



VACAP NEWS

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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.

There will be an Energy and Weatherization Symposium with Virginia Energy, VDSS, DHCD and our utility partners on Monday February 10. This is open to all agencies regardless of whether you have a weatherization program, and we encourage you to attend with your key staff.

On Tuesday, February 11, a training session will be provided by CAPLAW on their most hot topics as it relates to CSBG including Immigrant eligibility for public benefits, open meetings resources as it pertains to Virginia Law and HHS adoption of the Uniform Guidance.

Also, on Tuesday for Energy and WAP staff: peer group trainings led by Optimum Performance Solutions.

Learn more and register here: <https://web.cvent.com/event/6e824fb3-44ee-45ac-897e-d87a4e1f10c0/summary>

VA Housing Alliance BIPOC Leadership Institute 2025 Application

The Virginia Housing Alliance BIPOC Leadership Institute (BLI) is a 10-month intensive and targeted program created and implemented by the Virginia Housing Alliance. It is designed to leverage training, coaching, and peer support to help 15 mid-career housing professionals foster and grow leadership skills and create a career development plan to catalyze their leadership trajectory.

If you are a mid-career affordable housing professional of color in Virginia, and are interested in launching your career to the next level, VA Housing Alliance invites you to apply to be a part of the next cohort. Applications are open now through February 28th. An informational session from January 7th is available to review at the link below.

Learn more and apply here: <https://vahousingalliance.org/bli/>

Virginia Housing Grants Available

Virginia Housing has an array of grants available related to innovation in community impact. The Community Impact Grant Innovation Program seeks to support technological innovations in homebuilding, as well as process innovation in the delivery of housing related services.

- **Innovation Planning Grants** are to explore the development of innovative ideas related to building houses or providing housing services. The planning grant will support production of a white paper or other document that lays the foundation for future funding requests. These grants are targeted for applicants who have already assembled the appropriate partnerships and are planning for implementation of their innovative strategies. **Up to \$50,000 is available for grant award; applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**
- **Competitive Innovation Program Grants** are intended to be a one-time injection of funding to jump start efforts, and are not a reoccurring model for funding. Award decisions prioritize plans that will continue beyond VA Housing funding. **Up to \$200,000 is available**, either in innovative housing services, or innovative financing for housing initiatives. **Applications must be received by February 19, 2025.**
- **Competitive Innovation Construction Grants** supplement construction costs for projects that incorporate non-conventional homebuilding processes that show a potential to reduce construction cost, time, or resources. Up to \$500,000 is available in one of three categories: innovative materials, building approaches, or project enhancements. **Applications must be received by February 19, 2025.**

Learn more about VA Housing grants here and within their Grants Management System:
<https://www.virginiahousing.com/partners/housing-partners/grant>

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!](#)

Calling all CAA professionals in HR and/or finance roles!

Would you like to know more about great programmatic successes from other HR & finance professionals at CAAs in neighboring states? Do you have a pressing problem that only a group of likeminded HR or finance CAA professionals could solve?

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

How one City Cut Its Poverty Rate By More Than a Third

Over the past decade, Richmond, Va., has managed to cut its poverty rate by 36 percent. Many things broke right for the city, but a pair of mayors stuck with a longterm plan to make it happen.

Back in 2014, Dwight C. Jones set a goal some believed would be impossible to achieve. The poverty rate in Richmond, Va., was twice the national average. Nearly 27 percent of Richmond residents lived below the poverty line. Jones, then the mayor, set a goal to cut the rate nearly in half, to 15 percent, by 2030.

Five years ahead of that deadline, Richmond is not just on track to hit that mark but ahead of schedule. The most recent American Community Survey put Richmond's poverty rate at 17.1 percent. Richmond is on a better trendline than nearly every comparable city in the Southeast.

Read more in the article here: <https://www.governing.com/policy/how-one-city-cut-its-poverty-rate-in-half>

Six Strategies for Efficient Audit Preparations: Key Steps for Success

Financial audits are a critical part of many companies' annual processes, often required by banks, donors, lenders, vendors, customers, investors, or potential acquirers. While a CPA firm may quote a standard price for an audit, the cost can rise significantly if the company isn't well-prepared. Inefficiencies can lead to out-of-scope work, making the process take longer and cost more. To avoid these pitfalls and ensure a smooth audit, read the article linked below to learn about six strategies for success from Warren Whitney.

Read the article here: <https://warrenwhitney.com/december-2024-efficient-audit-preparations/>

Federal and Philanthropic Funding Trends in Economic Mobility

Annually, trillions of dollars from the federal government and philanthropic institutions have the potential to support Americans in accessing the life experiences that drive higher lifetime income—what we call the Mobility Experiences. These experiences span sectors and life stages, and require coordinated efforts across funders to improve economic opportunity for all Americans.

As your 2024 philanthropic strategies take shape, learn how investments across the Mobility Experiences can most effectively drive upward mobility for your community. Camber Collective's latest Mobility Experiences report identifies key opportunities to align investment strategies with impact.

Join the Chronicle of Philanthropy and Camber Collective for a webinar to learn more.

Learn more about Mobility Experiences here: <https://mobilityexperiences.org/>

Register for the webinar here: <https://shorturl.at/HMUJS>

Techsoup Event: Grant Proposal Success: 10 Tips for Capturing Funder Attention

In today's highly competitive funding environment, nonprofits often wonder, "What can we do to ensure our grant proposals shine?" This is an essential question because your time and resources are precious, and every application should count.

In this engaging 60-minute webinar, Alice Ruhnke, GrantStation's President of Education and Outreach, will share 10 actionable strategies to elevate your proposal development and writing skills. From techniques in partnership identification to highlighting your strengths, these tips are designed to help your submissions stand out and resonate with funders. Plus, there will be a dedicated Q&A session to address your pressing questions.

Don't miss this opportunity to refine your grantseeking approach — join us for this free, impactful event!

When: January 30, 2025, 2:00-3:00pm

Register here (need to have Techsoup account):

<https://events.techsoup.org/events/details/techsoup-techsoup-events-and-webinars-presents-grant-proposal-success-10-tips-for-capturing-funder-attention/>