The American Rescue Plan Act received final approval in Congress on March 10 and was signed into law by President Biden on March 11. The $1.9 trillion relief package is wide-ranging, touching on policy areas from vaccination to broadband in its comprehensive approach to COVID-19 response and recovery. VACo appreciates the direct, flexible assistance to counties contained in the legislation; VACo had advocated for such assistance as an important element of Virginia’s recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and is grateful to Virginia’s Senators and members of Congress for their work in securing these important resources. VACo also extends its appreciation to its members for their advocacy efforts.

VACo’s initial analysis is below. VACo understands that Treasury will be providing guidance on the implementation of the statutory language; NACo solicited comments and questions this week in preparation for discussions with the Biden Administration about implementation of the Act and VACo thanks members who submitted information via NACo’s website. VACo will be in close contact with NACo and its sister organizations and will share additional information as it is received.

**Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund**

**County Assistance**
The direct local assistance is contained in the new Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which will provide $65.1 billion in direct aid to counties of all sizes (a departure from the approach
Dear VACo Members –

It's time for the 2021 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

[Achievement Awards Submission Form]

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic copy should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at gharter@vaco.org.

Submissions must be received by July 1, 2021.

Last year, we processed 76 entries and selected 21 winners from 14 Counties. VACo presented awards at 14 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the virtual Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2021 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 800 entries over the past decade. Last year’s Best Achievement winner was Prince William County for its “Human Rights Student Leadership Council” program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2021 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.
Legislation enacted in 2020 authorizes counties to impose a local cigarette tax at a rate not to exceed $0.40 per pack, effective July 1, 2021. In order to assist members who may be considering implementing the new taxing authority, VACo has developed an online toolkit to provide a centralized location for relevant information. The toolkit will be updated with additional resources as they are developed.

Current resources posted in the toolkit include:

- Resources regarding development of revenue estimates
- Information regarding regional models for implementation
- Legislative Resources
- Tax Stamp Resources – Includes the previously recorded SICPA-Meyercord webinar & a recording of the live Q&A session on March 10, 2021, examples of SICPA Cigarette Tax Stamps, and a link to contact SICPA-Meyercord for tax stamp information
- County Ordinances

VACo will be compiling copies of county cigarette tax ordinances in order to assist members that may be considering adopting similar ordinances in the future. If your county adopts a cigarette tax ordinance, VACo would appreciate receiving a copy.

**VACo Contact:** Karie Walker
Effective tax year 2021 the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) is employing a revised depreciation schedule for solar generating equipment that will impact the taxable value under machinery and tool (M&T) of existing (and future) solar generating equipment at the “utility scale” (greater than 25 megawatts). It is important to note that this revised schedule significantly increases the taxable value of property over the life of a project. VACo has supported revising this schedule as it more accurately reflects the useful life, and thereby the fair market value (FMV), of solar electric generating equipment.

Under the previous SCC schedule the percentage of taxable FMV declines steadily years 6 through 23 and reaches a floor of 10% in year 24 and beyond. The revised schedule has taxable FMV declining less rapidly, reaching a floor of 10% in year 34 and beyond. As an illustrative example, under the newly adopted schedule a 100-megawatt facility with an FMV of $200 million operating in a county with a tax rate of 66 cents on $100 of assessed value would generate approximately $9.8 million in tax revenue over 35 years. Under the now retired schedule the revenue over the same period would generate approximately $6.6 million in tax revenue.

**VACo Contact:** Joe Lerch, AICP
Visit Loudoun County and the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

This 725-acre preserve features many wildlife habitats including wetlands, fields, and forests. Walk along the nature trails, take in the natural beauty of this unique protected environment, and learn about its plants, wildlife, habitats, and history.

SOURCE: Visit Loudoun
Become a Certified Supervisor

The Virginia Association of Counties offers the Virginia Certified County Supervisors’ Program: an opportunity for county supervisors to learn how to more effectively and efficiently lead in their communities.

Since its inception in 2005, more than 80 supervisors representing more than 40 counties have completed this training program, earning credentials as a certified county supervisor. Of greater importance, each supervisor has gained the insight, perspective, and confidence needed to address the challenges and opportunities of the local governance experience.

The Virginia Certified County Supervisors’ Program features a five-course curriculum, designed to maximize engagement and enhance scholarship. Each course begins with a six-hour topically driven, classroom session, followed by seven weeks of relevant reading assignments and 90-minute virtual sessions to discuss situation-based exercises. The final component of each eight-week course is a concluding six-hour classroom session, which includes a review of the reading and assignment material.

VACo Contact: Karie Walker

**Inventing Your County’s Future: The Role of Community Planning**

- **Registration Form** | **Register Online**
- **Opening Session** | May 28, Location TBA
- **Closing Session** | August 6, Location TBA
- **Registration Deadline** | May 10

**Governance in the 21st Century: The Role of Leadership**

- **Registration Form** | **Register Online**
- **Opening Session** | September 10, Location TBA
- **Closing Session** | October 29, Location TBA
- **Registration Deadline** | August 13
VACo’s Associate Membership Program is the most efficient and cost-effective way to showcase your company to decision makers from Virginia’s 95 counties. This access can play a major role in your marketing efforts, and it benefits counties by identifying potential suppliers in a broad range of services. See how these four VACo Associate Members can help your county.

**SERCAP, INC.**

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BERRYVILLE, VA – Twenty-six photographers submitted 115 images for Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority’s “A Snapshot in Time” photo contest. The contest asked photographers — students, amateurs, and professionals — to submit images taken outdoors in Clarke County during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ken Garrett, whose photography has appeared in National Geographic, Smithsonian, Air and Space, Archaeology, Fortune, Forbes, Time, Life, Audubon, GEO, National Wildlife, and Natural History magazines, served as judge. Garrett said it was difficult to narrow down the winners. “There was a lot of very nice material, and it was challenging to select the top three and a short list of honorable mentions.”

The Conservation Easement Authority will now deliver $200, $100, and $50 prizes, respectively, to first-place winner Tim Farmer for “Snow Globe” and second- and third-place winner Warren Krupsaw for “Water Reflections” (second place) and “Raindrops on Leaf” (third place).

Garrett awarded 15 total Honorable Mention titles to images by Bre Bogert, Bryce Bogert, Colby Bogert, Lauren Dilzer, Christy Dunkle, Tim Farmer, Barbara Hughes, Cathy Kuehner, June Krupsaw, Warren Krupsaw, Pam Lettie, LaDawn Presgraves, and Dawn Webb.

The contest allowed each photographer to submit as many as five original images. Winning photographers retain all rights to their images; however, photographers also grant the Conservation Easement Authority non-exclusive rights to publish the images for the Authority’s purposes in any format, including online and in print.

As judge, Garrett looked for images that best convey the coronavirus reflected in outdoor activities, isolation, or open spaces in Clarke County. He also focused on content, contrast, composition, and creativity.
The winning photo, “Snow Globe,” is of the iconic Quarters building at Blandy Experimental Farm during a snowstorm. Standing at a distance, photographer Tim Farmer captured an employee — shovel in hand — as he passed through an open archway. The viewer can almost hear the snow falling and feel the cold against their cheeks.

The Conservation Easement Authority, which is dedicated to protecting and preserving land with significant agricultural, natural, scenic and historic resources, has hosted a number of photo contests over the years in order to highlight Clarke County’s open space and natural beauty.

Since its creation in 2002, the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority has placed more than 8,000 acres into conservation easement, retiring 275 dwelling unit rights. When included with other entity holdings, such as the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, more than 26,000 acres — more than 23 percent of the county — are protected in perpetuity.

For more information about the Conservation Easement Authority, its photo contest, or conservation easements, contact Clarke County Natural Resource Planner Alison Teetor at 540.955.5134 or ateetor@clarkecounty.gov. Visit clarkelandconservation.org.
Prince George County Administrator Percy Ashcraft has announced that Denise Waff has been hired as the new Director of Community Corrections.

Waff will oversee operations of the Riverside Criminal Justice Agency. She will assume her responsibilities April 16.

“Denise rose to the top in what was a very competitive interview process,” Ashcraft said. “She has experience in all aspects of the position.”

Waff will be leaving her post as Supervisor in the Colonial Heights office of the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Community Corrections & Pre-Trial Services. She has held that position since 2016, and was a longtime probation officer before elevating to her present role.

Waff received her bachelor’s degree from James Madison University, where her studies of emphasis were psychology, criminal justice and sociology.

Community Corrections (Riverside Criminal Justice Agency) facilitates local involvement and flexibility in responding to crime and jail overcrowding in the communities of Prince George, Hopewell, and Surry. The department provides local probation, supervision & pretrial services. The agency also provides education, training and treatment designed to encourage positive changes and meet the rehabilitative needs of offenders.

The department has an adopted FY21 budget of $1,082,693 (includes local probation supervision, pretrial services, and home electronic monitoring). The budget is largely funded by a state Department of Criminal Justice Services grant totaling $691,777, and also from contributions from the localities served.

Prince George County serves as the fiscal agent for the Agency. The Director’s position also provides staff support for the Riverside Criminal Justice Board, which includes membership from all three partnering localities and various people involved with the community justice system from Prince George, Hopewell and Surry.

The department has 12 full-time funded positions.

Waff and her family are residents of North Prince George County.
Surry County recently announced the hiring of Yoti Jabri as Director of Economic Development.

Mr. Jabri comes to Surry County with a wealth of experience, previously serving as Prince George County’s Economic Development Specialist for three years and five months.

Yoti earned his Master of Arts in Economics with a concentration in Public Administration from Virginia State University in Petersburg.

Surry County Administrator Melissa Rollins stated that “I am very excited to add Yoti to our team in Surry County government. He has years of economic development experience in Virginia’s Gateway Region. His skill set and background in the field match our needs very well and I think his professional and forward-thinking demeanor is a perfect fit to be working in Surry County.”

Yoti stated: “First off, I want to thank Prince George County and Prince George County leadership for being a great mentor to me — I give them a lot of gratitude for where I am now. I took this position not only to advance myself, but to help Surry County — I believe it’ll be a challenging role as it’s a newly created position, and I’m looking forward to it.”

Mr. Jabri will be succeeding Deputy County Administrator David Harrison, who filled the role for a year in conjunction with his other role as Director of Planning and Community Development.

“I am happy to have Yoti join our team in Surry County — his background is great for this position and will allow us the ability to focus our efforts in our individual departments more strongly in the future,” Harrison explained.
REBOOTING EDUCATION WITH
FURNITURE AND SANITATION

It’s 2021 and schools are faced with the complex task of getting students, faculty, and staff back into classrooms safely. This task will require a variety of well thought out plans. Plans that address the logistics and scheduling of a greater number of smaller class sizes and plans that support keeping those spaces clean. With extensive experience, The Supply Room can help ease the stress of designing and executing these plans.

FURNITURE

Desk and table shields with mobile and multi-functional furniture is one key factor in making spaces both safe and flexible. Creative plans will include scenarios for how and when to turn a gymnasium, cafeteria, or common area into a classroom and back in minutes. Flip-top tables can be nested and moved aside quickly when not in use. These tables and shields can also create health checkpoints, sanitation stations, and help direct the flow of traffic at building entrances and in common areas. This combined with clear and consistent signage will ensure students and faculty have the time and space to keep safe.

SANITATION

Knowing the difference between cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing and when to do each is the second key to developing your plan. To start, what is the difference?

- **Cleaning**: removes visible dirt, soil and debris – it does not disinfect.
- **Disinfecting**: eliminates bacteria, fungi and certain viruses – it does not remove dirt.
- **Sanitizing**: reduces the number of germs on surfaces or objects to a safe level, as judged by public health standards or requirements – it does not fully eliminate them.

Sanitizing and disinfecting products also vary in their dwell time (the length of time that a chemical must be in contact with the surface and remain wet, in order to achieve the product’s advertised kill rate.) Dwell times can range from a matter of seconds to 10 minutes. Our janitorial and sanitation experts are here to help recommend the best products for your space and put your plan in place.

While the situation with the pandemic is rapidly evolving in every direction, it is important that the solutions you create are adaptable and resilient. Designing a creative plan to keep your faculty and students safe with the ability to flex will help reduce infection and create a stable learning environment. Let’s start a conversation – visit our website or call to get help with your plans and implementation today.

thesupplyroom.com | 804.412.1200
contained in the Coronavirus Relief Fund in last year’s CARES Act, which provided direct distributions only to counties meeting certain population thresholds, with smaller counties reliant on distributions from state governments). These allocations will be based on population and will be distributed in two tranches, with the first payment to be issued within 60 days of enactment of the legislation (to the extent practicable), and the second distribution made no earlier than 12 months from the first distribution.

Based on preliminary estimates developed by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Virginia counties can expect to receive approximately $1.2 billion in these funds.

Cities and Towns
In addition to the county distributions, the ARPA includes $65.1 billion for cities and non-county municipalities. Metropolitan cities (generally, cities with a population of 50,000 or more) will receive distributions directly from the federal government from an overall allocation of $45.6 billion, based on the same timeline as the county distributions and subject to the same limitations on use of funds. Funds are distributed based on a modification to the Community Development Block Grant formula (which measures relative population, poverty, and housing overcrowding as well as lagging growth and age of housing). (Urban counties that receive CDBG funding will receive the larger of their allocation under the CDBG formula or their share of the population-based county allocation.) Non-county municipalities that do not receive Community Development Block Grant funding will receive distributions through the states from an allocation of $19.5 billion, based on population, with individual payments not to exceed 75 percent of the most recent budget for the locality as of January 27, 2020; states are required to distribute their funds no later than 30 days after receiving them, but may request an extension.

Allowable Uses of Funds
The legislation stipulates four eligible categories of uses for the funds:

- Responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including the provision of assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or to affected industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
- Providing premium pay (as defined in the bill, a maximum of an additional $13 per hour, not to exceed $25,000 with respect to any single worker) to essential workers of the local government or via grants to employers of essential workers.
- Providing government services to the extent of revenue reductions due to the public health emergency (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency).
- Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Local governments may not use these funds for a deposit into any pension fund, and funds must be used to cover costs incurred by December 31, 2024.

States
States, territories, and tribal governments will receive separate distributions from an overall appropriation of $219.8 billion, of which $195.3 billion will be distributed to states and the District of Columbia. $25.5 billion will be distributed equally among the states and the District of Columbia. The remainder of the funds will be distributed based on each state’s proportion of unemployed individuals over the three-month period ending with December 2020. States are to receive their funds directly from the Treasury within 60 days after enactment of the bill; the Secretary of the Treasury has the authority to split payments and withhold up to 50 percent for a period of up to 12 months. The list of eligible uses of funds is the same for the states as for local governments, but an additional restriction is imposed on states, barring them from using the funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation.
Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund
The Act provides an additional $10 billion to states, territories, and tribal governments for capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the pandemic. Each state will receive a minimum of $100 million. After distributions to territories and tribal governments, the remainder will be distributed based on population (50 percent), proportion of individuals living in rural areas (25 percent), and proportion of individuals with a household income below 150 percent of the federal poverty line (25 percent).

Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund
The Act also provides $2 billion (available until September 30, 2023) for payments to eligible revenue sharing counties and eligible tribal governments. $750 million will be available for these counties, to be distributed in amounts determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, based on certain economic indicators. Funds may be used for any governmental purpose other than lobbying. Eligible revenue sharing counties experience negative revenue impacts due to implementation of a federal program or changes to such program, as determined by the Secretary.

Other Provisions of Interest to Local Governments

K-12 Assistance
- Provides approximately $123 billion for K-12 schools, of which $800 million is to be used to assist homeless children and youth.
  - The remainder is to be provided as grants to states based on Title I allocations. Funds are available through September 30, 2023.
  - Each state must allocate at least 90 percent of grant funds to local educational agencies, based on Title I allocations. These suballocations are to be made within 60 days of the state’s receipt of funds.
  - Local educational agencies are to reserve at least 20 percent of these funds to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions, such as summer learning or after school programs.
  - The remaining funds may be used by local school divisions for a long list of purposes, including school facility repairs and improvements to reduce the risk of virus transmission and projects to improve indoor air quality.
  - From the state’s share of these funds, at least 5 percent must be used for activities to address learning loss; at least 1 percent must be used for evidence-based summer enrichment programs; and at least 1 percent must be used for evidence-based after school programs.
  - A local educational agency receiving funds must make available on its website its plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.
  - According to a recent press release from the Governor, Virginia school divisions are projected to receive an estimated $1.9 billion, with $200 million available for state K-12 initiatives.
- The bill also provides $2.6 billion in FY 2021 for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (which provides formula grants to states for the provision of a free and appropriate public education for children with disabilities ages three through 21).

Broadband
- Appropriates $7.2 billion, available until September 30, 2030, for a new Emergency Connectivity Fund to reimburse elementary and secondary schools and libraries for eligible equipment, which includes hotspots, routers, and modems, or advanced telecommunications and information services.
Paid Leave

• Extends payroll tax credits for employer-provided paid sick and family leave established under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (these credits would offset employer costs for voluntarily-provided leave); adds receiving a vaccination, recovery from vaccine-related complications, and COVID-19 testing as additional elements of paid leave that would qualify for the tax credits. Allows state and local governments to qualify for the payroll tax credits (which was disallowed under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act). Applies to wages paid between April 1, 2021, and September 30, 2021. Credits are not allowed if an employer discriminates in the availability of paid sick or family leave in favor of highly-compensated employees, full-time employees, or on the basis of tenure with an employer.

Nutrition

• Extends the 15 percent increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits through September 30, 2021 (the December relief package provided this enhanced benefit through June 30).
• Provides $1.1 billion through September 30, 2023, for state administrative costs for the SNAP program.
• Authorizes states to extend the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer program for 90 days in order to provide benefits during the summer following a school year in which there is a public health emergency designation. This program supplements SNAP benefits for low-income households during periods in which schools are not open for in-person instruction (children in these households would otherwise be receiving free or reduced-price school meals).

Child Care/Early Childhood

• Provides $200 million in FY 2021 for preschool grants under the IDEA to states for serving children ages three to five; provides $250 million in FY 2021 for IDEA part C, which serves infants and toddlers with disabilities.
• Provides $15 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Requires that states must obligate funds within FY 2021 and the next two fiscal years. Allows states to use the funds for child care assistance for health care workers and other essential workers without regard to income eligibility requirements. Requires funds to be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funds supporting child care.
• Provides an additional $24 billion for stabilization grants for eligible child care providers, to be available through September 30, 2021. Stipulates eligibility requirements for providers and eligible uses of the funds, including personnel, rent, PPE, sanitation, and mental health supports for children and employees. Funds may be used to reimburse providers for sums previously expended for goods or services required to respond to the public health emergency. Requires funds to be used to supplement, not supplant, other federal, state, and local funds supporting child care.
• Provides $1 billion for Head Start, to be allocated to Head Start agencies via one-time grants, with funds available through September 30, 2022.
• Permanently increases the annual funding level for the Child Care Entitlement to States from $2.9 billion per year to $3.6 billion per year and waives the state match for fiscal years 2021 and 2022.

Public Health

• Provides $7.5 billion for vaccinations, including supplemental grants to states to make up the difference between their allocations in the FY 2021 appropriations bill and what they would have received via formula funding for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Grant.
• Provides $6.1 billion for research and development, manufacturing, production, and purchase of vaccines for COVID-19 or other potentially pandemic diseases.
• Provides $500 million for Food and Drug Administration review and approval of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics and oversight of supply chain.
• Provides $47.8 billion for testing and tracing for COVID-19. Directs the implementation of a national evidence-based strategy for testing, contact tracing, surveillance, and mitigation, including the provision of technical assistance to states and localities and support for the development, manufacturing, and distribution of tests.

Behavioral Health
• Provides $1.5 billion through FY 2025 for grants to states for community mental health services.
• Provides $1.5 billion through FY 2025 for grants to states for substance abuse prevention and treatment.
• Provides $30 million for grants to states, localities, nonprofits, or behavioral health organizations to support community-based overdose prevention and other harm reduction programs.
• Provides $50 million for grants to states, localities, nonprofits, or behavioral health organizations to address community behavioral health needs that have been worsened by the pandemic.
• Provides for a five-year state option to cover certain mobile crisis services under Medicaid; makes $15 million available for state planning grants.

Utility Assistance
• Provides $4.5 billion through September 30, 2022, for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
• Provides $500 million for grants to states and tribal governments to assist low-income households that pay a high proportion of income for drinking water and wastewater; funds are to be provided to owners or operators of public water systems or treatment works to reduce arrearages and rates charged. Funds are available until expended and are to be allocated based on the percentage of households in the state or under the jurisdiction of the tribal government with income less than or equal to 150 percent of the federal poverty level and the percentage of households spending more than 30 percent of monthly income on housing.

Rental Assistance/Housing
• Provides $21.6 billion for emergency rental assistance. Funds are to be allocated to states and eligible localities (localities with populations greater than 200,000 are eligible to receive funding directly) to provide financial assistance to eligible households for a period not to exceed 18 months; funds may be used for rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs and arrears. Ten percent of funds may be used for case management and other services to support stable housing, and 15 percent may be used for administrative costs. Funds unobligated as of October 1, 2022, may be used for other affordable housing and eviction prevention purposes. Sets out process for reallocating unused funds. Funds are available until September 30, 2025. The Act extends the deadline to expend rental assistance funding provided in the December 2020 relief package from December 31, 2021, until September 30, 2022.
• Provides $5 billion, available through September 30, 2030, for emergency housing vouchers.
• Provides $5 billion, available through September 30, 2025, for homelessness assistance and supportive services, including tenant-based rental assistance, development of affordable housing, supportive services to qualifying individuals, and acquisition of non-congregate shelter units.
• Creates the Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide $10 billion to states and tribal governments for mortgage payment assistance; help with costs related to delinquency or default; principal reduction; interest rate reductions; and assistance with utilities, internet, and insurance, among other eligible expenses. Funds may be used to reimburse previous expenditures by states, localities, or tribal governments between January 21, 2020, and the disbursement of the new allocations. Stipulates how funds are to be targeted by states and tribal governments. Funds are to be allocated based on a formula that considers unemployment and mortgages overdue or in foreclosure.
Transportation

- Provides $30.5 billion in assistance to public transit agencies, with funds available until September 30, 2024. Expenses dating back to January 20, 2020, are eligible and include payroll, operating costs to maintain service due to lost revenue, and administrative leave.
  - Of this overall allocation, $26.1 billion is for Federal Transit Administration Urbanized Areas Formula Grants; $50 million is for grants for enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities; $317 million for rural area formula grants. $2.2 billion is also available for operating assistance for eligible entities that require additional assistance for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, and sanitization combating the spread of pathogens on transit systems, and debt service payments incurred to maintain operations and avoid layoffs and furloughs; funding applications will be evaluated by the Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration. Provides $1.7 billion for capital investment grants.

- Provides $8 billion available through FY 2024 through Airport Improvement Program (AIP) formulas at a 100 percent federal share, including:
  - $6.5 billion for primary and certain cargo airports and $100 million for general aviation and commercial service airports for operations, personnel and sanitation to combat the spread of COVID-19: $6.5.
  - $800 million for primary airport sponsors to meet rent and other obligations to airport concessionaires.
  - $608 million to cover the full federal share of these projects, including retroactively for FY 2020.

Economic Development

- Provides $3 billion for the Economic Development Administration, with funds available through September 30, 2022. 25 percent of this funding is to be used for assistance to states and communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of job and GDP losses in travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation.

Assistance to Businesses and Individuals

- Provides $7.25 billion in additional Paycheck Protection Program loan funding and expands eligibility to certain nonprofits.

- Provides $15 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, to be available until expended, $10 billion of which is to be used for entities that did not receive the full amount of Targeted EIDL Advances for certain small businesses established under the December 2020 relief package, and $5 billion of which is for payments to certain very small businesses that have suffered significant economic losses.

- Funds $28.6 billion in Restaurant Revitalization Grants. Eligible recipients may use funds for specified costs such as payroll, mortgage payments, rent, utilities, maintenance, and sick leave.

- Provides an additional $1.25 billion for the grant program for shuttered venues that was established in the December relief package.

- Extends Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (which provides benefits to certain self-employed workers who do not qualify for regular state unemployment assistance) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (which provides additional weeks of benefits for individuals who have exhausted their state benefits) to September 6, 2021. Extends Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (which provides a supplemental benefit of $300 per week) to September 6, 2021.

- Provides additional recovery rebate to individuals of $1400 per taxpayer, plus $1400 per dependent, with limitations based on adjusted gross income.

VACo Contacts: VACo Legislative Team
On April 29-30, VACo will virtually offer its County Supervisors’ Forum! This day-and-a-half event provides Supervisors and other officials with the chance to examine issues you and your Counties face daily. Participants are given an overview of local government and the duties of a County Supervisor by local officials who relish in sharing their knowledge and experience.

VACo is excited to offer this course to newly elected and incumbent Supervisors, chief county administrative officers and other government managers. Regardless of your role or length of time in local government service, there is always something new to learn, and local leaders will come away with the information they need to steer their community toward a bright future.

The theme for this year’s Forum is “The Role of the Supervisor.” The County Supervisors’ Forum offers peer-to-peer education from some of the most experienced public servants and leaders in the Commonwealth. The education will focus on your role as a supervisor, how to communicate more effectively, the county budget, transparency and disclosure, and community planning.

Register today to join us for education that will help you better serve your community.

Deadline for refunds is 4pm on April 15, 2021. Substitutions are welcome. Deadline for registration is 4pm on April 21, 2021.

Forum speakers may refer to the VACo Supervisors’ Manual, which is strongly encouraged for this meeting. If you need a Supervisors’ Manual, please contact Valerie Russell at vruessell@vaco.org with any questions.

VACo Contact: Valerie Russell

REGISTER NOW!
VACo COUNTY SUPERVISORS' FORUM

NAME ________________________________

TITLE _________________________________

COUNTY/ORGANIZATION __________________________

EMAIL ________________________________

CREDIT CARD NUMBER __________________________

EXPIRATION DATE __________________________

NAME ON CARD ______________________________

Fax completed registration form with credit card information to 804.788.0083

Or please make payable to VACo. Mail check and completed registration form to 1207 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

Click here to register online

Registration Fee: $350

Thursday, April 29 - 830am to 5pm
Friday, April 30 - 830am to 1230pm

Speakers may refer to the VACo Supervisors' Manual, which is strongly encouraged for this meeting. If you need a Supervisors' Manual, please contact Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org with any questions.
Governor Northam Announces $20.1 Million to Strengthen Broadband Infrastructure in 17 Localities

~ Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grants awarded to 11 projects, connecting over 13,400 homes, businesses, and community institutions ~

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today announced the award of $20.1 million in Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grants to improve broadband infrastructure in 17 localities. The funding will support 11 projects, connecting more than 13,400 households, businesses, and anchor institutions to high-speed internet, and leveraging $18.8 million in private and local investments. Since 2018, Virginia has invested more than $73.1 million through VATI to connect a total of 76,351 Virginians to broadband service.

“Quality broadband service is key to growing our economy, and learning, competing, and succeeding in today’s digital world,” said Governor Northam. “This funding will have an enormous impact on thousands of unserved Virginians and bring us closer to our goal of every community in our Commonwealth having access to high-speed internet.”

Administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), VATI provides targeted financial assistance to extend broadband service to areas that are unserved by an internet service provider. This is the second round of funding for the VATI 2021 program year, and in total, more than $49.8 million has been awarded for 28 localities, connecting over 25,000 households, businesses, and anchor institutions. Governor Northam and the General Assembly made an historic investment of nearly $50 million in VATI funding during the November 2020 legislative session that enabled this significant increase in Virginians served. The Governor and General Assembly maintained this historic funding in the recent budget for next fiscal year.

“With the historic investment made by Governor Northam and the General Assembly, the Commonwealth is showing its commitment to broadband expansion for areas in need,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. “This round of grants will support the vital infrastructure needed for high-speed internet, ensuring more communities have access to the necessities of modern life.”

Projects were selected through a competitive process that evaluated each project for demonstrated need and benefit for the community, applicant readiness and capacity, and the cost and leverage of the proposed project. The level of funding awarded is based on the infrastructure needs in the project area.

In this application year, VATI received 45 applications from 53 units of local government that partnered with 26 internet service providers, requesting more than $105 million in funding. Five projects were announced in January in the first round of grants, and those projects were either unaffected by the Federal Communications Commission’s Phase I of Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) preliminary awards or have already been re-scoped by the applicant to remove overlap with RDOF funded areas. This second round of awards are the remaining high-ranked projects, including those that had been re-scoped and re-evaluated due to the impact of RDOF. Additional information on VATI is available here.

Click here to see the projects that will be awarded funding in round two of the 2021 VATI grants.
Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level Through the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that empowers frontline county government professionals with the most fundamental leadership skills to deliver results for counties and communities.

NACo launched this program in partnership with the team from the Professional Development Academy, including General Colin Powell, Dr. Marshall Goldsmith, and many other executives from both private industry and government agencies.

Over 1,600 counties have enrolled emerging and existing leaders since the launch of the program last year, with incredible feedback and results. In fact, the positive feedback and demand for this NACo program has been truly unprecedented.

The program has proven relevant and practical for the leaders and is convenient and non-disruptive to busy schedules. The 12 weeks of content are expertly facilitated online, and it takes about 4-5 hours per week for participants to fully engage in the program.

$1,645 per enrollee for VA Counties. (Retail Price $2,495)

The next program begins April 26th. The last day to register is April 9th!

To enroll visit the NACo High Performance Leadership Academy webpage at naco.org/skills.

For questions and assistance in enrolling please contact Luke Afeman at lukea@pdaleadership.com. Professional Development Academy/NACo Leadership Academy.

“This is a transformational leadership program that has proven to be the most scalable, cost effective, and efficient way to make your leaders better.”

- General Colin Powell
The 2021 General Assembly session began in January as legislators deliberated on many issues of critical importance to local government, including the state budget, broadband, education funding, economic development, public safety, taxes and other policy matters.

VACo will continually provide updates during the session through Capitol Contact. VACo Members - To ensure that you are receiving Capitol Contact, please send Gage Harter your best email address.

JANUARY 2021

- January 12, 2021: Virginia General Assembly Convenes Tomorrow
- January 14, 2021: Virginia General Assembly Convenes
- January 19, 2021: Legislation and Budget Amendments Seek to Implement Recommendations of JLARC’s CSA Report
- January 21, 2021: Budget Amendments Introduced to Support County Priorities
- January 29, 2021: Capitol Contact ALERT – Oppose SB 1440: Erosion of Governmental Immunity for Law Enforcement

FEBRUARY 2021

- February 2, 2021: VACo Members – Encourage Your House of Delegates Members to Pass Helpful Public Notice Bill
- February 4, 2021: Capitol Contact ALERT – Cigarette Taxing Authority Being Compromised: Call Senators to Oppose
- February 4, 2021: Cigarette Taxing Authority Being Compromised: Call Senators to Oppose
- February 9, 2021: Cigarette Tax Legislation Overhauled: Regional Board Participation Mandate Removed
- February 11, 2021: ‘Money Committees’ Release Budgets
- February 16, 2021: School Construction and Maintenance Financing Legislation Encounters Mixed Fortunes
- February 18, 2021: SOQ Support Position Bill Survives
- February 23, 2021: Please Contact Legislators to Support Key County Priorities in Budget Conference

MARCH 2021

- March 2, 2021: General Assembly Adopts Budget Compromise
- March 4, 2021: Legislature passes complex changes to laws regarding the siting and taxing of solar and energy storage projects
## 2021 Virginia County Board Chairs and Vice Chairs

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Solutions That Can Help
Amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic, countless communities across the globe have been impacted. We know public agencies and education institutions are working tirelessly to address the needs of their staff and students as we begin to reopen our communities, our schools and our public facilities.

As you prepare to open your facilities, develop your strategy for what is next and identify solutions, OMNIA Partners is here to help. Our COVID-19 task force is working with the executive teams of our supplier partners to assist in procuring the necessary products and services.

CONTACT OUR TEAM

Our Cooperative Contract Portfolio
The following contract categories include an overview of product and service offerings specific to functional areas within your facility. Select a category to be taken directly to current resources:

Cleaning & Disinfecting Services | Contract Offerings Include: Deep Cleaning Services | Surface Disinfectant & Sanitizer Spray Service | Laundered Apparel | Turnkey Emergency Services

PPE & Facility Solutions | Contract Offerings Include: Masks, Gloves, Gowns & Kits | UV LED Disinfecting Technology | Thermometers & Digital Scanners | Rental Vaccination Stations | Plexiglass Barriers | Signage | Modular Buildings | Elevator/Escalator Sanitization


Food | Contract Offerings Include: Self-Contained Lunch Packages | Single-Serve Condiments | ToGo Packaging | Culinary Sanitation

Furniture | Contract Offerings Include: Mobile Cubes & Walls | Desking | Workspace Separation Screens | Outdoor Classroom Solutions | Flexible Seating | Quickship Solutions

Air Filtration | Contract Offerings Include: Scalable HVAC Systems with Funding Solutions | Commercial Grade Air Purifiers | Indoor Air Quality Assessments | Air Filtration Products

CLICK HERE TO DISCOVER MORE ABOUT HOW OMNIA PARTNERS IS HELPING SCHOOLS REOPEN
The annual Virginia Volunteerism and Service Conference will be held virtually on May 11-13, 2021. The virtual event features approximately 20 dynamic workshops led by industry experts in the categories of Capacity Building, Volunteer Management, and Personal/Professional Development.

The conference is the Commonwealth’s leading event for organizations and individuals making a difference in their communities. The theme for this year’s event is “Service and Volunteerism: Lighting the Way in Challenging Times.”

Presented by the Virginia Office on Volunteerism and Community Services and the Virginia Service Foundation, this highly-interactive conference will also offer multiple opportunities to network with your peers. The event is open to the public and is ideal for volunteer service leaders, nonprofit executives, faith-based organization leaders, and government agency personnel.

Early Bird Registration is now open!! Registration is only $100 until March 12, 2021, so hurry and register today!

Register Now!
PLEASE SHARE YOUR COUNTY DISTRIBUTION PLANS OF THE COVID-19 VACCINE OR A LINK TO YOUR RESPECTIVE PLANS

VACo is collecting information on county plans of distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. If your county has developed a plan to distribute the COVID-19 vaccine, other counties may benefit from the information. Please share your plan, so we can bank the information for other counties. Submissions can be found here.

Please send your plans to Karie Walker at kwalker@vaco.org
Join the National Association of Counties (NACo) in celebrating National County Government Month (NCGM). Held each April, NCGM is an annual celebration of county government and an excellent opportunity for counties, parishes and boroughs to highlight effective county programs and raise public awareness about services provided to the community.

There is no clearer demonstration of this year’s theme – Counties Matter – than the public health emergency and economic crisis we are facing. Now more than ever, our residents are seeing firsthand the essential functions counties perform.

This April, we have an opportunity to reinforce the message that counties provide indispensable services and help our communities stay healthy, safe and vibrant.

NCGM TOOLKIT
Celebrate Your County’s Most Innovative Programs
2021 NACo Achievement Awards

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2021 Achievement Awards. Please join us in celebrating 51 years of county innovation by applying today.

Since 1970, the NACo Achievement Awards have recognized outstanding county government programs and services. Through a non-competitive application process, noteworthy programs receive awards in 18 categories that cover a vast range of county responsibilities. By participating, your county can earn national recognition.

NACo will highlight the 18 “best of category” winners, as well as feature all winners in NACo materials and online. We also provide a customizable press release for you to share the good news with the media and residents.

We encourage all counties, parishes and boroughs to apply.

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2021

For more information, please review the Achievement Awards online brochure, or email awards@naco.org with any questions.

APPLY TODAY
The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) mobile application is a valuable tool for County officials and staff to better serve their communities. With the VACo mobile app, users can easily stay informed about issues important to Counties with many features, including:

* VACo Events Registration and Info
* VACo Member Directory
* Legislative News and Alerts | Capitol Contact
* VACo Chat
* County Pulse Podcast
* Employment Opportunities

**Downloading the app is easy...**

- Scan the QR Code or search "Virginia Assn of Counties" from the iTunes or Google Play Store
- Opt-in for VACo Push Notifications to receive important VACo alerts
- For access to the most features, request an account with your email and a password
- Once your account is approved, members will have access to all the features.
VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS’ MANUAL
EIGHTH EDITION, 2019

ORDER YOURS TODAY
$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)
Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition - NEW FOR 2019

The Eighth Edition (2019) of VACo's Virginia County Supervisors’ Manual, is now in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

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Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083
Questions? Call 804.788.6652.
The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is $50 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Valerie Russell.

AGRICULTURE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR | Grayson County | Posted March 17

SENIOR UTILITY MECHANIC | Gloucester County | Posted March 17

PT DEPUTY TREASURER | Gloucester County | Posted March 17

RFP – LEGAL SERVICES – COUNTY ATTORNEY | Patrick County | Posted March 17

RECORDS ASSISTANT – PART TIME | King William County | Posted March 16

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS | King William County | Posted March 16

PLANNING DIVISION MANAGER-COMMUNITY PLANNING | Loudoun County | Posted March 16

PT ANIMAL SHELTER ATTENDANT | Surry County | Posted March 16

ZONING TECHNICIAN | Rockbridge County | Posted March 16

CITY ATTORNEY | City of Lynchburg | Posted March 16

RECORDS & IMAGING TECHNICIAN | Albemarle County | Posted March 15

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER | Chesterfield County | Posted March 15

PARALEGAL/Legal ASSISTANT | King George County | Posted March 15

LIBRARY DIRECTOR | Amherst County | Posted March 12

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE PLANNING & ZONING DEPARTMENT | City of Lexington | Posted March 12

BUILDING OFFICIAL | Surry County | Posted March 12

ENGINEER I – PUBLIC WORKS | City of Chesapeake | Posted March 11

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | Surry County | Posted March 12

DIRECTOR, GENERAL SERVICES | Prince George County | Posted March 12

CLERK OF COUNCIL | City of Staunton | Posted March 12

LIBRARY SPECIALIST – CHILDREN SERVICES | Gloucester County | Posted March 12

LIBRARY CLERK – WORK AS REQUIRED | Gloucester County | Posted March 12

PART TIME LIBRARY CLERK | Gloucester County | Posted March 12

TECHNICIAN I – GROUNDS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 12
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<td>ENGINEERING/GIS TECHNICIAN (ASSET MANAGEMENT)</td>
<td>Western Virginia Water Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>PROCUREMENT OFFICER</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PARKS &amp; RECREATION SUMMER JOBS</td>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
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<td>EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT</td>
<td>Town of Warrenton</td>
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<td>TOWN CLERK PART TIME</td>
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<td>SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER</td>
<td>City of Portsmouth</td>
<td>Fluvanna County</td>
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<td>PLANS EXAMINER</td>
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<td>Surry County</td>
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<td>ELECTRICAL CODE INSPECTOR (I, II, III, OR IV)</td>
<td>City of Alexandria</td>
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<td>OFFICE OF HUMAN RIGHTS MANAGER</td>
<td>City of Charlottesville</td>
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<td>DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEPUTY CITY MANAGER OF OPERATIONS</td>
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<td>CITY ATTORNEY</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIRECTOR OF FINANCE</td>
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<td>ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE/ZONING OFFICER</td>
<td>King William County/Berkley Group</td>
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<td>LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS LIAISON</td>
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<td>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PLANNING</td>
<td>Chesterfield County</td>
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<td>DMV CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE PART-TIME</td>
<td>Amelia County</td>
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<td>ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST</td>
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<td>PARK AIDE</td>
<td>Gloucester County</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
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**Value of VACo**

**Advocacy**
VACo’s lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.

**Education**
Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.

**Membership Engagement**
Some of VACo’s best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.

**Business Development**
Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

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**VACo Leadership**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Jeffrey C. McKay</td>
<td>Fairfax County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Meg Bohmke</td>
<td>Stafford County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Vice President</td>
<td>Jason D. Bellows</td>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Vice President</td>
<td>Ann H. Mallek</td>
<td>Albemarle County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary-Treasurer</td>
<td>Donald L. Hart, Jr.</td>
<td>Accomack County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Stephen W. Bowen</td>
<td>Nottoway County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**VACo Staff**

- **Executive Director** | Dean A. Lynch, CAE
- **Director of Intergovernmental Affairs** | Jeremy R. Bennett
- **Director of Government Affairs** | Katie Boyle
- **General Counsel** | Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE
- **Director of Communications** | A. Gage Harter
- **Director of Technical Services** | John N. Kandris, A+, ACT, CCA
- **Director of Local Government Policy** | Joe Lerch, AICP
- **Director of Government Relations** | Chris J. McDonald, Esq.
- **Administrative Secretary** | Valerie M. Russell
- **Director of Administration and Finance** | Vicky D. Steinruck, CPA
- **Coordinator of Programs and Development** | Karie Walker

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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