



VACAP NEWS

June 22, 2022

Inside this Issue

- State Budget Finalized with VACAP Priorities Included
- CSBG Modernization Needs Virginia's Help: Contact Senators Kaine and Warner
- Key Survey for future of Federal Training and Technical Assistance Due July 8, 2022
- Join Virtual Regional Convening of Community Action Agencies on July 13
- Register for 2022 Virginia Inclusion Summit (September 19 in Richmond)
- VACAP Board Meeting Recap
- Mission Elevation Opportunity Recruiting for 2023 Cohort

State Budget Finalized with VACAP Priorities Included

Governor Youngkin ceremonially signed the state budget yesterday which ensures the final budget is in place before the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. Below is recap of previously reported highlights and a few changes related budget items of interest to VACAP.

- 1) VACAP's top legislative priority of increasing TANF investments in Community Action Agencies remains in the final budget. The final budget includes an increase of \$1.5 million. Thank you to the network membership, Kemper, and our General Assembly champions for their support of this key investment.
- 2) A refundable state tax credit for low-income working families is the most significant tax policy change that will benefit low-income Virginians. See link for more details on this important change. VACAP and the networks free tax filing efforts will be more important than ever to ensure Virginians access this new refundable tax credit that is expected to be on average \$500 for qualifying families annually. Taxes filed in 2023 for the 2022 calendar year will be able to claim this credit.
<https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/research/earned-income-tax-credit-supports-virginias-working-families-updated-district-and-locality-data/>
- 3) VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula updated the VACAP Board on the priority of the Administration to increase the facilitation of kinship foster care placements through engagement, assessment, and training of relatives when children enter foster care. The Governor's amendment, that came as a recommendation of the Safe and Sound Task Force, was accepted and puts in place new funding in this policy area. This includes five state positions to allow collaboration with local departments of social services, a pilot program to address issues to target children in foster care who are at risk of placement in congregate settings and funding to assist with implementation totaling over \$4 million.

- 4) The underlying law creating revenues from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that funds DHCD's Weatherization Deferral Repair Program (WDR) remains intact. WDR is a critical new tool for the weatherization network. Agencies will still have to wait for administrative guidance regarding WDR funds given the Administration's stated policy goal of removing Virginia from RGGI.

CSBG Modernization Needs Virginia's Help: Contact Senator Kaine and Warner

NCAF is urgently requesting Virginia's help to ask Senator Kaine and Senator Warner to advocate for CSBG reauthorization to be considered. After the bipartisan success in the House the challenge now is getting time on the Senate's calendar. Senator Kaine and Warner are long time supporters of CSBG and VACAP's membership. However, the key ask is to get their support to help bring CSBG up for consideration. Senator Tim Kaine is especially crucial because he serves on the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee (HELP) authorizing committee which must first consider this key topic.

Our Senators need to hear from each agency, your board members, and your partners (including mayors, council members, supervisors, and all friends of community action) so they know that making time on the Senate calendar is critical for Virginia. The key is to reinforce that this bill and community action are popular and successful with bipartisan support.

Below are more details from NCAF. Utilize the action center link or text, call etc. but please let us know the contacts you make so we can share with NCAF. Utilize the link for NCAF's Action Center: <https://www.ncaf.org/action-center#/> to contact Senator Kaine and Senator Warner. The window will close soon for this key community action priority to be considered so please contact our Senators ASAP and before the end of June!

Key Survey for future of CSBG Training and Technical Assistance Due July 8, 2022

The federal Office of Community Services (OCS) is seeking input to help inform the future of federal funding for CSBG training and technical assistance. OCS is requesting the Community Action Network complete a Needs Assessment Survey by 11:59 pm ET on Friday, July 8. VACAP encourages the network to fully participate in this opportunity from our federal partner. Much of VACAP's training and technical assistance that is driven by member needs is funded through RPIC funds from OCS which includes state specific and regional trainings with neighboring states. Question 44 on the survey specifically is asking for input on this state specific training.

Click here for OCS description of the survey and link to the survey:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/policy-guidance/csbg-dcl-2022-34-comprehensive-training-and-technical-assistance-needs>

Join Virtual Regional Convening of Community Action Agencies on July 13

Join your peers across the region on July 13 from 10am-3pm for a regional Virtual Convening with colleagues from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, DC, and Delaware. Participate in our online community and register for the virtual event to acquire more ideas from leaders with proven positive impacts. Adapt their programs to the needs in your region and take advantage of new resources! As a part of the Human Capacity & Community Transformation grant, VACAP partners with RPIC Region 3 to host this regional event that highlights community activities, strategies, partnerships, and best practice models. All of your staff and board members are welcome and encouraged to attend! To learn more and register visit <https://r3pic.maryland-cap.org>.

Register for 2022 Virginia Inclusion Summit (September 19 in Richmond)

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities will host the 4th Annual Virginia Inclusion Summit on September 19 at the Westin in Richmond. The Virginia Inclusion Summit brings together workplace professionals, government employees, and higher education administrators and students for a day of learning, sharing, and connecting. Attendees can explore timely issues and learn about best practices to help institutions across Virginia become more inclusive.

VACAP's Erik Johnston plans to attend and let him know if you or someone on your team can join so that community action agencies can connect at the conference. Registration closes September 1.

https://inclusiveva.org/programs/businesses/inclusionsummit/#link_acc-1-5-d

VACAP Board Meeting Recap

VACAP's Board met on June 16 and received guest presentations from the White House and VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula. Commissioner Avula shared his personal story and commitment to the VDSS and community action mission. His personal story and commitment to innovation and partnership with VACAP was inspiring. He challenged the VACAP membership to partner on the Governor's priorities in workforce and kinship care in foster care. He also shared the importance of local DSS agencies and VACAP members collaborating on shared challenges and opportunities in meeting the evolving challenges facing the Human Services profession.

Visit the VACAP member only page for the presentation shared by Will McIntee, White House Associate Director for Public Engagement. The presentation included information on new funding opportunities such as broadband affordability:

<https://www.vacap.org/members-only/>.

The board approved the budget for the year ahead and adopted an exciting new training and innovation schedule that will include a return to in person conferences twice a year (October 2022 and January 2023) and one regional meeting in three new regions each year. More details to come in the months ahead. Congratulations to Doug Sheets on his retirement from

Clinch Valley CAA and a warm welcome and congratulations to Robin Boyd on her new role as Executive Director at Clinch Valley CAA.

Congratulations to the VACAP FY 22-23 officers elected at the meeting and thank you for your service!

- Chair: Annette Lewis, TAP
- Vice-Chair: Kevin Otey, HRCAP
- Treasurer: Hester Brown, CAPUP
- Secretary: Anna Leavitt, CAPSAW
- Parliamentarian: Renée VanNatter, Powhatan

Mission Elevation Opportunity Recruiting for 2023 Cohort

Thank you to SERCAP’s Hope Cupit for sharing her positive experience with Mission Elevation. People, Inc. Bryan Phipps also shared his positive experience. Hope encouraged VACAP members to consider participating in 2023.

The Mission Elevation program offers customized solutions meeting nonprofit organizations where they are. The program helps nonprofits build internal capacity to create sustainable and meaningful impact in communities they serve. Supported by experienced professional coaches, participants pick their end goal and receive support over the course of the program in getting there.

<https://www.vibrantcommunities.us/resource/mission-elevation-program>