



## VACAP NEWS

March 2024

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### VACAP State Budget Update – Good News!

On March 9 the state House and Senate passed a budget agreement. The great news is that the CASH Campaign/VITA is increased by \$450,000 each year with TANF as the funding source. The budget amendment would increase annual funding of \$185,725 to a total of \$635,725!

The Whole Family Approach funding of \$1.125 million is kept in the first year of the budget and restored in the second year so that we maintain this innovative effort in both years of the budget. This is also a big win as it will keep us in the base budget and make it more feasible to expand the program in the second year of the budget during next year's General Assembly.

The General Assembly's base funding for community action through TANF remains fully funded!

This is a big win for VACAP and was possible because of your strong advocacy efforts, our partners in the CASH Campaign and the support of our legislative champions. Thank you for your efforts so that we can all serve more people! A special thanks as well to the VACAP Executive Committee, Mike Edwards, Fred Helm and the team at Kemper Consulting for their tireless efforts and strategic

thinking! The budget still must be finalized by the Governor who can sign, amend or veto. The General Assembly will consider the Governor's actions on April 17 during the reconvened session of the General Assembly. VACAP will provide updates on this process.

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## **General Assembly Wrap Up from VACAP's team at Kemper Consulting**

The Virginia General Assembly adjourned on March 9, 2024, the 60<sup>th</sup> or the last day in accordance with its joint procedural resolution adopted on day one of the session, January 10, 2024.

Even years or 60-day sessions are reserved for the adoption of the new biennial budget, while odd years or 46-day sessions are reserved for the adoption of budget amendments. Before adjourning, the House of Delegates approved the 2024-2026 biennial budget by a vote of 62-37, and the Senate approved it by a vote of 24-14. The budget conference report (<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendments/2024/1/>) was negotiated by twelve senior appropriators - six from each chamber - and in keeping with the legislative rules, it was voted on 48 hours after it was released on Thursday.

Governor Youngkin proposed his biennial budget on December 20 and of note, offered significant changes to Virginia's tax structure. He reduced income tax rates but increased the state share of the sales and use tax by almost one percent, as well as applying it to digital service sales, a new taxable item. Additionally, the Governor asked the General Assembly to eliminate the local personal property tax on vehicles.

The General Assembly eliminated Youngkin's tax cuts but maintained the digital service sales tax and added a new business-to-business tax on "software application purchases." The General Assembly also restored Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, an 11-state market requiring energy producers to offset carbon emissions with "purchase allowances." Youngkin eliminated the program in his budget despite the fact the dollars support flood control projects and energy-efficient programs for low-income Virginians.

Combined, these actions generate more than \$2.0 billion in additional biennial revenues and provided the revenues needed for the General Assembly to:

- Increase public education spending by \$2.5 billion over the current base;
- Provide three percent salary increases each year to state and state and local employees;
- Appropriate \$527.8 million over the biennium to support early childhood care and education programs, representing a \$116.7 million increase above the introduced budget;
- Fully fund the Medicaid and children's health insurance forecasts;
- Restore the local share of the sales and use tax on groceries for public education; and
- Appropriate \$65.0 million the first year and \$84.5 million the second year for additional operating assistance to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). These expenditures, combined with increased local support, will generate approximately \$150.0 million, each year, for Metro.

Governor Youngkin expressed concern with the General Assembly's budget and specifically criticized the tax increases. The Constitution of Virginia provides governors wide-ranging legislative authority. In addition to signing bills into law and issuing vetoes, the chief executive can offer

amendments to legislation, including the budget. Governors also can issue line-item vetoes to specific budget provisions. Lastly, governors can propose new legislation (“send down a new bill”).

He has 30 days or until midnight on April 8 to act on more than 1,000 bills approved by the General Assembly including the budgets – HB 29, the Caboose budget bill (amendments to the current year that ends on June 30, 2024), and HB 30, the new biennial budget for fiscal years 2025 and 2026.

Youngkin is expected to issue a significant number of gubernatorial vetoes and propose amendments to an untold number of bills. It will be difficult, if not next to impossible, for the legislature to garner two-thirds majorities required to override his vetoes. Gubernatorial amendments are approved with a simple majority. The Democrats control both chambers by slim majorities (51-49 in the House and 21-19 in the Senate).

As Kemper Consulting previously reported in its November election report, the Democrats regained control of the House and the Democrats maintained control of the Senate but lost one seat to the Republicans. The General Assembly welcomed a modern-day record number of new senators (18) and new delegates (35). The historic number of new members was the result of Virginia’s revamped redistricting process that spawned a significant number of competitive primaries and a wave of retirements (voluntary and involuntary). The retiring members accounted for more than 700 years of legislative service. Kemper Consulting’s election report showing all new members is available here: <https://kemperconsulting.com/2023-election-report/>.

The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene on April 17 to act on the Governor’s recommendations. The Governor wants approval of the proposed arena development in Alexandria and has voiced concern, if not opposition, to several key bills on which he will act, including at least two priorities of the Democrats - legalization of marijuana and an increase in the minimum wage. The runup to April 17 may provide the Governor and Democratic majority an opportunity to reach agreement on a number of these issues.

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## **VACAP at NCAF Conference**

VACAP Members reflected on 60 Years of Community Action, heard from a range of speakers on the current political climate and visited with Virginia Congressional leaders to advocate for CSBG, keeping income limit at 200% FPL for CSBG, Weatherization, and Head Start funding. VACAP also provided an update on the Congressionally funded diaper pilot in Virginia. VACAP’s CEO Erik Johnston was recognized by David Bradley and NCAF for Outstanding State Association leadership and former TAP CEO and Immediate Past Board Chair Annette Lewis was inducted into the NCAF Hall of Fame!





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### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community Action**

There are several tools available to use to recognize 60 years of Community Action. Consider flyers, events or social media posts that highlight the amazing impacts of your agency and all the good work that has been done in the community. Success stories of clients paired with facts and figures are a great way to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and all the great work you and your staff do on a daily basis in Community Action.

This is a great time to share your vision for the future and focus on the community action brand in Virginia – Whole Family Approach.

60<sup>th</sup> logo and resources available at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/d52d9850501/75238709-2ff7-4ace-b13e-6769df229341.pdf>



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## **VACAP Regional Meetings Registration Open! Secure Your Spot Now!**

**Plan now to bring a staff member for every peer group.**

Regional Meetings are designed to:

- Inspire team members by remembering the spirit of community action – our Why!
- Hear updates from key partners
- Break into peer groups and learn from peers – develop new relationships and peer partners

### **How to Register?**

Agencies have two options for regional meetings- May 1 in Wytheville or May 15 in Williamsburg. **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.

Peer groups that are planned include: CEO/ED, Senior Leaders, HR, Fiscal, IT, ROMA/Planner, all program areas (weatherization/housing, Head Start, whole family, digital opportunity/broadband and MORE)

**May 1, 2024 – Wytheville, 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM:** <https://cvent.me/yPZmq2>

**May 15, 2024- Williamsburg, 9:30 AM -2:30 PM:** <https://cvent.me/ON8943>

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## **Member News**

**Skyline CAP, Inc.** was presented with the Organization of the Year award at the Hometown Heroes Community Awards Gala held in Madison, VA in February. Congratulations!

<https://greenejournal.com/skylinecap-honored-at-hometown-heroes-community-celebration-p5321-200.htm?fbclid=IwAR3ZAp8xV3FuISPjCz8c8E7swktxGjiGhuUnpdWCFbdLPNH9PMR5qlASyms>

**STEPS, INC.** received a Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) award in the amount of \$949,000 to open a center that will offer domestic violence and sexual assault services in Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward counties, which have been without those services since a November 2022 domestic violence shelter closure. Senator Tim Kaine and Senator Mark Warner were able to secure the CDS for STEPS, INC. Congratulations to the STEPS team for all of their hard work on this effort.

Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) is a national network of nonprofit partners with over 350 technical assistance providers across the country. RCAP provides technical assistance and capacity building to all of its members. RCAP is celebrating 50 years of serving rural communities. SERCAP was quoted in the video and the video gives a nod to **TAP** as one of the founding members of **SERCAP** and RCAP. See this wonderful video below celebrating this amazing history of action! <https://vimeo.com/872930940?share=copy>

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## **Goodreads and Newsworthy Updates**

### **Rekindling the Hope of Black Homeownership**

By Carl Smith

Governing Magazine

A group of American cities are working to reverse practices that have held down Black homeownership — and the generational wealth it brings — for nearly a century.

[https://www.governing.com/urban/rekindling-the-hope-of-black-homeownership?utm\\_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm\\_medium=email&hsmi=295462951&hsenc=p2ANqtz--wS-PUoVEh6xIYPelip2FhTq9wUDhl\\_BDAKgreKJvTppgGSpLILWm7Ofbybf-77EmVikNJjf96qR\\_BVXZ3ryVXQpQ&utm\\_content=295462951&utm\\_source=hs\\_email](https://www.governing.com/urban/rekindling-the-hope-of-black-homeownership?utm_campaign=Newsletter%20-%20GOV%20-%20Daily&utm_medium=email&hsmi=295462951&hsenc=p2ANqtz--wS-PUoVEh6xIYPelip2FhTq9wUDhl_BDAKgreKJvTppgGSpLILWm7Ofbybf-77EmVikNJjf96qR_BVXZ3ryVXQpQ&utm_content=295462951&utm_source=hs_email)

### **Virginia's help with energy bills falls short of need**

By Dave Ress

Richmond Times-Dispatch

The several programs to help low-income Virginians stay warm in winter and avoid overheating in summer fall far short of needs, according to a report from the state Department of Social Services. All in all, federal block grant funds and help from the state's electric utilities provided some \$134 million in subsidies to 231,642 households, out of nearly 923,000 that were eligible for help. Those

eligible households included more than 362,000 where at least one elderly person was living, more than 335,000 with at least one disabled individual and nearly 163,000 with at least one young child.

<https://vpap.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ff263b31cd155e10062269b86&id=51a1fdceb3&e=7588e1d3d1>

### **Virginia Housing Announces Tammy Neale as New CEO**

Tammy Neale, a longtime executive at Virginia Housing, has been named CEO, effective April 1. Since beginning her career with the organization in 1985 as a post-closing paralegal, Tammy has played a key role in shaping Virginia Housing's strategic direction and implementing its vision and priorities. She's served as Strategic Planning Leader, Managing Director of Human Resources, Managing Director and Chief Learning Officer, and Chief of Staff, and, most recently, as Chief of Programs.

Tammy brings a wealth of knowledge and experiences to her new role, which have influenced her views on the importance of sustainable housing, strategic planning, and inclusivity and diversity in the workplace. VACAP looks forward to working with Ms. Neale who has already been a great partner to the network!

<https://files.constantcontact.com/91d4342a301/db2b54fb-35b7-4845-b909-eacfab351019.pdf?rdr=true>

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### **Diaper Pilot Site Visits**

The federal research teams from Office of Children and Families and their contractor visited three of the four sites for the Diaper Distribution Demonstration and Research Pilot Program. Focus groups were held in Richmond and Williamsburg with participating families and a tour of HRCAP's Whole Family Innovation Lab rounded out the site visit. They also conducted interviews with key staff at each site and with VACAP. The OCS team and their contractor also conducted a virtual interview with AppCAA about their diaper distribution efforts. The team was very impressed with Virginia's approach to diaper distribution and wrap-around services and targeted, intentional support for families enrolled in the program.

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### **Apply Today for the Virginia Housing Alliance (VHA) BIPOC Leadership Institute (BLI)**

BLI is a 10-month intensive and targeted program intended to cultivate an expanded generation of BIPOC housing and community development leaders in Virginia. Managed by VHA and led by Ebony Walden Consulting, BLI cohorts are limited to 15 participants each year. The program will leverage training, coaching, and peer support to foster and grow leadership skills.

#### **Why Apply for BLI?**

- Supercharge your career trajectory for executive leadership
- Develop leadership skills and competency



- One-on-one coaching and mentoring opportunities
- Expand your network with housing and community development leaders
- Create connections and support systems with peers

Application: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr1rSIYVB12TyoYadLkPIJNzKCU-2CRRbbilTollGkA1tgZA/viewform>

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## **Resources for Cybersecurity, Online Privacy and More**

The National Cybersecurity Alliance has resources online for you and your staff on online safety and privacy basics. These would also be good resources to share with clients.

<https://staysafeonline.org/resources/>

Seniorplanet by AARP is another good resource for staff and clients for articles on technology, cybersecurity and more. <https://seniorplanet.org/category/technology/>

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## **OEO: Webinar to Address Cost Allocation Compliance Challenges**

OEO will present a 90-minute webinar addressing CAA Cost Allocation Compliance Challenges presented by Kay Sohl from Kay Sohl Consulting. This workshop has been designed to build understanding of the requirements for charging costs to federal awards in the Uniform Grants Guidance. In this session we will explore specific challenges of CSBG funding, build understanding of the concept of “allocability,” provide examples of compliant cost allocation policies and practices, and offer tools to help CAAs evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their current cost allocation policies and practices. Additionally, we’ll discuss common cost allocation pitfalls and develop effective strategies to strengthen your agency’s compliance with cost allocation requirements.

When: Tuesday, April 9, at 2pm.

Register: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=qeUKYsFOoE-GQV2fOGxzCUOBW-LQXVdIsPI8IXDRYUJUQ0tHRzBIT0UwVEoxME9STzg1T0NQVEhQTy4u>

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## **RPIC Regional Webinars**

For the second year, Virginia is partnering with our Region III counterparts in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, DC, and Delaware to provide webinars on a variety of subjects. These trainings will occur twice a month and be attended by Community Action Agency staff from multiple states. Here are some upcoming regional webinars:

Fundamentals of Employee Recognition (March 21)

Register here:

<https://communityactionassociationofpennsylvania.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/ZP11yXBP?mode=Attendee>

Emerging Leaders (April 11)

Register here:

<https://communityactionassociationofpennsylvania.growthzoneapp.com/ap/Events/Register/ep0VDd1L?mode=Attendee>

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## **New U.S. Department of Labor Grants Available to Expand Registered Apprenticeships**

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) today announced the availability of nearly \$200 million in grants to continue to support public-private partnerships that expand, diversify and strengthen Registered Apprenticeship. The funding opportunity includes \$95 million of competitive grants through the second round of the Apprenticeship Building America Grant Program. DOL's Employment and Training Administration will use these funds to prioritize projects that support the Investing in America agenda—including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Science Act, and Inflation Reduction Act—by expanding access to Registered Apprenticeships in high-demand sectors and occupations. These sectors include:

- Information technology/cybersecurity
- K-12 teacher occupations
- Care economy (nursing, early child care, mental health occupations)
- Clean energy
- Hospitality
- Public sector
- Supply chain sectors (logistics, warehousing, transportation, manufacturing)

More information on the grant and how to apply: <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/352219>

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## **Industrial Revitalization Fund (IRF) FY25 Webinar**

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is excited to announce the next round of funding for FY25! Applications will be accepted from April 1 to June 1, 2024. A webinar will be held conducting a webinar regarding this round of funding. 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.

**When:** March 27, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Register:** <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/dhcdevents/registration.aspx?EID=556>

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