



VACAP NEWS

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VACAP Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit Final Days to Register!

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.

Click below for the full agenda, hotel information, and to register before the September 29 deadline:
<https://cvent.me/EMgGmg>

Good Reads & Newsworthy Updates

Virginia is getting an extra \$250 million for broadband expansion, thanks to researchers at Virginia Tech

By Tad Dickens
Cardinal News

A team at Virginia Tech determined that the FCC had undercounted Virginia's broadband-deficient locations — data that was critical for getting federal funding to expand access to underserved areas.
<https://cardinalnews.org/2023/09/07/virginia-is-getting-an-extra-250-million-for-broadband-expansion-thanks-to-researchers-at-virginia-tech/>

Ribbon-cutting in Hampton for new Whole Family Innovation Lab

By Kenzie Finch
WAVY 10 News

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. (WAVY) — The Hampton Roads Community Action Program, or HRCAP, hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the official opening of the Whole Family Innovation Lab on Aug. 31. Located at 1919 Commerce Drive, Suite 110, Hampton, Va. Partnering with the Virginia Community Action Partnership, or VACAP, the lab is designed to provide services essential to achieving financial security.



<https://www.wavy.com/news/local-news/ribbon-cutting-in-nn-for-new-whole-family-innovation-lab/>

Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Statistics

By U.S. Census

The U.S. Census Bureau released data in an online press conference from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement (CPS ASEC), which includes estimates of poverty, income, and health coverage. The data cover 2022 and demonstrate how the expiration of federal pandemic response investments, especially the expanded Child Tax Credit, resulted in a 4.6% increase in the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), from 7.8% to 12.4%, and a child poverty rate more than double what it was in 2021. Median household income declined by 2.3% to \$74,580, the number of people without health insurance dropped .4% to 7.9%, and the official poverty rate was not statistically different from 2021 (11.5%).

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2023/income-poverty.html>

Governor Youngkin Signs Revised 2024 Budget – CASH Campaign Increase Not Included

Compiled from Kemper Consulting updates

The Virginia General Assembly returned to Richmond on August 29 for a long-awaited Special Session to adopt amendments to the 2022-2024 biennial budget that was enacted in 2022. On February 25th, the General Assembly adopted just five spending amendments to the budget before adjourning the 2023 Session without an agreement on the full budget. House and Senate budget negotiators continued to meet this spring and summer. They announced that they had reached an agreement on August 25th, Governor Glenn Youngkin called the special session on August 29th, and the amended budget was released over the weekend. Fiscal Year 2024 began on July 1.

After agreeing to an operating resolution laying out the rules of the special session, the House of Delegates voted 86-4 to agree to the new budget, and the Senate voted 38-0-1. Governor Youngkin signed the budget with no amendments.

As Kemper Consulting has previously reported, the enactment of tax cuts had been an obstacle to a budget agreement. The amended budget includes about \$900 million in tax rebates, as well as nearly \$50 million to increase the standard deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions. The budget also accounts for the transfer of about \$1 billion in revenue due to the new Pass-Through Entity Tax Policy changes from FY23 to future fiscal years. Other tax items include reinstatement of the sales tax holiday, planned for October, and removal of the age requirement for military retiree subtraction.

Budget negotiators prioritized investments in education, providing \$418 million in flexible operating funds to schools to address student learning loss and implementation of the Virginia Literacy Act. The budget also includes \$152 million to address the support-cap by funding more of the state's share for school support positions, and \$55 million for the state's share of an additional 2% salary increase for teachers and school personnel.

On the higher education side, the budget provides \$75 million in operating support for public institutions of higher education and \$75 million in student financial aid funding.



The budget also provides:

- An additional 2% pay raise for state employees
- \$155 million in General Fund support for behavioral health services
- Continues reinsurance program that reduces health insurance premiums for Virginians in the individual market
- \$200 million for Business Ready Sites and Site Acquisition
- \$10 million to develop an Inland Port in Southwest Virginia
- \$150 million for I-64

The budget deal maintains the CASH Campaign/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance funds at \$185,275 for this fiscal year. This is disappointing as a significant increase (\$300k House and \$250k Senate) was included in both chamber's proposals. Many increased investments included in both the House and Senate proposals such as CASH/VITA were not included in the final compromise.

While disappointing, VACAP and CASH Campaign members, with excellent assistance from the Kemper team, did so much this year to raise awareness of the need for more investment in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance network to ensure all Virginians gain access to federal EITC and new partially refundable state EITC. Together we gained bipartisan support in both chambers for the need for new investments and can continue to build on this awareness in the upcoming General Assembly session.

2023-2024 Virginia CASH Campaign Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Grant Application Now Open

VACAP is pleased to announce the 2023-2024 Virginia CASH Campaign Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Grant. Grant docs are available here: <https://www.vacap.org/grants/>

Virginia General Assembly appropriated \$185,725 in FY 2023 to Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP). Item 347 A.2 states: "Out of this appropriation, \$185,725 the first year and \$185,725 the second year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant shall be provided to contract with the Virginia Community Action Partnership to provide outreach, education and tax preparation services via the Virginia Earned Income Tax Coalition and other community non-profit organizations to citizens who may be eligible for the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The contract shall require the Virginia Community Action Partnership to report on its efforts to expand the number of Virginians who are able to claim the federal EITC including the number of individuals identified who could benefit from the credit, the number of individuals counseled on the availability of federal EITC, and the number of individuals assisted with tax preparation to claim the federal EITC.

Eligible recipients include the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) partners in Virginia providing traditional VITA, Virtual VITA or Facilitated Self-Assistance delivery models. Organizations that qualify as a nonprofit (501c), state or local government, or regional or local coalitions that provide outreach, education and free income tax preparation services to clients who may be eligible for TANF, federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) or the Virginia EITC, which is refundable.



Coalitions will be awarded a base amount grant in recognition of the fact that all sites have basic expenses to cover. Remaining funds will be divided among coalitions based on timely report submission, successful program results and final grant reports. New coalitions will be awarded funds based on grant proposals, geographic area and services provided.

Consider AmeriCorps Funding Opportunities for your Agency

Did you know that last year more than \$10.8 million in federal funding was invested in Virginia to help non-profit organizations, state agencies, and other eligible entities develop a service project to meet critical community needs?

The source of this investment - AmeriCorps - allows organizations to design and implement an AmeriCorps program that will leverage "people power" as a solution. Your agency can then recruit, train and manage individuals, called AmeriCorps members, to deliver those services.

Through a unique partnership with America's Service Commissions (ASC) and Serve Virginia (<https://servevirginia.org/>), the Roanoke-based nonprofit and government consulting firm Building Beloved Communities LLC is now offering free consultations to non-profit and state agencies throughout Virginia to assess how an AmeriCorps program could help expand their capacity and impact.

BBC can then offer further consultations on program design, AmeriCorps application preparation, and program planning. These consultations are led by Sam Sokolove, BBC's Senior Consultant, who previously served as Executive Director of New Mexico's AmeriCorps Commission. If you would like to schedule a free consultation with Sam, please send an email request to sam@buildingbelovedcommunities.com.

Unlocking the Power of Strategic Volunteer Engagement for Nonprofit Executives

Through its groundbreaking research, released earlier this year, the Initiative for Strategic Volunteer Engagement has uncovered evidence of the power of strategic volunteer engagement and its impact on a nonprofit's ability to achieve its mission.

During this webinar, we will discuss:

- Evidence-based insights into how strategic volunteer engagement can help your organization better meet its mission.
- How to position your ask to funders for financial support to build organizational capacity to support volunteer involvement.



- Strategies for more effectively reporting on the impact of your investment in strategic volunteer engagement.

- Tactics for addressing the disconnect between your approach and common funder perspectives.

Who Should Attend?

CEOs and Executive Directors of nonprofit organizations; staff members of nonprofits are strongly encouraged to attend with a member of leadership.

October 4, 2023, 3:00-4:00pm

Link to register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ckzBG3yQTDmwBjw9f-zBXA#/registration
