

VACAP NEWS

April 2023

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Its National Minority Health Month!

Check out this compilation of resources brought to you by the Virginia Office of Economic Opportunity.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1N wrAlF rCfyVf8gKCeq0sAnpf 3fa39/view

Registration Still Open for VACAP 2023 Regional Meetings Set for May 17 (Hampton), May 24 (Wytheville) & May 31 (Fredericksburg)

Join fellow community action peers and partners in your region for a day of networking, information exchange and hear updates on topics from VACAP's partners and funders. VACAP's Training and Innovations Committee is excited to implement a one-day regional meeting designed to allow large teams from each agency to experience the support and ideas of peers from the network that is a short drive from your agency. Thank you to AppCAA, Mountain CAP, Thrive and HRCAP for their hospitality in helping to plan and host in each region. **Bring a van full of community action team**



members! Costs per person is only \$30 with discounted registration costs when you register four or more staff at one time.

Who should attend?

VACAP encourages each agency with multiple staff to bring 4-10 colleagues together. There will be breakout peer groups in many of the major areas of community action. These groups will be formed on site based on those attending. Additional Peer Exchange groups may be determined as people sign up to attend.

Below are some of the peer groups we will offer participants to break into during the peer learning breakout sessions:

- · Broadband Equity/Opportunity Grantees
- · CEO/Director
- · Finance/Fiscal staff
- · Head Start staff
- · Housing Counseling/homeless assistance staff
- · HR staff
- · IT/Data staff
- · Planner/ROMA staff
- · Senior Leaders
- · Weatherization/housing rehabilitation/housing construction staff
- · Whole Family staff

How to Register?

See below for registration links for the three meetings and the list of agencies in each region. **Every agency is welcome to send staff to any of the meetings.** The registration page has the full agenda, a list of local hotels, a sponsor list of those making these events possible, and the registration page.

Region 3 – Hampton - May 17 – 9:30am-2pm - https://cvent.me/alArRv
CAPUP, ESCAA, Goochland, HRCAP, Imp Assoc, Project Discovery, Powhatan, SERCAP, STEPS, STOP, Tri-County, VA CARES, WICC-CAA

Region 1 - Wytheville - May 24 - 9:30am-2pm - https://cvent.me/rQ58lA AppCAA, Clinch Valley, LynCAG, Mt. CAP, NRCA, PCCA, Project Discovery, People, Rooftop, SERCAP, STEP, TAP, VA CARES

Region 2 - Fredericksburg - May 31 - 9:30am-2pm - https://cvent.me/40qykK
Alexandria, Arlington, Bay Aging, CAPSAW, Fairfax, MACAA, Project Discovery, People, SERCAP, Skyline, Thrive, VA CARES



Save the Date: VACAP Summit October 10-11, 2023 (Richmond, Virginia)

VACAP's second annual Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit will continue to include networking, encouragement, and hearing about key opportunities from strategic partners and funders. VACAP has confirmed October 10-11, 2023 at the Virginia Housing Center in Richmond. Please note this is a slight day change from the original tentative date. We hope you will save the dates so you can join us for this keystone VACAP event!

Registration Now Open for NCAP's Whole Family Approach Institute

Join NCAP and colleagues from across the country for the 2023 Whole Family Approach Institute on June 6th-7th in the heart of the nation's capital. Featuring thought leaders and subject matter experts from across the human services field, this dynamic learning experience offers invaluable capacity building and networking opportunities. We will be joined by federal partners and key stakeholders in the Whole Family Approach arena, as well as peer experts with lived experience, who will enlighten and inspire attendees in our shared mission to maximize impact for children and the adults in their lives.

Regardless of where your organization may be on its Whole Family Approach implementation journey, this intensive two-day convening offers speakers and workshops to help you reach the next level, as well as time and space for team building and action planning. Agencies are strongly encouraged to send teams of three or more people to fully capitalize on this opportunity, but individuals are also welcome to attend.

Register here: https://communityactionpartnership.com/wfa-institute/

General Assembly Update: Highlights of New Laws Passed

Thank you to VACAP members for your advocacy for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/CASH Campaign during the 2023 General Assembly. We had bipartisan support for an increase in funding for this vital program with the House recommending an increase of \$300,000 and the Senate recommending an increase of \$250,000. A final budget is not expected until June and VACAP will report any updates.

In addition, over 700 bills were signed into law in April. Here are a few that may be of interest to VACAP members:



- HB 1963 (Runion) and SB 945 (Suetterlein) Directs the Department of Medical Assistance Services to take steps to amend the Family and Individual Supports, Community Living, and Building Independence waivers to provide greater financial flexibility to individuals with developmental disabilities who are receiving waiver services.
 HB 1963: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB945
 SB 945: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB945
- **HB 2194 (Byron)** and **SB 1422 (Pillion)** Supports individuals in attaining an industry-based credential by increasing the workforce credential grant from \$3,000 to \$4,000. HB 2194: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=231&typ=bil&val=hb2194 SB 1422: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1422
- **HB 2195 (Byron)** and **SB 1470 (Ruff)** Streamlines state workforce programs and establishes the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement. HB 2195: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?ses=231&typ=bil&val=hb2195 SB 1470: https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?231+sum+SB1470

Bay Aging Continues Excellent work sharing Health Care partnership opportunities with VACAP network

Bay Aging continues to do an amazing job of coordinating Virginia's Community Integrated Health Network. They recently secured Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Resources John Little to speak to the network and conducted the Sustainable Strategies Program for Community Based Organizations over the past several months. This has been an excellent resource for VACAP members exploring service and funding models through the health care partnerships. Below are some of the key terms from their work.

Social determinants of Health (SDOH) refers to the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, or age that are shaped by the distribution of money, power, resources, etc. Research over the past ten plus years has focused on how SDOH are responsible for up to 80% of health outcomes.

Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) is a more recent term that is closely related. HRSN refers to the social and economic needs that impact health and well-being, such as food, housing, personal safety. While health and social care providers may not be able to change a person's SDOH they can directly impact the HRSN by providing resources or other solutions.

The Administration for Community Living and others adopted the term of "Community Care Hub" (CCH) in place of the term Community Integrated Health Network. A CCH is defined as a community-centered entity that organizes and supports networks of CBOs to integrate CBOs and the health-related services they provide into the health care continuum.



Good Reads & Newsworthy Updates

Announcing New NCAP Young Professional Representative from RPIC Region 3:

Abriana Kiser of MountainHeart Community Services, West Virginia has been voted as the Young Professional representing Region 3 on the National Community Action Partnership's Young Professional Advisory Committee. Congratulations to Abriana and VACAP looks forward to partnering with you.

Thank you to VACAP and our partners at the federal level there is \$40 million secured in federal funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program administered by the IRS in the 2023 omnibus spending bill.

DEQ is soliciting comments on its new Environmental Justice Policy.

DEQ has released draft guidance, Environmental Justice in the Permitting Process, for an informal comment period. This guidance creates procedures to ensure fair treatment and meaningful involvement throughout DEQ's permitting processes. The guidance outlines a permit evaluation process for all permitting actions at DEQ, as well as establishes processes for further evaluation of permits of particular concern to environmental justice communities. DEQ will accept informal public comments on the guidance until **May 1**. A formal public comment period will be held after internal review. Please submit comments on the guidance to ejcomments@deq.virginia.gov. See link below for the document:

https://www.deg.virginia.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/17431/638144773847470000

One CEO's Story of Executive Burnout

By: Angel B. Pérez

Reports of burnout at the top level of organizations are on the rise. An association CEO shares his personal journey of struggling with burnout and how he found joy in work and life again. https://www.asaecenter.org/resources/articles/an_plus/2023/2-february/one-ceos-story-of-executive-burnout/

Youngkin's Workforce Development Bill passes House and Senate

By DAVID RESS, Richmond Times-Dispatch

One of Gov. Glenn Youngkin's top legislative priorities — a bill to consolidate dozens of programs — is headed to his desk after both the House of Delegates and state Senate voted Tuesday to enact the change. The new Department of Workforce Development and Advancement would be the administrator and fiscal agent — the money manager— for state programs that help people train for and find jobs.

https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/youngkins-workforce-development-bill-passes-house-and-senate/article_fe5e5184-a72c-11ed-8d6c-d3aa7e7512a9.html



'Weathering' makes the case that the stress of poverty and racism damage health: Shots - Health News

By Dave Davies, NPR

Public health researcher Arline Geronimus from the University of Michigan says the traditional belief that the disparities are due to genetics, diet and exercise don't explain data that's accumulated over the years. Instead, she makes the case that marginalized people suffer nearly constant stress from living with poverty and discrimination, which damages their bodies at the cellular level and leads to increasingly serious health problems over time.

https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/03/28/1166404485/weathering-arline-geronimus-poverty-racism-stress-health

Falling short: Accounting firms feel labor squeeze

By M.J. MCATEER, Virginia Business

In the accounting field, the books are out of balance. Demand for the profession's services is rising, which is one for the assets column, but on the debit side of the ledger, the number of people willing and able to provide those services is dropping so alarmingly that some firms are being forced to turn away clients.

https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/falling-short/?oly enc id=9130I2763701D2D

March 2023: Recruitment & Retention Strategies- embracing a new mindset

By Tom Prest, Warren Whitney

Post-pandemic, the employee mindset has irrevocably changed, impacting the future of our work environment. The roller coaster of these past couple of years has shifted the priorities of the workforce; with now greater importance on work-life balance, needing to feel valued at work, and overall satisfaction. Leaders must adapt to these changes to inspire and motivate their staff. Considering these environmental changes, this article highlights six best practices to embrace to attract and retain top talent.

https://warrenwhitney.com/march-2023-recruitment-retention-strategies-embracing-a-new-mindset/

Weatherization Deferral Program Survey Update

The Association of Energy Conservation Professionals (AECP) recently conducted a statewide survey on the Weatherization Deferral and Repair (WDR) program. The purpose of the survey was to offer an opportunity for Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) providers to respond to a series of questions related to the operation, performance, and administration of the program.

AECP had surveyed the WAP network and compiled data indicating on average a 20 to 25% deferral rate prior to WDR being operationalized. This means that at least 1 in 5 eligible homes were not being weatherized due to health and safety issues that could not be addressed under normal WAP services.

Results of the current survey clearly indicated that the program is working and homes that were deferred are now being weatherized. The survey also identified some improvements & suggestions



for the WDR program, namely in areas of the job approval process, how can this be streamlined to improve the flow and minimize jobs being sent back, requiring Standard Work Specifications (SWS) during the WDR process when SWS would be a requirement when the home is weatherized, how do program increase production and what may be the disincentives that are hampering programs from utilizing WDR funds.

WDR is a program funded through Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and is administered by the VA Dept. of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). All of the WAP providers in Virginia are participating in the program. WDR is a program designed to provide funds to help fix and repair those health and safety measures that are too costly for normal WAP allocations and thus the homes are deferred and not weatherized. These measures include roofs, electrical issues, HVAC issues, moisture problems and much more.

Community Action Plan Update

The annual Community Action Plan is due May 1, 2023. CSBG staff developed a CAP Tip Sheet which contains common questions regarding the CAP plan. https://files.constantcontact.com/d52d9850501/9834f471-f349-4b31-a5fd-9b4eed05e020.pdf

Upcoming Free Webinars for VACAP Members

VACAP and OEO are partnering with the Region 3 Regional Innovation and Performance Consortia (RPIC) to offer a variety of trainings over the next several months. These trainings are open to any staff or board member who may be interested, please forward as needed. There will be two webinars each month between February and August, topics vary each month, so make sure to sign up for any session relevant to your position!

• Authentic Communication, Part II: Emotionally Intelligent & Psychologically Safe Communication

April 27, 2023, 10-11am

Learn about the five communication practices that leverage our emotional and social skills so that we can get the most out of our interactions. Plus, we will dive into the five practices that build safety for interpersonal risk-taking and allow team members to feel accepted and respected.

 $Register: \underline{https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpfuCtpjgiGtCTSU8ubsG5i6Rmm} \\ \underline{xU1q467}$

• Important Board Decisions for Your Community Action Agency

May 11, 2023, 2-3pm

Identify key financial choices your Board should explore and develop strategies to present the information needed to evaluate options. We'll explore multiple strategic decisions, including setting cash reserves targets and strategies to achieve them, purchasing/redeveloping facilities, expanding/contracting services, compensation strategies, improving compliance (for CAAs with audit findings or difficulties with monitors), Board



composition and role, and building unrestricted contributions.

Register: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIod-Cppz0qE9cc98fj6wk]]6in2Yzpfsd7

• Full list of upcoming trainings: https://vacsbg.learnworlds.com/blog/regional-webinars-2023 and on the VACAP Events and Training Calendar https://www.vacap.org/events/

Funding Opportunities Available to VACAP Members

VITA Grant Opportunity Forthcoming

The federal VITA Grant Opportunity can be found on <u>Grants.gov</u> by searching CFDA number 21.009 beginning May 1. In order to apply for the VITA Grant, all applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements. Refer to the eligibility requirements in the Publication 4671, VITA Grant Program Overview and Application Instructions (https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p4671.pdf). For further details see the VITA Grant FAQs (https://www.irs.gov/individuals/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-vita-grant-program-faqs).

The grant period will run from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024.

Workforce Development Grants:

https://virginiacareerworks.com

- **Soft Skill Training Grant**: The intent of this project is to provide opportunities for innovative soft skills trainings to individuals in low income and disadvantaged, rural communities.
 - $\frac{https://virginiacareerworks.com/wp-content/uploads/RFP-Soft-Skills-Training-Grant-FINAL.pdf}{Grant-FINAL.pdf}$
- Transportation to Learn Grant: The intent of this project is to increase youth exposure to the benefits and opportunities, of workforce development programs, such as registered apprenticeships, and in-demand occupations. https://virginiacareerworks.com/wp-content/uploads/RFP-Transportation-To-Learn-Grant-FINAL.pdf
- Technical Skills Development Grant: The intent of these funds is to increase the number of technical training offerings in information technology and healthcare fields statewide.
 - https://virginiacareerworks.com/wp-content/uploads/RFP-Technical-Skills-Development-Grant-FINAL.pdf
- Youth Outreach and Marketing Development Grant: The intent of this project is to develop and implement outreach programs to engage and inspire high school students to pursue education, training, and careers in the skilled trades.



https://virginiacareerworks.com/wp-content/uploads/RFP-Youth-Outreach-and-Marketing-Development-Grant-FINAL.pdf

• Supplemental Workforce Development Training Opportunity Grant: The intent of these funds is to increase the number of participants in workforce development training activities statewide, with a specific focus in work-based learning activities. Corrected 03/21/2023

https://virginiacareerworks.com/wp-content/uploads/RFP-Supplemental-Workforce-Development-Training-Opportunity-Grant-FINAL.pdf

ACF Notice of Funding Opportunities:

ACF offers funding for a variety of competitive and mandatory grant programs serving families, children, individuals and communities.

https://www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/grants

Virginia Energy Efficiency Council Federal Funding Opportunity Resource Page:

Federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act presents an opportunity to help homeowners, business owners, and local governments make their buildings more energy-efficient. Visit the new federal funding page for a list of relevant resources to help navigate the available funding options.

https://vaeec.org/federal-funding-opportunities/

EPA Funding Opportunity Grants:

- The new Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Grantmaking (EJ TCGM) Program is a competition to select multiple Grantmakers around the nation to reduce barriers to the federal grants application process communities face and increase the efficiency of the awards process for environmental justice grants. Grantmakers will design competitive application and submission processes, award environmental justice subgrants, implement a tracking and reporting system, provide resources and support to communities, all in collaboration with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.
 - https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-grantmaking-program
- The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working to address local environmental or public health issues in their communities. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, academia, etc.) to develop solutions to environmental or public health issue(s) at the community level. https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5

Federal Funding Sources Available to Test and Remediate Lead in Early Care and Education Settings

Several funding sources are available in your state to test for and remediate lead in ECE settings to



ensure that children are healthy and safe from lead exposure. As state leaders, you have a great deal of discretion on how to direct these funds, including:

- The ARP Act includes \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) that can be used to invest in lead remediation projects, including in ECE facilities. The ARP also includes nearly \$15 billion in Child Care and Development Fund Supplemental Funds (CCDF ARP Supplemental) that can be used to support improvements to existing child care centers and family child care programs to address lead pipes and paint.
- The BIL authorized increasing funding capacity to approximately \$200 million over five years for the EPA Voluntary School and Child Care Lead Testing and Reduction GrantProgram for lead remediation and compliance monitoring in addition to lead testing. The BIL further authorized increased funding of \$500 million over 5 years for the EPA Reducing Lead in Drinking Water Grant Program to fund water infrastructure improvements such as lead service line replacements and facility remediation at ECE settings.

Link to memo and funding sources:

https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-hhs-encourage-states-utilize-federal-resources-lead-detection-and-mitigation

DHCD Industrial Revitalization Fund

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is excited to announce two rounds of funding for FY24! The first round of \$10 million in ARPA funds will open soon. A webinar will take place regarding this round on **April 27, 2023, from 10:00 - 11:00 AM.** For those interested but unable to attend the live webinar, a recording of the how-to-apply presentation will be posted to the Virginia DHCD website.

The Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) encourages economic development and investment through the renovation of vacant and derelict structures in Virginia. Each year, the program awards funding to localities throughout the state to assist market-driven projects that eliminate blight structures and create revitalization throughout our communities. The success of the IRF program over the past nine years, as well as the need to support COVID-impacted industries, communities, and people has led to additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act.

Register for the webinar: https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/dhcdevents/registration.aspx?EID=519

Input Needed on DHCD's HUD Consolidated Plan for Affordable Housing

In order to receive feedback on the housing and community development needs of the Commonwealth, as well as the best use of resources to address those needs, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is undertaking a five-year Consolidated Planning Process.



The planning process will result in the development of a Five-Year Consolidated Plan, an Annual Action Plan, and an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing. The anticipated federal housing and community development resources include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), National Housing Trust Fund, Emergency Solution Grant (ESG), Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA).

DHCD will accept feedback on anticipated federal housing and community resources including goals and objectives for housing and community development, the projected use of funding, and the method of distribution.

DHCD will hold a virtual public hearing on the Commonwealth of Virginia's 2023 Consolidated Plan, next year's Annual Action Plan and the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing on April 21 from 10:00-11:30 am. All three documents will be posted on the department's website for review by April 14th.

Additional login details will be sent prior to the event.

If you have any additional questions regarding these sessions, contact Catherine Farnsler at catherine.farnsler@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Register for virtual Public Hearing: https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/dhcdevents/

Resource: Emergency Energy Funds Available Through Virginia Utilities

Please note these charitable funds are last resort emergency funds with limited resources and limited times of operation.

American Electric Power (Appalachian Power)

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Eligibility of recipients is determined and funds are distributed by the Dollar Energy Fund.

To find out what agency to contact in your area, contact the Customer Solutions Center in Virginia at 800-956-4237 or the Dollar Energy Fund.

www.appalachianpower.com/info/community/paymentAssistancePrograms/NeighborToNeighbor.aspx

Atmos Energy

Sharing the Warmth Customer donations combine with company donations to help people pay their gas bills. All donations go directly to local people in need that meet criteria established by each individual program's guidelines.

To contact the energy assistance agency in your area visit https://www.atmosenergy.com/community/sharing-warmth



Columbia Gas of Virginia

Heatshare

Funded by customer and company contributions and administered by the Salvation Army, Heatshare is an emergency fund to help households with energy bills.

To find out if you qualify for a grant, call the Universal Services department at 1-800-537-7431.

Dominion Virginia Power

EnergyShare

Created in 1983 to help low-income households, EnergyShare is a heating and cooling assistance program in Virginia. Heating assistance applies to any heat source - oil, gas, kerosene, wood and electricity. EnergyShare is supported by donations from utility stockholders, employees and customers, businesses, churches, and civic groups. In addition, matching funds and administrative costs are paid by the utility. Call 2-1-1 for a referral to your local EnergyShare agency. 1-866-366-4357

www.dom.com/about/community/energyshare.jsp

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative Operation Round UP Customer and utility

donations provide assistance with their heating bills. People who need assistance should contact the Virginia Department of Social Services at 1-804-726-7000 or toll-free 1-800-552-3431. www.novec.com/About_NOVEC/News_Release/nr101609.cfm

Virginia Natural Gas

EnergyShare

Beginning in January, help with energy payments may be available if all alternatives available through social services have been exhausted. Call The Salvation Army to make an appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted.

South Hampton Roads, call 757-543-8100

Suffolk, call 757-539-5201

On the Peninsula, call 757-838-4875

http://www.virginianaturalgas.com/residential/energy-assistance

Washington Gas

Washington Area Fuel Fund

Provides heating assistance payments for low-income households in the Washington D.C. area that do not qualify for or have exhausted government assistance. Funded by customer and company contributions and administered by the Salvation Army. 540-869-1111

City of Charlottesville

Gas Assistance Program

Provides emergency payments for low-income households that are not able to meet their gas bills and have exhausted government assistance. Referrals are given through a variety of community action groups; intake is provided by the City of Charlottesville Department of Public Utilities.



Harrisonburg Electric Commission

Energy Share

Customer contributions assist those who need help paying their heating bills. Funds will be managed by the Salvation Army. As long as funds are available, they will make payments for all qualifying customers.

540-434-5361

https://www.harrisonburgelectric.com/programs/energy_share/