issues Increasingly Cross Agency and Secretariat Boundaries

- The work of the Commonwealth's housing policy framework initiative will be carried out through re-aligning existing resources to address our priorities, in the absence of new revenues.
- Effective housing strategies for special needs populations require joint, collaborative approaches by housing, human service, Veterans and correctional agencies.
- Solutions to metropolitan transportation needs require better coordination of economic development with housing and transit.

Housing Policy Process

RICHMOND

7

Housing Policy Initiative Process

- Began with the efforts of the Virginia Housing Commission (Guiding Principles for State Housing Policy)
- Used Executive Order #10 as a framework
- Created Work Group and Advisory Committee for broad input
- Worked with VCU who collected on-line input and facilitated discussions

RICHMOND

8

Housing Policy Initiative Process (cont.)

- Created Homelessness Outcomes Advisory Committee and held public meetings
- Created Virginia Foreclosure Task Force and held public meetings
- Created Housing Policy website: www.virginiahousingpolicy.com
- Created Foreclosure Task Force website: www.virginiaforeclosureinfo.com

Housing Policies and Strategies

Recognize the Role of the Housing Industry as a Critical Economic Development Engine

Action:

Established the Virginia Foreclosure Task Force

Recommendations:

1. Initiate a review of existing regulations with a major impact on housing to streamline processes and mitigate costs.
2. Develop an enhanced administrative process to ensure adequate review of the impact of proposed regulations on housing.
3. Eliminate undue barriers to the provision of loss mitigation counseling.

Recognize the Role of the Housing Industry as a Critical Economic Development Engine (cont.)

4. Enhance economic literacy among Virginia's high school students.
5. Address the integral linkage of housing, employment and transportation through establishment and alignment of land use priorities and incentives.

Promote Sustainable and Vibrant Communities

Recommendations:

1. Establish and align state priorities and incentives to promote private housing development which supports sustainable communities.
2. Enhance the ability of state and local agencies to offer consistent incentives for housing developments that incorporate "visitability" and Universal Design.

Ensure the Provision of a Range of Housing Options

Recommendations:

1. Establish and align state priorities and incentives to promote expanded housing options.
2. Create a structure authorizing a state housing trust fund to enable a consistent source of "gap" financing for affordable housing development.
3. Establish and align state priorities and program resources to promote a continuum of quality housing options for special needs populations.
4. Maintain and enhance administrative structures that support inter-agency and inter-secretariat collaboration in addressing special housing needs.

Ensure the Provision of a Range of Housing Options (cont.)

5. Reform existing state assisted-living funding programs to expand access to non-institutional, community housing options.
6. Address barriers to affordable housing.
7. Address ongoing concerns regarding rental housing non-compliance with federal fair housing accessibility requirements.

Prevent and Reduce Homelessness

Action:

Established the Homelessness Outcomes Advisory Committee

Homelessness Action Plan Overall Target:

Reduce homelessness in the Commonwealth by fifteen percent over the next three years

Homeless Action Plan Goals

1. Increase the number of permanent supportive housing units in the Commonwealth.
2. Increase flexibility of funding to prevent homelessness and support Rapid Re-housing for individuals and families.
3. Increase statewide data collection and system coordination.
4. Increase access to substance abuse and mental health treatment.
5. Evaluate, develop and ensure implementation of statewide, pre-discharge policies for the foster care system, hospitals, mental health and corrections facilities.

Next Steps

Next Steps

1. Develop a detailed action plan for implementing appropriate recommendations.
2. Work closely and cooperatively with both the Housing and Disability Commissions on proposed legislation.
3. Review and analyze other important housing issues not currently addressed in the initial recommendations.
4. Re-align existing resources to address priorities, in the absence of new revenues.
5. We will continue to keep you appraised of our progress.

Housing Policy Information

Housing Policy Websites

- Housing Policy website: www.virginiahousingpolicy.com
- Foreclosure Task Force website: www.virginiaforeclosureinfo.com

Questions and Answers

Thank You!

RICHMOND

23