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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Virginia Community Action Partnership Welcomes Shikee Franklin as Deputy Executive Director

Franklin Boasts Over 20 Years of Experience in Advancing Early Childhood Education and Community Development Across Virginia

Richmond, VA – August 10, 2026– The Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) announces that **Shikee Franklin, M.Ed.** has joined the organization as Deputy Executive Director. In her new role, Ms. Franklin will help lead VACAP's strategy, operations, and program/grants portfolio in close partnership with the President & CEO.

"Shikee has a respected history of working as a leader at both the Hampton Roads Community Action Program and The Improvement Association," said **Erik Johnston, President & CEO of VACAP**. "She is respected in Richmond and statewide for her longstanding leadership in Virginia association work and state advocacy on behalf of Head Start and the mission of community action. She also has strong experience working with and for local government."

Ms. Franklin served as Senior Director of Early Childhood Education for Hampton Roads Community Action Program, providing executive oversight of the largest Head Start program in VA, serving more than 1,000 children and families with annual budget exceeding $18 million. Additionally, she has competitive grant writing experience within community action agencies, county government, and school division. Over the last 12 months she has secured approximately $1million in new funding for the County of Greensville to support various initiatives including water and sewer, family support services, and services for children with special needs.

A respected leader throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia, Ms. Franklin has served on numerous state advisory committees and workgroups, including those that helped shape Virginia's Unifying Preschool initiative. She served as the first Chairman of VDOE Early Childhood Advisory Committee, served on the Virginia Department of Education's Child Health and Safety Regulations Work Group, and past president of Virginia Head Start Association. Her leadership extends beyond her profession through service with civic, faith-based, and community organizations, including the Girl Scout Troop Leader, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, and Galilee Baptist Church.

Ms. Franklin holds a Master of Education, a Bachelor of Science in Business Organization, and an Associate Degree in Business Management. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including *Inside Business* Hampton Roads' Top 40 Under 40 and an Honorary Doctorate in Christian Leadership. She is widely recognized for her collaborative leadership, strategic vision, and

unwavering commitment to creating opportunities that improve the lives of children, families, and communities.

“I am very excited to join VACAP as the Deputy Executive Director,” said Ms. Franklin. “I am dedicated to the Promise of Community Action as well as the mission of VACAP. This new role will allow me to expand opportunities to help changes people’s lives and improve communities.”

About Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP)
Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) is the statewide membership association for Virginia’s thirty-one non-profit private and public community action agencies. VACAP’s mission is to build the capacity and competencies of Virginia’s community action agencies to achieve their mission of creating economic opportunities and facilitating mobility from poverty for the people of Virginia. At VACAP, we are committed to a future in which all of Virginia’s community action agencies are high impact and people and places across Virginia are thriving. For more information, please visit https://vacap.org.

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