

# For ACHSO Members: TALKING POINTS

*Meeting Needs Today: A Needs Assessment of the Alexandria Human Services System- Volume 2*  
A Report Presented by the Alexandria Council of Human Services Organizations (ACHSO)

## What is the report?

*Meeting Needs Today: A Needs Assessment of the Alexandria Human Services System - Volume 2* is the second report in a series of reports planned by ACHSO. Formal focus groups and a broadly disseminated survey sought to engage stakeholders to discuss access to services and information, barriers to progress since the previous study, and recommendations for future activity.

## What is the goal of the report?

To provide a snapshot update of impressions regarding the state of Alexandria's human services system – services, service gaps and service improvements – since the last needs assessment in 2008.



## How can I use the report?

As an **advocacy tool to educate** the public and policy makers about the challenges faced by the children, youths and families that reside in the city, and also as a **tool to assist in the pursuit of resources** to help support a stronger and more robust human services support system.

## What are the key issues?

Repeated across all of the data gathering sources, stakeholders referenced the need for:

1. Development of **more affordable housing**
2. **Early intervention** for physical and behavioral health and developmental issues for youth
3. **Bridging the information gap** for immigrant non-English speakers, and most specifically immigrants who also cannot read or write in their native language
4. **Bridging the eligibility gap** between subsidy levels (Medicaid, childcare, etc.) and income needed to afford the market cost of services
5. Enhancing **nonprofit advocacy** – particularly at the local and state levels.

## What next?

Specific recommendations on action items for each of the above issues are shared in the report.

## How can I help?\*

Share the report: get it into the hands of those who can help make a difference. Share it these ways:

- A limited number of printed copies are available; a one-page fact sheet is also available
- A PDF version is available online at [www.alexandriava.gov/ACHSO](http://www.alexandriava.gov/ACHSO)
- Social media content will be shared using the #AlexandriaVANEeds hashtag. Follow @AlexandriaCHSO.

*\* Please refer to "For ACHSO Members: OUTREACH TASKS" document for specific tools and tips to get the most out of the report and help it reach as many community members as possible.*