



*Commonwealth of Virginia*  
*Office of the Governor*

## *Executive Order*

**NUMBER TEN (2010)**

### **HOUSING POLICY FRAMEWORK OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**

#### **Importance of the Issue**

Housing helps define communities and is a major component in determining the quality of life for individuals, families, and the Commonwealth general prosperity. Along with a good job, affordable housing provides the building blocks for the American Dream. Housing has been a major force in the prosperity of the Commonwealth. A healthy economic environment for housing significantly contributes to the vitality of the overall economy.

Clear and consistent housing policy is an essential factor in economic development; the provision of human services; and the development of transportation systems. The location, arrangement and cost of housing also intersect with broad urban and rural policies. Because of these interactions, housing policy within the executive branch should be coordinated with and be an integral part of each of these parallel policy initiatives.

Within the legislative branch, the Virginia Housing Commission has recognized the importance of developing policy principles intended to aid the Commission in considering the effect of legislative proposals and issues brought before it. Similarly, the executive branch should develop a similar policy framework to help guide decision-making and promote coordination across programs. At a time when unprecedented budgetary issues require that the state use its resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible, the housing policy framework can serve as a means for identifying and implementing appropriate actions within the bounds of the core functions of government.

## **Housing Policy Framework of the Commonwealth of Virginia**

By virtue of the authority vested in me under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including but not limited to Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby establish the following housing policy framework for the executive branch. The purpose of the housing policy framework is to establish broad goals and policy direction related to housing policy and to coordinate a comprehensive and effective housing policy with other public policy areas and initiatives across multiple secretariats within the executive branch.

The housing policy framework for the Commonwealth should be consistent with the following housing principles.

1. Recognize the role of the housing industry as a critical economic development engine within the Commonwealth by streamlining regulations, ensuring robust finance and construction sectors, promoting the development of workforce housing, reducing commute times between home and work, and increasing residential access to transportation systems, while furthering public understanding of housing finance and economic literacy.
2. Promote sustainable and vibrant communities through measures that promote mixed use development, increase energy efficiency and use of cost effective green building concepts, support the rehabilitation of substandard housing, clarify the role of community associations in common interest communities, and expand public-private cooperation in addressing affordable safe housing.
3. Ensure that a range of housing options can be provided to meet the housing needs of a dynamic and changing population, achieve proper balance between homeownership and rental options, promote a continuum of quality housing options for special needs populations, match existing subsidies with areas of housing need, and increase the emphasis on fair housing (eliminating barriers to housing).
4. Increase capacity to address the needs of homeless Virginians by focusing on the reduction of chronic homelessness, ensuring the continued viability of the safety net of shelters and services, and investing in transitional and permanent supportive housing.

The Governor's Senior Economic Advisor, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority along with other Cabinet members and their agencies will be responsible for carrying out the provisions of this order.

This Executive Order shall be effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect unless amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this  
30 th day of April 2010.



*Robert F. McDonnell*

Robert F. McDonnell, Governor

Attest:

*Janet V. Polarek*

Secretary of the Commonwealth