



## **VACAP NEWS**

August 4, 2022

### **Inside this Issue**

- Save the Date: VACAP Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit – Nov. 1-2
- Equity Mindset Training on Sept. 15 provided to VACAP network by OEO
- OEO Providing Assistance to VACAP network on Cost Allocation Plans
- State CSBG Hearing Spotlights Strength of Community Action
- RPIC Regional Convening Presentations Available – Virginia Highest Participation
- Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot Application Deadline September 19
- Industrial Revitalization Funding increases to \$24 million – Apply by August 19
- Save costs with Tech Soup – Deadline for Zendesk grant is September 12
- Promotion of Public Service Loan Forgiveness for your CAA team members
- DHCD Virtual Trainings on Grant Management and CDBG Planning Grants
- Reminder: Affordable Connectivity Program Available for low-income households
- Virginia Extends Postpartum Coverage to 12 Months!
- Learn about and Partner with GO Virginia funded Projects
- New National 24/7 Suicide & Crisis Line – 9-8-8
- New LEAD Hazard Training Courses Available for your Workforce and Partners

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### **Save the Date: VACAP Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit - November 1 & 2, 2022**

Hosted by the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)

Virginia Housing Center in the Richmond Region

4225 Cox Road, Glen Allen, VA

Who Should Attend: Plan to attend the first annual Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit on November 1 & 2, 2022. Community action agencies and their statewide partners will convene to discuss and share best practices in creating economic opportunities and facilitating mobility from poverty for the people of Virginia. VACAP leadership and emerging and senior leaders in community action and partner organizations should plan to attend.

#### Summit Topics may include:

Whole Family/Two Generation Approach

Housing

Workforce Training

Early Childhood Education/Childcare

Broadband Affordability and Adoption

Health & Human Services Workforce Challenges and Opportunities

Financial Empowerment

Additional VACAP meetings pre or post conference

Fall Classic - Earned Income Tax Credit/CASH Campaign convening  
VACAP Senior Leadership/Emerging Leaders Peer Group (New Peer Group)  
VACAP Board Meeting

**Don't miss the Equity Mindset Training on Sept. 15 provided to VACAP network by OEO**

The Capital Strategy Group, LLC will provide a virtual equity training for the VACAP network on September 15 from 10am-11:30am. This module will discuss how community action agencies can become more equitable by eliminating opportunity gaps among employees and clients served, especially in the BIPOC community. Learn about tools to build upon the equity mindset at your organization. The deadline to register is August 26 and you will receive Zoom login details on that date. Click the link below to register:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSVt8YSCqeQsy86SBudJsKAX6dfBW9PU0uT0B5wgqdnVaBA/viewform>

**OEO Providing Assistance to Agencies on Cost Allocation Plans**

In response to the requests of VACAP members to provide technical assistance about ensuring utilization of indirect costs to ensure agencies have sufficient central office funds to deliver programs, OEO is providing assistance to agencies on Cost Allocation plans. OEO contracted with Dottie Avalon to perform this review and give each agency feedback on their plan. A cost allocation plan is an accounting report that calculates the agency-wide indirect costs to departments and funds that receive services from other departments. This means accounting for administrative functions like HR or Information Technology staff, or other pieces of equipment that help you accomplish your program mission areas. A central service cost allocation plans include all central service costs that can be claimed (either as billed or as an allocated cost) under federal awards. Agency directors are encouraged to support this critical effort of your financial teams to ensure your agency is not missing an opportunity to support the indirect costs associated with your grants. For questions contact Violet Peyton at [violet.peyton@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:violet.peyton@dhcd.virginia.gov).

**State CSBG Hearing Spotlights Strength of Community Action**

On July 12 the General Assembly's Block grant subcommittee unanimously approved the every two year state CSBG plan. Thank you to the seven agencies (TAP, HRCAP, STOP, SERCAP, Project Discovery, Virginia CARES, People Inc., and VACAP) that provided testimony and all of you for your involvement in the process. The testimony was excellent and demonstrated the adaptability, flexibility, and innovation within community action to serve and address big challenges. The legislators had wonderful and positive comments they shared about DSS and VACAP member efforts. Thank you to the OEO team (especially Abby Hanks) for the hard work in coordinating and making the process to participate so smooth and professional and for the excellent testimony of Commissioner Avula and comments made by OEO's Matt Fitzgerald!

Legislators commended community action for the wide range of services in rural, urban, and suburban communities. They also were impressed by early promising results reported on by Commissioner Avula and VACAP members regarding the Whole Family/2Gen pilot. They were particularly impressed by this being an approach supported by community action that helps overcome the benefits cliff and focuses on results for each family rather than program by program deliverables.

### **RPIC Regional Convening Presentations Available – Virginia Highest Participation**

Presentations from the July 13 RPIC Region 3 Convening are now available. Virginia achieved better participation than any other state with 44% of the 104 participants coming from Virginia. Thank you all for your active engagement in this convening and for HRCAP's Edith White for her leadership as NCAP Board Representative for region 3. The presentations include Virginia's own Bryan Phipps, CEO of People Inc. who provided an innovative community revitalization example in Trammel, Virginia. To view the presentation visit: <https://r3pic.maryland-cap.org/R3PIC-Resources.aspx>.

### **Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot Application Deadline September 19**

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) announced funding availability of \$3.3 million for the Virginia Eviction Reduction Pilot (VERP). The purpose of this pilot program is to create a local/regional coordinated systems approach to effectively prevent evictions. When evictions cannot be prevented, the system must also include how to divert evictions once the household has received an unlawful detainer. The systems approach will include creating a collective impact model where organizations that serve as a safety-net within the community collaborate to ensure households have early access to resources to stabilize their housing situations. Applications for VERP 2023 are now open with a deadline of September 16, 2023. For more information visit <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/verp>.

### **Industrial Revitalization Funding increases to \$24 million – Apply by August 19**

DHCD's Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) has a one-time dramatic increase in overall funding and increase to up to \$5 million per award this funding cycle. The program's annual state general fund allocation of \$1.5 million is available for the strategic redevelopment of vacant and deteriorated industrial properties across Virginia with up to \$22.5 million in additional one-time funds available through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

For the purposes of this program, the term "industrial" means any non-residential structure significant to the community due to size, location, and/or economic importance. Remnants of past economic vibrancy and local economies in transition, these structures are no longer suited for their former purpose, and in their current deteriorated condition, stand as a substantial deterrent for future economic opportunity in the surrounding area and region.

The award amount varies based on the funding source. For projects funded through the General IRF state funds, the maximum award is up to \$1,000,000 per project; however, an applicant may apply for less. For projects funded through the ARPA allocation, the maximum award is up to \$5,000,000. For these projects, no minimum match will be required for grant requests up to \$1,000,000; however, match may be advantageous in showing a project's readiness and support, and should be documented in the application if available. Projects requesting between \$1,000,001 and \$5,000,000 require a 1 to 1 match of requested IRF dollars.

Nonprofit Community Action Agencies would need to work with a local government to apply as only local governments (cities, counties, or towns), and regional or local economic or industrial development authorities may submit applications for funding. A unit of local government may apply directly for funding to use on publicly owned property OR on behalf of a for-profit or non-profit entity for privately owned property. Localities may designate a redevelopment authority or another similar organization as an agent for project implementation and administration.

To view the RFP visit <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/sites/default/files/Docx/irf/irf-fy23-application-instruction-manual.pdf>. If you have questions, you can contact the DHCD IRF team at [realestate@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:realestate@dhcd.virginia.gov) or (804) 371-7171.

### **Save costs with Tech Soup – Deadline for Zendesk grant is September 12**

TechSoup is an important resource that VACAP's nonprofit members can utilize or that public agencies can make their nonprofit partners aware of. VACAP utilizes this service and has found significant cost savings. TechSoup supports non-profits by providing access to donations and discounts on software and hardware. TechSoup also sends alerts about funding opportunities like [Zendesk Foundation's Tech for Good Program](#). Zendesk is giving away \$500K in grants and free software through their 2022 Impact Awards. [Read more](#) and apply. The deadline is September 12, 2022.

Areas of focus:

TechSoup's Nonprofit [Tech Marketplace](#): you can receive offers from leading brands (Adobe, Microsoft, DocuSign, Zoom and others).

[Digital Assessment Tool](#): a free web-based application that helps nonprofits assess their technology needs and understand their digital capabilities.

[Managed IT](#): Managed IT services from TechSoup provides a comprehensive solution for all your organization's IT needs.

[Website services](#): Free website assessments, cost-effective consultations and customized solutions help you determine your website goals.

[Digital Marketing](#): TechSoup offers a comprehensive menu of marketing services and month-to-month contracts, so you get exactly what you need.

[TechSoup courses](#): Learning content courses are updated frequently.

Membership is free and the application process is straightforward. There are charges for some of the areas of focus. Whatever your need, it is worth comparing your current costs with those available through [www.techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org)

### **Promotion of Public Service Loan Forgiveness as a Benefit of Working at Your Agency**

Student loan debt burden is constantly in the news and the future of relief is uncertain for all borrowers. However, your employees should be eligible for participation in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program. Public agencies are eligible and most nonprofits qualify as well with the attached link describing eligible nonprofits which should fit your community action agency <https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/what-not-for-profits-eligible-employers-for-pslf>. Staff will need your agency's Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN/EIN) to verify that service at your agency qualifies for this benefit.

Recent changes have made many more public and nonprofit professionals eligible for the benefit through October 31, 2022. On October 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced changes to the rules for PSLF and Temporary Expanded PSLF (TEPSLF) for a limited time. Now, under the limited PSLF waiver, your staff may receive credit for past periods of repayment that normally wouldn't qualify for PSLF.

To learn more about this limited waiver period, including any actions your staff may need to take to benefit from this waiver, visit [StudentAid.gov/pslfwaiver](https://StudentAid.gov/pslfwaiver).

### **DHCD Virtual Trainings on Grant Management and CDBG Planning Grants**

The DHCD virtual grant training series was recently announced and will span the full year and will focus on project implementation for localities and organizations using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), CDBG-COVID, Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation (IPR-Flex), Lead Hazard Reduction (LHR), Acquire, Renovate Sell (ARS) and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds for enhancing communities. The trainings will cover a range of topics chosen to support successful project planning and implementation, review "real-world" project situations and include time for both Q&A and peer-to-peer discussion.

Local governments and organizations that are DHCD's grantees in the **CDBG, CDBG-COVID, IPR, ARS, and ARC** programs are expected to participate in the applicable 2022 Virtual Grantee Training Sessions. Those interested in planning new projects with CDBG planning grants are also encouraged to participate. The link below describes trainings coming up in August and September: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/index.php/grant-management-virtual-training-schedule>. For questions contact Cheri Miles at [cheri.miles@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:cheri.miles@dhcd.virginia.gov).

### **Reminder: Affordable Connectivity Program Available for low-income households**

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communication Commission (FCC) program to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices. These discounts can be applied to households already receiving internet service as well as new enrollees. Eligible households may receive up to \$30/month discount on internet service and up to \$75 on Tribal lands. A one-time discount of up to \$100 for laptop, table, or desktop computer. Households in assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, Lifeline, free and reduced-price school lunch and more such as Pell Grantees are eligible as are households at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. Eligible households can enroll through a broadband provider or by (1) going to [AffordableConnectivity.gov](https://AffordableConnectivity.gov) to submit an online application or print a mail-in application and (2) contacting their preferred participating broadband provider and selecting a plan. Additional information about the Emergency Broadband Benefit is available at [www.fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP), or by calling 877-384-2575 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET any day of the week.

### **Virginia Extends Postpartum Coverage to 12 Months!**

As of July 1, 2022, postpartum coverage is available for one full year for Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS members! Virginia was the third state in the country to receive federal approval to extend coverage for 12 months postpartum and is on the leading edge of implementing this exciting change. While the Public Health Emergency (PHE) has kept many Medicaid members enrolled beyond the previous cutoff of 60 days postpartum, extending postpartum coverage to one year is a permanent change that will continue after the PHE and will enable pregnant people to receive medical care, so they and their newborns can stay healthy. In addition, as of July 1, 2022 additional changes to ensure that FAMIS MOMS and pregnant/postpartum lawfully residing immigrants will have access to the extended coverage. If your client is a Medicaid/FAMIS member who becomes pregnant, you can help the client report the pregnancy by calling Cover Virginia at 1-855-242-8282, or the local Department of Social Services (LDSS), to ensure coverage is protected for one year postpartum. To find LDSS contact information, go to [www.commonhelp.virginia.gov](https://www.commonhelp.virginia.gov), and click "Find Local Office."

### **Learn about and Partner with GO Virginia funded Projects**

The GO Virginia board announced \$10 million in funding for 13 projects across the state including workforce and entrepreneurial projects. These projects start with the Regional GO Virginia Councils and are funded at the state level every quarter. VACAP members are encouraged to keep up to date and help influence the funding priorities of their regional council and to partner on grant

applications. Since the program's inception in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 229 projects and awarded approximately \$92.5 million to support regional economic development efforts with the majority in the workforce training area. To learn more about the GO Virginia program, visit [dhcd.virginia.gov/gova](https://dhcd.virginia.gov/gova). Many existing funded projects may offer opportunities for partnership with community action efforts. A full list of projects funded at the recent board meeting can be found at <https://dhcd.virginia.gov/2022-go-virginia-grants-june>

### **New National 24/7 Suicide & Crisis Line – 9-8-8**

Any Virginian experiencing a mental health crisis can now call or text 9-8-8 to be connected to the 24/7 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Live Chat is also available at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org). This is a new national effort to save lives by creating an easy to remember resource for Americans experiencing thoughts of suicide and other mental health and substance abuse crises.

### **New LEAD Hazard Training Courses Available for your Workforce and Partners**

DHCD is working to expand the number of trained individuals to work in lead hazard reduction projects across the Commonwealth. In collaboration with the Community College Workforce Alliance classes will be available in inspection, risk assessor, supervisor, worker, renovation, repair, and painting. For information on ways to build this critical workforce through upcoming trainings in August and September and to participate in DHCD's program contact Susan Hill at [susan.hill@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:susan.hill@dhcd.virginia.gov). More information on the Lead Hazard reduction program is available at <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/lhr>.