



VACAP NEWS

July 2023

Inside this Issue

- Digital Opportunity Updates
 - Federal CSBG Updates
 - House Proposes Cuts to Head Start
 - Save the Date: VACAP Summit October 10-11, 2023 (Richmond, Virginia)
 - VACAP and OEO Training/TA Survey Due July 30th
 - Abatement Academy- Free Webinar Series on Best Use of Funds - Opioid Litigation
 - Free Webinars for VACAP Members Through RPIC Collaboration
 - Funding Opportunities Available to VACAP Members
 - Looking for volunteers?
 - VDSS Cooling Assistance Application Period Underway
-

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 survey is still open for DHCD to keep collecting responses to incorporate into the State Digital Opportunity Plan.

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/>

Federal CSBG Updates

1 – House Appropriations Bill Maintains CSBG funding level – Head Start other key programs are recommended for cuts: On July 14 NCAF reported the House Labor-HHS Appropriations bill with a proposed total cut of 28% but kept CSBG block grant funding at current levels. This is a testament to NCAF and all of your work to elevate the importance of community



action with legislators of both parties. The House committee did not include the provision allowing CSBG eligibility at 200% of the federal poverty level, but the process still has a long way to go and the network will continue to advocate that this provision is included in the final appropriation. Erik has reached out individually to VACAP members who had members of the House that supported the CSBG Dear Colleague letter to ask them to send a thank you.

Unfortunately, many other key programs are recommended for cuts including Head Start at a \$750 million proposed cut (See more on Head Start action alert below).

2-Invite Your Members of Congress to Visit Your Agency in August: 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 or a project site 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>

3 – New Congressional Community Action Caucus – Ask Your Member(s) of the U.S. House of Representatives to Join: On July 17th, 2023, the Committee on House Administration approved the Congressional Community Action Caucus for the first time in U.S. history!

The Caucus Chairs are Reps. Betty McCollum (D-MN-4) and Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24) and the Vice Chairs are Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1) and Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15). The Community Action Caucus will give us the platform to discuss Community Action and keep our efforts fresh in the hearts and minds of Congress.

NCAF will be working to build the membership of our Caucus. Please ask your Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join the Community Action Caucus and let Erik (ejohnston@vacap.org) know what you hear back so that we can share with NCAF. Below is a sample email:

Dear Representative X:

The Community Action Caucus was recently created by Reps. Betty McCollum (D-MN-4) and Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24) and the Vice Chairs Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1) and Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15). I ask you to join this bipartisan caucus as well. Your support and ideas to finding bipartisan solutions to address poverty are critical.

Sincerely,

X



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

VACAP's second annual Pathways from Poverty is confirmed for October 10-11, 2023 at the Virginia Housing Center in Richmond. The VACAP Summit will continue to include networking, encouragement, and hearing about key opportunities from strategic partners and funders. Registration details will be coming soon. We hope you will save the dates as you won't want to miss this key VACAP event.

Help VACAP and OEO Meet Your Training/TA Needs: Survey Due July 30th

The Virginia State CSBG Office and Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) are eager to learn about your agency's training and technical assistance needs for the 2023-2024 Program Year. Use this brief survey to provide any thoughts on how our offices may provide continuing and/or additional tools, resources, and best practices for the upcoming year. Deadline for survey completion is **July 30th**.

Direct Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCQfyf5fmHG1NiXcciHaYHspURFI4RUcwVkrMS0g5NkpUSTQxNVpFT1VJWC4u&web=1&wdLOR=c5A5ED926-1F7E-437D-BE4F-98E342989280>

Please feel free to forward this onto others on your team who may be interested in filling the survey out.

House Committee Proposes Cuts to Head Start: Take Action

From the National Head Start Association:

The House Committee on Appropriations released their Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Mark which includes \$11,246,820,000 for Head Start and Early Head Start which represents a \$750,000,000 reduction from the current FY23 funding level, among other significant cuts to critical services for children and families. Roughly 80,000 Head Start and Early Head Start children would no longer be able to receive services under the proposed House Appropriations bill. This includes a 6.25% direct cut in funding as well as the impact of inflation, estimated at 3.0% as of June 2023.

Take Action: Send an email to your representatives urging them to oppose this proposed cut. You can send one message a day, so make sure to send one every day this week.

https://nhsa.org/take-action/?utm_campaign=Advocacy&utm_medium=email&hsmi=266797464&hsenc=p2ANqtz--8FrwHbsKLEaXyl36PqVuffH9FYc-X6oWtk-luPnnrd-BrwFeJIC6XDP0H9c-vs72AGO5nP6XLIN832AU9dcMpTslqA&utm_content=266797464&utm_source=hs_email



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.



- **Customizing Strategic Planning to Fit Your Agency's Needs**

August 10, 2023, 2-3pm

Do your eyes roll over at the mere mention of the words “strategic planning?” Do plans seem to disappear after planning sessions? Many of us aren't doing strategic planning particularly well, but we could be. In this workshop, you'll learn the individual and organizational benefits of fact-based strategic planning, how to design a planning process that meets your agency's needs, and the five steps of a planning process that will lead your agency towards social change. You may even leave excited to lead your next planning process!

Register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwucu6oqz4uHtJp7_1sjslW6HR0BZRqDCMi

- **Data Integration**

August 24, 2023, 10-11am

The session will consist of an introduction to the idea of data integration, including the purpose of data integration as well as descriptions of the 8 primary aspects of data integration with an emphasis on building the foundation for effective use of data from multiple sources. We will our remaining time on developing a set of organizational knowledge needs and the current state data governance, input, and integration. We discuss the current state around each of the areas of emphasis (1) knowledge needs, (2) data governance, (3) data input, and (4) data integration.

Register: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvc-utpj8sEtBcuShXdFIgTSsj5ztUP5e>

These are the last of these trainings for 2023.

For recordings and materials visit here: <https://vacsbg.learnworlds.com/blog/regional-webinars-2023>

Funding Opportunities Available to VACAP Members

Ascend at the Aspen Institute's Parent-Powered Solution Fund is seeking applications of up to \$50,000 from nonprofit organizations and institutions that are supporting parents in completing postsecondary programs, including workforce development, career and technical education, and baccalaureate degree programs. Participants also engage in a learning cohort throughout 2024. Applications are due September 8, 2023.

<https://ascend.aspeninstitute.org/ascend-2023-parent-powered-solutions-fund-announcement/>

EDA FY 2023 Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Phase 1 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (Recompete Pilot Phase 1 NOFO)

The Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete Pilot Program) will invest \$200 million in persistently distressed communities to create and connect people to good jobs.



It has a targeted focus on geographies that have experienced persistent economic distress and low prime-age employment. The Recompete Pilot Program provides large, flexible funding to implement bottom-up, community-driven strategies. The program's flexible model allows the program to complement other Federal and non-Federal initiatives.

First round of funding is for Strategy Development Grants: Provides funding to facilitate a region in becoming more competitive for future approval of a Recompete Plan and thus eventually for Implementation Grants. EDA anticipates awarding approximately \$6,000,000 to \$12,000,000 in total in Phase 1 as Strategy Development Grants of amounts between \$250,000 and \$500,000 each, and up to \$750,000 only in rare circumstances.

Criteria for scoring:

- Understanding of regional conditions and needs
- Strength of strategy and quality of potential investments
- Equity, inclusivity and diversity
- Regional assets (not just monetary but community assets)
- Targeted geographic approach
- Partnerships and potential commitments

EDA Investment Priorities: <https://www.eda.gov/funding/investment-priorities>

For FAQs and more information on the grant:

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program/faq>

Looking for volunteers?

Connect with your local volunteer center! Volunteer Centers are located throughout the state to assist in building volunteer capacity in nonprofits and help individuals and groups find service opportunities that interest them. Often home to a local opportunity board, organizations can partner with volunteer centers to post their open volunteer opportunities. Volunteers and groups can access these postings and sign up to participate, either via the volunteer center website or directly with the organization. Find the volunteer center closest to you here: <https://servevirginia.org/get-involved/volunteer-center-networks/>

The Virginia Volunteer Center Network gathers regularly throughout the year to expand the impact of resources and promote capacity-building support for volunteerism and service throughout the state. Are you interested in becoming a volunteer center, or already offer similar services? Reach out to Alex Vanik (<mailto:alexander.vanik@dss.virginia.gov>) to learn more about joining the Volunteer Center Network monthly calls.



VDSS Cooling Assistance Application Period Underway

The **Virginia Department of Social Services** are currently accepting applications and can be submitted until **Tuesday, August 15**.

To qualify, a household must have a child less than six years of age, an adult 60 years or older, or an individual living with a disability. Income requirements, which are based on a household's gross monthly income. To check eligibility status: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>. Local DSS can verify eligibility.

Information: <https://www.dss.virginia.gov/benefit/ea/index.cgi>

Applications can be submitted to a local DSS office or by calling 1-855-635-4370.

English application:

https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/bp/ea/intro_page/crisis_assistance/forms/032-03-0651-13-eng.pdf

Spanish application:

https://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/bp/ea/intro_page/crisis_assistance/forms/032-03-0651-07-Spa.pdf