

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: MARCH 20, 2012
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER 
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO# 13: HEALTHY FAMILIES ALEXANDRIA

This memorandum is a response to a request from City Council to provide information about the budget gap faced by Healthy Families Alexandria (HFA) as presented by Mary Agee, President and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS), at the March 5, 2012, public hearing on the proposed FY 2013 budget.

Over the past two years, state-wide funding for Healthy Families Virginia was significantly reduced from \$4,925,501 in FY 2010 to \$3,425,501 in FY 2012. This reduction translated into a budget reduction of \$56,607 to Healthy Families Alexandria. Last year Northern Virginia Family Services requested City General Fund dollars as part of the FY 2012 budget process to address the budget gap for Healthy Families Alexandria to prevent the loss of a full-time Family Support Worker (home visitor) who serves between 25-30 families each year. One-time funding in the amount of \$56,607 was approved for FY 2012 following the budget process after staff was able to clarify the details surrounding the State's reduction to Healthy Families (see Attachment 1). The \$56,607 reduction in State funding is ongoing.

This year the Governor included an additional 11% cut to Healthy Families Virginia in his proposed budget. The Senate version of the budget recommends restoration of the \$380,000, but the House version does not. There is much uncertainty about the state budget deliberations. Should the Governor's proposed budget go forward, this would result in an additional \$20,450 cut for HFA for a potential budget gap of \$77,057 in FY 2013 (the \$56,607 provided by the City in FY 2012 was one-time funding).

ATTACHMENT:

1. Memo from City Manager Rashad M. Young (2/23/12) to City Council: Follow Up and Resolution of Health Families Alexandria's request for funds to restore FY 2012 State Budget Reductions

STAFF: Laura Triggs, Acting Chief Financial Officer
Morgan Routt, Acting Budget Director
Kendel Taylor, Assistant Budget Director

Michael Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
Deborah Warren, Director, Center for Children and Youth, DCHS

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: FEBRUARY 23, 2012

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: RASHAD M. YOUNG, CITY MANAGER *RM*

SUBJECT: FOLLOW UP AND RESOLUTION TO HEALTHY FAMILIES
ALEXANDRIA'S REQUEST FOR FUNDS TO RESTORE FY 2012 STATE
BUDGET REDUCTIONS

This memo is in response to a request from City Council for information regarding a request from Northern Virginia Family Service for \$56,607 in City general fund dollars to restore State budget cuts for Healthy Families Alexandria (HFA) in FY 2012. This cut will result in the loss of 1.5 FTE and 40 fewer families served during the remainder of the current fiscal year. Staff was asked to do the forensics and determine what occurred during the final add/delete session that resulted in City Council taking their funding request off the table.

During the FY 2012 budget cycle, in response to a request from a member of Council, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) wrote budget memo 43 (Attachment I) that discussed the shortfall for Healthy Families for the coming fiscal year as a result of State budget reductions. The memo identified a potential shortfall of \$73,000. The exact amount could not be determined at that time because of lack of information from the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS).

Subsequent to that memo, four Council Members requested that \$73,000 be added to the FY 2012 approved budget for Healthy Families Alexandria through the add/delete process. Due to uncertainty about the actual State cut, the \$73,000 was then moved into contingent reserves. However, this funding amount was removed from consideration during the final add/delete work session on May 2, 2011. After a review of the meeting, staff was not able to determine what precipitated this action other than a belief that the cuts were being restored. This was articulated by staff during the work session and the allocation was removed. The additional \$73,000 for Healthy Families Alexandria was not included in the FY 2012 Approved Operating Budget.

Recently, VDSS staff provided the following information regarding the level of Healthy Families funding over the past three fiscal years:

| Healthy Families Program State-wide Non-City Funding for FY 2010 through FY 2012 | | | |
|---|---------------|----------------------|-------------|
| | TANF(Federal) | General Fund (State) | Total |
| FY 2010 | \$4,925,501 | 0 | \$4,925,501 |
| FY 2011 | \$3,557,306 | \$1,026,146 | \$4,583,452 |
| FY 2012 | \$2,855,501 | \$570,000 | \$3,425,501 |

Based on this information, the state-wide cut for Healthy Families was \$1,157,951 in FY 2012. This would have translated into a \$73,000 cut for Healthy Families Alexandria; however, Healthy Families programs in other localities closed because of the cuts and their funding was redistributed to the remaining programs, resulting in a final cut to HFA of \$56,607.

Since the review of the May 2, 2011 final add/delete meeting shows that Healthy Families Alexandria would have received an allocation from Council if accurate information were given, I have instructed staff to utilize identified FY 2012 surplus to be used for this purpose.

Attachment:

- I. April 7, 2011, Budget Memo # 43: Options to Restore State Budget Reductions to Healthy Families Alexandria

cc: Debra R. Collins, Assistant City Manager
Michael Gilmore, Director, Department of Community and Human Services
Suzanne Chis, Deputy Department Director, DCHS
Deborah Warren, Director, Center for Children and Families, DCHS

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 7, 2011

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO # 43 : OPTIONS TO RESTORE STATE BUDGET REDUCTIONS TO HEALTHY FAMILIES ALEXANDRIA

This memorandum is a response to Vice Mayor Donley's request for information concerning the impact of the state reductions to Healthy Families Alexandria and potential options for the restoration of state funds by the City. The Virginia General Assembly recently voted to reduce the budget for Healthy Families statewide by \$1.5 million. The reduction passed by the General Assembly would reduce Healthy Families Alexandria's state allocation from \$251,501 in FY 2011 to \$178,501 in FY 2012, a reduction of \$73,000 (30%).

In FY 2010, Healthy Families Alexandria provided support to 233 families. The FY 2012 state reduction will result in the loss of one full-time Family Support Worker, which means 25 fewer families will be served by Healthy Families Alexandria next year. Serving 25 fewer families equates to a service reduction of nearly 11% when compared to number of families served in FY 2010.

The City provided \$295,195 in General Fund support to Healthy Families in FY 2011 through the Alexandria Fund for Human Services Children's Fund. The Children's Fund provides General Fund dollars for early childhood and early intervention programs through a competitive grant award process to community-based organizations to meet priorities in the community as identified by the Early Childhood Commission. Awards from the Fund are made biennially through a competitive process that requires community-based organizations to submit funding proposals to the City.

A direct allocation of \$73,000 would be the most effective way to guarantee restoration of the state reductions to Healthy Families in FY 2012 should City Council choose to provide such funding through the add-delete process. Providing an additional \$73,000 to the Fund for Human Services would not guarantee that Healthy Families would receive the funding given the competitive nature of the Fund. Additionally, the decrease in state funds is an ongoing reduction. If \$73,000 was added to the Fund for Human Services, Healthy Families would have to compete biennially for additional City dollars to fill the ongoing budget gap created by the General Assembly. It is important to remember that Healthy Families will already have to compete against other community-based organizations for continuation in FY 2012 of the \$295,195 it was awarded in FY 2011.