



VACAP NEWS

November 2024

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SAVE THE DATE: VACAP Legislative Conference

Join us in Richmond, Virginia on **February 10-12, 2025**. You can plan for educational sessions to take place on February 10 from 12noon – 5pm and on February 11 from 8:30am-5pm. The VACAP Board will meet on February 11 from 8:30am-10am. February 12 will be our advocacy day at the General Assembly.

This conference provides educational training sessions and an opportunity to advocate for our priorities at Virginia's General Assembly. It is also an opportunity to gather community action agencies, local community leaders, statewide partners, and funders to discuss and share best practices for creating economic opportunities and facilitating upward mobility for the people of Virginia. We're working hard to bring you great content this year and more opportunities to connect with each other and our great state partners. Look for registration details in your inbox soon.

New Grant Opportunities: Housing and Energy

Virginia Housing's Community Impact Innovation Grant Program will begin accepting applications on Monday, January 6, 2025. This program supports breakthroughs in both housing affordability and housing services, primarily with regard to serving low- and moderate-income households.

Learn more about the program and its requirements here:

<https://www.vhdagrants.com/index.do> or read an article about the 2024 recipients here:

<https://www.virginiahousing.com/news/24-0916-innovation-grant-winners>

Additionally, round three of Virginia Housing's Sponsorship Grant is open until December 31, 2024. Grants up to \$5,000 are available for nonprofit organizations.

Learn more about the Sponsorship Grant here:

<https://www.vhdagrants.com/viewStorefrontOpportunity.do?OIDString=1724799648371%7COppportunity>

The final application deadline for all of Virginia Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Subgrant applications will be Friday, December 13, 2024. These subgrants will allow for marketing, education, and outreach for energy efficiency and conservation programs for residential energy consumers and contractors.

Additionally, the Department of Energy has announced a competitive grant for energy improvements in communities of 10,000 or fewer. Grant awards will range from \$2M-\$50M. Concept papers are due February 27, 2025, and full applications are due August 28, 2025.

Learn more about the EECBG subgrant application here: <https://energy.virginia.gov/energy-efficiency/eecbg-subgrants.shtml>

Learn more about the DOE Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas grant here:

<https://www.energy.gov/oced/era>

Updates from NCAF: CAPFacts, Spring 2025 Conference, and New OnDemand History Course

NCAF

LET'S GET NCAF-INATED!

SINGLE SHOT ↪

CAPFacts Subscription **\$1,000**

- Monthly insights from David Bradley
- CAPBriefs during session
- QuickFacts with timely alerts

DOUBLE SHOT ↪

NCAF Conference 2025 **\$650**

- March 11-14 in Washington, DC
- Extra participants are \$325 each

EXTRAS

- Monthly Coffee Chats with David Bradley **FREE**
- Call David to troubleshoot an issue **FREE**
- Educational webinars and programs **market prices**
- Special presentations to agencies **market prices**
- Invite David to speak at your event **prices vary**
- Make CAP-PAC Donations **ask for details**

Learn more at ncaf.org and donate today!

- Stay connected to the latest National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) strategies in Washington through a subscription to 2025 CAPFacts.
- Register for NCAF’s Annual Washington Conference and Community Action Fly-in Day on March 11-14, 2025. The conference will focus on how the Community Action Network will survive, and even thrive, in a changed political and legislative world.
- NCAF is launching a virtual, on-demand course called “History of Community Action Master Class” that will be available starting December 16.

Subscribe to CAPFacts here: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/xqgNvZe1n0GHbb440pDLqg2>

Register for NCAF’s Spring 2025 conference here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/3a4122ff-26f5-495c-8499-0371f59c7acc/regProcessStep1>

Learn more about NCAF’s new History of Community Action Master Class here: <https://secure.ngpvan.com/b27m0LYin0qgvXpoDbNPeQ2>

National Community Action Narrative Change Campaign Toolkit

The National Community Action Partnership (NCAP) is excited to announce the launch of the Achieving the Community Action Vision: A Toolkit.

As a part of the National Community Action Narrative Change Campaign initiated by the National Equity and Economic Mobility Commission, the Achieving the Community Action Vision Toolkit is a highly awaited resource. We strongly believe that narratives have power and today as Community Action Agencies aim to meet the needs of diverse persons with low-incomes and communities, it is imperative now more than ever for our leaders to lean into the NCAP Vision and the Network’s foundational narratives which center equity, hope, and dignity.

Key Features of the Toolkit:

- Exploration of the NCAP Vision and equity journey
- Identification and definition of key terms related to the NCAP Vision, Equity, and Belonging
- Actionable steps for putting the toolkit into practice and access to Equity and Belonging resources

Link to Toolkit and More Details: <https://communityactionpartnership.com/news/community-action-narrative-change-campaign-achieving-the-community-action-vision/>

New Toolkit: Understanding and Using Wraparound Services

As part of their Community Economic Development Month in October, OCS released a new toolkit about understanding and utilizing wraparound services, including several examples of successful wraparound models in action. Two case studies are highlighted at the end of the report: a local Department of Health and Human Services that partnered with multiple community services organizations in a “Collaborative Management Program” to provide wraparound services for at-risk youth and families, and a statewide nonprofit organization that is addressing poverty through extensive and holistic wraparound services.

Read more here:

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ocs/50609_HHS_ACF_OCS_CED_Practice_Guide_Wraparound_v02_RELEASE_508.pdf

Community Economic Development Month Resources:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/ced/community-economic-development-month-2024>

Serve Virginia 211 Report Resource

[Serve Virginia](#) welcomes the opportunity to develop strategies that create a stronger information and referral network capacity and foster the essential feedback loop to drive our service to Virginians.

Director Kathy Spangler has shared the link for the quarterly 211 Virginia planning district reports: <https://councilofcommunityservices.org/planning-district-reports/>

These ‘near real-time’ reports provide detail on where needs are being identified, referrals given and where there continue to be unmet needs. We are hopeful that you find value in the information.

211 Virginia is hosting a Regional Town Hall Data Webinar on December 6 from 9AM – 12:30 PM. Gain valuable insights into community needs, population dynamics, poverty rates, and resource utilization across the Commonwealth. Drop in anytime to explore how your region compares and uncover key insights shaping your community.

Each session will include a 15-minute Q&A, giving you the chance to ask questions and engage with the data. Stay for one session or join us for the whole program!

Registration and more information:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1717321456510/WN_XCihy2noRT-4TBIQXbWKtw#/registration

Federal Judge Strikes Down DOL Overtime Rule

The Council of Nonprofits recently reported that a federal district judge in Texas invalidated the Labor Department’s overtime rule that sought to raise the minimum salary level that white collar employees must be paid to remain exempt from overtime pay. The ruling has essentially returned the pay minimum to the 2019 level of \$35,568 per year (\$684 per week).

Read more here: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/nonprofit-champion-november-18-2024#:~:text=Judge%20Strikes%20Down%20DOL%20Overtime%20Rule>

OCS DCA Director Transition Dear Colleague Letter

Charisse Johnson, the previous Director of the Division of Community Assistance and Division of Social Services Acting Director, has transitioned to a new role within Administration for Children and Families’ Office of Grants Management.

The DCL announces that Cheryl Zuni will serve as the Interim Director.

Read more in the Dear Colleague Letter linked here: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/policy-guidance/acf-ocs-csbj-dcl-25-04-dca-director-transition-update>

News You Can Use

Update on State Budget Projections and Debate on Surplus

See below for article on recent budget article in which the use of future surplus funds is focused on one time and not ongoing annual appropriations and the debate over tax policy continues.

Tax Relief a tough sell for Virginia Senate Democrats, even just a rebate

By DAVE RESS, Richmond Times-Dispatch (Subscription Required)

The state Senate's chief budget writer had a basic message about more tax relief at the Senate Finance Committee's annual retreat: No. Not if that means ongoing measures, said Senate Finance Committee chair Louise Lucas, D-Portsmouth. Asked if that could leave open a one-time tax break, like the \$110 rebate for single filers and \$220 for joint filers that the General Assembly approved in 2019, she said maybe.

Full article

https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/general-assembly-tax-cuts-youngkin-rebate/article_f3908e12-a904-11ef-98d9-a7e457735a43.html

Judge deems Youngkin's actions to withdraw Virginia from RGGI 'unlawful'

By CHARLIE PAULLIN, Virginia Mercury

Floyd County Circuit Court Judge Randall Lowe ruled Wednesday Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin acted unlawfully by withdrawing Virginia from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a program aimed to reduce climate changing emissions that has funneled hundreds of millions to the state to deal with the impacts of extreme weather events. In his five page opinion, Lowe wrote that "the only body with the authority to repeal the RGGI regulation would be the General Assembly. This is because a statute, the RGGI Act, requires the RGGI regulation to exist."

Full article:

<https://virginiamercury.com/2024/11/20/judge-deems-youngkins-actions-to-withdraw-virginia-from-rggi-unlawful/>

Youngkin touts new digital portal for Veterans services

By MICHAEL MARTZ

Richmond Times-Dispatch (Subscription Required)

Gov. Glenn Youngkin says Virginia is offering a new way for military veterans to find services they need. Youngkin, speaking at a Veterans Day luncheon in Virginia Beach on Monday, said the Virginia Veterans Network will be a one-stop digital portal for veterans to use instead of searching for options to get help. He described the new network as a "gold-star hub for veterans to go to one place and find everything that they need, one place you can search and find, one place where you can say, 'I need' and we can respond."

Governor Youngkin's press release about this new network is available here:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2024/november/name-1036313-en.html>

Full article: https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/youngkin-veterans-services-deportation-education/article_54b13760-a05d-11ef-ace8-4facb32b4698.html

Executive Action Announced to Catalyze Growth of Workforce Housing Supply

RICHMOND, VA - On November 14, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the Workforce Housing Investment Program, a new initiative at Virginia Housing that will invest \$75 million over five years with the potential to catalyze \$750 million and build 5,000 units of workforce housing in conjunction with economic development projects in the Commonwealth.

The Governor also issued Executive Order 42, which formally ties economic development to workforce housing supply by enhancing the alignment between economic development announcements and housing availability in the Commonwealth.

More information is available here: <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2024/november/name-1036444-en.html>

Link to executive order:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/governor-of-virginia/pdf/eo/EO--42---Catalyzing-Housing-Development-for-Critical-Workforce-and-Economic-Development-Needs-with-Interagency-Collaboration.pdf>

RPIC Regional Webinars

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 upcoming regional webinars:

12/10/24 @ 10:00am Capitalize & Cultivate: Mastering Fundraising and Asset Development for Impactful Growth

<https://communityactionassociationofpennsylvania.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/zLEjdm9r?mode=Attendee>
