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**Housing Crisis Hits Hampton Roads**
Housing Crisis Hotline Responded to 7,090 Calls in September

**Chesapeake, VA** – Fall is proving to be a season of unprecedented need for individuals and families seeking safe and stable housing in Hampton Roads. The Housing Crisis Hotline operated by ForKids answered 7,090 calls for assistance in September, **more than any other month since the Hotline began in 2011**. According to call center data, 24% of callers were seeking emergency shelter. Another 32% of callers had received landlord and/or court notifications of pending evictions. An additional 30% of callers were identified as seeking utility assistance.

ForKids’ CEO Thaler McCormick says, “An affordable housing shortage, dramatic increases in rent, and the expiration of the eviction moratorium have all driven call volumes to record highs.” She also notes that escalating housing costs, including the cost of utilities, are putting previously stable families on the verge of homelessness. “With winter coming, the situation is only going to get worse.”

“We’ve pulled in staff from across the agency to help answer calls coming into the Hotline,” said Shirley Brackett, ForKids Crisis Response Director. “We must remember that this is a new experience for most of the people who are calling. They are scared, they are frustrated, and they are surprised there is not a social safety net in place when they need it.”

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**About ForKids**

ForKids is one of the largest providers of services to families experiencing homelessness and poverty in Virginia. The ForKids Housing Crisis Hotline, which serves 14 cities and counties in Hampton Roads, is the central point of contact for all persons experiencing a housing crisis throughout Southeastern Virginia. On any given day, ForKids in-depth programs assist approximately 290 families including 870 children; our critical services now touch the lives of over 70,000 individuals each year. Services include counseling, tutoring, field trips, summer camps, classes in life skills, parenting, budgeting, GED tutoring, job coaching and case management. For more information, please visit [www.forkids.org](http://www.forkids.org) or call (757) 622-6400.