

## Virginia Counties Recognized for Model Programs



**RICHMOND (August 3, 2023)**—The Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) is pleased to announce the 33 recipients of the 2023 Achievement Awards, which recognize excellence in local government programs. VACo received 135 submissions.

Winning entries focused on addressing issues of addiction, education, and revitalization, as well as finding solutions to other challenges that counties face daily.

[Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#)

[Winning Program Descriptions](#)

[2023 Achievement Awards Entries](#)

“I want to thank all who participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> year of the Achievement Awards,” VACo Executive Director **Dean Lynch** said. “I’m encouraged to see that we received 135 submissions, our highest total ever. This tells me that the VACo Achievement Awards’ mission of identifying and celebrating the innovative work by local government officials continues to resonate with our counties. We thank all who participated and give special recognition those who won an award.”

**Charles Hartgrove**, ICMA-CM, Director of the Virginia Institute of Government; **Dr. Sheryl Bailey**, Visiting Professor of Practice at Virginia Tech, and former Chesterfield County Deputy County Administrator; and **Larry Land**, retired VACo Director of Policy Development, served as judges for this year’s statewide competitive awards program.

**Alleghany County** and its **Alleghany/Covington School Consolidation** program won this year’s **Best Achievement Award**.

“What Alleghany County achieved is historic – a feat that has been accomplished only three times in the Commonwealth since 1982,” Dr. Bailey said. “It took Alleghany County more than 50 years of conversation to complete the merger of the new Alleghany Highlands Public Schools. But Alleghany County got it done, and in its first year of operations saved more than \$450,000 in personnel costs without any involuntary layoffs. The consolidation assisted county leaders to navigate the nationwide teacher shortage. This Best Achievement Award program deserves a ‘Go Alleghany Cougars!’”

The judges also selected a Best Small County Achievement Award (50,000 or less population) and a Best Large County Achievement Award. **Dinwiddie County** and its **City Planning Project** program captured the **Best Small County Achievement Award** while **Chesterfield County** and its **Chesterfield Recovery Academy** program earned the **Best Large County Achievement Award**.

Hartgrove, who served his first year as judge, said Dinwiddie County’s winning program reflects an important criterion for the VACo Achievement Awards. “We are inspired by innovative programs that connect students with local governments,” Hartgrove said. “We think it’s important for the future of local government to show the youth that serving at the local level can be a rewarding and successful career choice. This program is designed to spark a student’s interest in planning or local government administration. Congratulations to Dinwiddie County for designing such an impactful program.”

Land praised Chesterfield County for being a leader in the Achievement Awards program. “Chesterfield County again has developed a program that sets itself apart,” Land said. “The Chesterfield Recovery Academy is the first recovery school in the state, and is a multi-community effort that can be replicated by other counties to help fight against adolescent addiction. Thank you, Chesterfield County, for creating an environment of support for families and those struggling with addiction.”

**Chesterfield County** tops the all-time Achievement Awards list with 49. Chesterfield County has won an award in each year of the 21-year history of the program. **Henrico County** is second on the list with 42 Achievement Awards while **Loudoun County** is third with 30.

The VACo Achievement Awards is a competitive program open to local government members of the association.

#### [Winning Achievement Award Submissions](#)

[Winning Program Descriptions](#) [Achievement Awards Website](#) | [2023 Achievement Awards Entries](#)  
[Past Winners](#) | [Past Judges](#) | [20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Achievement Awards Video](#)

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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.

#### CONTACT

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#### VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

1207 East Main Street | Richmond, Va. 23219 | [www.vaco.org](http://www.vaco.org)



# Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards  
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



## Congratulations Prince Edward County!

### **Pictured -**

**1st Row:** Board Chair Llew Gilliam; Rodney Scott, Interim Cannery Manager; Dominique Miller, Production Manager, Virginia Food Works; Patty Gulick, Retired Cannery Manager; Hannah Evans, Director, Virginia Food Works; Jeremy R. Bennett, VACo; Doug Stanley, County Administrator.

**2nd Row:** Supervisor David Emert, Supervisor Jerry Townsend, Supervisor Harrison Jones; Vice Chair Pattie Cooper-Jones; Supervisor Cannon Watson, Supervisors Odessa Pride, Ed.D., and Supervisor Bill Jenkins.

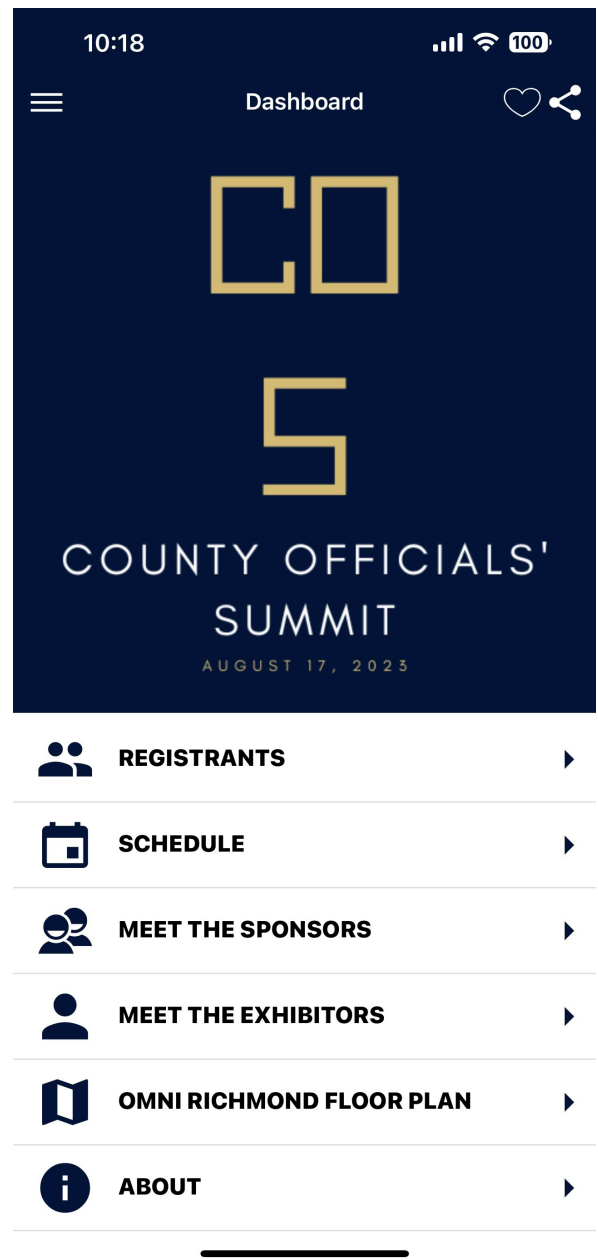
# Registered for the VACo Summit on August 17?

## Now download the County Officials' Summit Event Mobile App

Thank you for registering to attend the 2023 VACo County Officials' Summit. We expect good attendance and look forward to your participation.

We recommend that you download the [VACo County Officials' Summit Mobile App](#), which will allow you to study the schedule, connect with our sponsors and exhibitors, and say hello to other attendees and old friends.

[DOWNLOAD THE MOBILE APP  
ON YOUR PHONE](#)







## Visit Grayson County and the Grayson County Historic 1908 Courthouse

The Historic 1908 Courthouse serves as the Art & Cultural Center of Grayson County. The Foundation is a private non-profit corporation whose mission is to preserve the building and make it available to the people of Grayson county and the surrounding areas. The building served as the county courthouse for Grayson County from 1908, when it was built, until 1979 when the county government moved into the new courthouse. Located at the junction of highways US21 and US58 in far southwest Virginia, the 1908 Courthouse is in the center of Independence, the county seat. It is the second courthouse to be built on this spot and the third courthouse overall in the history of the county. Since the Grayson County government moved into their new quarters in the late 1970's, the 1908 Courthouse has been restored and now houses the Crossroads Museum, the Baldwin Auditorium, and the Treasury Gift Shop, as well as offices housing businesses and other non-profit organizations.

### Contact

Telephone: 276.773.3711 | Email: [1908courthouse@gmail.com](mailto:1908courthouse@gmail.com)

Mailing Address: PO Box 336 | Independence, VA 24348 | [Click here for a map](#)

### Hours

The Historic 1908 Courthouse is generally open Monday through Friday, 10am to 4pm. This applies to the Treasury Gift Shop, the Cross Roads Museum and the Grayson County Tourism Information Center.

**SOURCE:** [Historic 1908 Courthouse Foundation](#)



# REAL TIME PHOTO

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 | 10:14am | VACo Headquarters**  
**Supervisors' Certification Program | Leadership**



This photo was taken as Prince William County Supervisor Andrea Bailey entered the room and with a few words had her classmates, VACo staff, and leadership course instructor Jane Dittmar laughing. Bailey is part of the inaugural class of the VACo Certified County Supervisors' Program. VACo will celebrate the graduation of the 2023 class at the Annual Conference in November.

If you think this looks like fun - it really is. VACo has revamped its Supervisors' Certification Program and so far the feedback has been tremendous. Students learn fundamental skills as well as theory in budgeting, planning and land use, and leadership. But most of all - Supervisors learn from each other through shared experiences, challenges, and successes.

Serve your Constituents better by becoming a better Supervisor. Be a part of the 2024 class of the [Supervisors' Certification Program](#). Contact Karie Walker at [kwalker@vaco.org](mailto:kwalker@vaco.org) for more information.

PS: If you are a former graduate - come and experience the new version of the program!

# PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



## WHO WE ARE

A team of public service professionals dedicated to serving local governments and other public agencies.

## WHAT WE DO

We offer a team-based approach that combines our professional planning and zoning expertise with the local knowledge of staff, community leaders and the public.



### PLANNING

Manages and supports long-range planning efforts and other complex land use projects.



### ZONING

Administers land use processes, recommends amendments to ordinances and maps, as needed.



### ADMINISTRATIVE

Provides highly skilled administrative support to the Planning Commission and other governing bodies.

## ON & OFF-SITE STAFFING SUPPORT

We provide interim and ongoing staff support to help manage the day-to-day workload for localities.

**CONTACT US TODAY AT  
INFO@BGLLC.NET**



## Chesterfield Names New Chief Information Officer



Scott Furman, previously Chesterfield's deputy chief information officer for the county's Information Systems Technology (IST) Department, has been promoted to chief information officer.

Furman, who has worked for Chesterfield IST since April 2022, will lead a team of 106 full-time employees. The IST team is responsible for ensuring information security governance, overseeing infrastructure and project management, and providing technology solutions. The department's important role extends to support forty-six different departments, as well as constitutional offices, housed within Chesterfield County.

Before joining the county team, Furman had a 19-year career with the Federal Reserve System. He held several high-ranking positions, including as Senior Vice President within the National IT organization and a three-year tenure as the System's Chief Technology Officer. His leadership in these roles led to transformative infrastructure programs that helped unlock millions in reinvestment dollars, achieved through highly productive strategic business and vendor partnerships.

Furman also had an additional 15-years of experience in the private sector, where he focused on designing technology strategies that enabled achievement of critical business goals. The outcomes of his efforts were consistently recognized for delivering crucial technology services and innovative digital solutions that produced significant value to the business functions he served.

"I am truly humbled by the trust and confidence placed in me by Dr. Casey, Mr. Bowles, and the many others involved in the extensive evaluation and selection process for the CIO position," Furman said. During my short time here, I've witnessed the IST team's hard work, dedication, and enduring commitment to excellence, and I am honored to have the opportunity to lead such an outstanding group."

## Mike Flagg retiring from Hanover County after distinguished 27-year career



Mike Flagg managed it all – solid waste and recycling, road construction, project management, compliance with environmental regulations, crisis response, flood mitigation and Hanover’s airport, to name just a few. That might sound daunting, but for Hanover County’s retiring Public Works Director, responsibility and initiative are fundamental parts of his character.

When he was a teenager, Mike operated his own cantaloupe and watermelon farm. He farmed about 30 acres of land owned by his grandmother. To harvest the fruits, he enlisted the help of several school kids even younger than himself. “I’d feed them and pay them a little,” he recalls. He will always remember the kindness of a local merchant who refused repayment at the end of the growing season, since Mike needed the money for college. “So many people have helped me all my life,” he acknowledges.

Graduating from Patrick Henry High School in 1981, Mike paid his own way to Virginia Tech, where he earned a degree in agricultural engineering. That set him up for a tenure with the State Department of Conservation and Recreation, where he worked for over eight years.

Mike’s last year farming was 1985. “It’s a nice lifestyle if you like to work outside and be independent but it’s tough financially,” he explains. He remained involved in agriculture with his work with the soil and water programs throughout the state and Soil and Water Conservations Districts such as the one in Hanover-Caroline.

In 1996 he returned to his native Hanover as a civil engineer, reviewing building permits, site plans and construction plans. During his 27 years with the County, Mike has managed or engineered the construction of nearly every new public facility in Hanover – including but not limited to fire stations and rescue squads, the County garage, libraries, parks, the Sheriff's Firing range and the Administration Building.

He also helped to grow the County's road program. Mike led efforts on such projects as the first leg of Lakeridge Parkway, the extension of Telegraph Road and the bridge over the Chickahominy River, and the construction of roundabouts at the intersections of Rural Point/Studley and Creighton/Cold Harbor. With the success of the roundabout program, several more could be built at appropriate intersections over the next few years.

Mike is most proud of paving all of the state-maintained gravel roads in the County, which up until 15 years ago were many. "We had very little money to pave these roads, we were entering an economic downturn and VDOT was getting ready to claw back some funds," he explains. "But we were able to bid them all in a package and we had a contractor that really wanted to do it and he gave us a great price." As a result, there are virtually no unpaved state roads anywhere in Hanover County anymore.

He is also proud that his department consistently provides exceptional service for the dollar to County residents. "My people are great," he says. "Because of them we have been able to meet all of the environmental regulations that we were concerned about not being able to meet. We've protected our citizens from flooding by and large because of the way we've managed development. When you look at communities that flood, Hanover is not one of them despite the fact that we've had some large rain events. My team spends a lot of time thinking about what could happen and who could be hurt if there is a flood."

Flagg has been out there with his team in ominous situations. He recalls how Tropical Storm Gaston created a 42-acre 'bowl' of water that had no way to drain; the floating of septic tanks might create an environmental hazard, he feared. With the approval of County Administration, he rented pumps and with the assistance of the Fire Department they manually drained the bowl for a week. "By the time we finished pumping at the end of the week, leeches were growing in the water," he recalls. The department later applied for and received a grant to help mitigate that hazard.

When the concrete at the Route 301 grinder needed to be expanded, but there wasn't enough money in the budget to hire a contractor, Mike gathered together several of his co-workers together and they poured the slab as a team. When the department faced a shortage of truck drivers after COVID, Mike obtained his Commercial Drivers License to assist with waste hauling on the weekends. "Mike never asks his staff to do anything he wouldn't do himself," said County Administrator John A. Budesky.

Always modest, Mike says the great thing about Hanover is the solidarity and team spirit not only within his department but between all departments. "Working here has been about the best thing that ever happened to me," he says, except for his wife Lisa, three children and two grandchildren.

But it's time to go, he concedes. Mike is retiring on July 31. "I realize I'm not going to live forever, and I need to change my focus," he explains. There are things to do at home – right now he's constructing an addition to his kitchen. His wife wants to travel. His children and grandchildren live nearby and he wants to spend more time with them.

"Who knows?" he says. "I might want to go back and raise some vegetables."



## VACo Board member and Fairfax County Supervisor Penny Gross honored

By John Montgomery  
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay



The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay presents the Watershed Champion and Fran Flanigan awards as special recognition for leadership and dedication to cleaner rivers and streams of the Chesapeake Bay. This year's awardees have thoughtfully considered how to push the boundaries between science, the environment and art, demonstrating exemplary stewardship and profound impacts on the Bay.

### **Fran Flanigan Award: Penny Gross**

Penny Gross is a 27-year veteran of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in Virginia. First elected in 1995 to represent the county's Mason District, she's been a longtime advocate of expanded public transportation, affordable housing and diversity.



When she announced her decision not to run for reelection in 2022, Board Chair Jeff McKay praised Gross for her leadership and lasting legacy. The board is extremely grateful, McKay said, for the legacy Gross built for others and the leadership attributes and respect she brought to the table.

Gross, who says she looks forward to continuing to serve the county, also writes a weekly column in the Falls Church News Press and hosts the monthly television show, Mason Matters. She is a founding member of Friends of Mason District Park.

Her work has been extraordinarily impactful, for her district and beyond, and the Alliance is proud to honor Gross with the Fran Flanigan Award.

[READ THE REST OF THE STORY.](#)

## Chesterfield Fire and EMS Chief Elected President to International Fire Association President



Chesterfield Fire and EMS Chief Edward "Loy" Senter, Jr. was recently elected president of the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association (the Metro), a prestigious international fire service organization.

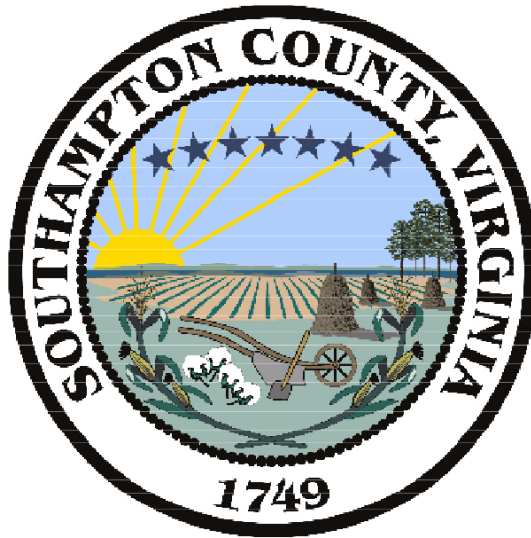
Senter was sworn-in as president during the Metro's annual conference held June 4-8 in Columbus, Ohio. Senter has served in various officer positions on the board since 2019, and he joined the Metro in 2006.

With over 45 years of experience, Senter began his career in fire and emergency medical services at age 15 as a volunteer firefighter in his hometown of Virginia Beach. Upon graduating high school, he began his career with the Norfolk Fire-Rescue Department, serving in multiple leadership roles over 27 years, including six years as Norfolk's Fire Chief. Senter was appointed Chesterfield's Fire & EMS Chief in 2008.

The Metro was founded in 1965 for the purpose of bringing fire service professionals together to address the complex challenges of large city fire departments. Membership in the Metro includes fire chiefs from the largest fire departments in the United States and Canada as well as representatives of various fire service organizations across Australia, Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America.

"I am truly honored to have been elected by my colleagues to lead a world-class organization that represents interests of importance to the chiefs from the largest fire departments across North America and around the world," Senter said. "I look forward to working with the board in advancing important initiatives."

# SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY RFP



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL LEGAL SERVICES/COUNTY ATTORNEY

Southampton County seeks proposals for the provision of legal services. Individuals or firms meeting the requirements of this request for proposals are invited to submit their credentials. The Board of Supervisors will analyze the respondents and select either an individual or firm to represent the County as County Attorney. As an appointment of the Board of Supervisors, the County Attorney serves at the pleasure of the governing body. However, it is proposed that the County Attorney's services and initial term of service be memorialized in the form of a contract set on mutually agreeable terms.

[READ THE RFP](#)



## Deadline for counties to complete housing policy survey is September 1, 2023



Pursuant to legislation adopted in the 2023 legislative session, [Section 36-139.9](#) of the Code of Virginia directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to annually collect housing policy reports from localities with a population greater than 3,500. The reports shall summarize the adoption or amendment of any local policies, ordinances, or processes affecting the development and construction of housing during Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). DHCD has developed a survey tool, that incorporated recommendations from VACo and the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-VA), for localities to use in the preparation and submission of this required report. The link to the FY2023 Local Housing Policy survey is now live and available here: [FY2023 Local Housing Policy Survey](#). The deadline for completing the survey is September 1, 2023.

According to DHCD, the intent of this survey is to collect information that highlights the efforts localities are making to increase accessibility, affordability, and attainability of housing within the Commonwealth. These efforts may include actions that affect the supply of available land for housing, the variety and availability of housing options, the cost of producing housing units, or the time it takes to go through the land use and permitting processes. Submitted survey responses will be used to generate a locality's report and will be made available to the public on the DHCD website.

For more information, please contact Chase Sawyer, DHCD Senior Policy Analyst, at [chase.sawyer@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:chase.sawyer@dhcd.virginia.gov).

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

# VIRGINIA CYBERSECURITY PLAN

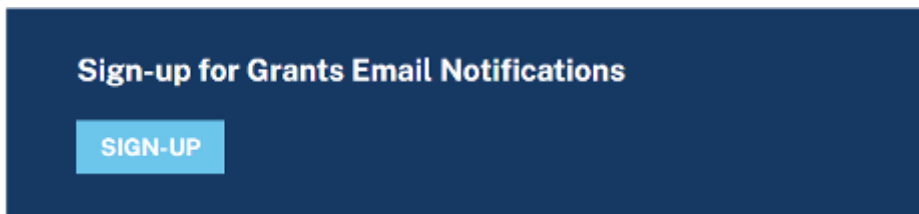
Dear Public Safety, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity stakeholders,

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), in coordination with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) and the Virginia Cybersecurity Planning Committee (VCPC), would like to inform you of an upcoming grant opportunity - the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The VCPC has been working to develop the new [Virginia Cybersecurity Plan](#), which was approved on Monday, July 31 as a requirement of the SLCGP and will soon be developing grant priorities and application criteria.

The VCPC recognizes the broad range of prospective applicants who may be interested in learning more about this grant program - local governments (and their respective departments/authorities), tribal governments, public schools, and higher education. To ensure that all have access to this information, VDEM has set up a list serve that interested parties can use to register for updates on the coming funding opportunity. VDEM anticipates the application period to open soon and will use this list serve as a mechanism to provide grant guidance, communicate key deadlines, and to provide technical assistance and resources as interested parties consider applying for this funding.

Step #1 - visit <https://www.vaemergency.gov/divisions/finance/grants>

Step #2 - click on



Step #3 - fill out registration form, and select the State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

For more information on the VCPC, please visit: <https://www.vita.virginia.gov/information-security/cyber-awareness/cybersecurity-programs/federal-cybersecurity-grants/virginia-cybersecurity-planning-committee/>.

Thank you for your interest!

#### Email Lists

- ☐ All Grants Information
- ☐ Election Security
- ☐ Emergency Management Related Grants
- ☐ Emergency Medical Services Related Grants
- ☐ Firefighting Related Grants
- ☐ Hampton Roads- Urban Area Security Initiative Grants (UASI)
- ☐ Hazard Mitigation Grants
- ☐ Health Related Grants
- ☐ Law Enforcement
- ☐ Law Enforcement Related Grants
- ☐ National Capitol Region- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grants
- ☐ Non Profit Organizations
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Public Assistance Grants
- ☒ State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)
- ☐ State Homeland Security Grant Program

# Virginia Parents Highlight Ongoing Child Care Struggles Across the Commonwealth

**Testimonials** Demonstrate the Impact of Lack of Access to Quality, Affordable Child Care on Virginia's Working Families



**Richmond** – Today, the Virginia Promise Partnership and the Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy (CFFE) released a [collection of firsthand stories](#) highlighting the ongoing child care struggles faced by parents and families across the Commonwealth.

Many families across Virginia are unable to find quality, affordable child care options that fit their needs and preferences. Without child care, children are missing key skill-building opportunities; parents are reducing their work hours or leaving the workforce altogether; and businesses are seeing negative impacts on labor force recruitment, retention, and productivity.

As the Commonwealth continues efforts to strengthen Virginia's early learning system, we must ensure that those most directly impacted by child care challenges—especially families—are shaping our policies and decision-making. The Partnership's Parent Advisory spotlights family voices and lived experiences in order to advance policies that address the growing demand for child care services as well as meet the needs of Virginia's families.

Ten members of the Virginia Promise Partnership's Parent Advisory – representing communities across the state – share their child care experiences in this [special publication](#), providing a glimpse into the child care challenges Virginia parents face every single day.

"Virginia families need quality, affordable child care so that parents can work and children can thrive," said **Tomashia Cornitcher, Vice Chair of the Virginia Promise Partnership Parent Advisory**. "More must be done to secure thoughtful, long-term investments in Virginia's early childhood education infrastructure in order to support our children, families, communities, and economy."

## About Virginia Promise Partnership

The [Virginia Promise Partnership](#) is a coalition of 30 leading organizations working together with a growing network of advocates and champions to achieve our bold goal of ensuring all Virginia families have access to affordable, quality child care by 2030.

Under the leadership of our Parent and Provider Advisories paired with our diverse array of member organizations, the Partnership grounds our advocacy work in the voices of parents, providers, and businesses from across Virginia.

## About Family Friendly Virginia

[Family Friendly Virginia](#) is working to build a better future for working people and a more stable economy by fighting for smart policies that lift families and make our communities stronger.





# Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority VOAA Workshop

September 7, 2023

Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center-Abingdon



Registration is \$25 per person, lunch will be provided.

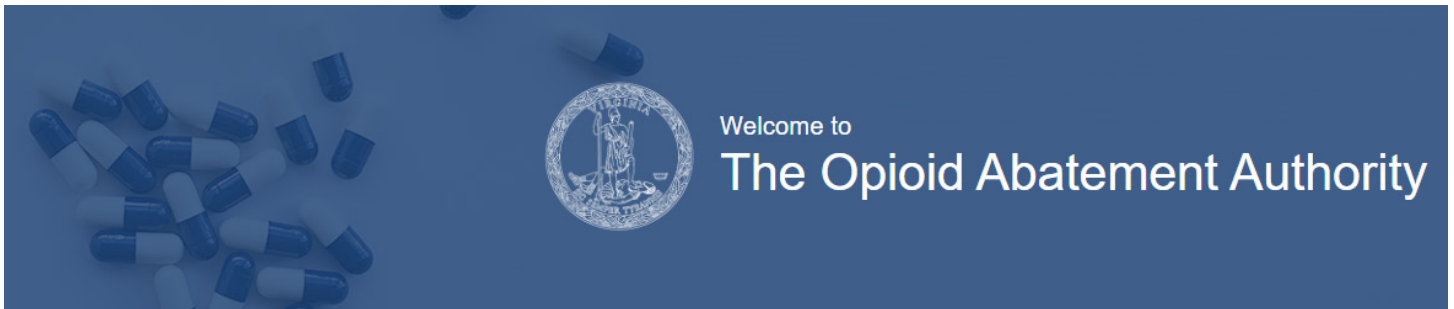
This workshop is intended for County & City Leaders  
To register or for additional information, please visit the link below:

<https://eameetings.swoogo.com/VOAA>

***The Abatement Academy Workshops are an approved use of direct distribution funds.***

*VOAA aims to ensure the accessibility of this workshop to City & County Leaders.*

*If registration costs present a financial challenge, please feel free to reach out for assistance by sending an email to [jordan@eameetings.com](mailto:jordan@eameetings.com).*



## *Opioid Abatement Authority Updates*

### OAA Board of Directors Finalizes \$23 Million in Grants to 76 Cities & Counties

On Friday June 23, 2023, the Board of Directors for the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) voted to award more than \$23 million in grants to 76 Virginia cities and counties for opioid abatement and remediation efforts. The vote confirmed the full Board's approval of recommendations made by the OAA's grants committee, which earlier recommended the slate of awards. [Read the Press Release.](#)

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## New Application Period for Planning Grants for Individual Cities and Counties Open

The Grants Committee of the Opioid Abatement Authority has voted to open a 2nd application period this year for Planning Grants for Individual Cities and/or Counties. The application period opens July 1, 2023 and closes September 30, 2023. This will be the last opportunity for planning grants from the OAA.

Planning Grants must result in a plan that can be executed into an application for funds from the OAA. The performance period will be 12 months. The Grants Committee will consider awards at their December 4, 2023 meeting. Click on the link below to review requirements and additional information.

**GRANTS PORTAL**



## COUNTY OFFICIALS SUMMIT

SPEAKERS  
LINEUP

17  
AUG.  
2023  
—  
AGENDA



COUNTY OFFICIALS'  
SUMMIT  
AUGUST 17, 2023

## BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK FOR 2024



APRIL KEES | DIRECTOR  
SENATE FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

TONY MAGGIO | LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST  
HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE



## PREPARING FOR NEW POLITICAL REALITIES



THE HONORABLE CHRIS SAXMAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VIRGINIA FREE | FORMER DELEGATE

THE HONORABLE DAVID TOSCANO  
ATTORNEY AND AUTHOR | FORMER DELEGATE



## 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY POLICY GOALS



THE HONORABLE TERRY KILGORE  
MAJORITY LEADER | 1ST HOUSE DISTRICT



THE HONORABLE CREIGH DEEDS  
25TH SENATE DISTRICT



THE HONORABLE SAM RASOUL  
11TH HOUSE DISTRICT

[Omni Richmond Hotel  
Room Reservation Form](#)

[Download the County Officials'  
Summit Event Mobile App](#)

[County Officials' Summit  
Agenda](#)





## Get to know one of VACo's Premier Partners – OneDigital

### Host

**Dean Lynch | Executive  
Director | Virginia  
Association of Counties**

### Guests

**Matt Hedley, CFP | Vice  
President, Retirement  
Services | OneDigital**

**Sarah Anne Struckmann  
| Business Development  
Executive | OneDigital**

Short | [One Minute of OneDigital](#)

Part 1 | [Introductions | Learn more about OneDigital](#)

Part 2 | [Top Priorities for Counties?](#)

Part 3 | [Working with the Public Sector](#)

Part 4 | [Making Life Easier for Counties](#)

Part 5 | [OneDigital Relationship with Health Carriers](#)

Part 6 | [Support of VRS Hybrid Employee](#)

Part 7 | [Assist in Dealing with Benefit Costs](#)

Part 8 | [Utilize OneDigital – which offers Benefits, Retirement, and HR Support](#)

Part 9 | [Wealth and Retirement](#)

Part 10 | [HR, Benefits, Retirement Industry Trends](#)

Part 11 | [How does VRS Factor in OneDigital's Guidance?](#)

Part 12 | [Plan Sponsors](#)

Part 13 | [Public versus Private](#)

Part 14 | [Opportunities during a Recession](#)

Part 15 | [Timeline to Implement Retirement Program](#)

Part 16 | [Thank You](#)



**We're excited to unveil our 89th Annual Conference logo!  
See you on November 12-14 in beautiful Bath County!**

**VACo 89th Annual Conference  
November 12 – 14, 2023  
The Omni Homestead | Bath County  
[VACo Annual Conference Website](#)**

Thursday, September 14, 2023 | All Day

## 2nd Annual Virginia LERA Chapter Annual Conference

“Virginia Collective Bargaining and Labor Relations”



Please join the Virginia LERA Chapter and colleagues from across the Commonwealth at our 2nd Annual Conference on September 14 in Richmond. As public sector collective bargaining continues to expand across Virginia and private sector union organizing remains robust, we have a diverse group of expert panelists assembled to present on topics directly relevant to public and private sector employers, unions and related stakeholders.

**Register before August 15 for Early Bird pricing.** A tentative agenda is below. Virginia LERA members enjoy discounted registration. If you have any questions or issues with registration, please contact us. We hope to see you there!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)





# Take Investment Strategy From Passive to Active

With cashVest's data, your finance office can maximize earnings with an active strategy to benefit taxpayers & stakeholders.

With cashVest, your own data will reveal your liquidity and time horizon to understand just how much cash you have and when you will need it. Armed with that data, your finance office can maximize earnings with an [active strategy](#) to benefit taxpayers & stakeholders.

## National Association of Counties Leadership Development: Learn from the best!

**We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the April NACo Leadership Academy graduates from Virginia.** They join over 10,000 graduates and current participants from across the country benefitting from the 12-week online program enabling existing and emerging county leaders to achieve their highest potential.

Bryan Rothamel, Economic Development Director, Culpeper County

Christi Maple, Chief of Staff, Loudoun County

Clifton Robertson, Engineer, Hanover County

Jenifer Williams, Chief, Division of Nutrition, Hanover County

Karie Walker, Director of Programs and Development, Virginia Association of Counties

Katie Valliere, Clinical Services CM Manager/Therapist IV, Prince William County

Kim McKiernan, Director of Elections, Rappahannock County

Marla Peterson, Human Services/SLS Program Manager, Prince William County

Sabrina Urquhart, Therapist IV, Prince William County

Teresa Dakon, Business Services Administrator, Prince William County

Tonya Williams, Senior Human Resource Specialist, James City County

### Invest in your team with Leadership Training!

Our September cohort is just around the corner. Prioritize leadership development today and deliver results for your team and county. **Scholarships are available.**

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND ENROLL](#)

*Developed by General Colin Powell, the Professional Development Academy and NACo, the High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program that helps your workforce develop fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.*



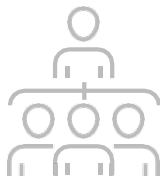
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** HPLA uses an innovative, interactive online learning platform that combines real-time webinars, recorded sessions and small group discussions to deliver effective training without traveling away from the county – saving money and maximizing time.

#### THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



##### LEAD:

Engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations



##### ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



##### COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships



##### DELIVER:

Measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities



##### COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence, and community

**The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy empowers frontline county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.**

**NACo Member County cost per enrollee begins at \$1,995.**

Additional discounts may apply. Contact us for more details.

With a curriculum developed by the late *General Colin Powell* and public and private sector leaders, NACo High Performance Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

**Find out more at [NACo.org/Skills](https://NACo.org/Skills)**







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What truly distinguishes OneDigital as a leading **insurance, financial services, and HR consulting advisory firm** is our holistic approach to creating environments that enable people to do their best work and live their best lives. OneDigital understands that counties face rising insurance costs while still struggling to attract/retain talent. This is why we use proprietary software to provide accurate and predictable insurance consulting projections for those core benefits that impact your bottom line and incorporate solutions to improve retention. While voluntary benefits may be the focus of other providers, OneDigital has the expertise in alternative funding strategies, best-in-class analytics, and an in-house actuarial team.

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#### PROTECT

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**Sarah Anne Struckmann**  
**Business Development Executive**  
sarah.struckmann@onedigital.com  
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At OneDigital, we harness the power of one to solve complex challenges for businesses and people. Scan the code to the left to watch the video and learn more.



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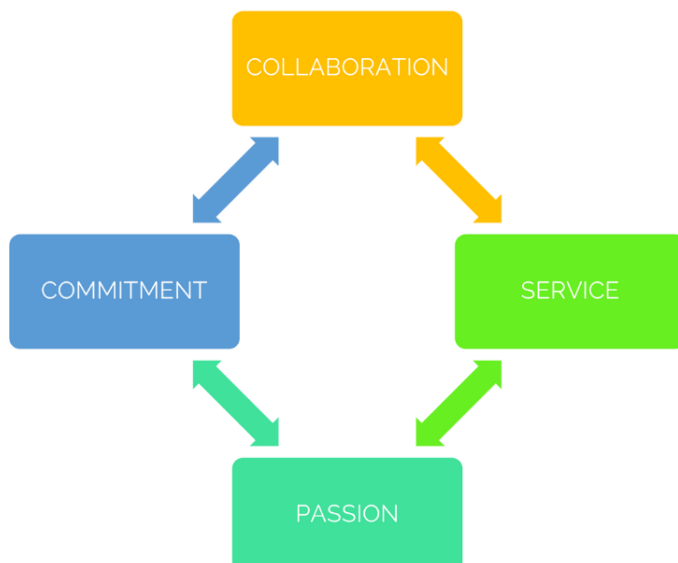
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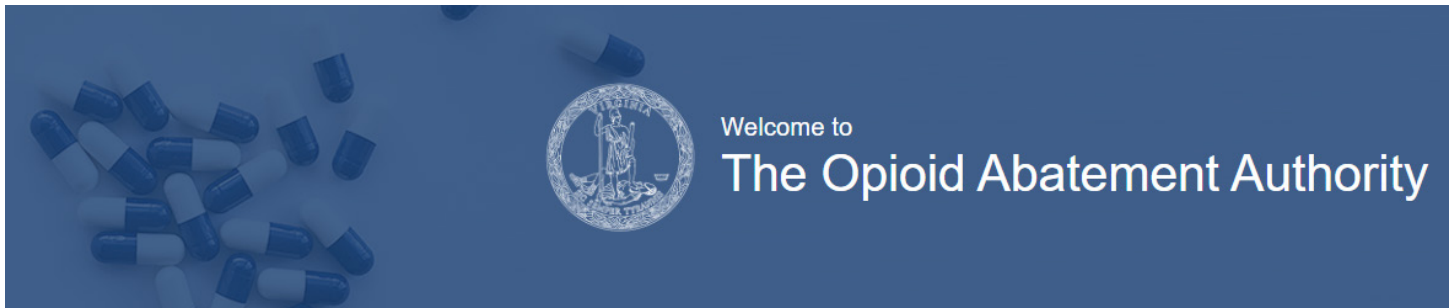


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## *Best Practices for Local Governments in the Allocation of Opioid Settlement Funding*

**Tony McDowell, Executive Director | Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority**

Virginia has already received settlements worth more than \$500 million from prescription opioid manufacturers and distributors, and that number could double. Most of these funds will flow to Virginia's cities and counties for efforts to abate the opioid crisis. As Virginia's cities and counties develop local and regional plans for the use of these funds, some best practices are beginning to emerge.

The first of these is **establishing a local abatement committee** comprised of various stakeholders including prevention and treatment specialists, public health, behavioral health, law enforcement, and people with lived experience.

Some communities are holding **town hall style public meetings** or listening sessions so that local leaders can hear from residents who have been directly affected by the prescription opioid epidemic, as well as from service providers and community-based organizations. The OAA's Board of Directors has been following this approach, and has already conducted six public listening sessions around the state. The feedback from these sessions has been instrumental in informing the Board's strategy for allocating grants.

Local governments are encouraged to **engage with community partners**, especially those that have already been fighting the opioid epidemic for years. This certainly includes the local Community Services Board, but in addition there are many non-profits, grassroot organizations, treatment providers, and recovery support organizations that want to be involved. During its listening sessions the OAA Board has heard numerous examples of such organizations that have been barely surviving financially, working off of donations and volunteer effort. These organizations often know exactly how to reach the people who are sick and suffering, and have a track record of stretching dollars for maximum impact. The OAA is only able to provide funding to cities, counties and state agencies. This means the opioid settlement funds will not reach these non-government organizations unless there is a partnership with the local government.

The OAA is committed to providing assistance to cities and counties in developing their abatement plans. We offer **planning grants** and are in the process of launching a series of best-practice webinars and workshops. For more information please visit us at [www.voaa.us](http://www.voaa.us).



# SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

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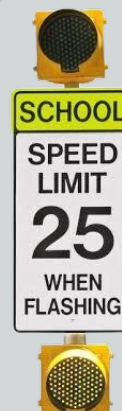


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- \* Changes driver behavior



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Virginia Association of Counties

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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 \$100 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](#).

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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.



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

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