

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
- 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.*