



## **VACAP NEWS**

### **December 2024**

#### **Inside this Issue**

- Register Today: VACAP Legislative Conference
  - Virginia CASH Campaign Grant Awards
  - New Regional HR or Fiscal Peer Group: Interest Form
  - NLIHC Housing Policy Forum 2025
  - TechSoup Membership Webinar February 6, 2025
  - VA Minimum Wage Increase to \$12.41/hour on 1/1/2025
- 

#### **Register Today: 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 the 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.

Learn more and register here: <https://cvent.me/Mm2PLb>

---

#### **Virginia CASH Campaign Grant Awards Announced**

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is pleased to announce that \$485,725 has been awarded to 19 coalitions across Virginia to provide free income tax preparation services under the Internal Revenue Service Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

The VACAP program, called the Virginia CASH Campaign, provides opportunities for taxpayers to file both federal and state tax returns, claim valuable tax credits like the federal Child Tax Credit

(CTC) and both the federal and state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and link taxpayers with financial empowerment opportunities. “We are very appreciative of Virginia’s Governor and General Assembly for funding this important work. Coalitions have been providing VITA services, in some cases, for over twenty years, including during the pandemic,” said Carolyn Spohrer, Vice President at VACAP. Last tax filing season, over 19,700 returns were filed, bringing in over \$20 million in refunds to communities across Virginia. Erik Johnston, VACAP President and CEO, said, “Community volunteers, trained and certified by the IRS, have been the backbone of the program. The value of our VITA volunteers translates to over a \$10 million contribution to the program.”

The list of awards is available here: [https://www.vacap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Grant-awards\\_12092024.pdf](https://www.vacap.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Grant-awards_12092024.pdf)

---

## **New Regional HR or Fiscal Peer Group: Interest Form**

---



Region III  
Community Action  
Presents

**REGION III  
HR & FISCAL  
PEER GROUPS**

Are you in an HR or Fiscal role within your agency? Would you like an opportunity to join with your peers to discuss challenges and best practices?

Interested parties will receive additional information and help to shape the peer groups!

[CLICK HERE to sign-up for additional information!](#)

[Click here to register today!](#)

The Region 3 CSBG Training cohort is putting together two regional peer groups with members from CAAs in Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington, DC, and Virginia. We anticipate the group will meet twice per year with guest speakers and opportunity for peer to peer engagement.

CAAs interested in joining the peer groups should complete the form below.

### **Region 3 HR and Fiscal Peer Group Interest Form:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekCsqdr3F0Ai8GuForIYBLVbVE5\\_y\\_UST7Ndza4YeE9cVnUw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSekCsqdr3F0Ai8GuForIYBLVbVE5_y_UST7Ndza4YeE9cVnUw/viewform)

---

## **NLIHC Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day 2025**

The National Low-Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) invites advocates to participate in its annual Housing Policy Forum and Capitol Hill Day at the Hilton Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. The Forum will take place from March 24-27, 2025 with Capitol Hill Day on March 27.

The Housing Policy Forum is an opportunity to engage with and learn from thought leaders, policy experts, researchers, tenant advocates, affordable housing practitioners, and members of Congress about how to end the housing and homelessness crisis impacting low-income renters in America. This year's Forum will also feature a Hill Day Advocacy Resource Center to provide resources and guidance for attendees to navigate their Capitol Hill visits.

**Learn more and register here:** [https://nlihc.org/events/2025-nlihc-housing-policy-forum?ct=t%282025\\_Forum\\_Advocacy\\_Center%29](https://nlihc.org/events/2025-nlihc-housing-policy-forum?ct=t%282025_Forum_Advocacy_Center%29)

---

## **TechSoup Membership Options Webinar**

**Thursday, February 6, 2025 – 1pm EST**

Join TechSoup for a session designed to guide you through its various membership options and help you make the most of your nonprofit's technology resources.

In this session, you'll learn:

- The benefits of each membership level and which one best suits your nonprofit's needs.
- How to leverage member-exclusive offers and resources to maximize your impact.
- Practical steps for becoming a member and upgrading your membership as your organization grows.
- Live Q&A: Get answers to your questions from our knowledgeable Customer Success team.

**Learn more and register here:** <https://events.techsoup.org/events/details/techsoup-techsoup-events-and-webinars-presents-learn-about-techsoup-membership-options/cohost-techsoup-customer-success-events-hub>

---

## **Virginia Minimum Wage to Increase 41 Cents**

Virginia's minimum wage will increase to \$12.41 per hour on New Year's Day 2025, marking a slight increase from the commonwealth's existing minimum of \$12 per hour. The scheduled Jan. 1 increase comes after lawmakers in the Virginia General Assembly spent the earlier part of this year trying to pass a larger increase which was vetoed.

**Read the article here:** <https://www.wusa9.com/article/money/virginia-minimum-wage-glenn-youngkin-louise-lucas-house-of-delegates-veto-41-cents-12-dollars/65-8f1cc499-dd4e-47dc-aa23-174e2665364e>