

General Assembly Adjourns, Will Return for Special Session to Finalize Budget

The General Assembly adjourned on Saturday, March 12, as planned, but without completing work on revisions to the current budget and a budget for the upcoming biennium. Legislators agreed to allow the budget bills, as well as any other legislation pending in conference committees at the time of adjournment, to be carried over to a special session for further work. It is expected that the Governor will call the legislature back for a special session soon, although the planned date is unknown at this time.

At the time of adjournment on Saturday, 45 bills awaited final resolution; several of these bills have agreed-upon conference reports, but these agreements had not been approved by both chambers at the time of adjournment. Many bills are in conference because they have budgetary implications - notably the different approaches to elimination of the grocery tax represented by [HB 90 \(McNamara\)](#) and [SB 451 \(Boysko\)](#) - and must be negotiated in tandem with budget discussions. In addition to the grocery tax legislation, several bills of interest to local governments are in conference and await resolution in the special session:

- [HB 563 \(O'Quinn\)](#) and [SB 473 \(McClellan\)](#) take differing approaches to meeting school capital needs. As passed by the House, HB 563 requires the Department of Education,

in consultation with the Department of General Services, to develop a data collection tool to assist school boards in determining the relative age of each school building and the amount of maintenance reserve funds necessary to restore each building. The bill also establishes the School Construction Fund to be used for awarding grants to local school boards for construction or renovation of expansion of school buildings, and dedicates otherwise-uncommitted casino gaming proceeds to the School Construction Fund. SB 473 also sets up a School Construction Fund and dedicates casino gaming proceeds to the Fund; the bill specifies maximum grant amounts for school boards based on school divisions' local composite indices.

- [SB 471 \(McClellan\)](#) modifies provisions governing use of the Literary Fund, including establishing a competitive program for subsidizing school divisions' loan closing costs, establishing an annual open application process for Literary Fund loans, creating a loan-add on to incentivize projects resulting in school consolidation, and setting interest rates that are benchmarked to a market index, with rates set on a sliding scale based on school divisions' local composite indices and capped for localities with the least ability to pay. The House added a reenactment clause to the bill, which was incorporated into the conference committee's report and agreed to by the House, but must still be approved by the Senate.
- [SB 490 \(McClellan\)](#) requires each school board to provide at least four specialized student support positions per 1,000 students (current standards require three of these positions per 1,000 students). The House version of the bill eliminates this language and instead incorporates staffing requirements for principals and assistant principals funded in the House budget.
- [HB 349 \(Tata\)](#) directs local departments of social services to provide six months of housing support for young adults aging out of foster care who decline to participate in the Fostering Futures program. As passed by the Senate, the bill contains language making its provisions contingent on funding in the state budget.
- [HB 653 \(Wampler\)](#) requires local boards of social services within each Department of Social Services region to collaborate to expand the pool of available foster homes and to facilitate approval of kinship foster parents. The Senate also added financial contingency language to this bill.

Bills that passed during the last week of the 2022 regular session are now before the Governor, who must take action by midnight on Monday, April 11, in advance of the April 27 reconvened session. VACo appreciates its members' advocacy on key issues of importance to counties in the two budget proposals and will provide updates on the special session as more information becomes available.

VACo Contact: [VACo Legislative Team](#)



Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions

A screenshot of the Blue Line Solutions website. The header includes the company name 'BLUE LINE SOLUTIONS' and a navigation menu with links: HOME, TRUEBLUE, SCHOOL ZONE ENFORCEMENT, MANNED ENFORCEMENT, ABOUT BLS, and MORE. The main content area is titled 'SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY'. On the left, there is a graphic with the text 'KIDS FIRST' above an illustration of children crossing a street with cars. On the right, under the heading 'PUBLIC INFORMATION & EDUCATION', a paragraph describes the program's focus on public information and education, including press releases and brochures. Below this is a link: 'Find out more about our school zone safety program'. At the bottom of the screenshot, a video player is visible with a 'SPEED LIMIT' sign as the thumbnail. The video player shows a progress bar at 1:29 / 5:36 and includes standard playback controls.

Blue Line Solutions | PE&I/Public Education and Information

VACo's newest Premier Partner, Blue Line Solutions, offers a TrueBlue Highway Safety Program that can be implemented in School Zones and Construction Zones, where data has shown that drivers are unaware that their driving behavior is not in alignment with public safety. A key element of this program - drivers are first educated through several media outlets, that their driving patterns through these zones need to change to keep their communities safe. The education has had a profound and positive effect on driving behavior. To learn more about the public safety benefits of this program, please join VACo Executive Director, Dean Lynch, and Blue Line Solutions' Founder & CEO, Mark Hutchinson, as they dive into the data and the results.

Please contact Greg Hogston for more information: ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org or 276.759.8064 or visit <https://bluelinesolutions.org>.

Watch the [Premier Partner Video](#)

Enter the VACo 2022 Achievement Awards



Dear VACo Members –

It's time for the 2022 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 gcharter@vaco.org.

Submissions must be received by July 1, 2022.

Last year, [we processed 102 entries](#) and selected 30 winners from 19 Counties. VACo presented awards at 19 Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 87th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2022 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received close to 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was Henrico County for its "Equity Ambassadors" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2022 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact gcharter@vaco.org with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#) | [2021 Achievement Awards Press Release](#) | [Browse all of the 2021 Entries](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)



Visit Albemarle County and the Albemarle County Courthouse

Location: 501 East Jefferson Street / Park Street

Built: 1761 – 1781

Style: Greek Revival

Architect: William Cabell

Contractor: William Cabell and John Moore

Description: The building faces south and is a two story red colored brick structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Charlottesville. The south front has a large portico with four tall Ionic columns rising to a pediment at the roof line. The windows have stone headers. On the roof is a white colored octagonal cupola. The building has expanded northwards. The 1762 building was torn down and the building was enlarged in 1803. The architects were William D Meriweather, Isaac Miller and George Divers and the contractor was John Jorday. An addition was constructed in 1859 and in 1879 to 1880, the courthouse was enlarged with the addition of the south wing with its Ionic portico. Renovation work was done in 1938. The architect was Milton Grigg and Floyd Johnson. The building was renovated in 1963. The architect was Johnson, Crevan and Gibson. The building is located on the east side of Courthouse Square with the District Court along the west side.

SOURCE: [American Courthouses](#) | [Courthouses.co](#)

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 30 | OMNI RICHMOND HOTEL

VACo COUNTY SUPERVISORS' FORUM

NAME _____

TITLE _____ EMAIL _____

COUNTY/ORGANIZATION _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME ON CARD _____

Hotel Reservation Details: Lodging costs are not covered in the registration fee. The Forum is held at the Omni Richmond Hotel, 100 South 12th Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Room rates start at \$145 (single room occupancy). To reserve a hotel room, call 804.344.7000 by April 5, 2022, with this code: **VACo Supervisors Meeting-One Day Chair** or reserve a room at this [Omni Richmond Hotel link](#).

Fax completed registration form with credit card information to 804.788.0083

Or please make check 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** if you need Supervisors' Manual
☐ **\$275** if you already have Supervisors' Manual
☐ **\$175** Guest: _____

If you would like to purchase the [Supervisors' Manual](#) before the Forum, please contact Valerie Russell at vrussell@vaco.org.

Refund Policy: Requests for registration refunds are honored if received by April 8, 2022. Substitutions are allowed in the event a supervisor is unable to attend. For more information, call VACo at 804.788.6652.





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.

A S S U R A

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Director of Business Development

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Executive Director

Phone: 757.787.2936**Email:** emeil@a-npdc.org**Website:** www.a-npdc.org**[VACo Page Link](#)**

MES | MILLER, EARLE & SHANKS, PLLC

Attorneys and Counsellors at Law

Nathan H. Miller

Managing Partner

Phone: 540.564.1551**Email:** nhmiller@harrisonburglaw.com**Website:** www.harrisonburglaw.com**[VACo Page Link](#)**

\$100 million in federal funds now available to Virginia localities for drinking water infrastructure

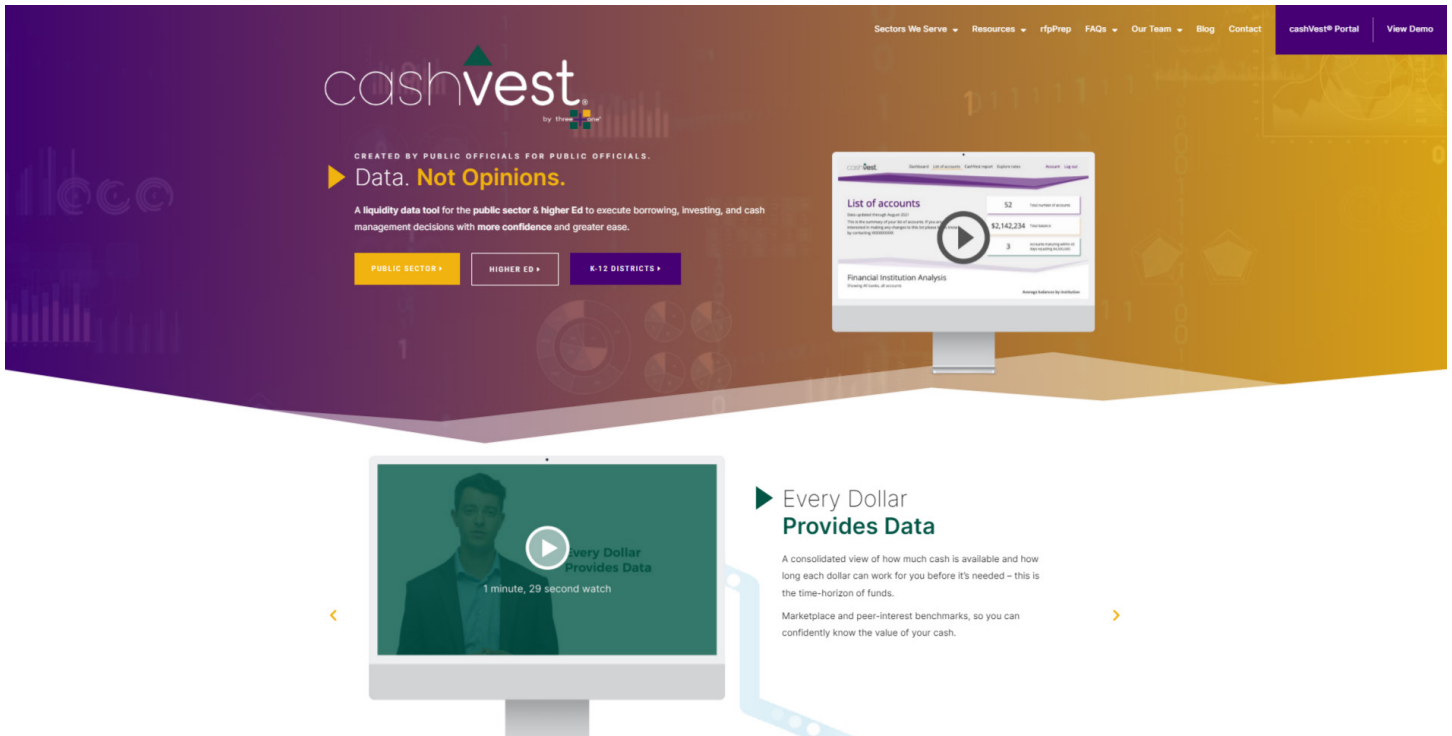


The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is now accepting applications for grants and loans to improve drinking water infrastructure. Federal funds made available through American Rescue Plan (ARPA) and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) covers the following types of projects for small and disadvantaged community waterworks:

- Facilities to improve drinking water quality
- Transmission and distribution: improvements in water pressure and prevention of contamination in infrastructure and lead service line replacements
- New sources to replace contaminated drinking water or increase drought resilience, including aquifer storage and recovery system for water storage
- Green infrastructure, including green roofs, rainwater harvesting collection, permeable pavement
- Storage of drinking water, such as to prevent contaminants or match water demands
- Buying of water systems and interconnection of systems
- New community water systems
- Constructing publicly owned treatment works
- Projects related to implementation of a nonpoint source pollution management program established under the Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage
- Management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- Water conservation, efficiency, or reuse measures
- Development and implementation of a conservation and management plan under the CWA
- Watershed projects meeting the criteria set forth in the CWA
- Energy consumption reduction for publicly owned treatment works
- Reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water
- Security of publicly owned treatment works
- Some stormwater infrastructure, lead remediation, and certain rehabilitations of dams and reservoirs are available for SLFRF funding

Official notice of the funding program can be found the Virginia Regulatory Townhall Website at this [link](#). Applications are due by either April 8, 2022 or May 6, 2022 depending on the specific source of federal funding. For more information and how to apply go to <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/arpa/>

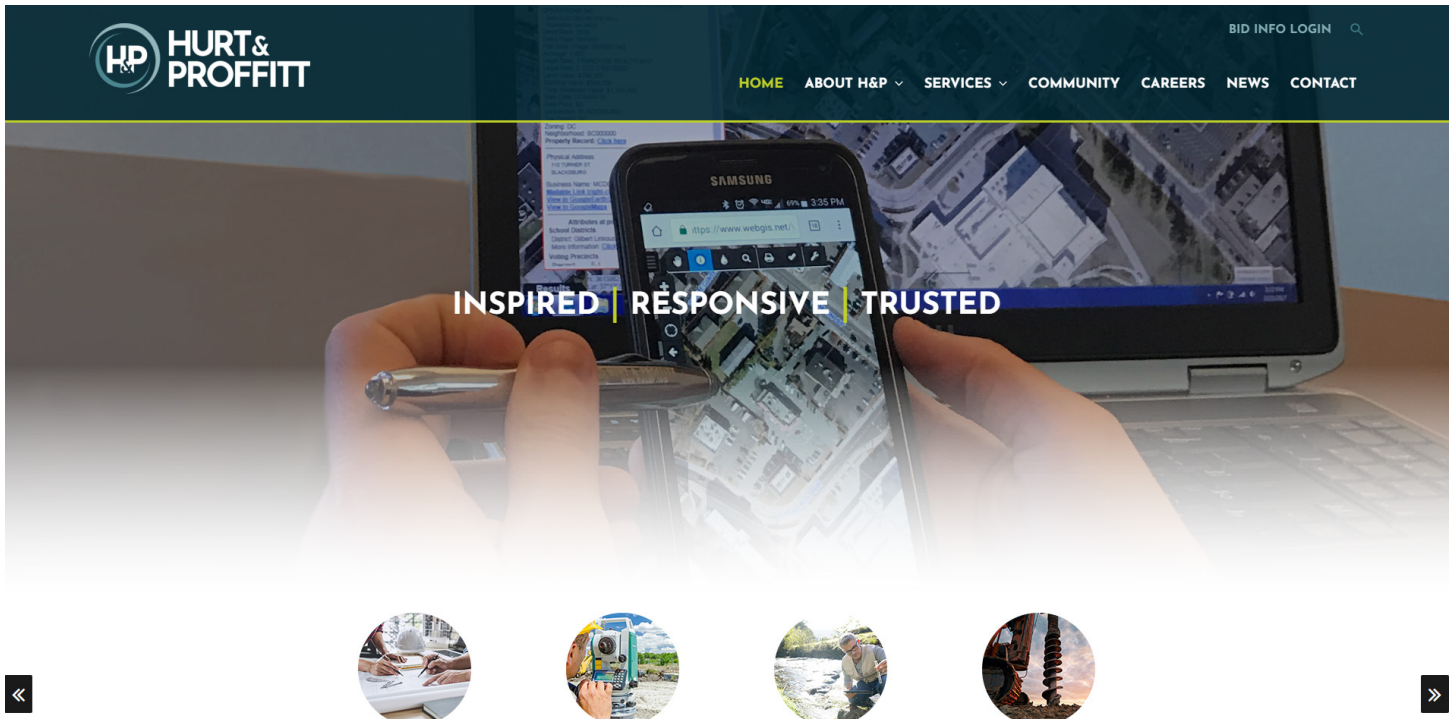
VACo Contact: [Joe Lerch, AICP](#)



Three+one launches new website

“We are thrilled to unveil our new three+one® website with more benefits than ever before: videos, case studies, webinars & testimonials.”

Link: www.threeplusone.us



H&P Launches Redesigned Website

After many months of hard work and dedication from our Business Development and Marketing teams, H&P is pleased to announce the launch of our redesigned website.

As H&P enters our 50th year of being in business, we recently updated our logo and company colors to give us a fresh look. “Our primary goal during the website redesign process was to create a more valuable, service-focused resource across all platforms and devices. Specifically, we wanted to focus on making it easier for our users to learn and locate information about our services for their particular needs, not only at their desk but on mobile devices.” said Bif Johnson, President and CEO.

While our logo changed, and we may look different, you will still see the same familiar faces and get the continued high-quality service you have come to know and expect from our staff. Our services continue to expand, and we are reaching into new markets as the dreams and visions of our clients and partners continues to grow. With our expanding leadership team and dedicated employees, we are poised to take on the challenges of the next half century.

H&P is also on Facebook and LinkedIn. Follow us to keep up-to-date on our projects and company announcements in the links in the lower right hand corner.

We hope you enjoy our new look! Visit our site at www.handp.com.

Public Information Office

5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, Virginia 24018
(540) 772-2010



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Amy Whittaker
Public Information Officer
Cell: (540) 589-3089
Awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov

Roanoke County Names Director of Social Services

March 4, 2022 –Roanoke County Administrator Richard L. Caywood, P.E. is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Goad as director of the Department of Social Services.

“We are fortunate to attract an experienced director like Susan who has extensive knowledge of the social services field and the commitment to build on the strengths of our organization,” said Caywood. “Susan spent much of her career serving the citizens of our community. I’m pleased she was able to grow within our organization and will now provide strong leadership as director.”

Goad currently serves Botetourt County as director of Social Services. She previously served for 17 years in positions at Roanoke County as a Benefits Program Specialist, Social Worker and Family Services Supervisor. Goad brings more than 20 years of experience in social service programs and policies at the local, state and national level.

“I am honored to be selected to serve Roanoke County as the next director of Social Services,” said Goad. “I look forward to working with a staff of professionals who dedicate themselves to promoting citizen independence, protective services, strengthening families, and advocating for the citizens of our community.”

Goad holds a Master’s of Social Work and a Bachelor’s of Social Work from Radford University. She is a past recipient of a Golden Halo Award for Child Protective Services, awarded by the Children’s Trust of Roanoke Valley.

Goad follows director Joyce Earl who is retiring after serving 25 years with the department.

Goad will assume her new position April 4.

###

Congratulations!

We honor our Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program Graduates at Board of Supervisors Meetings



Congratulations to Loudoun County Supervisor Juli Briskman on her graduation from the Virginia Certified County Supervisors Program! Well done!

Congratulations!

We honor our Virginia Certified County Supervisors' Program Graduates at Board of Supervisors Meetings



Congratulations to four Greenville County Supervisors for graduating from the Virginia Certified County Supervisors Program!

Pictured left to right - Karie Walker (VACo), Vice Chair Belinda Astrop, Chair Tony Conwell, Supervisor James Brown, and Supervisor Bill Cain.



VIRGINIA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION

Notice of FY23 Funding Opportunity

Zero Fare Grant Program for Public Transit

Applications Due April 8, 2022

The Virginia Transit Association (VTA) is pleased to announce the third year of its Transit Zero- Fare for Working Families program, a competitive grant program designed to help needy families by promoting access to employment and job training through public transit. In total, up to \$500,000 will be made available to local governments, nonprofit organizations, and transit agencies.

The program is funded through Virginia's federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant. This program will support projects that benefit persons that have a dependent child and are below 200% of the federal poverty level. Eligible projects include providing fixed route bus service, on demand bus service, public van pools, and other public transit services for TANF eligible persons traveling to and from work or job training.

The application window will open on Monday, March 14 with applications and cost estimate projections due by Friday, April 8 at 4:00PM. To apply, download program guidelines, the application form, and the cost estimate form at <https://vatransit.com/TANFGrant>. Current grant recipients are invited to reapply. Program related questions can be emailed to TANFgrant@vatransit.com.

FY23 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) Timeline



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Office of Broadband has released the timeline for the FY2023 round of the VATI. A full list of dates are on the [VATI website](#) and we've listed some of the key dates below. Please reach out to vati@dhcd.virginia.gov for more information about the coming round.

April 1 - Draft Guidelines Released for Public Comment

April 7, 2pm-4pm & April 19, 12pm-2pm – Public Input Sessions on Draft Guidelines
May 2 – Public Comment Period on Draft Guidelines Closes

June 2, 10am - 12pm – VATI How-to-Apply Webinar, Application Window Opens

August 25 – Applications Due

Late December - Anticipated Announcement of Awards

Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP) Details

The Office of Broadband has released [initial details about LECAP on the program website](#). In 2021, the General Assembly allocated \$8 million to DHCD to support the extension of existing broadband networks to low-to-moderate income residents. The Office will be issuing more details regarding program structure in April 2022! Please send any questions about the program to broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov.



Virginia Rural Leadership Institute

Presented By



The **Virginia Rural Leadership Institute (VRLI)** is an initiative put forward by the Virginia Rural Center. It is the first and only program in the Commonwealth that focuses entirely on retaining and attracting rural Virginians, by developing leaders who are innovative, responsible, civic minded and build strong regional communities. **Applications are due March 15.**

Over the course of four sessions, Cohort Members will receive professional leadership and economic development training that equips community leaders with the skills they need to lead long-term economic advancement in their community and region. The program also seeks to increase cooperation, collaboration, and coordination across a broad array of organizations and sectors. The sessions for the Inaugural VRLI Cohort are:

Session 1 - Southside Virginia

Bee Hotel - Danville, VA

May 12, 13, & 14

Session 2 - Middle Peninsula/Northern Neck

St. Margaret's School - Tappahannock, VA

July 14, 15, & 16

Session 3 - Southwest Virginia

Jackson Park Inn - Pulaski, VA

September 15 & 16

Western Front Hotel - Saint Paul, VA

September 16 & 17

Session 4 - Shenandoah Valley

Blackburn Inn - Staunton, VA

November 17, 18, & 19

For more information about VRLI, please email:

Chris Atkins

VRLI Program Director

VaRuralLeadership@gmail.com



2022 Spring Resiliency Academy



**REGISTRATION OPEN!
SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!**

COMPONENTS OF A RESILIENT COMMUNITY

FOUR WEBINARS • FREE FOR MEMBERS

MARCH 10 Economic Activities: Innovative Financing	APRIL 7 Community Action: Tools for Resiliency Planning
MAY 12 Ecosystem Services: Green Infrastructure Utilized	JUNE 9 Infrastructure & Buildings: Transportation Progress Report

Resilient Virginia has opened registration for their 2022 Spring Resiliency Academy. Beginning March 10, they will host four webinars highlighting the four components of a resilient community - Economic Activities, Community Action, Ecosystem Services, and Infrastructure & Buildings. Expert speakers will join them each session and information on the results of the 2022 Virginia Assembly and on new Federal programs will be presented.

For information on confirmed guest speakers and registration, visit the [Resiliency Academy website](#).



Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)

2023 VATI Guidelines and Criteria Input Sessions

The [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#) will host two public input sessions to discuss the proposed 2023 Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) guidelines and criteria, which will be released and posted on the [VATI webpage](#) on April 1, 2022.

The first session will be held on April 7, and the second will be held on April 19. The input sessions will be held virtually using Google Meets. A call-in option will also be available.

Representatives from units of local government, internet service providers (ISPs) and other interested stakeholders are encouraged to participate.

Registration is required to participate in the sessions.

The meeting access link will be sent out to registrants via email prior to the scheduled session. DHCD will also be accepting written public comments submitted through a fillable form that will be available on the [VATI webpage](#).

The public comment period closes on **May 2, 2022**.

DHCD will award grants to eligible applicants to provide last-mile services to unserved areas of the Commonwealth. The budget is subject to final approval of the 2022-2023 state budget and allocation of federal funds to be managed and awarded through the VATI grant making process.

If you have any questions, contact Deserae Saunders-Austin at (804) 840-4101 or email vati@dhcd.virginia.gov.

Input Session Dates

April 7, 2022 | 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

April 19, 2022 | 12 noon - 2 p.m.

The meeting access link will be sent to registrants prior to the scheduled session.

REGISTER NOW

Government Relations Advocate



The Virginia Association of Counties seeks a dynamic individual with experience and interest in government relations advocacy. Knowledge of local, state, and federal government process including legislative, executive, and regulatory processes preferred. Strong analytical, oral advocacy and writing skills and a willingness to cover various subject matters required. Problem-solving skills to define issues and collect relevant information to recommend policy solutions important. A proven ability to conceptualize, interpret and articulate positions or ideas.

Experience in government affairs and public policy analysis and processes desired. Preference for local or state government relation experience or understanding of local government operations and policies particularly within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Knowledge of environmental, human services, education, administration of government, land use, tax, finance, and transportation issues helpful. Flexibility and ability to work under time constraints and deadlines, and to perform multiple tasks required.

Graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with course work that includes public administration, political science, communications, policy analysis or a related field preferred. Please provide resume, writing sample references and salary requirements to Virginia Association of Counties, 1207 East Main Street Richmond, VA, 23219 or vrussell@vaco.org by April 1, 2022.



SurveyNavigator®

Visit our [Virginia SurveyNavigator® website](#)

What is SurveyNavigator®?

- In partnership with VACo, Baker Tilly will be conducting annual online enrollment and training for SurveyNavigator®, the online salary and benefits data service available exclusively to county members that participate in the program.
- SurveyNavigator® is a cooperative venture in which those who contribute their organization's compensation and benefits data can download the data that others put in, providing valuable salary comparison information.
- Current participants will receive a refresher training on how to update the pay and benefits data for the current fiscal year so that information will be available in time for next year's budget preparations. Annual updates will keep the data fresh and renewal updates are planned in August of each year.
- We encourage all administrators and human resources professionals to investigate the system by joining one of our webinars to discover how easy the system is to use.



Upcoming SurveyNavigator® webinars

Wed., March 2, 2022
2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET

Wed., April 6, 2022
1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET

Connect with us today to explore SurveyNavigator® and RSVP to one of our webinars with a public sector talent management specialist!

Jama McClung
Senior Consultant, Public Sector Advisory
jama.mcclung@bakertilly.com or e-solutions@bakertilly.com

Baker Tilly US, LLP, is a VACo Premier Partner and one of the nation's leading advisory CPA firms. Our specialized public sector practice offers a wide variety of local government consulting services, including compensation and classification studies, executive search, performance optimization and other areas of human capital management. Contact **Jada Kent** or **Anne Lewis** to learn more about how our organizational specialists can help you recruit, reward, deploy and manage employees to achieve your goals.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219
www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652

The 2022 General Assembly session began last week 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 11, 2022: [Treasury Releases Final Rule for Fiscal Recovery Fund Implementation](#)
- January 13, 2022: [2022 General Assembly Convenes](#)
- January 18, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [Local Financing Authority for School Capital Construction to be Heard Tomorrow – Call Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Members to Support](#)
- January 18, 2022: [Legislation Would Restrict County Taxing Authority](#)
- January 20, 2022: [Bills Would Impose Restrictions on Local Budget Process](#)
- January 25, 2022: [School Construction Bill Passes Senate with Bipartisan Support](#)
- January 27, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [School Construction Bill to be Heard Tomorrow Morning – Call House Finance Subcommittee Members to Support the Bills](#)
- January 27, 2022: [Grocery Tax Elimination under Consideration](#)
- January 28, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [Several Bills Limiting County Taxing Authority to be Heard Monday – Contact Your Legislators to Oppose](#)
- January 28, 2022: [Several Bills Limiting County Taxing Authority to be Heard Monday](#)
- January 31, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [Bill Placing Restrictions on County Budget Process to be Heard Tomorrow – Please Contact Legislators to Oppose](#)
- February 1, 2022: [Problematic Bills Fail to Move Forward](#)
- February 3, 2022: [VACo Legislative Day Bulletin](#)
- February 8, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [Grocery Tax Legislation to be Considered in Senate Finance and Appropriations Again This Week – Contact Legislators TODAY!](#)
- February 8, 2022: [Grocery Tax Legislation to be Considered in Senate Finance and Appropriations Again This Week](#)
- February 9, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [Bill placing restrictions on local budget process to be heard tomorrow in House Finance – please call legislators to oppose](#)
- February 10, 2022: [Oppose Statewide Expanded Disclosure Requirements in Land Use Proceedings Bill that would Prevent Local Elected Officials from Voting in Certain Situations](#)
- February 15, 2022: [Grocery Tax Bills Move Forward in Different Forms](#)
- February 17, 2022: [The Status of School Construction Legislation Post Crossover](#)
- February 21, 2022: [Money Committees Report Budgets](#)
- February 22, 2022: [Bill to Address Impacts to Farm and Forest Land Due to Large Scale Solar Projects Passes House](#)
- February 23, 2022: **CAPITOL CONTACT ALERT!** [School Financing Bills to be Heard Friday Morning – Call House Finance Committee Members to Support the Bills](#)
- February 24, 2022: [Grocery Tax Legislation Advances](#)
- March 1, 2022: [Legislation on Assessment Increases Passes in Significantly Amended Form](#)
- March 3, 2022: [Update on Property Tax Exemption Legislation](#)



Leadership Development That Works

The Professional Development Academy 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

Register today for the 2022 NACo Leadership Academy Dates

Visit naco.org/skills to register

Acknowledging State Graduates from NACo Leadership Academy

Eighteen Virginia County staff members participated in the NACo Leadership Academy, a 12-week online program that empowers front-line county government employees with fundamental leadership skills. Across the country, 4,500 county employees participated.

Virginia County staff to complete the Academy are:

- **Timothy Heck**, Assistant Director, Campbell County
- **William “Billy” Ferguson**, Director of Public Safety, Franklin County
- **Kenneth Parker**, Programs Coordinator, Greensville County
- **Jamie Orrison**, Recreation Enterprise Manager, Prince William County
- **Vernon Payne**, Sports Services Manager, Prince William County
- **Sara Wheeler**, Division Manager, Prince William County
- **Jennifer Chitwood**, Technical Services Supervisor, Roanoke County
- **Bill Dingus**, Director of Public Works, Scott County
- **Shenandra Usher**, Assistant CFO for Operations, Albemarle County
- **Tara Smith**, Senior Library Assistant, Youth Services, Roanoke County
- **Sherry Bowman**, Division Manager, Prince William County
- **Grace Boone**, Director General and Capital Services Department, James City County
- **Paul Santay**, Director of Citizen and Community Development, Stafford County
- **Betsy Strawderman**, Deputy Director, Prince William County
- **Roderick Burton**, Director of Information Technology, Albemarle County
- **Hashim Taylor**, Recreation Program Manager, Prince William County

Congratulations to all these individuals who completed the program. To learn more about the Academy, [visit the NACo website here](https://naco.org/skills). Enrollment is now open for 2022.

Interested in the Graduate Certificate in Local Government Management?



Attend an info session. Get your questions answered.

During these info sessions, we will review the benefits and opportunities available through the local government program; course requirements, and the connection to our MPA program (electives and course substitutions).

- **April 12, 2022:** 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here](#)
- **May 10, 2022:** 12pm-1pm | Register to attend: [Click here](#)

About the Program

The Virginia Tech Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP), in partnership with the Virginia Local Government Management Association, offers a graduate [**certificate program in local government management**](#) that provides the next generation of local government managers and leaders with the tools to advance their careers and to provide exceptional leadership within the communities where they work.

The central goal of the program is to offer graduate-level training in local government management that both prepares pre-career students for capable public service at the local level and enhances the capacities of existing local government employees who aspire to be town, city, or county managers or assistant/deputy managers, department directors or others.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Davis, sddavis@vt.edu or 804-980-5549.



Celebrate Your County's Most Innovative Programs

2022 NACo Achievement Awards

Applications are now open for the National Association of Counties (NACo) [2022 Achievement Awards](#). Please join us in celebrating 52 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.

EARLY BIRD APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 4, 2022 (save \$25 off the application fee)

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2022

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

[APPLY TODAY](#)

VACo and VML Host Webinar on Opioid Litigation Settlement and Opioid Abatement Fund



VACo along with VML hosted representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, local government attorneys, and law firms involved in litigation with opioid manufacturers and distributors for a webinar on October 25 to inform localities about participation in the \$26 billion national settlement with Janssen (a manufacturer of opioids) and several opioid distributors. Virginia stands to receive approximately \$530 million over the course of the settlement period, with the exact amount dependent on participation by local governments. Local governments must join the settlement by January 2, 2022, to receive funds; participation requires a locality to adopt resolutions approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth and entering into the settlement agreement.

Under the terms of the settlement, 15 percent of the funds will be distributed to participating localities and are not restricted in their use, 15 percent will be distributed to participating localities for abatement purposes, 15 percent will remain with the Commonwealth, and 55 percent will be deposited to the Opioid Abatement Fund, which was established in the 2021 legislative session.

The Opioid Abatement Fund, which will be administered by the Opioid Abatement Authority, will divide its funds as follows: 15 percent to participating localities, 35 percent to participating localities' regional partnerships, 15 percent to state agencies, and 35 percent for any of the preceding purposes or for administrative expenses. The statute creating the Authority states that its purpose is "to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth through financial support from the Fund, in the form of grants, donations, or other assistance, for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids in the Commonwealth." The Honorable James Holland, Chair of the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors, serves on the Board of Directors of the Authority.

A recording of the October 25 webinar as well as the slide presentation and sample resolutions to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and participation in the settlement may be found on VACo's website at this link: <https://www.vaco.org/legislative/virginia-opioid-abatement-information/>.

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Phyllis A. Errico, Esq., CAE](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

VACo Supervisors' Forum

Friday, April 29, 2022 and Saturday, April 30, 2022
Omni Richmond Hotel

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A Tailored Cybersecurity Program for VACo members



Carlton Harris CTO of EEC will join Dean Lynch Executive Director of VACo in this month's premier partner spotlight to discuss how VACo members can take advantage of our tailored cybersecurity program to make cybersecurity services more accessible. This program will feature:

01

Cyber Hygiene Assessment

A complementary cyber hygiene assessment program for members to identify gaps in their cybersecurity program and strategize methods for closing those gaps.

02

Informative Training

A series of joint training sessions scheduled throughout the year to registered members. Sessions will also include training collateral for combating common threats and best practices.

03

Special Membership Pricing

A catalog of discounted pricing to VACo members.
(Ability to leverage GSA schedule for ease of procurement.)



Carlton Harris CTO of EEC

**View this VACo
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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnmFDYIHKol>



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With the release of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) funds, local governments have the opportunity to address the economic fallout and unequal impact of COVID-19. This is an incredible opportunity to increase trust in local government and tell your community's story of recovery. The Berkley Group can help your community develop a roadmap to maximize return on investment and take the pressure off of managing all aspects of the funds and projects by offering the following services:

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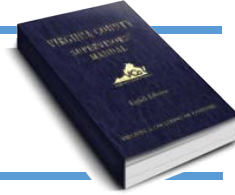


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The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged 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](mailto:Valerie.Russell@vacounty.org).



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVOCATE | VACo
| Posted March 14



COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR | Hampton Roads PDC | Posted March 14



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & TITLE VI/CIVIL RIGHTS COORDINATOR | Hampton Roads PDC | Posted March 14



WATER RESOURCES PLANNER/ENGINEER III | Hampton Roads PDC | Posted March 14



CERTIFIED POLICE OFFICER | Town of Amherst | Posted March 11



ASSISTANT DIVISION MANAGER FOR ADMINISTRATION | Loudoun County | Posted March 11



LIBRARY ASSISTANT | Montgomery County | Posted March 11



ENGINEERING MANAGER | Augusta County Service Authority | Posted March 11



PROGRAM SUPPORT SPECIALIST | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 11



CLINICIAN - HOSPITAL LIAISON/OUTREACH CLINICIAN | Hanover County | Posted March 11



SUPPORT COORDINATOR - DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES | Hanover County | Posted March 11



911 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATOR | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 11



JOURNEYMAN-TRAFFIC SIGNALS | City of Harrisonburg | Posted March 11



DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS | City of Lexington | Posted March 11



WASTEWATER PLANT OPERATOR TRAINEE | Town of Woodstock | Posted March 10



REGIONAL PLANNER II OR III | Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission | Posted March 10



ADMINISTRATOR | Stafford County | Posted March 9



COUNTY ATTORNEY | Albemarle County | Posted March 9



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MANAGER | Fauquier County | Posted March 9



INSPECTOR ELECTRICAL I OR COMBINATION INSPECTOR | Gloucester County | Posted March 8



SHELTER ASSISTANT - PART TIME | Montgomery County | Posted March 8



REFUSE & RECYCLING SUPERVISOR | New Kent County | Posted March 8



WATER PLANT OPERATOR I | City of Manassas | Posted March 8



STREET MAINTENANCE SUPERINTENDENT | City of Manassas | Posted March 8



**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR –
ELECTRIC** | City of Manassas | Posted
March 8



**STORMWATER
ADMINISTRATOR** | City of Manassas
| Posted March 8



SITE INSPECTOR | City of
Manassas | Posted March 8



**SPECIAL EVENTS
& LEISURE PROGRAMMER** |
Spotsylvania County | Posted March 8



**HEAVY EQUIPMENT
MECHANIC/WELDER** | Spotsylvania
County | Posted March 8



**EMERGENCY VEHICLE
TECHNICIAN** | Chesterfield County
| Posted March 8



UTILITIES ENGINEER |
Chesterfield County | Posted March 8



CHIEF PLANNER |
Loudoun County | Posted March 7



PLANNER II | Loudoun
County | Posted March 7



**ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR** | Chesterfield
County | Posted March 7



PLANNING ASSOCIATE II |
Fauquier County | Posted March 7



PERMIT TECHNICIAN |
Fauquier County | Posted March 7



COMPLIANCE AGENT |
Thomas Jefferson Planning District
Commission | Posted March 7



**DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL
SERVICES** | Goochland County
| Posted March 7



**WASTEWATER
OPERATOR TRAINEE** | New Kent
County | Posted March 4



FINANCE SPECIALIST |
City of Chesapeake | Posted March 4



**ASSISTANT RISK
MANAGER** | City of Chesapeake
| Posted March 4



**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE TOWN MANAGER** | Town of
Tappahannock | Posted March 4



PLANNING DIRECTOR |
Franklin County | Posted March 4



**SEASONAL LANDSCAPING
LABORER** | Montgomery County
| Posted March 4



FINANCE DIRECTOR |
Town of Vinton | Posted March 3



**ENGINEERING
TECHNICIAN I** | Augusta County
Service Authority | Posted March 3



**SENIOR AUTOMATION
ANALYST** | Chesterfield County
| Posted March 3



**HUMAN
RESOURCES DIRECTOR** | City of
Newport News | Posted March 2



**ADMINISTRATIVE
ASSISTANT** | Middlesex County
| Posted March 2



PLANNER II | Augusta
County | Posted March 2



**ANIMAL SERVICES
CENTER DIRECTOR** | Augusta County
| Posted March 1



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
Central Va Transportation Authority
| Posted March 1

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 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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