

Revised Budget Bills Head to the Governor after Approval by Legislature



The General Assembly approved revisions to the introduced budget bills prior to adjourning on Saturday, March 9. Conference committee members had agreed on a package of compromise amendments to HB 29, the “caboose” budget making appropriations for the remainder of FY 2024, and HB 30, the budget for the upcoming biennium, and released the text of these amendments on Thursday evening, in compliance with House rules requiring budget conference reports to be available for 48 hours prior to a floor vote. The conference report for HB 29 was approved in the House by a vote of 62-37, and in the Senate by a vote of 36-4. The floor vote for the conference report for HB 30 was the same in the House (62-37), but reflected a narrower margin in the Senate, passing by a vote of 24-14.

The Governor’s deadline for action on the budget bills and any other legislation that was sent to him after March 1 is midnight on April 8. The General Assembly will consider gubernatorial vetoes and amendments at the reconvened session on April 17. The Governor has signaled that he will be seeking substantial changes to the budget over concerns about the budget’s tax policy actions (specifically, the imposition of sales and use taxes on certain digital goods and services, including on certain transactions between businesses) and omission of provisions regarding the proposed sports arena in Alexandria.

Below is an outline of major areas of importance to local governments included in the conference report. A summary of the highlights of the budget prepared by money committee staff may be found at [this link](#). In addition, a memorandum from the Executive Secretary of the State Compensation Board may be found [at this link](#). Spreadsheets providing estimates for K-12 distributions to school divisions may be found at [this link](#).

K-12 Education: Restoration of Hold-Harmless for Elimination of State Portion of Grocery Tax

- When the state portion of the sales and use tax on groceries was eliminated in 2022, statutory language required funding to be provided to compensate school divisions for the lost revenue associated with the elimination of the portion of the grocery tax that was distributed to school divisions based on school-age population. The Governor's introduced budget failed to include this funding; restoring the funding was VACo's top budget priority. The conference report includes \$243 million over the biennium to restore the hold-harmless payments. ([Item 125 #10c](#))

K-12 Education: Support Cap

- Does not include full elimination of the support cap; retains current staffing standard of 24 support positions per 1,000 ADM, as funded in the budget approved in September 2023 (Chapter 1).

K-12 Education: Teacher Retirement

- Includes \$150 million from the General Fund (GF) in FY 2026 to reverse the proposed use of Literary Fund dollars for teacher retirement contributions in the introduced budget. ([Item 125 #13c](#))
- Eliminates the introduced budget's proposed FY 2025 deposit of \$350 million (\$115 million GF and \$235 million from the Literary Fund) to the VRS teacher retirement fund. ([Item 125 #17c](#))

K-12 Education: School Capital

- Authorizes the Department of Education to offer up to \$250 million in school construction loans from the Literary Fund over the biennium. ([Item 125 #5c](#))
- Maintains introduced budget's appropriation of \$80 million per year to the School Construction Assistance Program from casino gaming proceeds.

K-12 Education: At-Risk Add-On

- Provides \$186.7 million in FY 2025 and \$184.6 million in FY 2026 to consolidate the SOQ Prevention, Intervention, and Remediation and At-Risk Add-On programs into one At-Risk Add-On program; use federal Identified Student Percentage rates rather than federal free-lunch rates to estimate the number of At-Risk students (with a multiplier of 1.25, plus one-quarter of English learner students); distribute an 11 percent basic aid add-on per estimated at-risk student; and provide an add-on percentage ranging from 0 to 37 percent, depending on each school division's relative concentration of at-risk students. This amendment is derived from JLARC's K-12 funding study. ([Item 125 #2c](#))

K-12 Education: English Learners

- Provides \$37.9 million in FY 2025 and \$34.2 million in FY 2026 for the state's share of additional English Learner teachers, based on student proficiency. Language allows for staffing in the first year to equate to the number of teachers required during the 2023-2024 school year, plus one-half of the additional positions that would otherwise be required. ([Item 125 #3c](#))

K-12 Education: School-Based Mental Health

- Eliminates the \$7.2 million proposed in the introduced budget for the Department of Education

to contract with a telehealth provider for mental health care services for students in grades 6-12; includes language directing the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a statewide contract with one or more telehealth providers to provide mental health care to public school students and authorizing school divisions to purchase services from this contract. Also eliminates proposed funding (\$200,000 per year) for a new Chief School Mental Health Officer position.

(Item 117 #1c, Item 123 #1c)

- Directs the Department of Education to work with DBHDS and the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) on a plan for a new program to deliver flexible mental health funding to school divisions. This amendment is a recommendation from the Behavioral Health Commission's study of school-based mental health services. **(Item 117 #2c)**
- Specifies that the \$15 million per year in the introduced budget for technical assistance to school divisions for the implementation and expansion of school-based mental health services is to be used to provide grants to contract with federally qualified health centers or other health care organizations to establish school-based health clinics to provide mental health services and primary medical care to students and their families, as well as school staff. **(Item 295 #10c)**

K-12: Additional Items

- Retains amounts for rebenchmarking and technical updates from the introduced budget; incorporates several smaller additional technical updates that total a reduction of \$1.9 million per year. Rebenchmarking costs total \$969 million over the biennium.
- Reflects an additional \$23.7 million in FY 2025 and \$59.2 million in FY 2026 (on top of the \$23.9 million in FY 2025 and \$61.8 million in FY 2026 in the introduced budget) for the net revenue impact for K-12 of the expansion of the sales tax base to certain digital products and services, as proposed in the introduced budget and expanded further in the conference report to apply to certain business-to-business transactions. **(Item 125 #9c)**
- Recognizes an additional \$25 million in Lottery proceeds in FY 2025 (replacing a like amount of General Funds). **(Item 125 #22c)**
- Retains the \$30 million in FY 2025 and \$30.1 million in FY 2026 included in the introduced budget for the state share of reading specialist positions in accordance with legislation passed in 2023. Provides an additional \$5.7 million in FY 2025 and \$3.7 million in FY 2026 in net increases for literacy screening, coaching, technical assistance, and professional development. **(Item 117 #6c)**
- Provides \$100,000 in FY 2025 to the Commission on Youth for a review of the state's special education dispute resolution system. **(Item 22 #1c)**
- Eliminates proposed \$30 million per year for the College Partnership Lab Schools Fund and reinserts language defining a college partnership laboratory school as a public four-year institution; language in the caboose transfers \$85 million in unobligated balances from the College Partnership Lab Schools Fund to the General Fund. **(Item 125 #18c, Item 3-1.01 #4c in the caboose)**
- Eliminates the \$20 million per year proposed in the introduced budget for the new Diploma Plus program, which would provide grants to high school students to support attainment of high-demand industry-recognized credentials. **(Item 125 #16c)**
- Eliminates \$1.7 million in FY 2025 and \$1.6 million in FY 2026 proposed in the introduced budget to eliminate the cap on supplemental basic aid payments. **(Item 125 #1c)**
- Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to enter into a statewide contract for

assistance to school divisions with outreach and support for disengaged, chronically absent, or struggling students. ([Item 117 #7c](#))

- Provides \$2.2 million per year for regional special education family support centers, professional development, and special education coaching. ([Item 118 #1c](#))
- Restores \$1.9 million per year that was proposed to be eliminated in the introduced budget for the Office of School Quality. ([Item 120 #1c](#))
- Provides \$300,000 per year to support the Joint Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education Funding. ([Item 123 #3c](#))
- Provides an additional \$950,000 per year, in addition to the \$800,000 per year in the introduced budget, for supplemental support for Accomack and Northampton County school divisions for teacher recruitment and retention efforts. ([Item 125 #19c](#))

Compensation: K-12 Instructional and Support Positions

- The Governor had proposed the state's share of a 1 percent bonus payment, effective July 1, 2024, and the state's share of a 2 percent salary increase, effective July 1, 2025. The conference report instead provides for the state's share of a 3 percent salary increase in each year for SOQ-recognized instructional and support positions, effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025. A local match is required. The state's share will be pro-rated for divisions providing less than an average 3 percent increase, but in order to draw down the state funds, school divisions must provide at least an average 1.5 percent increase in the first year, and at least an additional average 1.5 percent increase in the second year. School divisions providing an average increase of more than 3 percent in the first year can credit the excess portion of the increase toward the second year. ([Item 125 #11c](#), [Item 125 #15c](#))
- Eliminates language in the introduced budget that directed the Secretary of Education to convene a stakeholder workgroup to make recommendations on the implementation of a teacher compensation model based on the Competitive Teacher Pay Report from 2023. ([Item 116 #2c](#))

Compensation: State and State-Supported Local Employees

- The Governor had proposed a 1 percent bonus payment on December 1, 2024, a 1 percent salary increase on July 1, 2025, and another 1 percent bonus payment on December 1, 2025. The conference report instead provides for a 3 percent salary increase in each year of the biennium, effective July 1, 2024, and July 1, 2025. ([Item 469 #2c](#))
- Includes language providing for a one-time bonus payment of 1.375 percent on December 1, 2025, for state and state-supported local employees, if the legislation increasing the minimum wage does not take effect. (If the legislation does take effect, this amendment provides funding for the Compensation Board to address impacts of the minimum wage increase on Constitutional offices, as well as funding for rate increases for certain Medicaid providers.) ([Item 469 #6c](#))

Judiciary/Public Safety: Compensation for Court-Appointed Counsel

- Provides \$6.5 million in FY 2025 and \$13 million in FY 2026 to increase compensation for court-appointed counsel in accordance with legislation passed in 2024 ([HB 102 \(Reaser\)](#) and [SB 356 \(Perry\)](#)) ([Item 33 #3c](#))

Judiciary/Public Safety: Aid to Localities with Police Departments ("HB 599")

- Provides an increase of \$10 million per year for the HB 599 program. ([Item 396 #1c](#))



Visit Louisa County and the Louisa County Historic Courthouse

Location: 100 West Main Street / Elm Street

Built: 1905 – 1906

Style: Classical Revival

Architect: D Whiley Anderson

Contractor: Samuel Ragland

Description: The building faces northeast and is a two story red colored brick, stone and concrete structure. The building is located on the landscaped grounds of the Courthouse Square. The north front has a large portico with four tall Ionic columns rising to a pediment at the roof line. There is a small balcony on the second story. On the center of the roof is a large octagonal drum with black colored dome and lantern at the top. In the interior, there is five foot high matchboard paneling and plaster walls above. Plain cornices run along the join with the ceiling. Closed-string stairways with large square oak newel posts decorated in the egg-and-dart motif, ascend to the second story. The large courtroom is located under the dome, which is decorated with a simple cornice and lighted by softly tinted windows. The building houses the County Circuit Court of the 16th Judicial Circuit. The building was renovated and an addition constructed in 2000. On the southeast side of the building is the old two story County Jail (1868), on the northwest side is the one story Crank Building (1830) and on the north side is the R Earl Ogg Memorial Building (1917) which formerly housed the County General District Court and was designed by Eugene Bradbury as the First National Bank of Louisa. To the south at 314 West Main Street is the General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court housed in the Cunningham Building.

SOURCE: courthouses.co

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Plan Sponsor Webinar
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March 27, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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VACo Immediate Past President and Lancaster County Vice Chairman Jason Bellows Featured in County News' Profiles in Service

26 MARCH 11, 2024

PROFILES IN SERVICE

JASON BELLOWS

NACo Board member
County Supervisor,
vice chairman
Lancaster County, Va.

Number of years active in NACo: Three

Years in public service: 12

Occupation: Self employed

Education: BS Biology/Chemistry from Radford University; MS Educational Leadership from Old Dominion University

The hardest thing I've ever done: Losing my Mom.

A dream I have is to: Travel around the world.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: Have advanced PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) scuba certification.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: Sail from the Turks and Caicos to Virginia on a 23-foot sailboat.

My favorite way to relax is: Go to the beach.

I'm most proud of: Stopping Dominion Energy from constructing huge transmission towers across the Rappahannock River.



BELLOWS

Every morning I read: Daily headlines and local news.

My favorite meal is: Pizza

My pet peeve is: People wasting my time.

My motto is: Tomorrow is not promised!

The last book I read was: "Colonel Roosevelt" by Edmund Morris

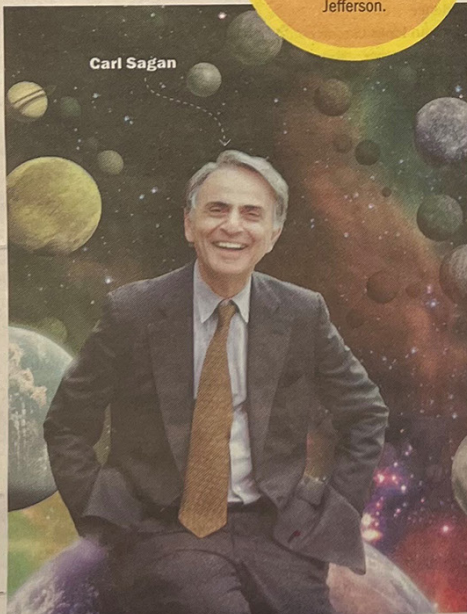
My favorite movie is: "Some Like It Hot"

My favorite music is: Phish

My favorite U.S. president is: Thomas Jefferson

My county is a NACo member because: NACo provides us a network and resources that help our county be a better place to live, work and play!

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:
Carl Sagan, Mark Twain and Thomas Jefferson.



Carl Sagan

NASA/JPL/Cosmos Studies

WORD SEARCH

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, Ore.

Created by Mary Ann Barton

J I R E U E E L J G A J W O Y Q P A U E
P Y F L N G X L X N N B L C J R O O P C
N O Q M S I D S S H S Y T K H Y R F N B
A S X U F O O T Z K O F C A N S L U I K
R O B V L N U N O Y T F O S D E A W E I
O K K V A A W R H H Z V V M I S N W R E
H X I C J R T A T P A G Z U Y O D Q S R
R N L C N G M I P H O H Y G G R Y H A Z
Y O I K H O O F O E O H R E U B B I O F
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Z M F N D E E X F K P M Z G C U I O H
L Z G V F Z H J M S B L F K A U K K O P

COURTHOUSE: The county's historic courthouse built in 1909 was sold in 2020 after commissioners decided it would need a costly renovation. A newly built courthouse opened in October 2020.

FALLS: More than two million people each year visit Multnomah Falls, a 620-foot waterfall, the tallest in the state.

GEOGRAPHY: The county is the smallest geographically in the state, at 466 square miles.

HISTORY: The county was created Dec. 22, 1854 from Clackamas and Washington counties. Multnomah County commissioners met for the first time Jan. 17, 1855.

HOTLINE: The Multnomah County Good Government Hotline gives county employees and the public a confidential way to report fraud, waste, inefficiency, abuse of position and misuse of county resources.

IDEAS: The Multnomah County Idea Lab is housed within the county

department of Human Services. It is a place to test new policies and innovations.

MULTNOMAH: The county was named for the Multnomah Indians who were part of the Chinookan tribe living on Sauvie Island in the Columbia River.

NEWSPAPER: The Oregonian was founded in 1850, the oldest continuously published newspaper on the West Coast. The largest newspaper in the state, it publishes a print newspaper four times per week and publishes daily online news coverage.

POPULATION: The county population as of 2020, is 815,428, the largest of any county in Oregon.

PORTLAND: The county seat, Portland, was made the county in 1854.

RAILWAY: The Oregon Electric Railway built a train station called Multnomah where John's Marketplace is located today.

RESTAURANT: The oldest restaurant in the county is Huber's Café, which opened in 1879 and is still going strong.

RIVER: The county is located along the south side of the Columbia River.

ROSES: The county is home to the Portland Rose Festival and the International Rose Test Garden, home to more than 10,000 rose bushes of 650 varieties.

VOLCANOES: The county is home to extinct volcanoes in the Boring Lava Field.

Investing in mitigation

From **DISASTERS** page 10

focus instead on mitigation instead of recovery after disaster strikes, said Ashleigh Holland, director of the NACo Counties Futures Lab.

Using AI, FEMA is working with the Department of Agriculture to make disaster resiliency grants easier for local and state officials to navigate. By plugging in "I want to do XYZ in my community, what are the things I need to leverage?" counties will be provided with a list of opportunities, according to Victoria Salinas, acting deputy administrator for FEMA Resilience.

Federal hazard mitigation organizations are also increasing coordination so that they can move projects from one funding stream to another to maximize efficiency and the impact

of their dollars, Salinas said.

She cited a Utah project involving seismic retrofit for water pipelines. FEMA ended up funding the project, but it could have also been supported through the Environmental Protection Agency, which devoted billions of dollars in grant funding for water infrastructure. "It wasn't the best use of competitive grant dollars to actually fund something that was eligible under another program," she noted.

"There's not enough federal public dollars available for the amount of adaptation and risk reduction that we urgently need to get done," Salinas said. "So, it's not a federal solution, it's a partnership solution."

To stretch their dollars, county officials need to build disaster resilience into other programming — addressing it separately is limiting, said Dave Bowman, deputy director, Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

"If you're building a road and a bridge, and you're getting highway money or you're getting FEMA [public assistance], you've got to be thinking about resilience at the same time," Bowman said. "Those need to be infused and added on to every program, rather than trying to create separate funding streams."

Numerous disasters have hit Jefferson Parish, La. in recent years, including tropical storms, tornadoes, saltwater intrusion and record heat. "The tragedies just kept building upon itself," said Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng, who runs emergency management.

Handling back-to-back disasters has highlighted how essential it is to invest in mitigation, Lee Sheng said, and a "critical" element of that is creating pre-placed emergency contracts.

"OK, you did the rescue,

See **DISASTERS** page 27

Vincent Jones is the New Deputy Loudoun County Administrator

Vincent Jones has been appointed as a Deputy Loudoun County Administrator effective March 14, 2024, Loudoun County Administrator Tim Hemstreet announced today. Jones, who was selected for the position after a nationwide search, comes to Loudoun from Warren County, North Carolina, where he served as county manager.

“Vincent has extensive experience in all levels of government, in communities large and small, at the state and local levels, and has demonstrated great leadership throughout his public service career,” said Hemstreet. “I’m confident Vincent’s experiences and proficiency in local government will serve Loudoun well.”

Prior to his appointment as Warren County’s manager in 2018, Jones served as a deputy city manager in Portsmouth, Virginia and deputy council chief of staff for the Richmond, Virginia city council. His experience also includes senior positions with Seat Pleasant and Hyattsville, Maryland; Evanston, Illinois; the State of Maryland; and Orlando, Florida.

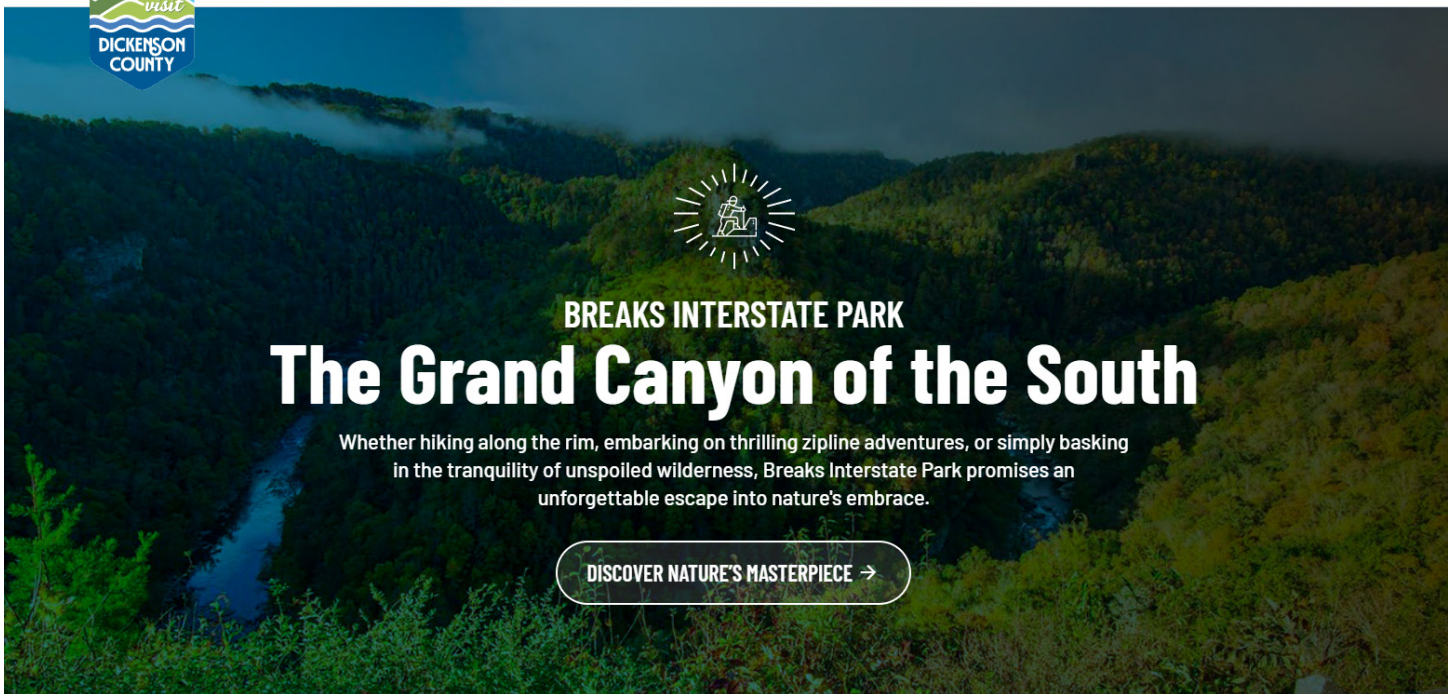
In his new position in Loudoun, Jones will join the other members of the Office of the County Administrator in directing and supervising the day-to-day operations of Loudoun County departments and agencies that are under the direct control of the Board of Supervisors. Jones’ responsibilities will include overseeing the Departments of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; General Services; and Transportation and Capital Infrastructure. He also will serve as a liaison to the Loudoun County Public Library.

Jones has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from William & Mary and a master’s in public administration from Florida State University.

Jones is also an active member of the International City/County Management Association and has earned the prestigious Credentialed Manager designation. To receive the credential, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, meet educational requirements and demonstrate a commitment to high standards of the profession and to lifelong learning and professional development.

The [Office of the County Administrator](#) is the highest-level management office of the Loudoun County government and also serves as the Board of Supervisors’ official liaison to the constitutional officers, the judiciary, and state and regional agencies.



PLACES
TO STAYPLACES
TO EATTHINGS
TO DOAGRICULTURAL
EXPERIENCEEVENTS
CALENDARLOCAL
RESOURCES

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DISCOVER NATURE'S MASTERPIECE →

Exciting News! Dickenson County is thrilled to announce the launch of a brand new “visit” website!

Explore www.visitdickensoncounty.com, your ultimate guide to discovering the hidden gems, breathtaking landscapes, and inviting culture of Dickenson County!

What can you expect? Here's a sneak peek:

- Insider tips on must-visit destinations in Dickenson County
- A listing of places to stay, places to eat, things to do, local resources, and local events!
- An events calendar that allows the community to submit events to be added

The Visit Dickenson County app will launch soon! In the app, residents and visitors alike can plan their trip and create a “plan” for the things they would like to do and visit in the County.

Don't forget to follow us for exciting updates as we continue to build the list of resources and businesses, create blog content to share the unique history & culture, and work on adding additional pages to provide additional resources to visitors and those interested in relocating or doing business in Dickenson County!

Let's make unforgettable memories together!

#visitdickensoncounty in #swva!



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Henrico CARES signals ‘call to action’ to strengthen youth mental health services

With children and teenagers struggling more than ever with depression, sadness and hopelessness, Henrico County and Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) are implementing a plan to strengthen access to high-quality mental health services by making them more available in schools and expanding efforts focused on prevention, support, and early and intensive intervention.

The Henrico CARES plan will create an enhanced system of mental health care for youth and their families that includes school-based, private and public providers and adapts as a person’s needs evolve. In the name, CARES stands for Coordination; Access to prevention and Responsive Early and intensive interventions; Systems navigation.

Youth mental health is a growing concern both nationally and locally. HCPS has seen a 42% increase in suicide-risk screenings completed by its school-based mental health providers in the past three years.

“Henrico CARES is our call to action,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Tyrone E. Nelson, of the Varina District. “We recognized a need to modernize and strengthen our youth mental health services once the Henrico Youth Violence Prevention Committee started its work in late 2021. An issue this complex and important requires buy-in from all stakeholders, and we’ve got it. The Board of Supervisors and county administration are especially grateful for the close partnership of the School Board and Superintendent Amy Cashwell’s team. By working together and with community providers, faith leaders and others, we can ensure that our young people and their families will have the mental health support they need.”

“In the face of the deepening mental health struggles gripping our youth, urgent action is imperative,” said School Board Chair Alicia Atkins, of the Varina District. “This coordinated, collaborative effort amplifies our abilities to assist and empower families in accessing services, navigating care systems and paving the way for healthy and resilient futures for our children. A partnership of this magnitude, bringing together all school-based mental health and county mental health experts and with the resources of countless private care providers and community support systems, transcends anything witnessed in Virginia thus far and underscores Henrico County’s commitment to innovation and compassionate service to families.”

Henrico CARES was developed over the past seven months by a steering committee that includes representatives of Henrico Area Mental Health & Developmental Services (MHDS); HCPS; community and private mental health care providers; psychiatric, pediatric and primary care providers; higher education; and families with experience navigating the youth mental health care system.

The plan is recommended to be implemented in phases and fully funded after five years. Henrico’s costs would start at \$1.8 million in fiscal year 2024-25 and would increase incrementally to \$5 million in fiscal year 2028-29. The county’s investment would total \$17.8 million during that period.

Among its recommendations, Henrico CARES would include:

- A partnership with community and private mental health care providers to offer mental health care and services at schools;
- An increase of HCPS school-based mental health providers;
- No-cost, short-term mental health teletherapy that middle and high school students can access at home or school;
- Increased clinical staffing to expand access to parent-child interaction therapy;

[More on Next Page](#)

- Support for qualifying HCPS staff to work toward licensure as professional counselors or clinical social workers;
- Increased early and intensive interventions for mental health, substance use and youth violence;
- Expanded curriculum and training to strengthen mental health literacy among students, staff, parents and caregivers;
- A screening program for early identification of students who may need additional social, emotional and mental health care support;
- Enhanced coordination and information-sharing among school-based staff and private or community providers;
- A virtual mental health care coordination service that offers a federal- and state-compliant referral system; 24/7 access to a live, multilingual care coordinator and a self-service tool to find verified providers; and
- No-cost treatment and support for students who are without an existing mental health care provider and have been discharged from an inpatient or residential treatment program.

Henrico CARES complements other local efforts to support the health, safety and well-being of youth. Henrico and HCPS established a grant-supported pilot program that placed a clinician and a family support partner on one school campus to provide intensive mental health interventions and support to students in collaboration with school-based providers. For all grades and schools, HCPS also is purchasing curricula that focuses on reducing substance use and violence and increasing youth mental health literacy. The county partnered with St. Joseph's Villa and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to open the first Crisis Receiving Center for youth in central Virginia. Henrico also collaborated with regional partners to hold the second-annual [Teen Summit RVA](#), which was designed to inspire, uplift and celebrate youth through the power of self-affirmation.

In 2021, the American Academy of Pediatrics declared a National State of Emergency in Children's Mental Health, and the U.S. Surgeon General issued an advisory on the Youth Mental Health Crisis. Virginia ranks 48th in the nation in access to youth mental health care, according to the nonprofit Mental Health America. In addition, 38.2% of the state's youth reported having felt sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks, while 20.5% had seriously considered attempting suicide within the past year and 16.4% had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, according to the [2021 Virginia Youth Survey](#).

So far in 2024, MHDS is seeing a 30% increase in youth requesting same-day access to services, with 20% younger than age 10, 7% considered at an elevated risk of suicide and 26% acknowledging substance use.

"Sadly, the national mental health crisis that surged during the COVID-19 pandemic has not waned. It is robbing our youth of their happiness and stunting their potential," said Daniel Rigsby, assistant director for clinical services for MHDS. "To create a community in which everyone can thrive, we must deliver a comprehensive system of care that puts information and services where they are desperately needed, empowers families and eliminates the stigma of asking for help."

"Henrico CARES addresses key barriers that limit access to timely mental health care services by reaching our young people where they are," said Liz Parker, HCPS director of Student Support and Wellness. "It also works to simplify what can often be a complex and overwhelming system for families, schools and providers to navigate. By strengthening our youth mental health care system, we also can reduce unwanted outcomes that are often associated with unaddressed social, emotional and mental health needs of school-aged youth. These include chronic absenteeism, learning disruptions, behavioral challenges that result in disciplinary action, lower academic achievement and higher dropout rates. Henrico CARES is paving the way to a high-quality youth mental health care system that is comprehensive, accessible and equipped for the 21st century."

Enter the 2024 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline is July 1, 2024



Dear **VACo Members** –

It's time for the 2024 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so **ENTER NOW!**

[2024 Achievement Awards Submission Form](#)

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic submissions should be a PDF or WORD file. Email entries to Gage Harter at [**gcharter@vaco.org**](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org). **Electronic submissions must be received by July 1, 2024.**

Last year, [we processed 135 entries](#) and selected 33 winners from 21 Counties. VACo presented awards at Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 89th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2024 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was **Allegheny County** for its "**Allegheny/Covington School Consolidation**" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2024 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact [**gcharter@vaco.org**](mailto:gcharter@vaco.org) with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#)
[2023 Achievement Awards Press Release](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS
SUBMISSION FORM

VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, kwalker@vaco.org or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Karie Walker
Director of Programs and Development
Virginia Association of Counties



Our beautiful logo is now above the entrance to the VACo Training Center!

State Executive Council for Children’s Services Announces Intent to Develop Policy; VACo Seeks County Feedback on Proposal

At its March 14 meeting, the State Executive Council for Children’s Services (SEC) approved seeking public comment on a [Notice of Intent to Develop/Revise Policy for SEC Policy 4.5.2, Time Frames Regarding CSA Pool Fund Reimbursement](#). This action is the first step in the policy revision process; after the initial public comment period, the SEC will determine whether to move forward and will seek additional public comment.

The proposed revisions to the policy, which may be found at [this link](#), result from discussions at the SEC at its December meeting regarding a set of appeals from several counties that had missed the September 30 deadline for submission of reimbursement requests. Under current SEC policy, counties in this situation may submit a waiver request to the Office of Children’s Services, but the Executive Director does not have explicit authority to grant these requests, so waiver requests must be considered by the SEC. The proposed revisions to the policy would allow the Executive Director to grant a waiver based on a determination of “good cause,” as defined in the policy. A locality that disagrees with the Executive Director’s determination could appeal to the State Executive Council.

VACo seeks members’ feedback on the proposed revisions, in particular on the following items:

- Is the proposed definition of “good cause” in Section 4.5.2.3 adequate? Are there other circumstances that should be listed as examples of good cause?
- Does your locality already meet requirements under the proposed new sections D and E under Section 4.5.2.4 (Pool Fund Reimbursements) (a requirement to adopt and implement procedures to reconcile actual CSA reimbursements against expected reimbursements using local general ledgers and certain CSA resources, and a requirement to adopt procedures to address position vacancies, including temporary unavailability, in the roles of Report Preparer and Fiscal Agent)?

Member feedback will inform VACo’s public comments and may be sent to Katie Boyle (kboyle@vaco.org). Members may also submit comments directly to the Office of Children’s Services; public comment is being accepted until 5 p.m. on May 2, 2024, and may be submitted online via the Public Policy Comment Form (available at [this link](#)), via email to csa.office@csa.virginia.gov, or via U.S. Mail (1604 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 137, Richmond VA 23229). If members submit comments directly to the Office of Children’s Services, VACo staff would greatly appreciate receiving a copy of your comments.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

More Favorable Bus Stop Bill Passes General Assembly

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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



[HB 285 \(McQuinn\)](#), as introduced, provided for the exemption of plans and specifications for bus shelters that do not exceed 256 square feet that are to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state money and that will be constructed on state-owned property from the Department of General Services' review process required by the Uniform Statewide Building Code. The bill authorized the local building official of the locality in which the state-owned property is located to conduct the review process within 60 days of the applicant's initial submission. The proponents of the bill explained the purpose of the bill was to streamline the permitting process by moving it from a state to local government function.

In the last week of session, the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee significantly amended the bill to provide that the locality in which the state-owned property is located for which such a permit is issued, shall be **solely and permanently liable** for the granting of such a permit, any liabilities that arise from work performed under the authority of such a permit, and from the operation of the permitted activity.

Although the articulated purpose of the original bill was to provide a faster process by having the locality step into the shoes of the state for purposes of the permitting, the broad language of the bill put all the risk on the locality. The substitute caused several concerns for VACo including possible waiver of sovereign immunity. VACo worked with the patron and other stakeholders in the last days of the session to advocate for localities and to help craft more favorable language.

Currently, HB 285 states that the enforcement of the Uniform Statewide Building Code for bus shelters to be constructed for transit agencies receiving state funds from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund and that do not exceed 256 square feet, shall be delegated to the local building official in lieu of the Department of General Services and also includes language that the state shall not be liable for any bus shelter built on state-owned property under this subsection. These new provisions expire on July 1, 2025.

VACo thanks Delegate McQuinn for hearing our concerns and offering to amend the bill. The Conference report was agreed to unanimously by both chambers and will be sent to the Governor.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

State General Fund Revenues in Line with Forecast in February



On Friday, March 15, Governor Youngkin released state General Fund revenue figures for the month of February, reporting that revenue collections continue to align with FY 2024 forecasts. Total General Fund revenues increased by 17.3 percent in February relative to February 2023, and have increased by 6.3 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis; year-to-date collections are ahead of the FY 2024 forecast embedded in the “caboose” budget by \$827.5 million. However, in his [monthly revenue report](#), Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings explains that this number shrinks to \$339.3 million when excluding nonwithholding and refunds, which have been challenging to forecast as a result of timing issues created by the new Pass-Through Entity Tax. Secretary Cummings cites uncertainty about non-withholding income tax collections, signs of slowing in the economy, and ongoing geopolitical risks as factors supporting a “conservative revenue and economic outlook going forward.”

Individual income tax withholding revenues are up 5 percent fiscal year-to-date, and are outpacing the forecast by \$347.4 million. Nonwithholding collections rebounded in February after an unexpected decline in January, with February collections up by 96.8 percent relative to February 2023; however, Secretary Cummings’s memorandum points out that this figure is likely distorted by a small number of taxpayers’ submission of Pass-Through Entity Tax payments. Nonwithholding collections are down by 1 percent for the year, but are ahead of the forecast by \$327 million on a fiscal year-to-date basis. However, the majority of non-withholding revenues are traditionally collected in the final quarter of the fiscal year, and the revenue memorandum reiterates concern about the implications of the January drop (reflecting estimated payments for the fourth quarter) for the final payments.

Sales and use tax collections dropped by 3.5 percent in February and are down by 1.8 percent on a fiscal year-to-date basis, but are ahead of the forecasted 4.6 percent decline by \$41.3 million. Corporate income tax refunds exceeded collections in February, and collections are trailing the forecast by \$59.6 million on a fiscal year-to-date basis, but April and June are traditionally more significant months for this revenue source.

Economic indicators at the national level are largely positive, although persistent inflation remains a major concern for the Federal Reserve. [Consumer Price Index figures released last week](#) show an uptick in inflation in February (0.4 percent), following an increase of 0.3 percent in January, with most of the growth attributable to shelter and gasoline costs. The overall index increased by 3.2 percent over the last 12 months (following a 3.1 percent increase for the 12 months that ended in January), although personal consumption expenditures (PCE), the Federal Reserve's preferred measure, is closer to the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target, [with a 2.4 percent increase over the 12 months ending in January](#) ("core PCE," which excludes food and energy, was up 2.8 percent).

The Federal Reserve's [semiannual Monetary Policy Report](#), presented to Congress earlier this month, pointed to progress in taming inflation, but Chairman Jerome Powell reiterated in [prepared Congressional testimony](#) that the Federal Open Market Committee is "strongly committed" to its 2 percent inflation target, pointing out that the Committee is "acutely aware that high inflation imposes significant hardship, especially on those least able to meet the higher cost of essentials, like food, housing, and transportation." The Committee is meeting this week and many observers expect interest rates to remain at current levels given the persistence of inflation levels above the Federal Reserve's target; Chairman Powell hinted at rate cuts "at some point this year" in his prepared testimony, but cautioned that "the economic outlook is uncertain, and ongoing progress toward our 2 percent inflation objective is not assured."

The Monetary Policy Report paints a picture of a strong labor market at the national level, although the Report indicates that labor demand is "gradually cooling." In Virginia, the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement [released January employment figures](#) last week, showing Virginia's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 3 percent (well below the national rate of 3.7 percent). The labor force participation rate increased by 0.1 percentage point, to 66.6 percent. Total nonfarm employment, seasonally adjusted, was up by 1.4 percent between January 2023 and January 2024 (reflecting an estimated increase of 59,900 jobs), with all ten metropolitan areas tracked by the Department showing year-over-year job gains; job growth from December 2023 to January 2024 was more modest, reflecting 0.2 percent growth statewide (with six metropolitan areas experiencing job growth, two seeing declines, and two that were unchanged).

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program Now Accepting Applications



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) discretionary program with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years. The SS4A program funds regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Funds for the fiscal year 2024 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructural, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators. The SS4A program supports USDOT's [National Roadway Safety Strategy](#) and the Department's goal of significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's roadways.

With the latest [award announcement in December 2023](#), SS4A has provided \$1.7 billion in Federal funding to over 1,000 communities in all 50 States and Puerto Rico.

The FY 2024 SS4A Notice of Funding Opportunity has multiple application deadlines, depending on the grant type. [Implementation Grant](#) applications have a single deadline of **May 16, 2024 by 5 PM ET** for FY24. [Planning and Demonstration Grant](#) applicants have three deadlines for FY24: **April 4, 2024, by 5 PM ET; May 16, 2024, by 5 PM ET; and August 29, 2024, by 5 PM ET**. Following each deadline, USDOT will review Planning and Demonstration Grant applications received to date. Each eligible applicant can receive only one award for the FY24 NOFO. Local governments, tribes, and MPOs are eligible to apply for grants.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



PROTECT LOCAL WATERWAYS

New Resource Hub for Local Officials: Protect Local Waterways Website

Celebrate World Water Day by reading up on how you can protect the streams and waterways that run through your community!

Introducing [Protect Local Waterways](https://www.protectlocalwaterways.org/), a new award-winning web resource on how local leaders can help support the economy, public health, education, and infrastructure while protecting their communities' environmental assets. Created by local officials for local officials, this website includes an extensive learning library spanning 11 environmental topics. From understanding the benefits of trees to building community buy-in on environmental behaviors, this learning library is the perfect place to start.

Protect Local Waterways supports and informs decision-making by local government leaders across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, showing elected officials how their actions to protect and restore the environment can support education, economic development, public health and safety, and infrastructure. It was developed in coordination with the [Local Government Advisory Committee](#) to the Chesapeake Executive Council and the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Local Leadership Workgroup](#).

Take action today to secure fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water for your locality! Visit the website at <https://www.protectlocalwaterways.org/>.

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)



LOCAL PROGRAMS WORKSHOP

2024

The twelfth annual Local Programs Workshop will be held September 17 - 19, 2024 at the beautiful Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center, in Roanoke, Virginia. This annual workshop provides an excellent learning and networking opportunity to discuss the delivery of the local transportation program.

The Local Programs Workshop focus is to provide an overview of local programs and training for program management and project development. In addition to the plenary sessions, the workshop will feature 20 breakout sessions scheduled in four concurrent tracks, as well as optional mobile workshops over the two-day and half workshop.

This Workshop is intended for local public agency staff that has oversight of locally administered projects or works with projects receiving special funding from various programs, as well as consultants and VDOT staff that are involved in locally administered projects.

To visit the Local Programs Workshop website, click [here](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Judiciary/Public Safety – Fire and EMS Funding

Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to assess the sufficiency of fire and emergency medical services funding in the Commonwealth. VACo is named as a participant in the stakeholder group that is directed to be convened as part of the review. Provides \$150,000 in FY 2025 for procurement of technical expertise to complete the review. [\(Item 377 #1c\)](#)

Judiciary/Public Safety – Juvenile Justice

- Retains the provision in the introduced budget to extend the moratorium on additional state funds for construction or renovation of local or regional detention centers, group homes, or related facilities (with exceptions for emergency maintenance projects) until June 30, 2026.
- Directs the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to evaluate its rehabilitative programming to ensure programs align with evidence-based practices and that the Department has sufficient staffing to support this programming. [\(Item 414 #1c\)](#)
- Directs the Virginia State Crime Commission to study juvenile restitution practices in Virginia. [\(Item 23 #1c\)](#).

Judiciary/Public Safety – Other Items

- Directs the Secretary of Public Safety to evaluate the establishment of statutory authority for local civilian-led units to handle calls for services related to minor traffic accidents and other duties as assigned. Budget language calls for VACo's assistance in developing the report, along with the participation of VML, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and other appropriate stakeholders. [\(Item 377 #2c\)](#)
- Authorizes the Virginia State Crime Commission to access records and facilities of state entities and political subdivisions in order to carry out its duties. [\(Item 23 #3c\)](#)
- Provides \$46,000 in FY 2025 for the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court to contract with the National Center for State Courts and collaborate with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to study existing statewide jail diversion programs and initiatives for individuals with a serious mental illness, and the feasibility of implementing an expedited process to divert individuals with a serious mental illness to court-supervised mental health treatment. [\(Item 31 #2c\)](#)
- Reduces the proposed increase for specialty dockets in the introduced budget by \$750,000 in FY 2026 (leaving an increase of \$750,000 per year). [\(Item 31 #3c\)](#)
- Captures savings from proposed closures of Department of Corrections facilities, as proposed in the introduced budget; also includes language directing the Department of Corrections to assess its use of staffing posts and facility space in light of lower inmate populations. [\(Item 390 #7c\)](#)
- Eliminates the \$500,000 that was included in the introduced budget for Sussex County to offset costs of providing emergency medical transport for inmates at Sussex State Prison. [\(Item 390 #1c\)](#)
- Directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to convene a workgroup to make recommendations on requiring a local court-appointed special advocate program to be available in every judicial district. [\(Item 394 #2c\)](#)
- Reduces funding for the Operation Ceasefire Grant Fund by \$7.5 million per year (leaving \$10 million per year available for use); bars funding from being provided to state agencies and bars grant funding for law enforcement equipment, with the exception of forensic and analytical equipment. [\(Item 394 #6c\)](#), [\(Item 394 #5c\)](#)
- Reduces funding for School Resource Officer Incentive Grants by \$4.1 million in FY 2025 and

\$6.8 million in FY 2026 (the introduced budget included funding levels of \$27.2 million per year for the program). Eliminates language that would have waived matching requirements in FY 2025. Explanatory information provided with the amendment indicates that this action would leave \$4.7 million available for new grants each year, as well as reflecting ongoing grant obligations, and would align with FY 2024 spending. **(Item 394 #13c)**

- Eliminates the \$18 million in the introduced budget that was proposed as a one-time appropriation to support efforts to fill persistent vacancies in law enforcement agencies. **(Item 396 #2c)**
- Retains the additional \$7.2 million over the biennium provided for the Victim-Witness Grant Program in the introduced budget and provides an additional \$1.3 million per year. **(Item 394 #15c)** Retains the additional \$3.5 million in FY 2026 provided for sexual assault crisis centers and domestic violence programs in the introduced budget and provides an additional \$2.1 million per year to return grantees to FY 2023 levels. **(Item 394 #16c)**. Provides \$1.5 million in FY 2025 and \$2.5 million in FY 2026 for the Victim Services Grant Program to offset expected declines in federal funding. **(Item 394 #17c)**
- Retains the additional \$2 million in FY 2025 proposed in the introduced budget for grants to combat hate crimes; adds language directing DCJS to disseminate information to stakeholders about the grant opportunity and allowing localities in partnerships with institutions or nonprofits that have been targets of hate crimes, or are at risk of being targets, to be eligible to apply (the introduced budget language limits eligibility to these institutions or nonprofits). **(Item 394 #19c)**

Administration: Compensation Board - Constitutional Officers

- Directs the Compensation Board to report on the allocation and effectiveness of funds from 2022 to increase compensation for sworn officers in sheriffs' offices, as well as on retention for deputies with law enforcement duties compared to deputies without law enforcement duties, including information on local salary supplements. **(Item 60 #1c)**
- Provides \$752,147 in FY 2025 and \$828,042 in FY 2026 for 18 paralegal positions in Commonwealth's Attorneys' offices. **(Item 64 #1c)**
- Allows the Compensation Board to take into account the staffing capacity of a circuit court clerk's office when determining whether or not to withhold statewide salary increases from Circuit Court Clerks who fail to take corrective action for any internal control matters identified by the Auditor of Public Accounts. Under current budget language, the Compensation Board must withhold salary increases from a Clerk in these circumstances. **(Item 65 #1c)**
- Extends the validity of subdivision plats that were unable to be recorded prior to the commencement of the 2020 judicial emergency to December 31, 2024. **(Item 65 #2c)**
- Directs a study of staffing standards for Circuit Court Clerks and provides \$400,000 in FY 2025 for a contract with the National Center for State Courts for a time study as to Clerks' duties. **(Item 67 #1c)**
- Retains provisions in the introduced budget moving \$9.4 million in projected vacancy savings in FY 2025 to a reserve fund to be used in FY 2026 to reimburse expenses incurred within established budgets for Constitutional officers if vacancy levels are reduced and vacant positions are filled.
- Retains provisions in the introduced budget providing \$159,889 per year to adjust the salaries of Constitutional officers whose localities met a population-based threshold.
- Provides \$185,234 in FY 2025 and \$1 million in FY 2026 to account for the impact of

increases to the minimum wage provided in legislation that has passed the General Assembly, contingent on the legislation taking effect. Contingency language in Central Appropriations discussed in the Compensation section above provides for bonuses for state employees and state-supported local employees in the event the minimum wage increases do not take effect. [\(Item 469 #6c\)](#)

Administration: Compensation Board – Jails

- Transfers proposed \$500,000 in FY 2025 from opioid settlement funding for jail-based substance use treatment from the Compensation Board into the Jail-Based Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Transition Fund, which is administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, and increases the funding level to \$2 million. VACo supported the creation of this Fund in 2023. [\(Item 60 #3c\)](#) and [\(Item 394 #11c\)](#)
- Retains provisions in the introduced budget capturing \$15 million per year (in FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026) in per diem payment savings based on inmate population reductions and projected growth in jail populations over the next biennium.
- Retains \$32,401 in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for the state’s share of improvements to the Franklin County jail; adds language revising the process for review of local or regional jail capital projects to which the state provides funding. [\(Item 385 #1c\)](#)

Administration: Elections

- Redirects \$2.8 million in ARPA funds to the Department of Elections to assist localities in implementing electronic pollbooks and ballot-on-demand systems. These funds were originally provided to the Department of Social Services for Medicaid eligibility redeterminations. The Department of Elections will develop a process for distributing these funds. [\(Item 486 #4c in the caboose\)](#)
- Provides three additional days for local electoral boards to certify election results after the November 2024 election and provides that a risk-limiting audit for the Presidential election will not be conducted. [\(Item 77 #2c\)](#)
- Provides \$200,000 in FY 2025 for the costs of a required mailing to eligible but unregistered voters, which would enable Virginia to rejoin the Electronic Registration Information Center, as required by companion bills passed this session. The Governor has vetoed one of these bills. [\(Item 77 #3c\)](#)
- Retains proposed funding in the introduced budget for a list maintenance position (\$148,991 in FY 2025 and \$161,397 in FY 2026).

Agriculture and Forestry

- Retains proposed \$437,500 reduction to the deposit to the Farmland Preservation Fund in each year, as included in the introduced budget. Transfers the Office of Farmland Preservation from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) to the Department of Forestry. [\(Item 86 #1c\)](#) and [\(Item 96 #4c\)](#)
- Provides for a deposit of \$1 million to the Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund in FY 2025 (rather than \$2 million, as proposed in the introduced budget). [\(Item 87 #1c\)](#)
- Eliminates the \$2 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget that was proposed for a competitive grant program for agricultural technology research projects. [\(Item 87 #2c\)](#)
- Provides \$250,000 in FY 2026 for the Blue Catfish Processing, Flash Freezing, and Infrastructure Grant Program to level-fund the program in the second year. [\(Item 87 #3c\)](#)

- Provides \$292,525 per year for the cooperative agreement between VDACS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture for technical assistance to landowners with wildlife depredation under the Wildlife Damage Cooperative Program. **(Item 88 #2c)**
- Retains the \$266,130 per year from the General Fund, along with matching non-general funds, included in the introduced budget for inspectors at slaughter and meat processing facilities. Also provides \$25,000 per year for the Virginia Verified Meat certification process established in 2024 legislation. **(Item 86 #2c)**
- Provides \$2.5 million in FY 2025 for the Forest Sustainability Fund. **(Item 96 #5c)**

Agriculture and Forestry/Natural and Historic Resources – Invasive Species Management

- Includes a series of amendments providing funding for invasive species management: \$485,000 per year for VDACS **(Item 88 #1c)**; \$940,000/year for the Department of Forestry **(Item 96 #2c)**; \$250,000 per year for the Department of Conservation and Recreation **(Item 360 #1c)**; and \$775,000 per year for the Department of Wildlife Resources. **(Item 367 #1c)**
- Provides \$500,000 in FY 2025 for cyanobacteria mitigation and remediation at Lake Anna and \$150,000 in FY 2025 for the Department of Environmental Quality to conduct a study of harmful algal blooms at Smith Mountain Lake. **(Item 359 #5c and Item 363 #7c)**

Economic Development: Business Sites

- Reduces funding levels for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program from \$150 million in FY 2025 and \$50 million in FY 2026, as proposed in the introduced budget, to \$20 million per year. **(Item 101 #1c)**
- Adjusts eligibility criteria for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program to allow sites of at least 50 acres to qualify (current budget language allows these sites to qualify only in certain regions), as well as sites that may be bisected by a roadway or other utility related infrastructure. **(Item 101 #8c and Item 101 #10c)**
- Eliminates proposed \$25 million for the Business Ready Sites Acquisition Fund in FY 2025 included in the introduced budget. **(Item 101 #3c)**

Economic Development: Inland Port

- Eliminates the proposed \$10 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for the development of an inland port in the Mount Rogers Planning District; provides \$2.5 million in FY 2026. **(Item 101 #11c)**

Broadband

- Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to add layers to the state's broadband map to reflect broadband availability on prime farmland and in rural areas. **(Item 103 #1c)**
- Includes language requiring DHCD to provide a reason for a project's delay when reporting on Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) projects at risk for incompleteness or underperformance; requires quarterly (rather than annual) performance reports on VATI grant projects. **(Item 103 #8c)**
- Provides \$10 million per year for VATI (the introduced budget proposes \$20 million in FY 2025 and no appropriation in FY 2026). **(Item 103 #12c)**
- Provides \$30 million in FY 2025 to supplement current VATI grant projects for "make ready" costs, with funding to be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that are at risk of

incompletion by December 31, 2026. **(Item 103 #13c)**

- Outlines a process for ARPA-funded projects that are determined by DHCD to be at risk of incompleteness; allows units of government to surrender projects, transfer projects, or redesign projects, among other options, in order to ensure that locations are available for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) subgrantee selection process. **(Item 115 #1c in the caboose and Item 103 #14c)**
- Outlines uses for BEAD funds. **(Item 103 #9c)**

Housing

- Deposits an additional \$12.5 million per year to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund (the introduced budget level funds the Trust Fund at \$75 million per year). **(Item 102 #3c)**
- Directs \$5 million in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) balances to a pilot DHCD program to assist residents of manufactured home parks or nonprofits to acquire the manufactured home parks. **(Item 102 #1c)**
- Directs \$5 million from RGGI balances for a pilot program to provide down payment assistance. **(Item 102 #6c)**
- Provides an additional \$150,000 per year for the Virginia Eviction Reduction Program, which provides grant funding to local and regional eviction prevention programs. **(Item 102 #4c)**
- Provides \$675,000 per year in formula grants to Continuum of Care lead agencies to enhance capacity to serve Virginians at risk of or experiencing homelessness. **(Item 102 #7c)**

Community Development

- Provides an additional \$525,000 per year for planning district commission operations (to provide each PDC an additional \$25,000 per year.) **(Item 103 #2c)**
- Provides an additional \$125,000 in FY 2026 to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority for telehealth and telemedicine needs in Planning Districts 1 and 2; this action partially restores the introduced budget's action to reduce supplemental funding for the Lenowisco Planning District Commission and Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission and redirect funds to the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority. **(Item 103 #4c)**
- Maintains the introduced budget's addition of \$350,000 per year for the Center for Rural Virginia and provides an additional \$25,000 per year. **(Item 103 #6c)**
- Requires DHCD to develop a public-facing performance dashboard for GO Virginia projects. **(Item 103 #7c)**
- Restores \$1 million in FY 2025 to the Enterprise Zone grant program (the introduced budget proposed to reduce funding by \$1.5 million per year); adds language allowing enterprise zone real property investment grants to be used to support the inclusion of rooftop solar or solar canopies for parking lots as a component of a real property project. **(Item 104 #1c)**
- Includes \$4 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for industrial site revitalization and adds \$4 million in FY 2026; earmarks \$1.5 million in FY 2025 for a project in Charles City County and \$2 million in FY 2026 for a project in the City of Danville. Authorizes funds to be used to support the inclusion of solar panels or solar canopies on parking lots as a component of a real property project. **(Item 103 #10c)**
- Eliminates the proposed \$6 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for the Virginia Power Innovation Fund. **(Item 110 #1c)**
- Directs the Department of Energy to pursue federal or other non-general funds for waste coal and garbage of bituminous coal remediation. **(Item 108 #1c)**

Child Care/Early Childhood

- Eliminates \$24 million of the proposed \$25 million included in the introduced budget for an early learning capital incentives fund. Uses the remaining \$1 million for DHCD to enter into an MOU with Reynolds Community College to establish a child care facility for state employees. ([Item 103 #11c](#))
- Eliminates proposed digital wallet platform, capturing the associated \$1 million in funding for this initiative. ([Item 117 #4c](#))
- Retains actions in the introduced budget to maintain Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery slots after the expiration of federal funding. Provides an additional \$116.7 million over the biennium beyond amounts in the introduced budget to maintain co-pay rates for the Child Care Subsidy Program and apply these rates to the Mixed Delivery Program; fund additional Child Care Subsidy Program slots; restore the traditional 20 percent nonparticipation rate for the Virginia Preschool Initiative; and maintain the 0.5000 cap on the Local Composite Index for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, for a total increase of \$527.8 million in General Fund dollars over the biennium. Consolidates all early childhood programs into one Early Childhood Care and Education section in the budget. ([Item 117 #5c](#); [Item 124 #4c](#); [Item 125 #21c](#), [Item 125.10 #1c](#))
- Specifies that any unobligated ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars as of June 30, 2024, are to be redistributed, with up to \$170 million to be used to offset General Fund support for the Child Care Subsidy Program. Requires school boards to obligate any ARPA-funded ventilation improvement grants by July 1, 2024. ([Item 472 #1c](#))

Aid to Local Public Libraries

- Provides an additional \$2.5 million per year to increase state aid to local public libraries. ([Item 227 #1c](#))

Finance – Bank Franchise Tax Electronic Filing System

- Provides \$546,540 in FY 2024 ([Item 274 #1c in the caboose](#)), \$488,494 in FY 2025, and \$76,348 in FY 2026 for the Department of Taxation to implement electronic filing for bank franchise tax returns, as required by legislation passed in 2023 ([Item 258 #3c](#)).

Finance: Local Audits

- Directs the Auditor of Public Accounts to include review of use of opioid settlement funds and compliance with Opioid Abatement Authority guidelines, procedures, and criteria as part of annual local audit specifications for local auditors. ([Item 2 #1c in the caboose](#); [Item 2 #2c in biennium](#))
- Eliminates current language requiring each locality establishing a utility or enacting a system of service charges to support a local stormwater management program to report to the Auditor of Public Accounts annually on each program funded by the fees and the expected nutrient and sediment reductions for each program. ([Item 2 #3c](#))

HHR: Children’s Services Act

- Maintains funding in the introduced budget for the Children’s Services Act forecast (\$48.5 million per year), as well as \$1.2 million per year in anticipated costs of services provided to children served through the kinship care and parental agreement program established in 2024 legislation.

HHR: Health

- Retains provisions in the introduced budget exempting the Office of Emergency Medical Services from making an otherwise required transfer of \$12.5 million to the General Fund in FY 2024 or FY 2025.
- Extends the Joint Subcommittee to Examine the Commonwealth's Pandemic Response until December 1, 2024. **(Item 6 #1c)**
- Provides \$405,260 per year to create a statewide registry of sickle cell disease patients in accordance with 2024 legislation **(Item 277 #1c)**; provides \$145,000 per year to increase access to pediatric treatment for sickle cell disease **(Item 277 #2c)**; and provides \$75,000 per year to increase access to treatment for adults with sickle cell disease, with this funding intended to allow expansion of services in the Tidewater area. **(Item 277 #3c)**
- Includes \$3.2 million per year to support Community Health Worker positions in local health districts, with priority to be given to districts serving localities with the highest rates of maternal mortality. **(Item 278 #1c)**
- Provides an additional \$171,120 per year for rent costs for increases in rent costs for local health departments. **(Item 278 #2c)**
- Provides an additional \$1.3 million per year for the Virginia Health Workforce Development Authority to support the Area Health Education Center Programs and health workforce responsibilities of the Authority, pursuant to legislation passed by the 2024 General Assembly. **(Item 279 #5c)**
- Includes \$500,000 for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to conduct a cost analysis of implementing pending federal Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) regulations for Virginia local water systems pending federal Environmental Protection Agency Copper Rules for water system lead service lines. **(Item 280 #1c)**
- Directs VDH to review the financial and operational status of each program area within the agency, to include budget, fiscal, procurement, human resources, and grant management functions, and directs a quarterly review of each program area to ensure that projected spending is in line with appropriations. **(Item 283 #1c)** Also directs VDH to inventory all fees collected by the agency and report on whether the fee is sufficient to cover the costs of the activity for which it is collected and recommend an appropriate fee amount. **(Item 283 #2c)**
- Includes \$303,650 in FY 2025 and \$648,000 in FY 2026 for costs associated with establishing the Prescription Drug Affordability Board in accordance with legislation passed by the legislature this session. **(Item 283.10 #1c)**

HHR: Behavioral Health – Community Services Board (CSB) Oversight and Compensation

- Includes \$7.5 million per year for CSB workforce initiatives, such as paid internships, scholarships, clinical supervision hours, or loan repayment. **(Item 295 #2c)**
- Requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to report annually on CSBs' performance in improving consumer functioning levels. Directs DBHDS to identify documentation/reporting requirements and eliminate duplicative/conflicting ones. Directs DBHDS to review performance measures in performance contracts with CSBs and ensure they are designed to measure outcomes for each service. Stipulates that performance contracts shall also require that any funding appropriated by the General Assembly to CSBs for staff compensation shall only be used for staff compensation, and that CSBs report annually to DBHDS on any staff compensation actions taken during the prior fiscal year. Directs DMAS to review the extent to which CSBs are billing for Medicaid-eligible

services and determine if technical assistance is needed. Directs DBHDS to report annually on salaries and vacancy rates across CSBs. **(Item 295 #9c)**

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on plans to implement the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model in the Commonwealth. **(Item 267 #3c)**

HHR: Behavioral Health – STEP-VA

- Directs DBHDS to report on changes to STEP-VA performance measures and benchmarks expected to be included in CSB performance contracts that will take effect July 1, 2025. **(Item 295 #3c)**
- Directs DBHDS to conduct a needs assessment for each component of STEP-VA and estimate costs for meeting the unmet needs. **(Item 295 #6c)**
- Provides \$4.5 million each year in additional funding for STEP-VA to address inflation and other needs. **(Item 297 #2c)**

HHR – Behavioral Health - Crisis Services, Temporary Detention Orders, and State Facilities

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to report on how funds appropriated during the 2023 and 2024 sessions will be expended to expand and modernize the crisis services system. **(Item 267 #2c)**
- Eliminates proposed \$10 million in FY 2025 for comprehensive psychiatric emergency programs. **(Item 295 #1c)**
- Retains the proposed \$10 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for mobile crisis teams. Also retains the proposed \$3.6 million in FY 2025 and \$4.2 million in FY 2026 proposed for crisis co-responder programs.
- Retains the proposed \$4.7 million per year in the introduced budget to expand alternative transportation and custody to individuals under involuntary commitment orders and the introduced budget's language combining funding for alternative transportation and alternative custody.
- Retains the introduced budget's proposed \$2.6 million per year for crisis training for first responders and hospital personnel.
- Reduces the \$33 million proposed in the introduced budget for crisis services by \$8 million in FY 2025 (retains the proposed \$2.6 million in FY 2026); earmarks \$2.3 million per year for the Prince William County Youth Crisis Receiving Center. **(Item 296 #1c)** Provides an additional \$2.5 million per year for CSBs to hire additional staff for crisis stabilization units with underutilized bed capacity. **(Item 297 #5c)**
- Provides an additional \$6 million per year for discharge assistance planning to increase community capacity to serve individuals on the Extraordinary Barriers List. **(Item 296 #2c)**
- Retains the provision in the introduced budget earmarking \$1.5 million per year of the existing funding for alternative options to state hospital care for a pilot program to support the discharge of private hospital patients at risk of transfer to state hospitals, as well as provisions earmarking \$5 million per year for alternative options for forensic patients.
- Retains language in the introduced budget broadening the use of funds previously provided for dementia behavioral specialists to be used for geriatric behavioral specialists, as well as provisions in the caboose and biennium budgets broadening language associated with pilot programs for individuals with dementia who may otherwise be admitted to a state facility to allow this funding to be used for geriatric individuals.
- Retains \$7.9 million per year proposed in the introduced budget for salary increases for food

and environmental services staff at state hospitals, as well as \$10.4 million per year for clinical staff.

- Retains approximately \$1.5 million over the biennium in the introduced budget for partnerships between academic institutions and state hospitals and \$715,301 in FY 2025 for workforce development at state hospitals.
- Directs DBHDS to identify and develop alternative placements for youth who would otherwise be admitted to the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents. This is a recommendation from JLARC's 2023 study of state psychiatric hospitals. **(Item 301 #1c)**
- Restores \$500,000 in FY 2025 for maintenance of the Central Virginia Training Center property (the introduced budget reduces funding by \$1 million per year). **(Item 304 #1c)**. Allows the \$6 million appropriated in FY 2024 as an incentive for the sale of the CVTC property to be carried forward and reappropriated **(Item 113 #3c in the caboose)**; provides \$200,000 in FY 2025 for a cost study of building a connector road from CVTC to Route 210. **(Item 444 #1c)**

HHR - Additional Behavioral Health Items

- Retains additional \$2.6 million per year for Early Intervention/Part C in the introduced budget.
- Provides an additional \$3 million per year for permanent supportive housing. **(Item 297 #1c)**
- Increases funding for children's mental health services by \$1.2 million per year and provides more flexibility in use of the funds. **(Item 297 #3c)**
- Provides additional \$1 million per year for the State Rental Assistance Program (which helps individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to live independently in the community). **(Item 297 #4c)**
- Directs \$500,000 per year in state opioid settlement funding to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth for a comprehensive youth opioid prevention effort (the introduced budget provided \$4 million per year for DBHDS for this purpose). **(Item 49 #5c)**
- Directs the Secretary of Administration to conduct a needs assessment of implementing an opioid data analytics platform, to include a review of existing state software and data sets. If it is determined that such a platform is necessary and cost-effective, VITA and the Office of Data Governance and Analytics are authorized to pursue funding from the Opioid Abatement Authority. **(Item 79 #1c)**
- Retains \$1.1 million in FY 2025 and \$210,000 in FY 2026 in the introduced budget for high-intensity inpatient services for youth and adolescents with serious mental illness or substance use disorder who may otherwise require inpatient hospitalization, as well as \$400,000 in FY 2026 for clinical support to the Chesterfield Recovery Academy. Provides \$1 million in FY 2025 and \$500,000 in FY 2026 to support recovery high schools in Loudoun County and Virginia Beach. **(Item 124 #13c)**
- Retains proposal in the introduced budget to allocate \$5.5 million in state opioid settlement funding for the purchase and distribution of opioid reversal agents and test kits and for tracking software, and earmarks \$1 million per year of these funds for the purchase and distribution of 8 milligram naloxone nasal spray; also retains the proposed \$400,000 in state opioid settlement funding for VDH to conduct a one-year demonstration project for wastewater surveillance for fentanyl and norfentanyl in up to three geographically diverse localities. Provides \$100,000 in opioid settlement funding in FY 2026 for VDH to purchase and distribute opioid reversal agent to local school divisions. **(Item 275 #2c)** Dedicates \$8

million per year in state opioid settlement funding to establish a public-private partnership to manufacture opioid reversal nasal spray. **(Item 275 #3c)**

- Provides an additional \$250,000 per year for grants to members of the Virginia Association of Recovery Residences; requires the Association to comply with agreements with DBHDS and authorizes DBHDS to initiate a bidding process to expand the buildout of recovery residences statewide. **(Item 296 #3c)**
- Reduces the proposed expansion of the Behavioral Health Loan Repayment Program by \$750,000 per year (leaving an increase of \$4.25 million per year); eliminates proposed language earmarking \$1 million per year for school-based providers; restores language requiring a two-year commitment (rather than three years, as proposed in the introduced budget); adds child and adolescent psychiatry fellows to the list of eligible practitioners, as well as certain other behavioral health providers; and adds academic medical centers as an eligible practice site. **(Item 271 #1c)**

HHR – Medicaid

- Maintains the approximately \$745 million over the biennium required to fund the Medicaid and children's health insurance forecast. Provides approximately \$484 million over the biennium for the Virginia Health Care Fund (which is used as part of the state's Medicaid match) to offset revenue declines; this funding includes \$24.2 million in newly-recognized revenue from an increase to the tax on liquid nicotine in the conference report **(Item 288 #8c)**. Sets aside \$150 million in FY 2025 as contingency funding for higher-than-expected enrollment in Medicaid **(Item 288 #13c)**
- Phases in the additional Medicaid waiver slots proposed in the introduced budget on a quarterly basis, and provides a 3 percent rate increase in each year for certain developmental disability waiver services. **(Item 288 #14c)**
- Directs DMAS to inventory all proposed changes to the state's managed care contract to be included in the reprocurement, to include any fiscal impact, and report to the money committee chairs, among others, by June 1, 2024. **(Item 304 #1c in the caboose)**. Modifies language in the introduced budget setting out certain requirements for the reprocured managed care contracts to require legislative approval of certain initiatives. **(Item 288 #10c)**
- Adds language defining public entities that are able to transfer funds to DMAS to cover the non-federal share of Medicaid matching dollars for supplemental payments to private acute care hospitals; this definition includes local governments. **(Item 288 #2c)**
- Provides \$1.9 million GF per year to allow local government-owned nursing facilities to draw down additional Medicaid payments. **(Item 288 #17c)**
- Sets out the methodology for inflation adjustments for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities **(Item 288 #18c)**.
- Provides \$206,889 GF in FY 2025 and \$3.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract with a vendor to assist in timely and accurate Medicaid eligibility determinations and redeterminations **(Item 292 #5c)**. Provides \$500,000 GF in FY 2025 for a consultant to evaluate the Medicaid eligibility determination process in Virginia. **(Item 292 #7c)** Extends the deadline for the Department of Social Services to expend ARPA funds for redetermination efforts from 12 to 17 months following the end of the federal continuous coverage requirement **(Item 486.10 #1c –caboose)**.
- Provides \$2.1 million GF in FY 2025 and \$4.1 million GF in FY 2026 for DMAS to contract

with a vendor to handle incoming mail directed to local departments of social services, including Medicaid benefit applications and renewal notices. ([Item 292 #6c](#))

HHR – Social Services

- Clarifies that local administrative costs for the Percentage of Income Payment Program (PIPP) are to be reimbursed from the PIPP Fund; VACo worked with advocacy partners to request this clarification so that a local match would not be required for this program, which is funded by utility ratepayers ([Item 340 #1c in the caboose](#) and [Item 324 #5c](#)).
- Provides \$844, 524 GF in FY 2025 and \$2.2 million GF in FY 2026 for a centralized training academy model for local departments of social services ([Item 324 #2c](#)).
- Provides \$3.5 million in FY 2025 and \$350,000 in FY 2026 to replace CommonHelp and VaCMS (the state’s public-facing and internal systems used for benefits eligibility) ([Item 334 #2c](#)).
- Retains several actions in the introduced budget to address concerns about structural balance in the state’s Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant, including replacing \$4 million in TANF dollars with a like amount from the general fund for long-acting reversible contraceptives in FY 2026; replacing \$2.4 million per year in TANF dollars for Families Forward with a like amount from the general fund; replacing \$1 million per year in TANF dollars for Resource Mothers with a like amount from the general fund; replacing \$600,000 per year in TANF support for Early Impact Virginia with a like amount of General Fund support; replacing \$9 million from TANF for Community Employment and Training programs with a like amount of General Fund support in FY 2026, and removing TANF support for three nonprofits (Family Restoration Services in Hampton, Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, and Menchville House). The conference report provides an additional \$1.1 million in TANF funding for the Two-Generation/whole Family Pilot Project in FY 2026 (the introduced budget proposed to end the program after FY 2025) ([Item 331 #8c](#)).
- Adjusts funding provided in the introduced budget for kinship care initiatives based on the provisions of the legislation that passed in 2024 and provides an additional \$1 million per year for relative maintenance payments, for a total of \$8.5 million in FY 2025 and \$8.4 million in FY 2026. ([Item 324 #3c](#), [Item 324 #4c](#), and [Item 329 #1c](#))
- Retains the \$5.4 million over the biennium included in the introduced budget for administrative costs for the new permanent summer Electronic Benefits Transfer program for children.
- Retains funding in the introduced budget to provide background checks for all local departments of social services employees, contractors, and candidates for employment so that the federal Income Eligibility Verification System can be used to determine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program eligibility.

Labor – Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)

- Revises language in the introduced budget directing the VEC to promulgate regulations to establish an administrative fee to instead set an administrative fee of .05 percent of taxable wages and reduce employer tax rates accordingly. ([Item 356 #3c](#))
- Authorizes a Treasury loan for the VEC for the start-up costs associated with the implementation of a paid family and medical leave program as contemplated in legislation that has passed the General Assembly. ([Item 356 #4c](#)) Directs the VEC to updates its 2021 study on paid family and medical leave to assess the budgetary impacts of expanding benefits

to state employees, Constitutional officers and their employees, and school division employees ([Item 471 #1c](#))

Labor – Workers Compensation

Directs the Department of Human Resource Management to gather data from localities concerning Workers Compensation claims regarding post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety disorder, or depressive disorder incurred by law-enforcement officers and firefighters ([Item 74 #1c](#)).

Natural and Historic Resources – Water Quality

- Retains \$201 million deposit to the Water Quality Improvement Fund for nonpoint source pollution programs, including Agriculture BMPs and related technical assistance, in the introduced budget.
- Provides \$200 million GF in FY 2025 and \$200 million in bond proceeds in FY 2026 to advance mandated and other water treatment facility projects in support of the Virginia Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase III) and 2025 Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals. This funding was a top budget priority for VACo. ([Item C-53.50 #1c](#))
- Stipulates that any ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars returned after the first \$170 million (which is to be used to supplement Child Care Subsidy Funding), and any amounts returned from broadband deployment projects funded by the ARPA Capital Projects Fund, are to be used to offset the FY 2026 bond authorization. ([Item 486 #2c – caboose](#) and [Item 472 #1c](#))
- Allows flexibility in the use of ARPA funding for wastewater projects so that funds provided to individual facilities listed in the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Certainty Program may be used to reimburse such facilities for costs incurred for nutrient removal and other wastewater treatment facility improvements approved by the Department of Environmental Quality as within the allowed scope of wastewater infrastructure projects ([Item 486 #3c - caboose](#)).
- Eliminates language in the introduced budget which would have removed the requirement that 15 percent of mandatory Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF) deposits be directed to the WQIF Reserve if the balance of the Reserve exceeds \$100.0 million. Conference report language would require the deposit to be made unless otherwise specified. ([Item 358 #1c](#))
- Restores the \$1 million per year proposed to be reduced in the introduced budget for the WQIF Reserve from watercraft fuel sales taxes. ([Item 359 #14c](#))
- Provides \$20 million in FY 2025 for a pay-for-outcomes pilot program for nonpoint source pollution reduction in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. ([Item 365 #1c](#))
- Provides \$380,160 per year for PFAS monitoring and reporting. ([Item 363 #4c](#))

Natural and Historic Resources – Other Items

- Retains \$100 million in FY 2025 in the introduced budget for the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.
- Eliminates the additional \$25 million in FY 2025 for the Resilient Virginia Revolving Loan Fund proposed in the introduced budget. ([Item 359 #2c](#))
- Provides \$750,000 per year to establish a mitigation trading platform and wetland in-lieu fee mitigation program. ([Item 363 #2c](#))
- Provides \$10 million in FY 2025 to establish the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Bank to finance climate initiatives. ([Item 471 #3c](#))
- Reduces proposed support for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Project in the City of Norfolk by \$48.9 million (leaving a balance of \$25 million to support the project). Captures

\$8.5 million in FY 2025 from the proposed Bristol landfill remediation project (leaving \$26.5 million). ([Item 359 #6c](#) and [Item 365 #3c](#))

- Requires the Commonwealth to rejoin the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). ([Item 381 #1c – \(caboose\)](#) and [Item 366 #1c](#))
- Reduces proposed grant program for capital improvements at historic sites for the semiquincentennial celebration by \$15 million (leaving \$20 million for the program). ([Item 371 #14c](#))

Transportation – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)

- Provides \$65 million in FY 2025 and \$84.5 million in FY 2026 for WMATA; suspends the statutory cap on growth in the annual Virginia operating assistance for WMATA; directs WMATA to complete a comparison of its total costs and overhead costs against the cost of similar transit systems. ([Item 433 #2c](#))
- Provides \$25,000 in FY 2025 for a legislative joint subcommittee to study long-term, sustainable, dedicated funding and cost-containment controls and strategies to ensure WMATA and other Northern Virginia transit systems meet the growing needs of public transit in the region. ([Item 1 #6c](#))

Transportation – I-81

- Modifies language in the introduced budget related to the \$70 million GF proposed for the I-81 Corridor Improvement program to allow for the widening of both the northbound and southbound lanes to happen concurrently. ([Item 438 #4c](#))
- Allows projects in the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program to move forward even if all of the funding is not included for the completion of the project in the six-year improvement plan. ([Item 438 #3c](#))
- Earmarks up to an additional \$175 million from revenue surpluses in FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 for the I-81 Corridor Improvement Program (after deposits to the Rainy Day Fund and Water Quality Improvement Fund). ([Item 470 #1c](#))

Transportation – Other Items

- Authorizes the Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation District Commission to enter into contracts and agreements with adjacent localities and planning districts to promote commuter transit services within the region. ([Item 433 #1c](#))
- Eliminates proposed \$20 million GF deposit into the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF) in FY 2025. ([Item 438 #1c](#))
- Revises proposed deposit of at least \$200 million to TPOF in the next Six-Year Financial Plan to allow instead up to \$90 million to be provided, with no more than \$15 million in any individual year, and requiring approval from the Major Employment and Investment Project Approval Commission for use of TPOF in excess of \$20 million for any one project or \$50 million in cumulative use over the biennium. ([Item 438 #2c](#))
- Provides \$77 million in FY 2025 and \$24 million in FY 2026 from the general fund for additional toll relief to eligible drivers in certain localities who earn less than \$50,000 per year. ([Item 441 #1c](#))
- Provides \$7.5 million in FY 2025 for certain municipal dredging projects and modifies language specifying eligibility for funding from the Virginia Waterway Maintenance Fund. ([Item 451 #2c](#) and [Item 451 #1c](#))

- Retains \$350,000 included in the introduced budget to study the implementation of emerging technologies in aviation, and provides \$1 million from the Commonwealth's Development Opportunity Fund in FY 2025 to support an Advanced Air Aviation Test Site. ([Item 422 #1c](#))

Arena

- Removes language in the introduced caboose bill creating the Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority. ([Item 4-14 #1c in the caboose](#))
- Eliminates proposed \$500,000 in FY 2025 for developing relevant capabilities, conducting planning, and evaluating potential economic incentives for attracting sports teams to the state. ([Item 471 #9c](#))

Tax policy

- Clarifies that the Virginia Housing Opportunity Tax Credit expires at the end of 2025. ([Item 3-5.14 #1c in the caboose](#) and [Item 3-5.13 #1c](#))
- Eliminates proposal to double the dealer discount for merchants collecting and remitting sales and use taxes. ([Item 3-5.06 #1c](#))
- Increases the individual taxpayer cap on the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit from \$5 million to \$7.5 million. ([Item 3-5.17 #1c](#))
- Increases the tobacco products tax on liquid nicotine from \$0.066 per milliliter to \$0.11 per milliliter and incorporates language defining certain heated tobacco products as cigarettes to parallel legislation passed this session. ([Item 3-5.9 #1c](#)) The conference report also provides \$403,000 in FY 2025 and \$297,000 in FY 2026 for the Department of Taxation to implement the heated tobacco products legislation. ([Item 258 #5c](#))
- Restores the per-taxpayer cap of \$20,000 for the Land Preservation Tax Credit. ([Item 3-5.22 #1c](#))
- Extends the sunset date for the sales and use tax exemption for certain equipment used for the extraction and processing of natural gas or oil until July 1, 2025. ([Item 3-5.22 #1c](#))
- Retains language extending provisions of 2019 legislation increasing Education Improvement Scholarship amounts for certain students and broadening the definition of disability to January 1, 2028.
- Eliminates proposal to increase the cap on the Education Improvement Scholarship Tax Credit from \$25 to \$30 million. ([Item 4-14 #1c](#))
- Retains language stating that in any pending or future administrative or judicial proceeding in which the validity of a tax assessment is an issue, the participation of the Department of Taxation is to be considered a collection effort; also retains language stipulating that this provision is declarative of existing law.
- Eliminates proposed reduction to income tax rates. ([Item 4-14 #1c](#))
- Eliminates proposed increase to sales tax rate. ([Item 4-14 #1c](#))
- Revises the proposed sales tax base expansion to digital goods and services to include certain business-to-business transactions and to stipulate the tax treatment of bundled transactions. Amends the Communications Sales and Use Tax statute to address bundled transactions as well. ([Item 4-14 #1c](#))
- Eliminates proposed increase to the Earned Income Tax Credit. ([Item 4-14 #1c](#))

Reserves

- Transfers the same total amount of funds from the Revenue Reserve Fund over the biennium,

but divides the withdrawal more evenly between the two years (the conference report provides for a withdrawal of \$405 million in FY 2025 and \$400 million in FY 2026; the introduced budget proposes to transfer \$712.2 million in FY 2025 and \$92.8 million in FY 2026). The conference report increases the combined limit on balances in the state's reserves from 15 percent (as in statute) to 16.5 percent in FY 2025 and 15.5 percent in FY 2026. ([Item 3-1.01 #4c](#))

Establishment of Independent Agencies

- Establishes the Department of General Services as an independent agency. ([Item 68 #1c](#), [Item 69 #1c](#), [Item 70 #2c](#), [Item 71 #1c](#), [Item 72 #1c](#), [Item 73 #1c](#) and [Item 474.30 #1c](#), [Item 474.70 #1](#), [Item 474.50 #1c](#), [Item 474.60 #1c](#), [Item 474.70 #1c](#), [Item 474.80 #1c](#))
- Establishes the Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority as an independent agency. ([Item 380 #1c](#), [Item 381 #1c](#), and [Item 489.10 #1c](#), [Item 489.10 #2c](#))
- Establishes the Opioid Abatement Authority as an independent agency. ([Item 489.10 #4c](#))
- Establishes the Cannabis Control Authority as an independent agency. ([Item 382 #1c](#) and [Item 489.10 #3c](#))

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MUST MEET THE DEFINITION OF "LOCAL GOVERNMENT" AS DEFINED IN 6 U.S.C. § 101(13)

 VIRGINIA
IT AGENCY



Contact us at
cybercommittee@vita.virginia.gov

NACo ENTERPRISE FOR
GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE



Demystifying student debt forgiveness for County employees

Find your **EDGE** with this bi-weekly e-resource highlighting our value-added solutions *built by counties, for counties* and other public sector leaders.

Did you know that it is highly-likely that many of **your county employees qualify for this new student debt forgiveness** that seems to be dominating the headlines? The real question is: **Are they aware of it?** Are they maximizing their student debt forgiveness? With new student loan payments coming back late in 2023, many are scrambling to find ways to cover student debt payments that have been paused for over 3 years! With **150+ debt relief programs** out there and different qualification requirements for each, the process remains extremely confusing and cumbersome.

Please join us as we speak with student debt forgiveness expert Tony Raffa who will clear up much of the confusion out there as we cover:

- Overview of **current student debt relief programs** and who is eligible.
- Common issues with **applying for and receiving** student debt forgiveness
- **Upcoming deadlines** that those with student debt need to be aware of
- A **new tool available** to help your employees **calculate their potential student debt relief** and cut through the red tape when applying.

Webinar Registration
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
1–2p.m.

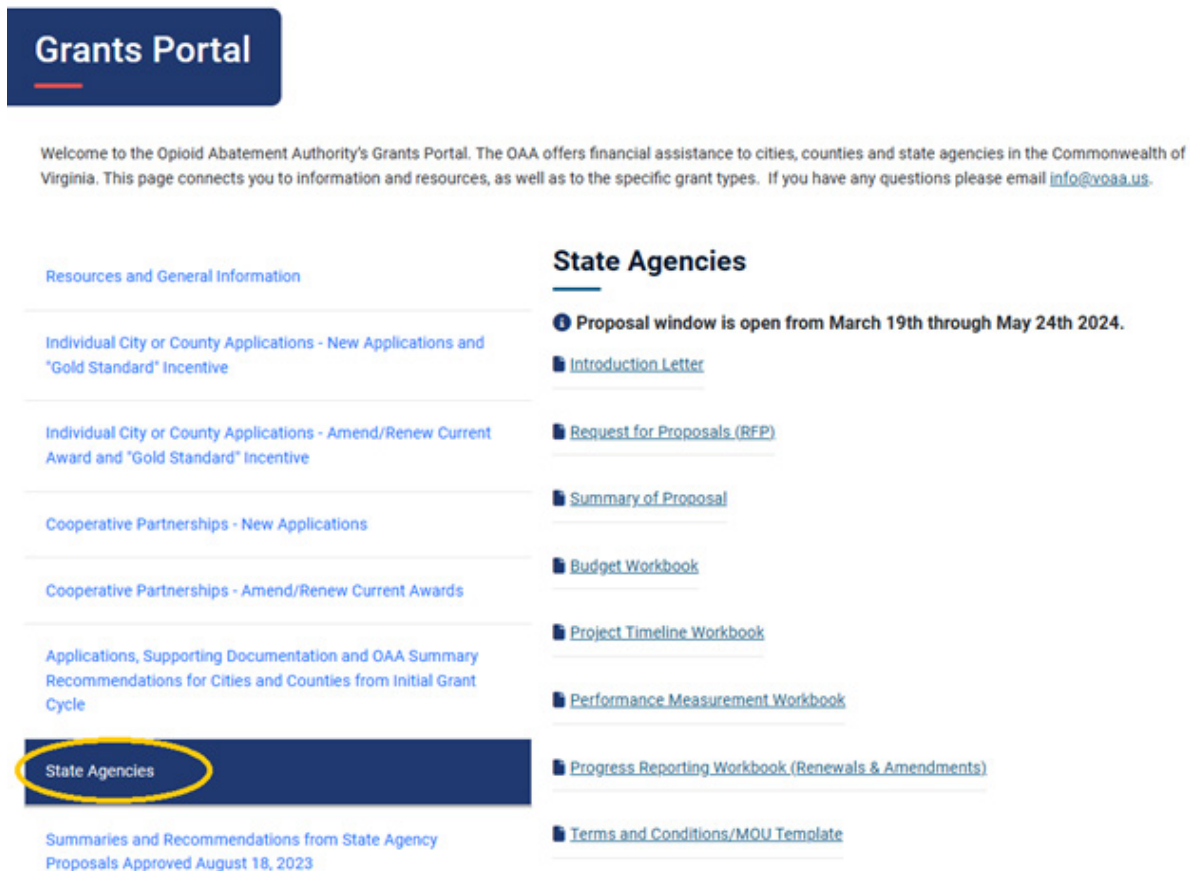


[**REGISTER NOW**](#)

State Agency Proposal Window OPEN!!

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (OAA) has **launched its Request for Proposals (RFP) from Agencies of the Commonwealth** for awards for abatement projects for the 2024-2025 performance period. The Commonwealth's settlement distribution memorandum of understanding (MOU) and the *Code of Virginia* directs the OAA to allocate 15% of the Opioid Abatement Fund for awards to state agencies.

The documents for submitting proposals, including renewals and/or amendments for current awards, are available on the OAA's [Grants Portal](#) under the State Agencies tab. *Please note:* If an agency has a current award and intends to continue that project into the 2024-2025 performance period, a proposal requesting renewal and/or amendment **is required** including if funds are being carried forward. Proposals will be **accepted** from **March 19, through May 24, 2024**.



Welcome to the Opioid Abatement Authority's Grants Portal. The OAA offers financial assistance to cities, counties and state agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This page connects you to information and resources, as well as to the specific grant types. If you have any questions please email info@voaa.us.

Resources and General Information

- Individual City or County Applications - New Applications and "Gold Standard" Incentive
- Individual City or County Applications - Amend/Renew Current Award and "Gold Standard" Incentive
- Cooperative Partnerships - New Applications
- Cooperative Partnerships - Amend/Renew Current Awards
- Applications, Supporting Documentation and OAA Summary Recommendations for Cities and Counties from Initial Grant Cycle
- State Agencies**
- Summaries and Recommendations from State Agency Proposals Approved August 18, 2023

State Agencies

- Proposal window is open from March 19th through May 24th 2024.**
- [Introduction Letter](#)
- [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#)
- [Summary of Proposal](#)
- [Budget Workbook](#)
- [Project Timeline Workbook](#)
- [Performance Measurement Workbook](#)
- [Progress Reporting Workbook \(Renewals & Amendments\)](#)
- [Terms and Conditions/MOU Template](#)

Executive Branch agencies should look for additional instructions from the Administration related to their submissions.

Additionally, if you have bookmarks or have visited the Grants Portal before, be sure to clear your cached images and files from your browsing history to ensure you have the most up-to-date versions of the files.

Any questions should be directed to info@voaa.us and someone will be glad to assist you.

Capitol Contact

Virginia General Assembly

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

MARCH 2024

- March 7, 2024: [Money Committee Chairs Announce State Budget Compromise Reached; VACo to Review and to Provide Updates Soon](#)
- March 5, 2024: [Bill Impacting Local Authority to Regulate Short-Term Rentals Amended to Address VACo Concerns; Another Bill Opposed by VACo Awaiting Governor's Approval](#)

FEBRUARY 2024

- February 29, 2024: [Bill to Preempt Local Authority to Regulate Short-Term Rentals Passes](#)
- February 27, 2024: [Bill Preempting Local Authority on Siting Solar and Battery Storage Facilities Fails](#)
- February 26, 2024: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [Call Now to Oppose Bill to Preempt Local Authority to Regulate Short-Term Rentals](#)
- February 22, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Advance Through Committees, Headed Back to Senate and House Floors!](#)
- February 20, 2024: ["Money Committees" Report Budgets](#)
- February 15, 2024: [JLARC Recommendation Legislation Consolidated and Clears Crossover](#)
- February 13, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bill Passes House of Delegates](#)
- February 8, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Head to House Floor – Contact Your Delegates Now!](#)
- February 7, 2024: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [Oppose SB 697: Mandates Approval of Solar and Battery Storage](#)
- February 6, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Advance in House](#)
- February 1, 2024: [VACo Legislative Day Capitol Contact](#)

JANUARY 2024

- January 30, 2024: [Support Priority Budget Amendments](#)
- January 25, 2024: [VACo Opposes Bill to Make Residential a "By-Right" Use in Commercial and Industrial Districts](#)
- January 23, 2024: [School Construction Financing Bills Headed to the Senate Floor](#)
- January 22, 2024: **Capitol Contact ALERT!** [School Construction Financing Bill to be Heard Tomorrow – Call Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee Members to Support](#)
- January 18, 2024: [House Version of Line of Duty Act \(LODA\) Benefits for Campus and Private Police Bill Falter](#)
- January 16, 2024: [VACo Opposes Problematic FOIA Bill](#)
- January 11, 2024: [2024 General Assembly Convenes](#)
- January 10, 2024: [VACo Opposes Legislation Giving Local Land Use Authority to SCC for the Siting of Utility-Scale Solar, Wind, and Energy Storage Projects](#)



You are VAcorp

You are not merely a customer of VAcorp; you **are** VAcorp! We are both owned and governed by you – our members! VAcorp is created under 15.2-2700 of the local government code where all assets and surplus belong to the members. In addition, VAcorp is controlled by a Supervisory Board that is elected from and by our members. The Board determines and approves all major risk pool decisions, and as a voting member, you have a voice in the decisions that matter most.

Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their “insurance carrier” – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

Our History

The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

VAcorp’s Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we’ve seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!**

VAcorp’s Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

VAcorp Exists to Serve You

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- **1993** - VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- **1998** - VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- **1999** - VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- **2001** - VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VARisk offering limited coverage.
- **2004** - VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** - VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** - VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** - VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- **2016** - VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** - VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- **2023** - VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY NEWS UPDATE

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 803, Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-500-1810 | info@voaa.us | www.voaa.us

Free Online Video Recording Now Available From Day One of the Three-Day Webinar

“Implementing Effective SUD Treatment in Regional and County Correctional Facilities”

Sponsored by Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance in Coordination with the OAA

In a first of its kind training topic for Virginia, [Bay Rivers Telehealth Alliance](#) and the [Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority](#) (OAA) are jointly sponsoring a **3-part webinar series** focusing on treating substance use disorders in local and regional jails.

A video recording of the first day’s webinar can be found [here](#). Topics and speakers on this recording include:

- Legal Requirements for Medication Assisted Treatment in Correctional Institutions
 - Presented by: Asst. U.S. Attorney Steven Gordon, Civil Rights Enforcement Coordinator, Eastern District of Virginia, U.S. Department of Justice
- Effective Treatment for Substance Use Disorder in Correctional Institutions
 - Presented by: Kerri Rhodes, LPC, LMFT, Chesterfield County Sheriff’s Office

Two more days are planned for this **FREE** webinar series:

- March 27, 2024, from 9am – 12pm
- April 24, 2024, from 9am – 12pm

For more information or to register please click [HERE](#).



Join the Regional Elected Leaders Initiative Policy and Governance Orientation Program

Want to deepen your understanding of existing region-wide policies shaping NOVA's future? Enhance your governance skills? Effectively communicate with and serve your constituents?

This course is designed especially for YOU - one of NOVA's elected leaders. RELI wants you and our region to thrive!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

When: Seven consecutive Mondays **IN-PERSON**, 6-9pm, April 8 – May 20, 2024. Dinner and parking provided

Where: Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) Office, 3040 Williams Dr., Suite 200, Fairfax, VA

Registration Deadline: April 1, 2024

Tuition/Fees: \$100 per single session or \$475 for all seven sessions

Attendees should check with their locality or caucus to explore access to tuition funding

The 7-week Agenda:

April 8: NOVA Demographics; Roles & Authorities; Campaigning vs Governing

April 15: Policy: Environment; Energy; Water; Parks; Land Use

April 22: Policy: Transportation; Economic Development

April 29: Community Engagement; Constituent Communication; Public Comment; Working with Colleagues/ Staff

May 6: Policy: Housing; Education

May 13: Policy: Public Safety; Emergency Preparedness; Public Health; Human Services

May 20: Legislative Process; Executive Evaluation



Pure, Accurate, and Impartial - three+one is enhancing financial decision-making for public officials across the nation.

This important message from Bill Cherry, former County Treasurer and three+one's Director of Public Partnerships, continues to resonate with our partners.

[Watch](#) as he shares how three+one is enhancing financial decision-making for public officials across the nation.



Aetna® Statewide Wellness Campaign Brings Comprehensive Master Planning and Wellness Programming to Your County

Accessible world-class outdoor wellness infrastructure for communities and schools across Virginia is now being made possible thanks to the new sponsorship [announced last month](#) between [National Fitness Campaign](#) and [Aetna®](#). Here's what this means for your County:

- Ability to work with experts on comprehensive wellness master-planning services in alignment with County goals;
- Support with community consensus, to engage people to spend more time outdoors to improve physical and mental well-being;
- Invitation to qualify for grants from a pool of \$350,000 in funding that is now available for municipalities and schools across Virginia to build a wellness culture as part of the Aetna® campaign.



Most recently, the Town of Dumfries and Mayor Derrick Wood [celebrated the first Fitness Court® Studio in the state this past fall](#) after responding to community voices who were asking for enhanced outdoor recreation options in their community. Residents can now walk, jog or cycle to their free Fitness Court® Studio at Ginn Memorial Park. Dumfries joins Loudoun County, Pulaski County and a number of other municipalities as the campaign continues to grow across Virginia.

Grant funding and comprehensive planning services will be allocated to support municipalities, schools, and organizations across the state in joining the growing NFC wellness campaign, an award-winning initiative now celebrating its 500th Healthy Community in America.

VACo is pleased to share this opportunity with our members who may be interested in qualifying for funding and sponsorship. If you would like to learn more about the Aetna® wellness campaign in Virginia and how to qualify, please fill out the short contact form at nationalfitnesscampaign.com/virginia.

Briefings with NFC require attendance from the Park Director, Public Health Director and/or County Manager/Administrator to qualify for funding and participation in Virginia.

Let's build a healthier Virginia, together.

[Learn More About the Campaign in Virginia](#)



Take Your Leadership Skills to the Next Level Through the NACo Leadership Academy

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

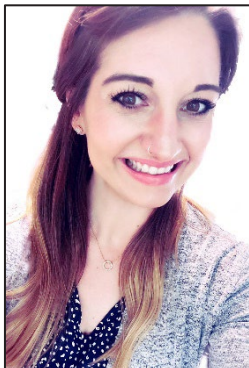
Empowering county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

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

NACo now offers several comprehensive leadership programs, providing a diverse range of fundamental skills and insights for aspiring leaders:

- NACo High Performance Leadership | 12-week online course
- NACo Cybersecurity Leadership | 12-week online course
- NACo Leading On Purpose Leadership | 8-week online course
- NACo Leading In Analytics Leadership | 8-week online course

Find out more at [NACo.org/Skills](https://www.naco.org/Skills) or reach out to Kelly Shearer to register today!



Kelly Shearer
kshearer@pdaleadership.com
D: 971-353-4428

Kelly joined the Professional Development Academy in 2022 as a Director of Enrollment. She collaborates closely with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to support leadership training resources for local government teams as they work to better serve their communities. Her background is specifically in organizational leadership, and as a Virginia native, she's familiar with the unique challenges and opportunities faced by the region's leaders today. In her free time, Kelly loves spending time with her husband and three boys in their Fredericksburg home, traveling when possible--especially to Virginia's beautiful wineries, and winding down with a good book.



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.

Part 1 | [Retiree Savings Through Medicare Advantage](#)

Part 2 | [Mental Health Support](#)

Part 3 | [Custom Benefits Solutions for Government Employers](#)

Part 4 | [Community Health](#)



TRUEBLUE PHOTO SPEED ENFORCEMENT

5 THINGS
YOU SHOULD KNOW



04:14

True Blue Photo Speed Enforcement – 5 Things You Should Know

Answers to Frequent Questions About Blue Line Solutions' Photo Speed Enforcement Program

<https://vimeo.com/860454886>

For more information, contact Greg Hogston | Sales Manager – Virginia
ghogston@bluelinesolutions.org | 276-759-8064



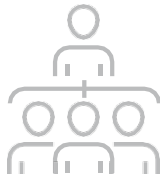
Counties affect the lives of residents every day. When our frontline staff are empowered as leaders, we deliver services more effectively. **The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is a resource that connects your staff with practical leadership training.** HPLA uses an innovative, interactive online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

THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



LEAD:

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



ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently



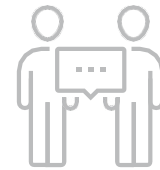
COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships



DELIVER:

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



COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence, and community

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

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

Additional discounts may apply. Contact us for more details.

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

Find out more at NACo.org/Skills





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.

OneDigital has a track record of providing cost-saving solutions to counties. This has been achieved through creative funding strategies, rate holds, and exclusive partnerships with various carriers. One of these exclusive partnerships is through VACORP and Anthem Life. OneDigital is responsible for the inception of the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP) which is through the Virginia Retirement System (VRS). Our team of fierce advocates negotiated a 5-year locked rate, including short-term and long-term disability benefits. Your division may already work with us in this capacity, as we currently serve over 270 public sector entities in the VLDP program.



OUR SOLUTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS

MANAGE

- Talent Planning
- Recruiting
- Development & Training

SUPPORT

- Benefits & Compensation
- Total Wellbeing
- Productivity
- Retirement Readiness

ENGAGE

- Culture
- Education & Fiduciary
- Literacy
- Communications

PROTECT

- Compliance
- Workplace Safety
- Operational Continuity
- Cyber Security



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.

VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

EIGHTH EDITION

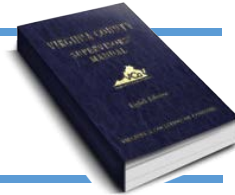


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\$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)



**Virginia County Supervisors' Manual
8th Edition**



The Eighth Edition of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual* is in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW

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Authorized Signature: _____

Email for credit card receipt: _____

Mail completed form to: Virginia Association of Counties
1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX credit card purchases to 804.788.0083

Questions? Call 804.788.6652.



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

[ASSISTANT RESEARCH SCIENTIST](#) | Virginia Institute of Marine Science | Posted March 20

[FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST](#) | Montgomery County | Posted March 20

[SHELTER ASSISTANT – FULL TIME](#) | Montgomery County | Posted March 20

[ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT](#) | Montgomery County | Posted March 20

[ENGINEER/PROJECT MANAGER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted March 20

[ADMINISTRATION DIVISION MANAGER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted March 20

[COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Louisa County | Posted March 20

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Fauquier County | Posted March 20

[REAL ESTATE ASSESSOR](#) | Prince George County | Posted March 20

[FIRE AND EMS CHIEF](#) | Prince George County | Posted March 20

[SOCIAL SERVICES ASSISTANT](#) | Montgomery County | Posted March 19

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[CRISIS CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[LIBRARY ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(M-F 10:30AM-4PM\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(M-F 7:30AM 2PM\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURAL BUILDING INSPECTION SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[REGISTERED NURSE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[RESIDENTIAL AIDE \(IN-HOME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[SENIOR CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[PART C SERVICE COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 18

[MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted March 18

[ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY](#) | New Kent County | Posted March 18

[DEPUTY CLERK CIRCUIT COURT PART TIME](#) | New Kent County | Posted March 18

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE SERVICES](#) | New Kent County | Posted March 18

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted March 18

[SENIOR ACCOUNTANT](#) | James City County | Posted March 15

[BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I/II/III](#) | James City County | Posted March 15

[FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST I/II/III \(ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES\)](#) | James City County | Posted March 15

[PERMIT TECHNICIAN I/II](#) | James City County | Posted March 15

[CHIEF OF POLICE](#) | Town of Amherst | Posted March 15

[UTILITY MECHANIC FOREMAN](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[SENIOR UTILITY MECHANIC WTP](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[CIVIL ENGINEER I](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[ASSISTANT COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY I](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[LIBRARIAN/CATALOGING/ COLLECTION MANAGER](#) | Gloucester County | Posted March 15

[ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN/ INSPECTOR](#) | Town of Ashland | Posted March 15

[SUPERVISOR-MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT](#) | City of Covington | Posted March 14

[REGIONAL JAIL SUPERINTENDENT](#) | Smyth County | Posted March 14

[SENIOR ACCOUNTANT \(HYBRID\)](#) | Isle of Wight County | Posted March 13

[ACCOUNTANT I \(HYBRID\)](#) | Isle of Wight County | Posted March 13

[SENIOR PLANNER – CURRENT PLANNING](#) | Prince William County | Posted March 12

AGENDA MANAGEMENT

COORDINATOR | Loudoun County
| Posted March 12

CSB CLINICIAN – MHSUD CHILDREN’S TEAM | Hanover County | Posted March 12

FACILITIES TECHNICIAN/CODE COMPLIANCE | Essex County | Posted March 12

TOWN MANAGER | Town of South Boston | Posted March 12

FIRE PROTECTION INSPECTOR | Loudoun County | Posted March 11

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR | Loudoun County | Posted March 11

CASHIER /GROUNDS ATTENDANT | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

STAFF AUDITOR | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

SENIOR AUDITOR | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

AUTOMATION ANALYST (PT) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

PRINCIPAL PLANNER – PLANS REVIEW | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

PRINCIPAL PLANNER – ZONING TEAM | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

HVAC PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

SERVICE MANAGER | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

JAIL OFFICER LATERAL/CERTIFIED | Hanover County | Posted March 11

JAIL OFFICER ENTRY LEVEL | Hanover County | Posted March 11

GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER | Hanover County | Posted March 11

FOOD SERVICES ASSISTANT | Hanover County | Posted March 11

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

SPECIALIST | Hanover County
| Posted March 11

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted March 11

DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES | Town of Blacksburg, VA | Posted March 11

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (PT) (RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 11

REAL ESTATE APPRAISER | Hanover County | Posted March 11

SOLID WASTE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR | Hanover County | Posted March 11

SUPERVISOR – MUNICIPAL WATER TREATMENT PLANT | City of Covington | Posted March 11

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER – EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER | Shenandoah County | Posted March 11

PRINCIPAL PLANNER-CURRENT PLANNING | Prince William County | Posted March 11

BENEFIT PROGRAMS SPECIALIST (CD) | Hanover County | Posted March 7

PLANNER I/II/III | James City County | Posted March 7

FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST I/II/III (VIEW/Adult Protective Services) | James City County | Posted March 7

PROGRAM COORDINATOR – SPORTS & ATHLETICS/OUTDOOR PROGRAMS | James City County | Posted March 7

ACCOUNTING TECHNICIAN I/II/III | James City County | Posted March 7

DEPUTY TREASURER II/CASHIER | Culpeper County | Posted March 7

VARIOUS POSITIONS | King George County | Posted March 7

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING | Fluvanna County | Posted March 7

REGIONAL PLANNER I or II | Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPD) | Posted March 6

SENIOR ENGINEER/FULL-TIME (ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 4

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER (ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 4

SUBSTITUTE LIBRARY | Chesterfield County | Posted March 4

SUBSTITUTE LIBRARY ASSISTANT | Chesterfield County | Posted March 4

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT | Chesterfield County | Posted March 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Albemarle County Service Authority | Posted March 4

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES | Spotsylvania County | Posted March 4

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Commonwealth Regional Council | Posted February 29

DIRECTOR OF PLANNING | Fluvanna County | Posted February 29

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission | Posted February 29

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY OR DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY | City of Charlottesville | Posted February 29

ELECTRICAL PLANS REVIEWER | Loudoun County | Posted February 29

FINANCE DIRECTOR/TREASURER | Town of Middleburg | Posted February 29

CITY ASSESSOR | City of Staunton | Posted February 29

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



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



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

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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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