

Call to Action: Oppose Cuts to Homeless and Indoor Plumbing Programs

In just over a week, the General Assembly will begin its 60 day budget session that will decide the blueprint for State expenditures in the upcoming biennium. Governor Kaine has already announced a series of draconian cuts to the budget in order to close the ever widening gap caused by slumping tax revenues. Many observers point to this session as being one of the most fiscally challenged in memory.

Two programs singled out by the Governor include Indoor Plumbing and Homelessness. Indoor plumbing would be reduced by \$750,000 and Homeless programs by over \$500,000.

The Housing Coalition recognizes the seriousness of Virginia's budget crisis but also strongly believes that the budget should NOT be balanced on the backs of those who are least able to bear it. **During an economic crisis where homelessness is on the rise and low income families are struggling to maintain minimal family budgets, the state should not reduce a single dollar from these critical housing assistance programs.** In a budget debate that will involve BILLIONS in reductions, these reductions are SMALL POTATOES and should be taken off the table. Further, once these reductions are made, it is highly unlikely that they will ever be restored.

What Should You Do?

1. [Call or email your Senator and Delegate](#) today – before the start of the session. Tell them to oppose these housing cuts that will affect Virginia's poorest and most vulnerable families. [Click here for talking points to help you address these issues.](#)
2. Attend one of the five regional budget hearings that will be held later this week and next. Tell committee members how these cuts will affect struggling families in your community.

Regional Public Hearing Dates and Locations

Portsmouth - Thursday, January 7, 2010, 12:00 noon

Portsmouth - Tidewater Community College, New Portsmouth Campus, "The Forum", Building A

Harrisonburg - Thursday, January 7, 2010, 12:00 noon

Harrisonburg - James Madison University, Grafton-Stovall Theatre

Blacksburg - Thursday, January 7, 2010, 12:00 noon

Blacksburg - Virginia Tech, Graduate Life Center (formerly the Donaldson-Brown Center)

Fairfax County - Friday, January 8, 2010, 10:00 am

Fairfax County – Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus (Ernst Center Theater)

Richmond - January 11, 2010, 12:00 noon

Richmond – General Assembly Building - House Room D

This promises to be a challenging session and the Coalition has [a variety of initiatives which it is pursuing](#) in addition to fighting off these budget cuts. Please [join us in our Advocacy](#) for better housing for all Virginians. Start by [calling your Representatives](#) today and **STAND UP for HOUSING.**