



VACAP NEWS

June 2023

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VACAP 2023 Regional Meetings: Feedback Needed!

Please fill out this survey to provide feedback about the VACAP regional meetings. These are important for us to keep on having successful events in the future. We appreciate your time and to making these events a great experience for all.

Link to Survey (takes just 5 minutes!):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMrw_o48XEEqSu0wHDCL0U3bFraw0yn--vGbVjV4sUFkSVIA/viewform

Link to photos from the regional meetings:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/t4ldii75l2emodmfte9o3/h?dl=0&rlkey=dpdet56ymwy4n4yc8wqmppy43>



Digital Opportunity Updates

VACAP members have been deeply involved in DHCD's broadband digital equity planning grant effort. As part of the effort, a survey has been created to capture feedback from communities. DHCD is trying to get responses from as many communities as possible. **We encourage all membership, even those not serving as lead agencies in the digital equity planning grants to**

share widely in your communities, families that you serve and other community partners. The more responses, the more data you all will be able to access and use in your planning grants, and for DHCD to use in the overall digital equity state plan. We need to hear from all voices!

For the online and copies of the paper survey, please visit DHCD's Digital Opportunity Landing Page: <https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/digital-opportunity>.

VACAP also has a spotlight about this on our landing page: <https://www.vacap.org/>

August is the Time to Invite Your Federal Legislators to Visit Your Agency!

In August, your Members of Congress, both from the House of Representatives and the Senate, will be home working and looking for good opportunities to connect in their districts. **Now is a perfect time to invite your Members of Congress to visit your agency during the August Work Period.**

For more tips and information, including a template email to send to your Congressman, visit NCAF website here: <https://mailchi.mp/fcf8725d5d48/important-opportunity-august-work-period?e=2f5a530e9b>

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. We hope you will save the dates so you can join us for this keystone VACAP event!

ATTENTION: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Consumer Alert

Virginians should be aware of fraudulent activity by individuals claiming to represent the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Fraudsters unrelated to CSBG are contacting people



by telephone, email, social media, and text message offering CSBG funding or services in exchange for a fee.

Neither the State of Virginia nor the federal government provides direct CSBG grants to individuals. Additionally, neither the Virginia Community Services Block Grant office or Office of Economic Opportunity initiates contact with individuals by phone, email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

If you are made aware of or receive any communication offering a CSBG grant or requesting a fee in exchange for funding, please report it to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Fraud Hotline at 1-800-447-8477.

For more information, **Grant Fraud and Scams** landing page:

<https://www.grants.gov/learn-grants/grant-fraud/grant-related-scams.html>

Good Reads & Newsworthy Updates

Many area households above the poverty line struggle to pay bills

By DAVID RESS, Richmond Times-Dispatch

More than 21,000 metro Richmond households with incomes above the poverty line fell into financial stress during the first two years of the pandemic, unable to earn what it takes to cover basic bills, census data shows. That increase brought the total number of so-called “ALICE” households — Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — to more than 169,000, or one-third of the metro area’s total, in 2021, the latest year for which data is available. ALICE households do not earn enough to cover a basic budget for housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and a smartphone plan, plus taxes.

https://richmond.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/many-area-households-above-the-poverty-line-struggle-to-pay-bills/article_e07442ac-f40f-11ed-8b51-1bd3f476c7d9.html

Governor Glenn Youngkin Announces Landmark Change in State Agency Hiring Practices

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced today a change in how state agencies will recruit and compete for talent by eliminating degree requirements, preferences or both for almost 90% of state classified positions.

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2023/may/name-1004029-en.html>

The Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities is pleased to present the 5th annual Virginia Inclusion Summit on Monday, September 18, 2023 at the Westin Richmond.

The Summit will bring together workplace professionals, government employees, and higher education administrators and students for a day of learning, sharing, and connecting. Attendees have the opportunity to explore current events and learn about best practices to help institutions across Virginia become more inclusive.

Link to register: <https://inclusiveva.org/programs/businesses/inclusionsummit/>



Knowing the Strengths and Limitations of Poverty Measures Can Help Us Better Understand Poverty

By Yiyu Chen, James Fuller and Renee Ryberg

The ways poverty is measured can influence how we, as a country, understand what it means to live in poverty. Poverty measures inform the work of policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to address poverty and prevent the adverse consequences associated with it. This brief summarizes basic attributes of the range of poverty measures used in the United States, as well as their strengths and limitations. Our goal is to give policy analysts and researchers the tools to appropriately interpret poverty statistics and decide when to use which measure.

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/knowning-the-strengths-and-limitations-of-poverty-measures-can-help-us-better-understand-poverty>

Abatement Academy- Free Webinar Series on Best Use of Funds from Opioid Litigation

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) and the Virginia Institute of Government (VIG) are pleased to announce the launch of the new “Abatement Academy” for 2023. The Academy is composed of a series of FREE, bi-weekly webinars to highlight examples programs that align with nationally recognized principles for the use of funds from opioid litigation. The intended audience includes local government representatives, state agency professionals, and groups or individuals who provide services or support to people suffering from opioid use disorders.

The Abatement Academy will also include one-day in-person workshops on September 7 (Abingdon) and October 19 (Charlottesville).

Future webinars will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month starting on May 25 and ending on December 14. The sessions will be broken down based on the following nationally recognized five principles:

- Principle 1: Spend the Money to Save Lives
- Principle 2: Use Evidence to Guide Spending
- Principle 3: Invest in Youth Prevention
- Principle 4: Focus on Racial Equity
- Principle 5: Develop a Fair and Transparent Process for Deciding Where to Spend the Funding

Full list of webinars:

<https://www.oaa.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/oaa/pdf/Abatement-Academy-News-Update.pdf>

Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority information

- Website: voaa.us



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.

- **Keys to Successfully Managing the Implementation of Your Strategic Plan**
July 13, 2023, 2-3pm
Today's operating environment has grown in complexity and, too often, our planning processes haven't kept up. Does your strategic plan implementation need some improvement? If so, this session is for you! You'll learn specific tools to take your organization's strategic plan implementation to the next level including project management techniques, monitoring, and tracking necessities, and other implementation strategies. These techniques and strategies will elevate your ability to measure, track, communicate, and align what matters most in order to drive improved results for your agency and those you serve.
[Register](#)
- **Standards of Excellence**
July 20, 2023, 10-11am
America's communities need and deserve excellent Community Action Agencies. Every organization can improve, and should continuously strive to increase efficiency, effectiveness, and to exceed expectations. In this session we will explore what excellence means in Community Action as defined by the 35 Standards of Excellence, and discuss strategies for strengthening your agency, including through the National Community Action Partnership's Pathways to Excellence program.
[Register](#)
- 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/>

New Streamlined Resource for Veterans and their Families

Governor Glenn Youngkin announced this month the rollout of a Digital Hub for Virginia veterans and their families. This new tool serves to ensure veterans and military families can easily access information regarding earned benefits and resources tailored to their needs. The Digital Hub will serve as a single point of access to all veteran-centric resources available for cross-agency support. In addition, access to information from veteran service organizations and non-profits will be available in one seamless single point of access.

<https://vesa.dvs.virginia.gov/>



Enroll Virginia: Healthy Together Thursdays

Each week at 11:00am on Thursdays, Enroll Virginia navigators and other special guests discuss a variety of health care topics on Facebook Live. These 30-minute conversations include brief presentations from our speakers and time for Q&A in English and Spanish.

Upcoming Event:

JUNE 29: Health Insurance Options for the American Indian/Alaska Native Community with Carla Torres-Barrera (Certified Navigator Coordinator, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society)

Link to Previous Recordings: <https://www.facebook.com/enrollva/videos/healthy-together-thursdays-a-closer-look-at-your-medicaid-benefits/3374389736158666>

Funding Opportunities Available to VACAP Members

Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS) announces the availability of approximately \$2,000,000 to Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that own affordable housing units and provide wraparound supportive services to residents of the affordable units, including educational opportunities for youths and adults; afterschool and/or summer programs for children and teens; early childcare, Head Start, Early Head Start, or other early childhood education programs/opportunities for young children ages 0 to 5; older adult care services; mental health, alcohol, and addiction services; services for individuals with disabilities; self-sufficiency resources; resources on future homeownership; financial literacy training; transportation services for residents; referrals and connections to resources to help meet concrete needs; and health care services.

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=HHS-2023-ACF-OCS-EAH-0088>

Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award

The Mutual of America Foundation Community Partnership Award recognizes outstanding nonprofit organizations in the United States that have shown exemplary leadership by facilitating partnerships with public, private or social sector leaders who are working together as equal partners, not as donors and recipients, to build a cohesive community that serves as a model for collaborating with others for the greater good.



This year, six organizations will be selected by an independent committee to receive the Award. From this group:

- The Thomas J. Moran Award is given to the national award-winning program and includes \$100,000 and a documentary video about the program.
- The Frances R. Hesselbein Award is given to a partnership addressing social challenges in more than one community, or that demonstrates the potential to be replicated. This recipient receives \$50,000.
- Four organizations are named Honorable Mention recipients for their programs, and each receives \$50,000.

Deadline To Apply: July 1

For more information and how to apply:

https://mutualofamerica.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8dZvDpyswCZZOOG

Weatherization Updates

Increasing Weatherization Capacity through Leveraging National Service Webinar

June 29, 2023

11:00 PT/ 12:00 MT/ 1:00 CT/ 2:00 ET

Service Year Alliance's new Climate & Environmental Resilience Guide & Energy Efficiency Roadmap are designed to expand programming, such as AmeriCorps and VISTA, in growth areas. The roadmap linked within the guide details how to leverage these programs to advance state and local weatherization and energy efficiency goals. Join NASCSP, NCAP, and Service Year Alliance to learn how Service Year can help you develop a talent pipeline, assist with intake or outreach, coordinate with partners, or increase contractor capacity.

To Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TDNzXjEbQ4m_EAKcvAZrxg#/registration

Weatherization Exchange June 12-15, 2023 - The last in-person Weatherization Interchange was June 2019! The interchange was very well attended with staff and crews coming in from all over the state. Community Housing Partners Energy Solutions helped tremendously in organizing and hosting the event.

The week was an opportunity for conversation and discussion, questions, face to face networking and some fun and relaxation. Plans are already moving forward to do it again in June of 2024.
