



Virginia Housing Coalition

## 2010 Legislative Agenda: Talking Points

### Restoration of Cuts to Indoor Plumbing and Homeless Assistance

**Bill Number: Budget Bill**

**Amendment Sponsor: not yet determined**

The 2010 budget includes a **\$750,000 reduction to state funding for indoor plumbing**. The Coalition supports restoration of this cut.

- Many rural housing providers have been utilizing the state's Indoor Plumbing Program for nearly two decades. During that time, tremendous progress has been made in eliminating houses that do not have adequate plumbing facilities.
- The families assisted through this program live in some of the worst housing conditions in Virginia.
- Even during challenging fiscal times, the state should not balance the budget on the backs of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens.
- Increases in Federal "stimulus" funding do not replace this funding. There is no stimulus money that can be used for this type of program.

The 2010 budget also includes a **\$582,000 reduction to State assistance to homeless families and individuals**. The programs affected by these cuts include Homeless Intervention (\$450,000) and Shelter Improvement (\$132,000).

- The severe recession has substantially increased the number of families and individuals in the state who are living in shelters, on the streets, in cars or doubled up.
- Federal funding through the stimulus is targeted at other aspects of homelessness – not the at risk families who are threatened with homelessness as a result of foreclosure or those who need temporary shelter in a decent environment in order to get back on their feet.
- Federal stimulus funding is also one time funding and will not be repeated in 2010-11 when these state cuts will hit our State programs.
- Even during challenging fiscal times, the state should not balance the budget on the backs of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens.