



The 2023 VACo County Officials' Summit Considered One of the Best Ever

When the VACo County Officials' Summit ended on August 17, many of the more than 200 local government officials and staff connected in conversation. One word was overheard often in these huddles.

"Entertaining."

Indeed. When planning the event, the VACo team had an idea that the pairings of the following would not only enlighten our members but also regale them with colorful experiences.

- **Budget and Economic Outlook for 2024**
 - **April Kees** | Director | Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
 - **Anne E. Oman** | Director | House Appropriations Committee
- **Preparing for the 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



The speakers were all very clever and top experts in their fields. They kept the audience enthralled with their thoughts on governance, their encouragement on building relationships with the many new incoming faces in the General Assembly, and their beliefs on civility as we work through our political and fundamental differences. The speakers' engagement with the audience was next level. In fact – one statewide podcast called the Summit, “Nerdy Fun.”

“I thought this year’s Summit was one of our best,” VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch said. “One way to measure the content of the speakers is by the amount of audience Q&A. We could have been there all day with the amount of interest we had from the audience wanting to ask questions. Thank you to all our speakers and to our members who helped make the event a great success.”

The Staff Directors of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees, Anne Oman and April Kees, discussed the state revenue forecasting process and shared the key economic data points they are monitoring, as well as some of the major factors that will shape the next biennium budget.

Former Delegates Chris Saxman and David Toscano offered advice for local officials in working with the General Assembly, encouraging VACo members to be trusted sources of information for legislators and drawing on their service in elected office to examine how Virginia politics have changed over the past several decades.

Camaraderie among long-serving legislators was on full display as Senator Creigh Deeds, House Majority Leader Terry Kilgore, and Delegate Sam Rasoul gave a preview of their top priorities for the next General Assembly session and shared their reflections on working across the aisle.

VACo looks forward to our 89th Annual Conference on November 12-14 at the Omni Homestead. We hope you can join us for more Nerdy Fun.

Governor Addresses “Money Committees” as Budget Negotiations Continue



Editor's Note: VACo received notice early Friday afternoon that a budget agreement has been reached between the House and Senate budget conferees. The notice indicates that the major components of budget revisions have been agreed to and that conferees and staff will be finalizing details in the coming days. VACo staff will review the budget compromise and provide an update to members as soon as further details are available.

Governor Youngkin addressed the Senate Finance and Appropriations, House Appropriations, and House Finance Committees on August 23, touting the state's strong financial position and signaling his priorities for the budget he will propose to the legislature in December. Traditionally, the Governor's August address to the "money committees" marks the unofficial pivot toward preparation for the next session's budget advocacy work, but this year, the Governor's presentation took place against the backdrop of negotiations on revisions to the current biennium budget, as budget conferees have recently renewed efforts to resolve an impasse that has lingered since February.

The Governor applauded positive trends in several economic indicators, summarizing recent progress in recovering from the pandemic as "Virginia is on the move!" He pointed to improvements in Virginia's labor force participation rate and job growth, as well as an apparent reversal of a worrisome trend of out-migration. He also hailed recent investments in public safety, compensation for teachers, and school capital funding, and highlighted improvements in the administration of state government, including reductions in teacher licensure backlogs, savings in procurement, and streamlining of the permitting

process at the Department of Environmental Quality. Citing better-than-forecasted General Fund revenue growth and record reserves, the Governor characterized the state's strong financial position as "a 'both/and' moment, not an 'either/or' moment," urging legislators to provide "substantial tax relief" in addition to making investments to mitigate learning loss, enhance public safety, address the behavioral health crisis, support energy innovation, and preserve the Chesapeake Bay.

Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings [provided additional detail](#) on FY 2023 revenues, including major obligations for unanticipated revenues and several elements of uncertainty regarding the outlook for FY 2024 and beyond. Although FY 2023 General Fund (GF) revenues declined by \$1 billion from FY 2022 levels (a 3.5 percent reduction), revenues outperformed the December 2022 projection of an 8.8 percent reduction. As a result, revenues exceeded the December 2022 forecast by \$1.45 billion. Relative to the forecast embedded in the "skinny budget" (which is based on the revenue estimates used in the 2022 Appropriation Act and actions taken by the 2023 General Assembly), FY 2023 GF revenues exceeded these assumptions by approximately \$3 billion. There are also \$1.6 billion in unspent appropriations (some of which are required to be reappropriated).

As outlined by Secretary Cummings, there are a number of claims on these surplus resources. In addition to the required reappropriations, approximately \$289.6 million is required to be deposited to the Revenue Reserve Fund (a deposit to the Constitutionally-mandated Revenue Stabilization Fund is not required). More than \$513 million is required for the Water Quality Improvement Fund (parts A and B). The 2022 Appropriation Act included language directing certain surplus revenues to improvements to I-64 (\$150 million), the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program Fund (\$50 million), and the Major Headquarters Workforce Grant Fund (\$35.5 million). The Governor also set aside \$2.1 billion in a reserve account for additional taxpayer relief and other budgetary priorities; Secretary Cummings indicated that that this reserve could provide a cushion against an economic downturn that is more severe than anticipated, as well as for refunds that may be required as part of the state's new Pass-Through Entity Tax (PTET), the timing of which is injecting "noise" into the state's forecasting process. Governor Youngkin noted that the Administration continues to expect a recession in FY 2024, and Secretary Cummings reported that the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates also anticipates a slowdown in FY 2024, with a "modest recession" the consensus view at GACRE's August 7 meeting. Risk factors outlined by Secretary Cummings included the potential for additional interest rate increases by the Federal Reserve; ripple effects of a slowdown in the Chinese economy; and a potential federal shutdown later this fall, as well as the uncertainty surrounding PTET implementation. Budget preparation for the 2024 General Assembly session is well underway at the state agency level, and the Joint Advisory Board of Economists will meet in October, followed by another meeting of the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates in November to review the revenue forecast for the 2024-2026 biennium. The Governor will present proposed amendments to the FY 2024 budget (the "caboose" budget) and a proposed 2024-2026 biennium budget to the money committees on December 20.

Negotiations on the current biennium budget were set to resume after the conclusion of the money committees' meeting on Wednesday. As of the publication of this edition of *County Connections*, media reports have indicated that the framework of an agreement on tax policy has been reached, with the Governor indicating that he would not oppose the reported compromise, and conferees are negotiating on spending items. VACo will report on the contents of any agreement once it becomes available.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)



Visit Greene County and the Greene County Historic Courthouse

Location: 22 Court Street / Ford Avenue

Built: 1838 – 1839

Style: Roman Temple

Architect: William Donoho and William B Phillips

Contractor: William Donoho and William B Phillips

Description: The building faces north and is a two story red colored brick and wood structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Stanardsville. The brick was laid in Flemish bond. The north front has a large portico supported by four white colored Tuscan columns rising to a pediment at the roof line. The Roman Doric entablature continue around the building. Wide white colored pilasters are on the façade. The entrance is framed with white colored wood trim. There is a gable roof with fan-light. The interior contains a courtroom on the second story with twin stairs ascending to an elliptical curved gallery. The building houses the Circuit Court and General District Court of the 16th Judicial District. In 1927 and 1928, the front portico was constructed. A fire in 1979 destroyed the interior, but the exterior remained intact. On the east side is the Old County Jail and on the west side is the County Office Building (1938) which is attached to the one story addition along the south side of the courthouse.

Note: The courthouse was built by William B Phillips, who was a master builder of Thomas Jefferson and the plans followed the Jefferson design for courthouses as did the courthouse in Page County.

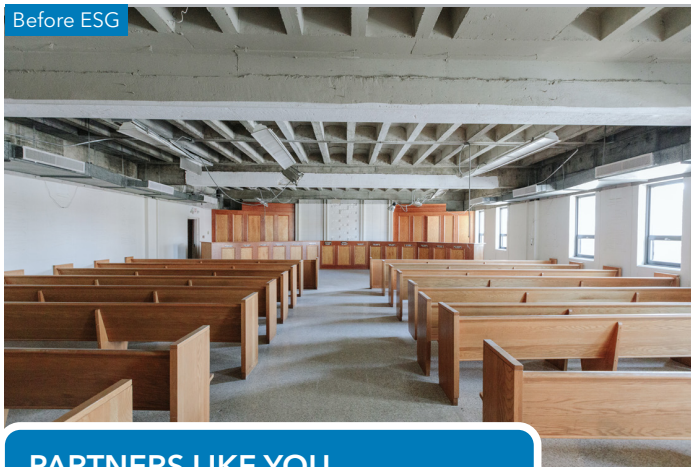
SOURCE: [American Courthouses](http://AmericanCourthouses.com) | Courthouses.co



**Check out 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](https://www.vaco.org/conference)**

Before ESG



After ESG



Bradley County, TN

PARTNERS LIKE YOU

ESG put our solutions to work in Licking County, OH through multiple phases of infrastructure upgrades totaling over \$8 million. This phased approach allowed the county to take a strategic view of needs and improvements over time.

We also delivered an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC) for Bradley County, TN, through which we upgraded 4 buildings, which resulted in \$7.1 million in guaranteed savings over the life of the contract.

Licking County, OH



Bradley County, TN



Energy Systems Group (ESG) is excited to be rejoining membership with the Virginia Association of Counties. With expertise serving county governments across the nation, ESG is poised to assist Virginia counties in overcoming pressing infrastructure and facility needs through creative energy solutions.

At our core, ESG focuses on energy efficiency, resiliency, and sustainability within communities. Our experts are viewed as trusted partners, working hand-in-hand with county leaders to holistically assess needs and engineer customized solutions. We tap into grants, incentives, and federal programs to ease budget pressures. From aging building systems to deferred maintenance, we address challenges head-on through a combination of cutting-edge technology and financing options like ESPCs.

What truly sets ESG apart is our commitment to guaranteed results, backed by our dedicated team of measurement and verification experts. We stand behind every project, verifying energy and operational savings through ongoing tracking to ensure we meet key performance indicators. Additionally, ESG maintains vendor-agnostic relationships across the industry. This allows us to objectively evaluate and select equipment and technology for each project based on performance needs and the ability to support the local community when possible. Our approach provides tailored solutions to solve problems sustainably and effectively on a budget.

As Virginia counties strive to balance tight budgets with community needs, ESG is here to collaborate. We ease the process, aligning improvements with your goals so progress and savings become continuous. To discuss overcoming your specific challenges, contact us today. **The future starts now.**



Cheryl Midkiff

Account Executive

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Prince Edward County Announces Re-Hiring of Director of Economic Development and Tourism



Prince Edward County, VA – Prince Edward County has named Chelsey Symone Ward White as its Director of Economic Development and Tourism effective August 17, 2023. Chelsey left Prince Edward County in July 2023 to advance her career, but determined her skills and heart were best served with the County.

“We are so pleased to have Chelsey return to the County and the position,” said County Administrator Douglas Stanley, announcing the selection. “Chelsey’s knowledge and experience in the local development process, promotion and marketing, and experience with the writing and implementation of grants stood out among the other candidates. She is a tremendous asset in helping Prince Edward market itself regionally and across the State. She has also been a big part of the infrastructure progress we have been able to make in the past two years including the Business Park Access Road and the HIT Park.”

Cultivating contacts and working with our state and regional economic development agencies, including the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Go Virginia Region 3 is critical to the success of a local economic development program. Mrs. White has established her credibility and has strong working relationships with the local business and non-profit community, public officials, and the public through her employment with Prince Edward County and the Downtown Farmville Partnership. She has shown passion and energy for promotion of what Prince Edward County has to offer. Chelsey grew up in Prince Edward and brings with her an intimate knowledge and love of our community and a strong desire to help the community and its citizens grow and prosper.

According to White, “The county has made progress with tourism and economic development projects including the expansion of tourism assets in the county, broadband internet expansion, infrastructure and design improvements at the HIT Park, the completion of the Prince Edward County Business Park access road, and the continued commercial and industrial development of PEC Business Park lots; all of which I am honored to have played a role in. I am a proud native of this community with real excitement about the future of the county and coming back to serve as Director of Economic Development, Tourism, and Grants.”

IDA Board Chairman Brad Watson added, “We had a number of good and very qualified applicants for the Economic Development position, but Chelsey’s experience and expertise really showed through. She has done outstanding work for Prince Edward County over the last few years, and I am pleased to continue working with her as chair of the county’s Industrial Development Authority.”

White has a Bachelor of Urban and Environmental Planning degree from the University of Virginia. She previously served as Planning and Zoning Administrator for Cumberland County. As such, she was responsible for managing long-range planning and land use functions, reviewing subdivision and zoning applications, and served as secretary for the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. She previously worked as the Program Manager for Farmville Downtown Partnership from 2018-2020 and as Economic Development and Tourism Director for Prince Edward County from March 2021-July 2023, directing marketing projects to promote tourism and bring jobs and investment to the community.

Stafford Selects Economic Development Director

Stafford County Administrator Randal Vosburg announces the selection of Kyle Allwine as the County's next Economic Development Director. Allwine comes to Stafford from the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative where he served as Public Relations Manager and led economic development efforts for the entire service territory. He is also a former Vice President of Membership and Government Affairs for the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"A critical aptitude for a Director of Economic Development involves the capacity to forge connections and engage in cooperative efforts with stakeholders and prospective allies," said Vosburg. "Kyle possesses an exceptional comprehension of the local business landscape and established connections, equipping him to initiate impactful actions swiftly."

Stafford conducted a national search to fill the position after the departure of Economic Development Director John Holden earlier this year. Josh Summits, of Economic Development, has been serving as the Interim Director.

"Stafford County holds a favorable position in economic progress, boasting an appealing location and a skilled workforce that draws interest from various sectors," stated Allwine. "I am eager to contribute my unique understanding of the region and Stafford County, and I have full confidence that our collaborative efforts will yield remarkable results."

Kyle Allwine is the Manager, Public Relations and Regulatory Affairs for Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. Prior to his role at NNEC, Kyle served as the Vice President of Membership and Government Affairs for the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce advocating and supporting more than 900 businesses and their more than 25,000 employees. Previously, Allwine has also held roles at the University of Mary Washington.

He serves on the Rappahannock United Way Board and the Bay Consortium Workforce Development Board. He has previously served on the Greater Fredericksburg Habitat for Humanity board. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in history and historic preservation from the University of Mary Washington and a Master of Business Administration. He is also a graduate of Leadership Fredericksburg. He lives in King George, VA with his wife Libby, an educator in Stafford County, and his son, Kyle.



PULASKI COUNTY

RFP



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CHANGE AGENT FIRE/EMS & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Pulaski County is seeking a contractor with high-level management skills in fire, EMS and the emergency management industry to restructure our community service delivery based on the findings and recommendations of the recent Fire/EMS/Emergency Management study.

[READ THE RFP](#)

County Disaster Designation Process and Information



The office of the Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry has issued a request to Boards of Supervisors across Virginia. The request pertains to a new procedure for declaring localities as impacted by climatic disasters, particularly focusing on droughts.

Under this new procedure, if a Board of Supervisors determines that drought conditions have adversely affected the agricultural community in their locality and subsequently passes a resolution seeking disaster area designation, such resolutions are to be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Farm Service Agency (FSA) for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, the individual serving as the Executive Director is Dr. Ronald Howell, Jr. You can access his contact information [here](#).

While it's still possible for the Governor to initiate USDA Secretarial disaster designations, the Secretary prefers that all resolutions requesting disaster designations for localities be directed to the FSA State Executive Director. This designation opens various funding opportunities for localities facing challenges, which are detailed on the [USDA's official website](#) or can be quickly reviewed using [this brochure](#).

For more information regarding the disaster designation and declaration process, click [here](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Joint Commission on Health Care Receives Updates on Key Health Indicators, Overview of Brain Injury Services in Virginia



The Joint Commission on Health Care met on August 23 and received a [staff briefing on the Commission's Health Care Dashboard](#), which tracks a variety of metrics associated with the Commission's overall objectives of accessibility, affordability, and quality. Staff noted that lags in collecting data mean that the 2023 metrics are generally derived from 2020-2021 information and must be interpreted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. During the most recent data reporting period, Virginia made improvements in reducing its percentage of uninsured adults and children, as well as in reducing the percentage of adults who avoided medical care due to cost and the percentage of individuals in families with high out-of-pocket medical costs relative to annual income. Virginia also demonstrated improvements in reducing preventable hospital admissions. Virginia's percentage of mothers who received late or no prenatal care worsened, as did the median rate of successful return to home and community from a skilled nursing facility. Staff noted that disparities in these key indicators of health by race and ethnicity and income persist; members requested additional analysis of the data by region as well as further detail as to specific barriers to care, such as language access or transportation.

Staff from the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) provided an overview of their agencies' services for individuals with brain injuries. DARS Deputy Director Marcia DuBois [explained](#) that DARS provides funding to nine service providers, who provide case management, clubhouse and day programs, resource coordination, and consultation and referral services to individuals with brain injuries. Twelve Virginia counties are not served, although efforts are underway to secure additional state funding to expand services. DMAS Senior Advisor Brian Campbell [updated](#) Commission members on the Medicaid-funded services provided for individuals with a brain injury, which encompass short-term and acute care, long-term services and supports, and home- and community-based services. At the direction of the 2022 General Assembly, DMAS updated the State Plan for Medical Assistance to incorporate targeted case management services for individuals with severe traumatic brain injury, and is in the process of implementation, with provider enrollment beginning this month and services planned to be delivered beginning in October. The legislature also directed DMAS to work with stakeholders to develop a plan for a neurobehavioral science unit and a waiver program for individuals with brain injury and neuro-cognitive disorders, to include a rate structure. Draft rates have been developed; DMAS's November 2022 progress report indicated that it would request funding for start-up activities in the fall 2023 budget development process.

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 21st 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](#) | [20th Anniversary of the Achievement Awards Video](#)

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



OAA Awards \$11 Million in Funding to Agencies of the Commonwealth

On Friday, August 18, 2023, a committee of the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) voted to award \$10,961,013 in funding to sixteen different agencies of the Commonwealth for opioid abatement and remediation efforts.

Under a statute that was passed into law in 2021, a minimum of 15% of opioid settlement funds paid to the Commonwealth is to be spent on abatement efforts managed by state agencies.

Senator Todd Pillion, Chairman of the OAA, described the awards as “far reaching,” noting that “this year’s approved state agency opioid abatement projects will be launched across a diverse range of organizations, including executive branch agencies, judicial offices, universities, and independent state agencies.” Funding for these projects is scheduled to be transferred from the OAA to the recipient organizations as early as October 1.

Dr. Sarah Thomason, a clinical pharmacist who chairs the OAA’s Grants Committee, noted that the funding will support a wide variety of projects. “The full continuum of care was considered within these projects,” she said. “Funding was awarded for prevention and education, clinical research, prescription monitoring, naloxone distribution, treatment programs, recovery supports, and more.”

The approved projects were selected through a competitive process and included a review of proposals submitted by the agencies. The resulting awards will be the first allocation of OAA funds for state agencies since the Commonwealth received its first set of national settlement payments from manufacturers and distributors of prescription opioids in 2022. The payments from the various settling companies are expected to continue for at least 16 more years and will exceed \$1.1 billion in total funding.

In June the OAA announced more than \$23 million in grant awards to 76 cities and counties in Virginia. Combined with the announcement of funding for state agencies, the total amount of awards by the OAA is nearly \$34 million to date. According to a June [report](#) published by the National Academy of State Health Policy, only ten states had awarded specific abatement programs, including Virginia.

Recent developments with Purdue Pharma and Mallinckrodt bankruptcy cases will not affect the availability of funds for the OAA’s announced grants, according to Senator Pillion. “The awards announced by the OAA are from finalized settlements, and these funds have been received by the Commonwealth,” he said. “These awards build on the OAA’s commitment to support strategies and initiatives on local, regional, and state levels that will strengthen our communities and improve lives and livelihoods in all regions of the Commonwealth.”

The OAA was established by the General Assembly in 2021 to oversee the distribution of 55% of Virginia’s total settlement funds. Of the remainder, 30% is distributed directly to cities and counties and 15% to the Commonwealth. The use of funds is restricted by court orders and state statute, with the restrictions aiming for the funds to be used for opioid abatement efforts.

For more information contact info@voaa.us



Register now for the NACo 2023 Rural Action Caucus (RAC) Symposium

November 5–7 | Greenbrier County, WV

We invite you to register today for the National Association of Counties (NACo) [Rural Action Caucus \(RAC\) 2023 Fall Symposium](#) in Greenbrier County, West Virginia.

Elected and appointed county officials, national thought leaders and partners will identify rural challenges and elevate solutions through information exchanges and policy discussions. This unique event is an opportunity to engage with your peers and national experts on topics important to rural America, including broadband deployment, rural development, workforce challenges, substance abuse and community resilience.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Letter from VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch - NACo Leadership Academy



Dear VACo Members,

It was a great conference in Travis County, Texas, and many of the 95 counties from Virginia were represented. A key theme of the session was leadership - hiring, retaining, and developing existing leaders to be even better - and emerging leaders to be ready to address the increasing complexity of county government.

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy helps to accomplish this goal and announced the milestone of having over 10,000 graduates nationwide. Seventy counties across Virginia have used the Academy (www.naco.org/skills), and those counties have received over \$270,000 in scholarships to cover some of the enrollment cost of each person.

Hear from VA graduates:

Rockingham County: *"This isn't your run-of-the-mill leadership class. The insights from global leaders as well as weekly breakout groups were invaluable."*

Richmond County: *"This course helped to provide the courage I needed to improve as a leader and also set out many tools and reminders to use along the way. Great job -thanks for allowing me to be a part of the course."*

I know great leadership is important in all of our counties. This program helps us accomplish that. The final cohort of 2023 kicks off September 18, and scholarship funds/volume discounting are available (enroll 5 participants for \$5,000 for a limited time).

Please contact Academy Enrollment Director Treina Smith-Slatt (treinas@pdaleadership.com) if you have questions about the program and enrollment.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of your summer!

Dean A. Lynch, CAE
VACo Executive Director

VIRGINIA CYBERSECURITY PLAN

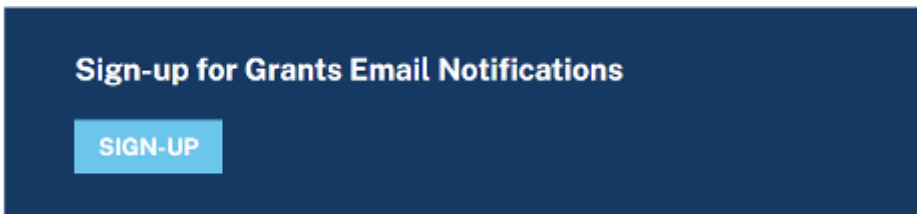
Dear Public Safety, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity stakeholders,

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/>.

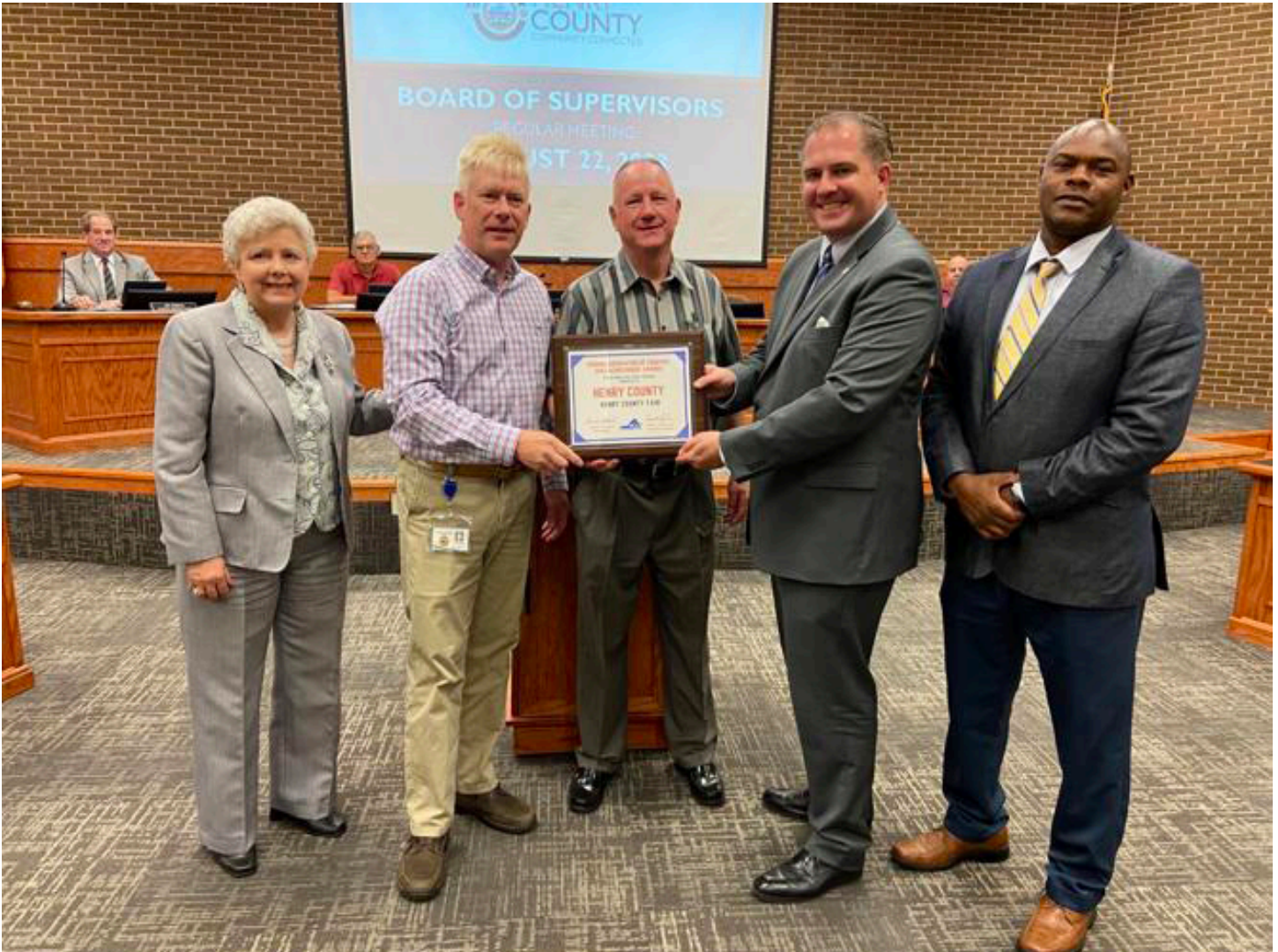
Thank you for your interest!

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

Congratulations!

We love presenting Achievement Awards
at Board of Supervisors Meetings



Congratulations Henry County!

Pictured from left - Horsepasture District Supervisor Debra Buchanan, Parks and Recreation Director Roger Adams, Collinsville District Supervisor Joe Bryant, VACo Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Jeremy Bennett, Iriswood District Supervisor Garrett Dillard.

Photo by Bill Wyatt | Martinsville Bulletin

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

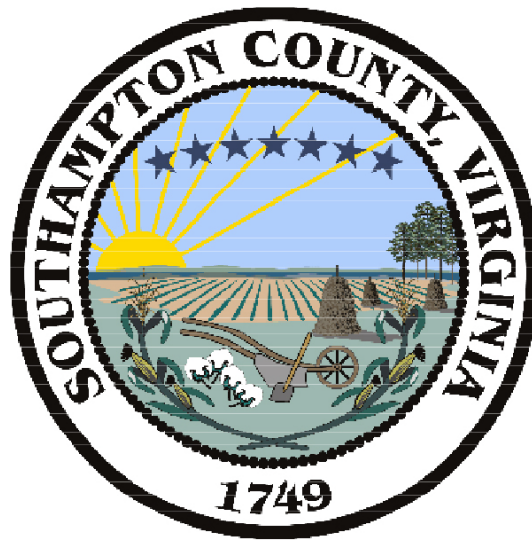
Provides highly skilled administrative support to the Planning Commission and other governing bodies.

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

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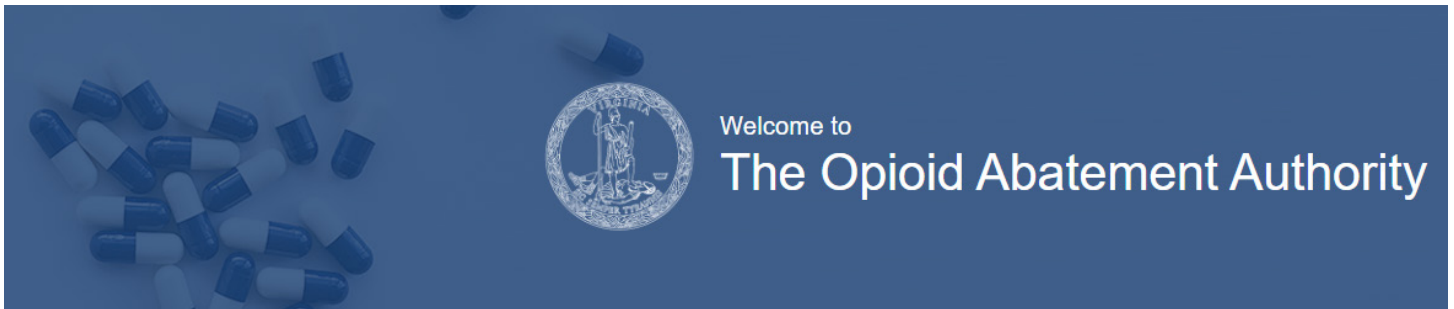
SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY RFP



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](#)



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.



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](#)

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

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

Part 16 | [Thank You](#)



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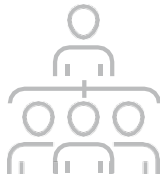
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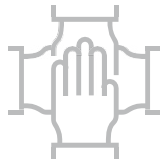
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DELIVER:

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OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo's newest Premier Partners.

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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Sarah Anne Struckmann
Business Development Executive
sarah.struckmann@onedigital.com
434-987-2240



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.



Opioid Abatement Authority Updates

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

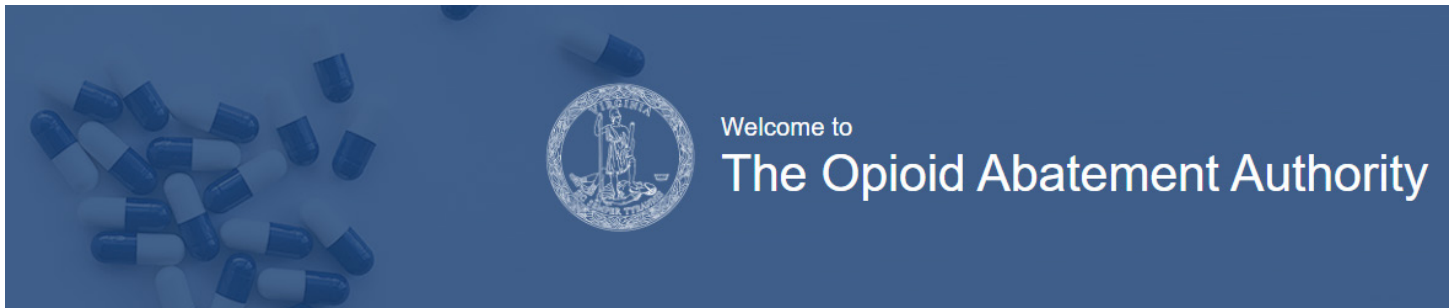
On Friday June 23, 2023, the Board of Directors for the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) voted to award more than \$23 million in grants to 76 Virginia cities and counties for opioid abatement and remediation efforts. The vote confirmed the full Board's approval of recommendations made by the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

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



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.



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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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[**DEPUTY DIRECTOR – HUMAN RESOURCES**](#) | Accomack County | Posted August 24

[**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR**](#) | Albemarle County | Posted August 23

[**SENIOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

[**POLICE OFFICER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

[**DEPUTY TREASURER I**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

[**APPARATUS TECHNICIAN**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

[**PLANNER I**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

[**COMMUNICATION'S OFFICER**](#) | Prince George County | Posted August 22

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[**VAN DRIVER \(PT\)**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 21

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[**DEPUTY CHIEF**](#) | Frederick County | Posted August 21

[**DEPUTY CLERK II**](#) | Culpeper County | Posted August 21

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[**LEAD CASHIER**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 14

[**CASHIER/GROUNDS ATTENDANT**](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted August 14

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