

Proposed Changes to SMART SCALE Program Unveiled



SMART SCALE

*Funding the Right
Transportation Projects
in Virginia*

Earlier this year, The Virginia Secretary of Transportation directed the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment (OIPI) to conduct a full review of the SMART SCALE process in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT). VACo was invited and has participated on the Technical Advisory Committee as part of the program review, which began in April. As of the latest Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) meeting in October, all the proposed changes to the SMART SCALE program have been unveiled. This article will outline these proposed changes to the SMART SCALE program that have been recommended by OIPI staff with input from VDOT, DRPT, CTB members, stakeholders, legislators and other concerned parties.

Small Project Preference

To address concerns that the High Priority Program (HPP) is being used to implement small projects (< \$10 million) that do not have meaningful impacts on the improvement of Corridors of Statewide Significance or Regional Networks, the CTB is considering changing the process for how HPP funding is allocated as well as redefining what projects are eligible for HPP funding.

The current funding steps are as follows:

- Step 1 allocates each VDOT construction district's grant program funding on a district-wide basis.
- Step 2 allocates HPP funding on a district-wide basis.
- Step 3 allocates HPP funding on a statewide basis.

The proposed change would eliminate the current Step 2 and would move straight from Step 1 to Step 3 (sorted by SMART SCALE Score) shown above.

Current projects that are eligible for HPP funding include those that address needs on a Corridor of Statewide Significance or a Regional Network. With the proposed changes, project types would be limited to:

- New Capacity Highway
- Managed Lanes
- New or Improved Interchanges
- New or Improved Passenger Rail Stations or Service
- Freight Rail Improvements
- High Capacity / Fixed Guideway Transit

- Transit Transfer Stations
- New Bridge

Application Quality and Project Readiness

One of the proposed changes to SMART SCALE is reducing the application caps for all entities; this change responds to a concern regarding application quality. This is an area where the final recommendations differs from the original proposed changes. The final recommendations include a proposal to create a three-tier applicant system, which differ from the existing two tiers of applicants as well as raising the application caps slightly from the original recommendations. The final recommendation application caps are as follows:

- Tier 1 entities (localities with less than 100k people and MPOs PDCs or Transit Agencies with less than 250k people) A cap of 4 preapplications and 3 full applications.
- Tier 2 entities (localities with populations between 100k people and 200k people and MPOs PDCs or Transit Agencies with populations between 250k people and 500k people) A cap of 5 preapplications and 4 full applications.
- Tier 3 entities (localities with more than 200k people and MPOs PDCs or Transit Agencies with more than 500k people) A cap of 7 preapplications and 6 full applications.

To address project cost overruns and scheduling delays for locally administered projects that have received funding through SMART SCALE, the CTB is considering tying project funding decisions to how well the applying entity performs in project delivery.

To address project readiness, the CTB is considering an approach to streamline document approval before final submission. This entails making sure an applicant has approval for high level documents (cost estimates, reports, project schedules, resolutions, other required attachments) before a project is submitted. VDOT plans to provide earlier and more targeted support to applicants to coincide with the reduction in applications.

Forward-Looking Process

To better capture the future impacts of project implementation on congestion impacts, the CTB is considering using 10-year future growth to determine congestion benefit scores instead of current congestion conditions. This is how the congestion factor was calculated in SMART SCALE Rounds 1 & 2 and was modified in Round 3 to prioritize existing conditions.

The economic development factor measures how each project supports economic development and improves the movement of goods. There are concerns that, as currently constructed, this factor does not account for future economic development. VDOT engaged the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to develop a more forward-looking methodology. This is a high level overview of the recommendations:

According to staff running the review, the current economic scoring methodology does not incorporate key economic priorities.

- The methodology needs to better reflect best-in-class economic impact assessments currently used by VEDP.
- The current process uses manual process of data entry by applicants and then SMART SCALE staff would validate the data.
- Current economic development measures rely on the square footage of sites being developed in the area of influence of the SMART SCALE project.

The proposed changes to the economic development factor seek to include:

- Focus on sites that will attract growth industries, with the inventory captured in a statewide real estate database.
- Job creation and capital investments in sites.
- Estimated potential market demand of sites by including site visits.

A more in depth understanding and breakdown of the economic development factor scoring recommendations can be found from pages 5 to 12 in the CTB Presentation from October which is linked [here](#).

Land Use Factor Change

Concerns raised about the current use of the land use score is that it accounts for where a project is located, not expected project outcomes. There is also concern that the land use score has disproportionately driven the types of projects that are selected for funding. To address these concerns, the CTB is considering a change to eliminate land use as a standalone score. Instead, the Commonwealth Transportation Board is considering using the land use scoring factor as a multiplier. The calculated land use benefit would be converted to a multiplier and would be used to increase benefit points in other factor areas thus enhancing the overall project score.

With the proposed removal of the land use factor and conversion to a multiplier, the CTB is considering reapportioning the points from the land use factor to the safety and congestion factors. This means that the CTB and SMART SCALE will continue to use the land use factor to encourage land use and transportation coordination, but a greater emphasis will be placed on the safety and congestion factors.

The staff recommended redistribution of these points can be found in the chart below.

Staff Recommended Weighting						
Factor	Safety	Congestion	Accessibility	Land Use	Economic Development	Environment
Type A	20% (+15%)	50% (+5%)	15%	Up to 100% Added	5%	10%
Type B	25% (+5%)	25% (+10%)	20%		20%	10%
Type C	30% (+5%)	20% (+5%)	15%		25%	10%
Type D	40% (+10%)	10% (+0%)	10%		30%	10%

Those running the SMART SCALE review held a Virtual Town Hall on October 31st where they answered questions regarding these changes and hosted a public comment period. Additional comments regarding the SMART SCALE Review can also be provided by emailing the Team at SmartPortal@CTB.Virginia.gov or by filling out the [Online Feedback Form](#). Additional comments provided by email or the form must be submitted by November 14th. Lastly, the SMART SCALE Team has made all of their Review resources, such as presentations to the CTB and letters regarding the proposed changes from various entities, available to the public which can be accessed [here](#).

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will act on these proposed changes at the December meeting of the Board.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



Breakout Session

89TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023



ISSUES IN K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING AND SCHOOL BOARD RELATIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13
1130AM-1245PM

MOUNT VERNON ROOM | THE OMNI HOMESTEAD



Visit Henry County and the Henry County Historic Courthouse

Location: 1 East Main Street / Franklin Street

Built: 1824 – 1825

Style: Classical Revival

Architect: George Tucker

Contractor: Samuel Taleferro

Description: The building faces south and is a two story red colored brick and wood structure. The building is located on landscaped grounds with a descending slope on the north side in the center of Martinsville. The south front has a large portico with four white colored columns rising to a pediment at the roof line. The second story has a wide balcony. The wood framed entrance with small pediments above are on either side of the portico. The roof is hipped. An addition was built on the north side in 1890 and the building was remodeled in 1929. The building is now the Heritage Center & Museum.

SOURCE: courthouses.co



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November 12 – 14, 2023
The Omni Homestead | Bath County
[VACo Annual Conference Website](https://www.vaco.org/conference)**

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Betsy Smith Selected as Loudoun's New Director of Building and Development



Betsy Smith is the new director of the Loudoun County Department of Building and Development, County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced today. Smith, whose appointment is effective October 26, 2023, was selected after a nationwide recruitment. She has been serving as acting director of the department following the retirement of former director Alan Brewer in July.

Prior to joining the Loudoun County government as deputy director of the Department of Building and Development in June 2022, Smith held a variety of positions in the land development field in the public and private sector, including the Fairfax County government in Virginia and the Frederick County government in Maryland.

"Ms. Smith exhibited outstanding knowledge and experience among a competitive pool of applicants for this position," said Hemstreet. "She has demonstrated exceptional leadership since joining the county and I believe her expertise in all aspects of building and development throughout our region has prepared her well for this key role in the county government."

As director of the Department of Building & Development, Smith will be responsible for enforcing the construction-related codified ordinances, which provide for the public's safety and welfare as structures and facilities are constructed in the county. The department also enforces best engineering practices, statewide building codes and other environmental regulations during design and construction, approves plans, conducts a broad range of inspections and issues building, trade, zoning and grading permits. In addition, the department is responsible for ensuring construction sites remain compliant with the erosion and sediment control and stormwater management regulations of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and managing public improvements through bonding, proffers and water resources programs.

Smith holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Union College.

More information about the Department of Building and Development is online at loudoun.gov/bd.

Chesterfield Names New Director of County's Transportation Department



Chessa Walker, a licensed professional engineer with more than two decades of experience delivering transportation projects from concept to construction, has been promoted to director of the Chesterfield Department of Transportation (CDOT).

Walker has served as CDOT's assistant director since September 2020. She joined Chesterfield as a senior engineer in April 2016 following nearly 15 years in the private sector with Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc.

As director, Walker manages development of Chesterfield's transportation project pipeline, which includes \$2 million in ongoing planning studies, working effectively with County Administration and the Board of Supervisors to achieve consensus-based solutions and identify strategies to fund them. She has served on the Central Virginia Transportation Authority's (CVTA) technical advisory committee since its inception in 2020, while playing a key role in developing and building support for the process by which the regional body prioritizes projects and allocates dedicated transportation revenue.

As assistant director, she also helped develop CDOT's annual budget, assumed responsibility for recruiting and training new employees, evaluated staff performance and built a strong team through post-hire mentorship.

"I am truly honored to be chosen to lead our team of dedicated professionals as we continue the important work of enhancing Chesterfield's transportation network," Walker said. "We have made tremendous progress over the past few years in securing funds for infrastructure improvements that will have a profoundly positive effect on our residents' quality of life. It's an exciting time to be in this position and see these much-needed projects come to fruition."

The Roanoke Valley Resource Authority Appoints a New Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority (RVRA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Jonathan (Jon) Adam Lanford as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Lanford has over twenty years of local government management experience and is currently an Assistant County Administrator in Botetourt County. In that role he supervises the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Facilities and Maintenance and serves as a project manager for various capital projects, including utility extensions, locally administered VDOT projects and the replacement of the Botetourt County Circuit Courthouse in Fincastle. Mr. Lanford will succeed Dan Miles, who is retiring after 16 ½ years in the RVRA CEO position.



The Roanoke Valley Resource Authority is the regional solid waste management organization serving residents and businesses of the Cities of Roanoke and Salem, Roanoke County, and the Town of Vinton. It operates the Tinker Creek Transfer Station in the City of Roanoke, the Salem Transfer Station in the City of Salem, and the Smith Gap Landfill, processing approximately 250,000 tons of regional solid waste annually. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for directing the staff and operations of the Authority and reports to a nine-member Board of Directors made up of representatives of the four member localities. At its meeting on October 25, the RVRA Board of Directors approved an employment agreement with Mr. Lanford.

Board Chair Rebecca Owens said, “We are pleased to have found someone with diverse experience in local government management, public works, and capital project management and who is familiar with the Roanoke Valley and its localities. The Board was also impressed by his past successes with regional initiatives. We look forward to working with Jon to improve services to the regional partners, their citizens and businesses, and to strengthening the long-term financial sustainability of the Authority.”

The RVRA Board of Directors conducted a national search for the new Chief Executive Officer, assisted by The Berkley Group, of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Berkley Group received applications and conducted initial interviews with the most qualified candidates. It then assisted with selecting finalists for interviews with the Board.

Mr. Lanford received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Ferrum College. In the early years of his career, he served in the Botetourt County Department of Public Works and had various technical roles with the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation. He served as the County Engineer and then concurrently as the Director of Public Works in Alleghany County for five years. In 2008, Mr. Lanford was appointed as the Assistant County Administrator of Alleghany County, a position that he held for eight years.

He then served as Alleghany County Administrator from 2016 to 2021 when he took his current position in Botetourt County.

Mr. Lanford shared these thoughts on his appointment, “I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to serve as the next Chief Executive Officer of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority. I have a strong commitment to providing regional solutions that benefit our communities and this is a core mission of the RVRA. I look forward to working with the Board and staff, along with the governing bodies of the partner localities, to strengthen the Authority to meet new challenges and continue to provide excellent solid waste management services to our region.”

Mr. Lanford will assume his duties as Chief Executive Officer of the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority on November 13, 2023.

Public Information Office

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



News Release

For Immediate Release

Amy Whittaker, Public Information Officer: (540) 772-2010, awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov

Roanoke County Hires New Senior Assistant County Attorney

October 27, 2023- Roanoke County is pleased to welcome Douglas P. Barber, Jr. to the County Attorney's office as a Senior Assistant County Attorney.

Doug grew up outside Portland, Oregon and is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy (1992) and George Mason University School of Law (2000). Doug served on active duty in the United States Navy for 21 years, has been practicing law since 2000, and joined the County Attorney's Office in October 2023.



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Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate 2023 Report is Now Available



Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report

Since 1989, TRC Companies has prepared and distributed an annual Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report. This report asks municipalities to provide information concerning monthly residential water bills as well as all wastewater-related charges included on their customers' bills. Experts at TRC analyze the data and compare it to former years in order to track fluctuations in water and wastewater use and rates in Virginia.

[Download our FREE Rate Reports →](#)

35th Annual Water & Wastewater Rate Report Highlights Key Industry Trends for Virginia Utilities

With over 250 water and wastewater providers in Virginia dedicated to serving diverse communities, navigating the benchmarking process is critical but complex. Leveraging a deep understanding of the industry and the challenges public utilities face, [TRC Companies](#) continues to spearhead the production the Virginia Water & Wastewater Rate Report to shed light on crucial industry trends and provide utilities with indispensable insights for effective decision-making.

In 2023, the 35th Annual Report found significant impacts for utilities related to rate changes. The average water rate across the Commonwealth increased by 7.2 percent in 2023 and the average sewer rate increased by 6.5 percent. Both increases were significantly higher than the previous year. Since 2012, the average water rate has increased by 3.4 percent per year and the average wastewater rate has risen by 3.6 percent per year. These increases occurred across a control group of representative utilities that allows the report to extrapolate trends across the state.

Amidst these insights, the 2023 Virginia Water & Wastewater Rate Report also provides an in-depth analysis of connection fees and capital recovery charges, giving utilities a comprehensive understanding of the broader financial landscape in which they operate.

For those seeking to delve into the comprehensive details of the 2023 Virginia Water and Wastewater Rate Report or to access previous editions, the complete reports are readily [available for download online](#). For any inquiries or further information, please reach out to us at water@trccompanies.com.

JLARC Evaluates Self-Sufficiency Programs



The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARCH) received a briefing from its staff earlier in the month on the results of a study of the effectiveness of Virginia’s self-sufficiency programs, and the related issue of the availability and affordability of child care. JLARC staff reviewed the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), with a particular focus on the employment-related elements of these programs, the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) and SNAP Employment and Training (SNAP E&T), respectively. Most TANF recipients must participate in VIEW, while SNAP E&T is a voluntary program for SNAP recipients that is offered by 37 local departments of social services.

JLARC staff found that VIEW and SNAP E&T clients made only limited progress toward self-sufficiency; while approximately half of VIEW and SNAP E&T clients had higher wages in 2022 than in 2018, only a small portion of these individuals earned wages meeting or exceeding the self-sufficiency standard (a threshold developed by the University of Washington). JLARC staff reported that the social services system and the workforce development system are not well coordinated, resulting in fewer than 2 percent of TANF and SNAP clients in the cohort studied by JLARC participating in the state’s workforce development system. Collaboration at the local level between social services departments and workforce development programs varies, with some local departments included in memoranda of understanding with workforce development boards and others relying on informal collaborations.

JLARC staff found that local department of social services staff are limited in their ability to provide adequate case management to clients due to high caseloads, high turnover, and high vacancy rates, and many local departments are not fully utilizing their annual allocations for VIEW services, which can be used for supportive services such as child care, transportation, and work-related expenses (such as uniforms or license fees) to remove barriers to employment.

In evaluating the design of VIEW and SNAP E&T, JLARC staff found that the programs did not support long-term self-sufficiency, instead encouraging “short-term planning focused on activities that quickly move clients into employment, rather than long-term planning focused on improving clients’ skills and employability that may lead to jobs with advancement opportunities.” The report notes that most VIEW clients do not meet work participation requirements, and those who do are often assigned to activities that do not help achieve long-term self-sufficiency, with most VIEW clients working in industries with low wages and irregular hours.

The report highlights the significant challenges to self-sufficiency posed by the lack of affordable child care, noting that in all regions of the state, costs for most types of child care exceed federal standards of affordability (child care costs accounting for 7 percent or less of household income), although school-age child care is affordable for the majority of Virginia families. An estimated 140,000 additional child care slots are needed in order to meet demand (with this figure likely an underestimate), and many slots will need to be subsidized; the greatest shortage of slots is for infants and toddlers. The state has deployed COVID-19 pandemic relief funds to temporarily increase reimbursements for subsidy providers and expand eligibility; however, this funding will expire at the end of FY 2024, and extending all of the recent expansions would require at least \$319 million in state General Funds annually.

The report includes a series of recommendations and one policy option. Key recommendations of particular interest to local governments include the following:

- Require that each local department of social services develop and enter into a memorandum of understanding with its local workforce development board setting out coordination of workforce development activities for VIEW and SNAP E&T clients.
- Dedicate a portion of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding reserved by the Governor for statewide workforce development initiatives to facilitate the co-location of Virginia Career Works staff at local departments of social services on a part-time basis.
- Evaluate whether administering all or some aspects of VIEW and SNAP E&T through the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement and the Virginia Career Works centers would be beneficial.
- Establish modern caseload targets for local social services benefit programs and develop procedures for monitoring caseloads and updating targets as needed.
- Evaluate spending of VIEW funds by local departments of social services on at least a quarterly basis, identify the reasons local departments are not fully spending funds, and help local departments identify opportunities to fully spend funds on services that would help VIEW participants improve their employability and earnings potential. Revise VIEW policy to encourage local departments of social services to use available VIEW supportive services funds to pay for clients' child care costs when they cannot be covered by the Child Care Subsidy Program.
- Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Secretary of Labor to design and implement a pilot program for testing an alternative assessment and planning process for VIEW clients that uses an interdisciplinary team of program and service providers to develop long-term service plans for clients that encourage progress toward self-sufficiency.
- Monitor progress and outcome measures for VIEW clients in each local department of social services, and report results annually to each local board of social services and to certain legislative committees.
- Review and improve child care training to ensure the material is relevant, useful, and applicable to all staff at child care centers and that staff are only required to take training that pertains to their roles and responsibilities. Improve payment mechanisms for Child Care Subsidy vendors.

JLARC staff proposed as a policy option for consideration a requirement for each local department of social services to offer SNAP Employment and Training, but suggested that “[t]he General Assembly would need to weigh the fiscal impact of expanding the program against the relatively low potential the program has to help SNAP recipients move toward self-sufficiency.”

The full report is available at [this link](#), and the staff presentation is available at [this link](#).

VACo Contacts: [Katie Boyle](#) and [Jeremy Bennett](#)

BEAD Challenge Process began November 1



Office of Broadband

The [Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#) began its BEAD Challenge Process on November 1, 2023. Starting on this day, the Challenge Portal will be open for challenge submissions.

This start date will begin the 30-day challenge window and subsequent review processes outlined in the Commonwealth's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1. The approved version Volume 1 will be made available on the [Virginia Telecommunication Initiative webpage](#). Please note there are no additional changes to the unapproved version, which is currently posted on the webpage.

The Challenge Portal, as well as associated materials and instructions for this challenge process will be publicly available prior to this start date. A summary of these resources is available in the resources section of this email.

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

Please review all information available on the [Virginia Telecommunication Initiative webpage](#) for complete information about this process.

BEAD Resources

[**BEAD Challenge Portal**](#)

[**BEAD Challenge Process Dashboard & Speed Test Tool**](#)

[**How-To Webinar Recording on the BEAD Challenge Process**](#)

[**How-To Webinar Slides on the BEAD Challenge Process**](#)

If you have any questions, contact Office of Broadband staff at [**broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov**](mailto:broadband@dhcd.virginia.gov).

VACo Releases Its 2024 Preliminary Legislative Program



VACo has released its [2024 Preliminary Legislative Program](#), which was drafted through VACo's steering committee process. The document includes a host of important and timely proposed policy statements including language pertaining to K-12 education funding, local taxing authority, stormwater regulations, land use planning, transportation, broadband, health and human resources and other local budget and legislative issues.

Click on the link to read the [2024 Preliminary Legislative Program](#).

The 2024 Legislative Program will be adopted on November 14 during the Annual Business Meeting at the [VACo Annual Conference](#).

VACo's eight steering committees will finalize and adopt their policy sections on November 12. The Resolutions Committee will ratify the Legislative Program on November 13. VACo's membership will vote to adopt the Final Legislative Program on November 14.

VACo members are encouraged to continue to add their input to this document by working through their county's legislative process and the VACo steering committee process to put forward suggested changes to VACo's 2024 Legislative Program.

For questions regarding VACo's legislative process, contact Dean Lynch at dlynch@vaco.org or 804.343.2511.

VACo Contact: [Dean Lynch, CAE](#)

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SUPPORT VETERANS WITH OPERATION GREEN LIGHT



This Veterans Day, NACo and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers invite counties to participate in Operation Green Light. By illuminating buildings with green lights from November 6–12, counties can show appreciation and support for veterans and their families.

- **Participation tools:** Access NACo's [Operation Green Light Toolkit](#) to learn how your county can get involved.
- Please be sure to [share](#) your county's activities with us.
- **WATCH:** NACo President Mary Jo McGuire [encourages](#) counties to participate.
- **Highlights from 2022** [Check out](#) some of the 300+ county participants from last year.



Get to know one of VACo's Premier Partners – Aetna

VACo Premier Partner Aetna believes healthier happens together. Aetna is a leading health care company that takes a holistic approach in partnering with public sector employees and their families to achieve their best health.

Dean Lynch, VACo Executive Director, and Marcus Duckworth, VP, Client Management of Aetna, explore key health benefits in areas important to the public sector.

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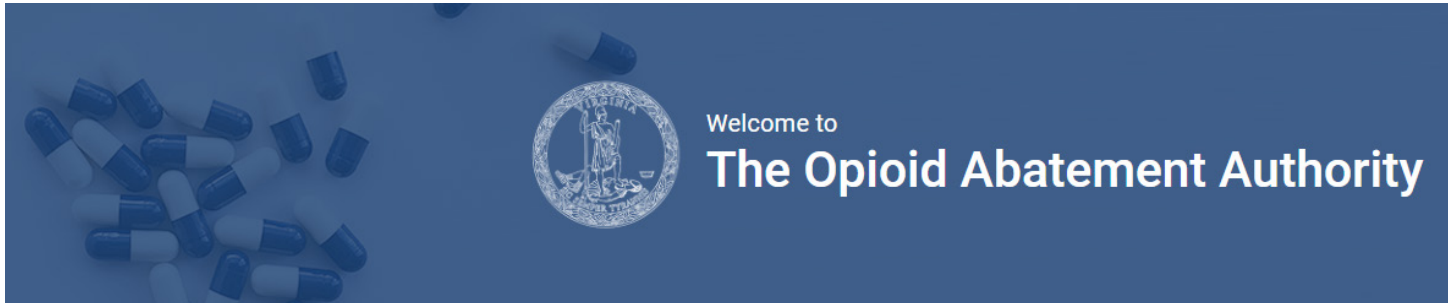
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Opioid Abatement Authority Board of Directors Meeting Announcement

Noon - 3pm Tuesday, November 14 | Omni Homestead | Bath County



VACo is excited to announce the upcoming Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) Board of Directors meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, following the VACo Annual Business Meeting. The board meeting will be held at the Omni Homestead in Bath County.

About the Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA)

Established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2021, the OAA serves as an independent entity dedicated to abating and remediating the opioid epidemic in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through financial support from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund, which comprises grants, donations, and other forms of assistance, the OAA is committed to combating opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids through various initiatives. The Authority's primary mission is to foster partnerships among Virginia's cities and counties, state agencies, and service providers. These collaborations aim to provide comprehensive support to individuals suffering from opioid use disorders and co-occurring substance use and mental illness.

Important Information for Cities and Counties

The Authority understands the critical role that cities and counties play in addressing the opioid epidemic within respective communities. Therefore, the Authority invites all cities and counties to participate in their grant programs, which include:

- **Individual Distribution Grants:** Designed to support localized initiatives addressing opioid-related issues.
- **"Gold Standard" Incentive Grants:** Recognizing outstanding efforts in combating the opioid crisis.
- **Cooperative Partnerships Grants:** Encouraging collaboration among various stakeholders to maximize the impact of opioid abatement efforts.

Detailed information regarding these grants and the application process can be found on the OAA's Grants Portal ([Opioid Abatement Authority \(virginia.gov\)](https://www.virginia.gov/opioid-abatement-authority)) and accessible through our website at www.vaco.org. We encourage all eligible entities to apply for, amend, or renew their grant applications to further the OAA's mission and create a safer, healthier future for all Virginians.

Again, Join Us at the Board of Directors Meeting

Your presence and input are invaluable as we work together to combat the opioid epidemic. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for this important gathering. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those affected by opioid use disorder and contribute to a healthier and more resilient Virginia.

2023 Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments Now Available



The Commission on Local Government has officially approved and published the much-anticipated 2023 edition of the Catalog of State and Federal Mandates on Local Governments. This resource is a result of collaborative efforts among various agencies.

The Commission's approval of the 2023 version took place on September 8, 2023, in accordance with the Code of Virginia, §15.2-2903(7), which mandates the Commission to prepare and regularly update this comprehensive catalog.

The catalog is readily accessible online, and you can explore it by visiting the following link: <https://dmz1.dhcd.virginia.gov/MandatesSearch/MandatesSearch.aspx>

The Commission values local government input and encourages you to share your comments, suggestions, and questions with the dedicated staff of the Commission on Local Government. Your feedback is crucial in ensuring that this resource remains relevant and useful for all stakeholders.

Should you have any questions or require further information about this document or any related matters, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Commission or VACo.

PRESS RELEASE



Howard Kartel Joins VIP Board of Trustee; de la Pava, Longnaker, and Powers Re-elected

RICHMOND (September 27, 2023)— The Annual Meeting of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool (VIP) elected Howard A. Kartel, CPA, Town of Culpeper, to its Board of Trustees and returned incumbent members Carla de la Pava, Arlington County; Rebecca Longnaker, Chesterfield County; and Evelyn Powers, City of Roanoke with new three-year terms.

VIP manages assets of participants in two funds, the Stable NAV Liquidity Pool and the 1-3 Year High Quality Bond Fund. Founded in 2013, the Trust holds \$2.65 Billion in assets as of June 30, 2023. The Board of Trustees, comprised of officials who are elected by participating political subdivisions, establishes policies and oversees the VIP governmental trust.

The VIP participants elected the following:

Carla de la Pava, Treasurer of Arlington County. First elected to office in November 2014, she serves the County's 250,000 residents. The County of Arlington's tax delinquency rate stands at an all-time low of 0.157%, recognized as the best in Virginia. Carla was the President of the Treasurers' Association of Virginia (TAV) for 2019 and 2020 and is a member of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and the Virginia GFOA. She has served on the VIP Board of Trustees since 2015.

Howard A. Kartel, CPA, MBA, Director of Finance and Treasurer, Town of Culpeper. Howard graduated from Bentley University with a degree in accounting and earned an MBA from Dowling College. Howard is a TAV member, achieving the MGT designation in 2019. Howard oversees a portfolio of \$50 million, and has implemented a long-term financial plan that includes a Strategic Reserves Policy. Previously, Howard was the Accounting Manager for PWC Service Authority, a position he held for ten years.

Rebecca Longnaker, CPA, Treasurer of Chesterfield County. Serving as Treasurer since 2020, Rebecca is responsible for handling the banking and investments for the County and School Division and, in a fiscal agent capacity, for the Greater Richmond Convention Center (GRCCA) and Central Virginia Transportation Authority (CTVA). In addition to utilizing VIP for managing a major portion of County funds, Rebecca has created VIP portfolios for GRCCA and CVTA, providing an increasing revenue stream to the agencies.

Evelyn Powers, Treasurer for the City of Roanoke. Evelyn was the driving force to get her office to meet accreditation standards for the first time in 2008. She has served in many board positions and is a Past President of the Treasurers' Association of Virginia. She was a founding member of the VACo/VML Virginia Investment Pool Trust Fund and currently serves as Vice-Chairman, a position she has held since 2013.

VML/VACo Finance is the financial services arm of the Virginia Association of Counties and Virginia Municipal League.

For more information:

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rlauterberg@valocalfinance.org

VML/VACo Finance
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Richmond, Va. 23219
www.valocalfinance.org



PRESS RELEASE

VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust Announces New Board Members

RICHMOND (September 27, 2023) – At the Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Meeting of Participants, the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust elected four finance officers to its Board of Trustees, including two first-time members. Joining the Board of Trustees for the first time are Steven Owen of the Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority; and Sharon Willoughby of Loudoun County Public Schools. They join incumbent members Sheila Minor of Henrico County; and Jeffery Weiler of Fairfax County Retirement Systems, who was also reelected as Chairman.

The VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust manages assets invested by political subdivisions to fund retiree health insurance and other post-employment benefits (“OPEB”). Local governments that invest in the Pooled OPEB Trust have reduced the long-term cost of providing benefits by as much as 47 percent, the portion of the current market value of the Trust generated by investment returns. Established in 2008, the Trust manages \$1.7 billion in assets as of June 30, 2023.

Congratulations to the following newly elected members of the Board of Trustees:

Sheila Minor, CPA, has served as the Director of Finance for Henrico County since December 2020. Her 24-year local government career includes serving as the Director of Finance for the City of Colonial Heights and Prince George County. Sheila worked with numerous localities and school divisions as an independent local government financial consultant from 2011-2017. She holds a B.S. degree in Business Management and an M.P.A. from Virginia Tech.

Steven Owen, CPA, joined Richmond Metropolitan Transportation Authority in February 2023. He previously served as the Director of Finance for the Capital Region Airport Commission for 24 years. Steven oversees all planning, organizing, and directing of finance related activities. Steven earned a B.S. degree from Elmira College and an A.A.S degree in Accounting from Middlesex County College.

Jeffery Weiler is the Executive Director of Fairfax County Retirement Systems and oversees three local pension funds: the Employees, Police, and Uniformed Retirement Systems. These systems have a combined \$7.4 billion in assets in service to and support of 18,000 active employees and 9,500 retirees. Mr. Weiler has served as the Chairman for the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust since 2017.

Sharon Willoughby has spent 25 years in local government. She has worked for Loudoun County Public Schools since 2015 and became Chief Financial Officer in 2018. She holds an MBA from Webster University and a bachelor’s degree from Northern Arizona University.

VML/VACo Finance is the administrator of the VACo/VML Pooled OPEB Trust.

For more information:

Robert Lauterberg, Managing Director
rlauterberg@valocalfinance.org
Phone: 804-648-0635

VML/VACo Finance
8 E Canal Street
Richmond, VA 23219



The Most Ever

Remember the adage “Make hay while the sun shines, so you have it to survive on during the rainy days.” Cash shouldn’t be considered one of your priorities, but rather your #1 priority.

Today, most public entities are holding the greatest amount of cash they ever had. A stronger- than-expected economy, internet sales tax, unprecedented federal dollars, and coupled with greater fund balances, have put public entities in their strongest position ever with their cash balances.

As a result, generating cash is not necessarily a top priority for public finance officials. Personally, as a public treasurer myself, I’ve heard those very comments all too often. The main priorities that make their top list right now are public safety, education, job retention, hiring skilled personnel, migrant management, housing...the list goes on. At this point, cash is likely at the bottom of the list.

With such a list of priorities, the top concern for public finance officials is how to manage them all.

A first step in planning is to budget and fund the programs. That’s where we come back to cash as the priority. We’ve all heard the phrase “cash makes cash.” In today’s interest-rate environment, the value of cash is at least 5.5%, which can make all the difference between funding a program or not. And, once you do, how you can keep the program financially viable going forward.

Today may be sunny days for cash. But remember the adage “Make hay while the sun shines, so you have it to survive on during the rainy days.” Cash shouldn’t be considered one of your priorities, but rather your #1 priority.



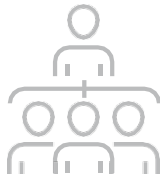
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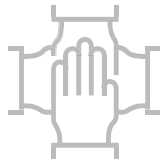
LEAD:

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



ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



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DELIVER:

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SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

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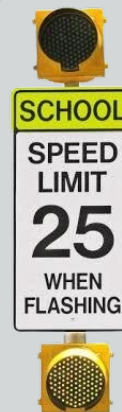


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The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. **The cost is \$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](#).

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Apex, NC | Posted November 3

[DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS-OPERATIONS](#) | City of Staunton | Posted November 2

[SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER \(ENV. ENG.\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 2

[SENIOR ENGINEER \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted November 2

[ENGINEERING/ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER](#) | Fauquier County | Posted November 2

[CHIEF DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY](#) | City of Charlottesville | Posted November 2

[TRAFFIC ENGINEER I](#) | City of Chesapeake | Posted November 1

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Fauquier County | Posted November 1
[ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Morrisville NC | Posted October 31

[SENIOR CLINICIAN/QMHP SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[VAN DRIVER \(CHESTER HOUSE\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[STAFF AUDITOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[CUSTODIAN PART TIME](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[LIBRARIAN - COLLECTION MANAGEMENT SELECTOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 31

[CUSTODIAN I/II](#) | James City County | Posted October 30

[CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR](#) | James City County | Posted October 30

[CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE \(WILLIAMSBURG AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY\)](#) | James City County | Posted October 30

[INSTRUCTOR I, II, III \(SWIM LESSONS\)](#) | James City County | Posted October 30

[INSTRUCTOR II OR III \(LIFEGUARD/CPR TRAINER\)](#) | James City County | Posted October 30

[SENIOR QUALITY HOUSING OFFICER](#) | Virginia Housing | Posted October 30

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted October 30

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Louisa County | Posted October 27

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Carrboro, NC | Posted October 26

[ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARK & COUNTY WIDE RECREATION](#) | Grayson County | Posted October 26

[DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY](#) | Roanoke County | Posted October 25

[CUSTODIAN \(FULL TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE/FULL-TIME \(HUNTERS CHASE\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE/PART-TIME \(HUNTERS CHASE\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE -ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT \(PART-TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[SENIOR AUDITOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(JOB COACH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted October 24

[REGIONAL PLANNER I, II, III](#) | Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission | Posted October 24

[COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Mecklenburg County | Posted October 24

[SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM SPECIALIST](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted October 24

[REGIONAL PLANNER I,II,III](#) | Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission | Posted October 24

[WASTEWATER COLLECTION UTILITY WORKER I/II/III/IV](#) | James City Service Authority | Posted October 23

[WATERWORKS OPERATOR \(I, II, III, IV, V\)](#) | James City Service Authority | Posted October 23

[WATER DISTRIBUTION UTILITY WORKER I/II/III/IV](#) | James City Service Authority | Posted October 23

[WASTEWATER COLLECTION CREW LEADER](#) | James City Service Authority | Posted October 23

[MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST I/II/III/IV](#) | James City Service Authority | Posted October 23

[INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN,
INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL
SPECIALIST I/II/III/IV](#) | James City
Service Authority | Posted October 23

[ENGINEER I/II/III \(WASTEWATER/
WATER\)](#) | James City Service
Authority | Posted October 23

[ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER](#) |
Montgomery County | Posted October
23

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) |
Spotsylvania County | Posted October
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[PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
SPECIALIST](#) | James City County
| Posted October 23

[PRETRIAL/PROBATION OFFICER I/
II](#) | James City County | Posted October
23

[PARK ATTENDANT – MARINA \(PART
TIME\)](#) | James City County | Posted
October 23

[CAPITAL PROJECTS INSPECTOR I/
II/III](#) | James City County | Posted
October 23

[SECURITY MONITOR ON CALL](#) | James
City County | Posted October 23

[SECURITY MONITOR PART TIME](#) |
James City County | Posted October 23

[SECURITY MONITOR FULL TIME](#) |
James City County | Posted October 23

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) |
Culpeper County | Posted October 23

[PLANNER II](#) | Roanoke County
| Posted October 20

[FINANCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST
II – PAYROLL/BENEFITS/AP/
ACCOUNTING](#) | Campbell County
| Posted October 20

[BUILDING MAINTENANCE
MECHANIC](#) | Prince George County
| Posted October 19

[PERMIT TECHNICIAN II](#) | Loudoun
County | Posted October 19

[PERMIT TECHNICIAN I –
TEMPORARY](#) | Loudoun County
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[HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR](#) |
Caswell County NC | Posted October 19

[COUNTY MANAGER](#) | Caswell County
NC | Posted October 19

[COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Louisa County
| Posted October 19

[FINANCE DIRECTOR](#) | Central
Shenandoah Planning District
Commission | Posted October 18

[ASSISTANT DIRECTOR HUMAN
RESOURCES](#) | Albemarle County
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[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(HUNTER'S
CHASE SUPPORTED LIVING\)](#) |
Chesterfield County | Posted October
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[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(PAMPAS GROUP
HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted
October 17

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(PRESTONWOOD
GROUP HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County
| Posted October 17

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(IN-HOME
SUPPORT/PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield
County | Posted October 17

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(PT\)](#) |
Chesterfield County | Posted October
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[VAN DRIVER](#) | Chesterfield County
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MANAGEMENT SERVICES](#) | Campbell
County | Posted October 17

[UTILITY TV TECHNICIAN](#) |
Chesterfield County | Posted October
17

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) |
Spotsylvania County | Posted October
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[WATER TREATMENT PLANT
OPERATOR](#) | Greene County | Posted
October 12

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ADMINISTRATION](#) | City of
Charlottesville | Posted October 12

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II \(RESIDENTIAL COMBINATION
INSPECTOR \)](#) | City of Alexandria
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[FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS CODE
INSPECTOR \(I, II, OR III\)](#) | City of
Alexandria | Posted October 12

[PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE
INSPECTOR \(I, II, OR III\)](#) | City of
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Maryland-National Capital Park
& Planning Commission | Posted
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[UTILITY WORKER](#) | Prince George
County | Posted October 12

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County | Posted October 11

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Spotsylvania County | Posted October
11

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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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