



VACAP NEWS

June 2024

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Professional Development Courses Brought to You by VACAP and OEO!

OEO, VACAP and the VACAP HR Peer Group have collaborated to purchase access to Articulate 360's library of virtual professional development courses. This new member benefit will save agencies from having to purchase these opportunities individually and are available on Learn Worlds.

Different courses are now available! Do you have staff who need to brush up on Creating & Developing Effective Presentations or The Science of Effective Listening? How about Resolving Conflict or How to be a Better Supervisor? Please share this valuable resource with your staff and HR personnel. There are many great topics and trainings available.

Please let OEO or VACAP know about any content you would like to see in the future. Many thanks to OEO for working with VACAP to secure these courses and getting them ready for our members. Thanks also to the VACAP Human Resources peer group for their review of the courses.

<https://vacsbg.learnworlds.com/course/professional-development-courses>

Member News

HRCAP hosted their Community Builders Awards on June 6. VACAP's Erik Johnston attended and left the event inspired by the collaboration with higher education as the region's institutions were honored with this year's awards. Keynote speaker Phylicia Rashad spoke of the power of community to wrap around all families. Edith White, Kevin Otey and Erik Johnston were able to speak with key state legislators from the region and Congressman Bobby Scott about VACAP's priorities. Thank you HRCAP team and partners!



STEPS hosted a Community Engagement Meeting for their affordable housing project, Israel Hill, on June 4 where residents of Farmville could express thoughts and opinions on the project. VACAP's Kristen Dahlman joined and was inspired to hear the vision of STEPS and their partners as the community makes progress in providing housing for its most vulnerable citizens. <https://www.farmvilleherald.com/2024/06/what-should-happen-to-israel-hill-steps-holds-town-meeting/>

New River Community Action celebrated their grand opening of their beautiful new headquarters in Radford and recently received a new \$3.6 million grant from Head Start. Click the link below to learn more and hear directly from parents and teachers about how impactful their program is in the New River Valley. <https://www.wsls.com/news/local/2024/06/14/new-river-community-action-receives-funding-for-head-start-preschool-program/>

People, Inc. was recently awarded a grant through the Commonwealth's Capital for Communities Fund (CCCF), a grant program from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The \$300,000 grant award will go towards supporting women owned businesses in their service area. The purpose of the grant program is to expand lending to communities lacking banking options across the Commonwealth while providing technical assistance to future borrowers for business ventures. Info on the CCCF: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/cccf>

Goodreads and Newsworthy Updates

Excellence in Aging

By Jeanne Theismann

The Alexandria Commission on Aging presented the 2024 Excellence in Aging Awards at a May 14 ceremony in the Vola Lawson Lobby of City Hall. W. Thomas Reeder, a longtime VITA volunteer, was honored with the Lois Van Valkenburgh Excellence in Aging Award – presented to an individual citizen with at least one year of service to seniors.

<https://www.alexandriagazette.com/news/2024/may/16/excellence-in-aging/>

Virginia child care rating system aims to improve kids' school readiness

By Nathaniel Cline, Virginia Mercury

Virginia has implemented new guidelines to establish a unified rating and improvement system to assess the commonwealth's publicly funded early childhood care providers.

Approximately 75% of child care programs that received public funding previously did not participate in the state's voluntary quality measures, according to Del. David Buolva, D-Fairfax, who co-patroned 2020 legislation that led to all publicly funded providers being required to participate.

In the following year, a pilot system known as the Unified Virginia Quality Birth to Five system, or VQB5, was created to improve children's school readiness and expand access to parents and support providers. Advocates say the new system is a critical tool for the state, providers and families to gauge the effectiveness of Virginia's early childhood education programs.

<https://virginiamercury.com/2024/05/13/virginia-rating-system-aims-to-improve-school-readiness-for-children/>

Community Economic Development (CED) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Now Available

The Community Economic Development (CED) program is a federal grant program that expands employment for individuals with low income in communities facing persistent poverty and high unemployment by investing in community development corporations (CDCs) that create and expand businesses and job opportunities.

The 2024 CED NOFOs have been released. There are two CED funding opportunities available: the CED NOFO, and the CED Planning NOFO.

Applications for the CED Planning NOFO are due on July 2, 2024, more info here:

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/352024>

Applications for the CED NOFO are due on July 17, 2024, more info here:

<https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349897>

Virginia Housing Grants Available

Virginia Housing Accessibility Grants

Virginia Housing offers several grants to help residents make their homes safe and accessible. Up to \$8,000 is available for projects such as installing ramps and chairlifts and installing remote entry devices. The following grants can assist with this:

- **Granting Freedom:** Virginia Housing partners with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services for homeowners or renters who are veterans or service members that sustained a line-of-duty injury resulting in a service-connected disability.
- **Owner-Occupied Modification Grant:** Primarily serves homeowners with disabilities whose incomes are at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.
- **Rental Unit Accessibility Modification (RUAM) Grant:** Available to renters with disabilities who need improved accessibility in their apartment, condo, townhome, or rental house who meet the income requirements of at or below 80% Area Median Income.

To learn more about Virginia Housing's accessibility grants and full eligibility requirements:

<https://www.virginiahousing.com/accessibility-grants>

Event Sponsorship Grants

Virginia Housing is accepting applications for Event Sponsorship Grants until August 31, 2024. The following grants are available for events happening between November 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025:

- **Nonprofit Organization and Local Government:** up to \$5,000 and regional organizations up to \$15,000

For more information about this sponsorship:

<https://vhdagrants.com/insideLinkOpps.jsp?documentPk=1715355422620>

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) New Report on Mixed Delivery Evaluation

High-quality, affordable early childhood care and education (ECCE) is essential for children's school readiness, families' employment, and Virginia's economy. As steward and administrator of the Mixed Delivery Program, VECF recently released the 2024 Mixed Delivery Evaluation Report. Key findings from an in-depth evaluative analysis of the FY23 Mixed Delivery program include:

- Mixed Delivery increased access to ECCE services, particularly for children from low-income families, that met most family needs and preferences.
- Participation in Mixed Delivery supported ECCE program financial stability leading to increased investments in quality improvements, including modest increases in teacher compensation.

Link to full report: <https://vecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024MixedDeliveryEvaluationReport.pdf>

RPIC Regional Webinars - Finance Staff Opportunities in July

For the second year, Virginia is partnering with our Region III counterparts in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, D.C., and Delaware to provide webinars on a variety of subjects. These trainings will occur twice a month and be attended by Community Action Agency staff from multiple states. Here are some upcoming regional webinars:

7/11/24 @10:00am Addressing Cost Allocation Challenges
<https://members.thecaap.org/ap/Events/Register/lkHAdEXcZt5Cw>

7/25/24 @2:00pm Cost Allocation Recovering Agency-wide Admin Costs, & Indirect Rates: A Deeper Drive
<https://members.thecaap.org/ap/Events/Register/EqFwJ7wFgC6C9>

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Grant Workshops

The VOAA will provide three regional workshops with strategies and best practices for the use of opioid settlement funds to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic at the community level. This workshop is specifically designed for city and county officials who are charged with developing plans (and budgets) for the use of these opioid funds. They are limiting attendance to government and non-profit organizations. Continental breakfast and lunch provided. There is a \$25 registration fee.

September 5, 2024 8:00am-4:45pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5-sep-2024-voaa-workshop-tickets-883325288717?aff=oddtcreator>

October 10, 2024 8:00am-4:45pm: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/5-sep-2024-voaa-workshop-tickets-883325288717?aff=oddtcreator>

Click here to look up Estimated Settlement Funds headed to the localities that you serve:
<https://voaa.us21.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ab6ebb4365c7aa5f49f0ed734&id=483084bf56&e=eb5ada8bcd>

Upcoming Public Hearing: HUD's Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Grants

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has developed a draft application for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Preservation and Reinvestment Initiative for Community Enhancement (PRICE) Grant.

The PRICE grant is intended to preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of manufactured housing or manufactured housing communities, to redevelop manufactured housing communities, and to primarily benefit low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents. DHCD is eligible to apply for up to \$75 million.

Funds can be used for

- Repair, revitalization, or replacement of manufactured housing;
- Development or improvement of infrastructure that supports manufactured housing units;
- Land and site acquisition;
- Resident and community services including relocation assistance and eviction prevention;
- Environmental improvements and activities to increase resilience to natural hazards; and
- Planning activities.

DHCD will outline the PRICE application and accept feedback on anticipated needs, statewide goals, and use of funds during the public hearing.

Time and Date: June 28, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM (ET)

Location: Varina Area Public Library Meeting Room.

Register for the Public Hearing (there will be a virtual option):

<https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/dhcdevents/registration.aspx?EID=563>

Tenant Town Halls Hosted by Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC)

How do we fix Virginia's housing crisis? Join VPLC for a Tenant Town Hall this summer. We don't need to tell you, Virginia is in the middle of a housing crisis. Lawmakers, courts, and funders need to do something. But what?

VPLC needs to hear from tenants. VPLC is hosting a series of housing discussions across Virginia this summer, and topics will include: what are your experiences with the housing crisis? What does your community need? What are your ideas for change?

VPLC lawyers will provide information about tenants' legal rights and how to protect them.

Tuesday, June 11 | Richmond Public Library, Main Branch

Thursday, June 20 | Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority

Tuesday, June 25 | Bristol Envision Center

Wednesday, June 26 | New River Community Action Agency (Radford)

Monday, July 1 | Virtual

Tuesday, July 2 | Jordan-Newby Branch Library at Broad Creek (Norfolk)

Tuesday, July 9 | Fredericksburg Public Library

Register from this page: <https://vplc.org/tenant-town-halls-2024/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=4d8ac0a1-56a9-4164-8d10-d5122bb4913b>