



## **VACAP NEWS**

October 2023

### **Inside this Issue**

- VACAP Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit-Thank You
- Save the Date: VACAP Legislative Conference: January 23-24, 2024
- Good Reads and Newsworthy Updates
- REMINDER: 2023-2024 Virginia CASH Campaign Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Grant Application Due TOMORROW November 1, 2023
- Virginia Community Engagement Index Report Released
- From the Virginia Early Childhood Center: New Report from Vanderbilt University Shows Virginia's Investments in Early Childhood Care Had a Big Impact From Pandemic Investments
- VACAP Attends AECF Peer Exchange
- Microsoft Nonprofit Offers and Grant Opportunity
- VDSS Announces Application for Fuel Assistance Now Open

---

### **VACAP Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit-Thank You**

Thank you to all who attended, provided guidance and feedback, you made our second annual Summit a HUGE success! We are already excited and gearing up for next year's summit. Save the Date for next year, October 22-24 at the Virginia Housing Center!

### **Save the Date: VACAP Legislative Conference: January 23-24, 2024**

We need all agencies to plan to participate in this critical convening. The first day will focus on updates from state and federal leaders and preparing you to advocate for VACAP's whole family and CASH Campaign priorities during visits to the new General Assembly Building on January 24. Registration details to come soon.

---

### **Good Reads & Newsworthy Updates**

#### **CAPLAW Podcast Bridging Across Barrier: The Mother of States**

**By CAPLAW**

In this episode of CAPLAWCast, *Bridging Across Barriers: The Mother of States*, Abby Hanks and Matt Fitzgerald of Virginia's Office of Economic Development, and Erik Johnston of the Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP), discuss key aspects of the state office, state association relationship, including how they work together to provide maximum feasible deference to a diverse



array of CAAs in Virginia, and how elements such as communication, trust, and flexibility have bolstered collaborative efforts and assisted CAAs across the Mother State.

<https://caplaw.org/resources/bridging-across-barriers>

### **USDA: Fiscal Year 2024 CACFP & SFSP Area Eligibility Data Now Available!**

The USDA Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is excited to announce that the 2024 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) participant area eligibility data are now available!

At the start of every fiscal year, FNS releases a special tabulation of data provided by the Census Bureau for CACFP and SFSP that establishes area eligibility in the CACFP and SFSP. These data are effective as of Oct. 1, 2023.

Data in Map form: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/area-eligibility>

Data set available here: <https://usda-fns.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/USDA-FNS::fy2024-fns-cacfp-sfsp-eligibility/about>

---

### **Reminder: 2023-2024 Virginia CASH Campaign Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Grant Application are Due Tomorrow November 1, 2023**

This is a reminder information is available for the 2023-2024 Virginia CASH Campaign Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative Grant. Grant docs are available here: <https://www.vacap.org/grants/>

---

### **Virginia Community Engagement Index Report Released**

In 2023, Serve Virginia and the Virginia Service Foundation launched a comprehensive, first-of-its-kind study to understand the state of service, volunteerism and civic action in Virginia, as well as identify community priorities on the state and local levels. The primary insights are represented in this summary, including recommendations about how to best mobilize based on the data.

<https://servevirginia.org/why-serve/>

---

### **From the Virginia Early Childhood Center: New Report from Vanderbilt University Shows Virginia's Investments in Early Childhood Care Had a Big Impact From Pandemic Investments**

The federal government provided states with emergency childcare funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Virginia leveraged these temporary federal dollars to thoughtfully stabilize the industry and make childcare more accessible to families. Virginia investments included significant enhancements of two state programs, (1) the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP), which helps eligible families pay for private child care, and (2) the Mixed Delivery Program, a recently expanded and enhanced program which provides free, high-quality ECCE in private settings. Additionally, the SFY23 investment includes funding for quality improvement and teacher retention, raising the quality of childcare of all publicly funded child care programs. The cost of maintaining an



investment of this magnitude is high, but the impact of funding affordable, high-quality childcare lasts well beyond the time those children spend in care. Instead, the effects ripple out across a child's life: increasing family resources and the potential for family economic growth, preparing children for school, and setting them on a trajectory for success across the rest of their education and beyond.

Full report: [https://vecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PN3PIC\\_ArticulatingtheValueofECEInvestmentsinVA\\_FullReport-Final.pdf](https://vecf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/PN3PIC_ArticulatingtheValueofECEInvestmentsinVA_FullReport-Final.pdf)

---

### **VACAP Attends AECP Peer Exchange**

On October 3-4, 2023 AECP held its 23rd Peer Exchange at the Hotel Roanoke. Congrats on a great turnout!! There were over 100 people from all over the state in attendance. Participants heard from many partners about trainings, Registered Apprentice Program and other relevant topics. VACAP's Erik Johnston provided an overview of the networks advocacy priorities and the critical role of weatherization withing the network.

---

### **Microsoft Nonprofit Offers and Grant Opportunity**

Microsoft Tech for Social Impact is dedicated to providing affordable and accessible technology to help nonprofits of all sizes achieve their mission. With the Microsoft 365 grant, eligible nonprofits can get Microsoft 365 Business Premium free for up to 10 users and discounted pricing of \$5.50 (USD) per user/month for additional users.

Click the link below to learn about special discounts and pricing for Microsoft products and also an opportunity for a Microsoft 365 grant.

[https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/microsoft-365?mkt\\_tok=OTMxLUVLQS0yMTgAAAGO5pK-pHJC1Q885f0LBPg4gfaw5-BuxtYwqmAUcHLQpfrmA\\_VuPqe5UJtqrieh53Go7FsyMpkhW4bXclq7KK7pyIGAAPXfuMnWeOOSn\\_01A1aM1X8](https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/microsoft-365?mkt_tok=OTMxLUVLQS0yMTgAAAGO5pK-pHJC1Q885f0LBPg4gfaw5-BuxtYwqmAUcHLQpfrmA_VuPqe5UJtqrieh53Go7FsyMpkhW4bXclq7KK7pyIGAAPXfuMnWeOOSn_01A1aM1X8)

---

### **VDSS Announces Application for Fuel Assistance Now Open**

See below for the press release from VDSS regarding applications for fuel assistance now being open.

RICHMOND, VA (October 30, 2023) - The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance online and at all local departments of social services through Monday, November 13, 2023. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by



contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

The Energy Assistance Program, funded by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) federal block grant, provides state support to assist low-income households in meeting their home energy needs such as electricity, natural and liquid propane gas, oil, kerosene, coal and wood. Assistance may also be available for delivery and installation charges as well as connection or re-connection fees.

To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,822. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$3,750. Additional income guidelines are as follows:

Household Size	Monthly Income Limit
1	\$1,822
2	\$2,465
3	\$3,107
4	\$3,750
5	\$4,392
6	\$5,035
7	\$5,677
8	\$6,282
Each additional person	\$642

“Keeping warm during the winter months should not be a struggle Virginia families have to face,” said VDSS Commissioner Danny Avula. “With this assistance, households will be able to dedicate their resources towards other expenses they might have while staying comfortable in their homes. Last year, we provided fuel assistance to over 113,000 Virginia households through this program and look forward to supporting families again during this enrollment period.”

Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services. To apply online or check eligibility for benefits assistance, visit the CommonHelp website at



commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications (available in English and Spanish) may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at (855) 635-4370.

English Application: [https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DTXi9oRqniOVMI1\\_1ck5x0EnwczlByBfGyYw2IlaPx3m7Hmnzn3uGY1cijj2spBl0G0h7HTTuv0HVttR2by1CE38ud8\\_DymVP3JDs2DEI5j6uMjaYdesKZR9UuLMTGQrxEF6abwTlzZVHTIGXv2Av9dJm9hl-wdwnvRsNrELCVcCJ\\_Hzs13zPrYWX16PzUGWnwhY7r-FfCrtj\\_yITW1r0csE23INprh3fg==&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR\\_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DTXi9oRqniOVMI1_1ck5x0EnwczlByBfGyYw2IlaPx3m7Hmnzn3uGY1cijj2spBl0G0h7HTTuv0HVttR2by1CE38ud8_DymVP3JDs2DEI5j6uMjaYdesKZR9UuLMTGQrxEF6abwTlzZVHTIGXv2Av9dJm9hl-wdwnvRsNrELCVcCJ_Hzs13zPrYWX16PzUGWnwhY7r-FfCrtj_yITW1r0csE23INprh3fg==&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==)

Spanish Application: [https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DTXi9oRqniOVijfRFVnMtVQTNE-RBgVnL9JtTrYVZMmj-XzpVnuE2KxUYle7f3b-4ky1AWJWBSScblEThb5pRnga9q9zllM6KAYTu00XcKBpFAUJKGEm0D7Fro8rQfraVP-xKO\\_k8xgjf-ZWc-IO1Y3HNbgtN2a\\_fvNJGtl8pdX\\_cCqiMVkNUcv-cLo8-7JKxOMEPm6Td5BIDXo6EJ\\_j-k=&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR\\_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DTXi9oRqniOVijfRFVnMtVQTNE-RBgVnL9JtTrYVZMmj-XzpVnuE2KxUYle7f3b-4ky1AWJWBSScblEThb5pRnga9q9zllM6KAYTu00XcKBpFAUJKGEm0D7Fro8rQfraVP-xKO_k8xgjf-ZWc-IO1Y3HNbgtN2a_fvNJGtl8pdX_cCqiMVkNUcv-cLo8-7JKxOMEPm6Td5BIDXo6EJ_j-k=&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==)

Maximum Gross Monthly Income:

[https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DdplcW5eoXYuCjzOp1KPPZPJLDILMmNPiW1\\_R3wbZLIaR\\_vXCLLZfOiYiXwZgQSKK5N1-DxUn553i\\_qM\\_yROxuKGe8n5ke\\_RcTgX5Wgnw5zr\\_ccDdHjShvrf1xwjJJ4j2kxcAP327i5csJtzPC6oP1\\_J-xAkobeV2zI6U\\_cI\\_gy5gBgev5NR5vbMG8Jxr5JjbnXgWelwuVdhwvdbi-Xq8G9IKWnLxenjc9FwiMOmINL9&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR\\_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DdplcW5eoXYuCjzOp1KPPZPJLDILMmNPiW1_R3wbZLIaR_vXCLLZfOiYiXwZgQSKK5N1-DxUn553i_qM_yROxuKGe8n5ke_RcTgX5Wgnw5zr_ccDdHjShvrf1xwjJJ4j2kxcAP327i5csJtzPC6oP1_J-xAkobeV2zI6U_cI_gy5gBgev5NR5vbMG8Jxr5JjbnXgWelwuVdhwvdbi-Xq8G9IKWnLxenjc9FwiMOmINL9&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==)

List of Local Department of Social Services:

[https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DVQTRo6HXpp9eY-VoYvqkOvBrmwA4kM6StR8JJ33RzbfXjwIWI0WefhTN\\_2akqthNs\\_SfZQcTcgbUMlcTWWMsX9WxmWroPOJ2f22P7w5rSyq9KUjkASQF1xerwHrr5itw==&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR\\_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001778RgUJLRIPuSjFQV877cGfsnBmmcUR0h1-6orbdg05LACNepTF7DVQTRo6HXpp9eY-VoYvqkOvBrmwA4kM6StR8JJ33RzbfXjwIWI0WefhTN_2akqthNs_SfZQcTcgbUMlcTWWMsX9WxmWroPOJ2f22P7w5rSyq9KUjkASQF1xerwHrr5itw==&c=YhwKWhmS6uRmLbpQjGUGXI0HNX6KTsWwzs-DoFO4EJ0tjURzHV0Hg==&ch=0PouQ9obzgriLJR_FI8xTsseFf-TSBffMEoEjd-RGniXMObcmDuIWA==)