

ENERGY SAVING PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING (ESPC)

Virginia Energy Management Program



VACo and Virginia Energy workshop on energy programs that counties can implement to reduce electricity costs now available [online](#).

On May 20 VACo and Virginia Energy (Virginia Department of Energy) hosted “Unlocking Energy Savings and Demand Response Opportunities for Local Governments.” A recording of this hybrid online and in-person event, is now available on [YouTube](#).

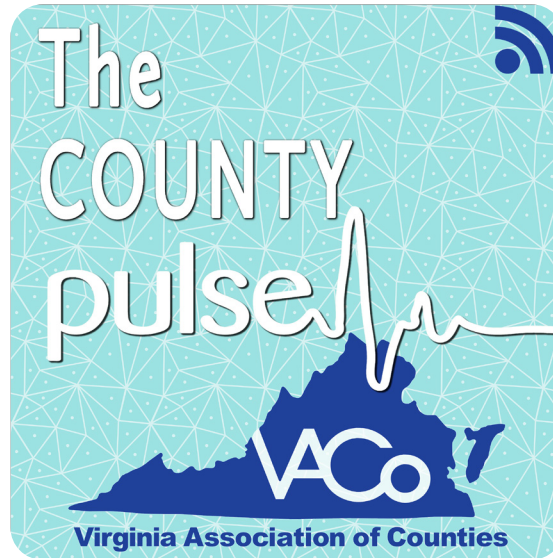
The workshop included an introduction and local government case studies on state-run Energy Savings Performance Contracting and Demand Response programs. Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) is a budget neutral approach that implements facility improvements using guaranteed energy and water savings to cover financing costs, eliminating the need for capital budget allocations. Demand Response (DR) turns your ability to temporarily reduce electricity usage into revenue. Through this program local governments are paid to reduce energy use during peak demand periods, thereby reducing constraints on the electric grid to provide customer power.

Speaker presentations include the following:

- **Overview of ESPC and DR programs – [Virginia Energy](#)**
- **Opportunities for Demand Response in Virginia – [Voltus](#)**
- **ESPC Case Study – [Fairfax County Park Authority](#)**
- **ESPC Case Study – [Loudoun County Public Schools](#)**

Counties interested in implementing these cost-saving programs should contact Mason Trimble, VEMP Program Manager, at mason.trimble@energy.virginia.gov or 804.382.4217.

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



Uplifting Our Children Through Education Series with Jeremy R. Bennett

Uplifting Our Children Through Education | Episode 1 | May 22, 2025
A Conversation with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch



[Listen to the Podcast.](#)

Uplifting Our Children Through Education Episode 1 | A Conversation with Dean Lynch. In this inaugural episode of the VACo County Pulse Podcast, Uplifting Our Children Through Education, host Jeremy Bennett sits down with VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch to discuss actions taken by the Governor and General Assembly during the 2025 legislative session. This includes a landmark achievement for Virginia's counties: the functional elimination of the cap on K-12 support positions. This long-sought policy change, finalized in the General Assembly's 2025 budget and supported by Governor Youngkin's May 2 actions, restores \$222.9 million in FY 2026 to local governments—funding that will now align with prevailing local staffing practices. The move marks the culmination of over 15 years of advocacy by VACo and its partners, addressing a funding gap that once exceeded \$400 million and bringing state support for education staffing back to pre-Great Recession levels. [Virginia Association of Counties](#)

Bennett and Lynch also explore other critical wins in the 2025 budget, including \$53 million in new special education funding and \$360 million in school construction grants. These investments reflect VACo's broader commitment to equitable, well-resourced public education across the Commonwealth. Listeners will gain insight into how these budgetary victories were achieved, the collaborative efforts behind them, and what they mean for the future of Virginia's counties and their schools.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



IN MEMORIAM: U.S. Representative Gerald E. Connolly

It is with deep sadness that I share the news of the passing of Congressman Gerry Connolly, who died this morning following a brief illness.

Gerry was a dedicated public servant and a valued member of the VACo family. He served as President of the Virginia Association of Counties during the 2004–2005 term and was the longtime Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. His leadership and commitment to Virginia's counties left a lasting impact on our organization and the communities we serve.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues during this difficult time.

-- From email to VACo Board of Directors from VACo Executive Director Dean Lynch on Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

2025 PEMS Special Recognition Award - VA Regional EMS Medication Kit Transition Workgroup

VACo was recently recognized for [its work](#) on the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Workgroup, as discussed in the award notice below.

“For more than four decades a majority of the Commonwealth’s EMS agencies received their medications through hospital stocked regional EMS Medication kits exchanged one-for-one when an agency delivered their patient to a hospital emergency department. While the Commonwealth of Virginia had been forecasting the demise of this system since the passage of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act by Congress in 2017.

In October of 2023 as an EMS community, we learned that the FDA had passed regulations created by the Drug Supply Chain Security Act that was going to force the transition much sooner than expected. Faced with a little more than a year to complete the transition, a deadline that was ultimately extended another five months, the Regional Councils began working with stakeholders’ groups, agencies and organizations throughout the Commonwealth and subject matter experts to develop a coalition to work on resolving the problem and to provide the Statewide EMS system with information, tools and guidance.

For the last eighteen months, the Virginia Regional EMS Medication Workgroup comprised of 14 agencies and organizations and 54 individuals helped the Board of Pharmacy develop new EMS informed emergency regulations as well as final regulations. These individuals staffed tool teams for Controlled Substance Registration and DEA licensure, Policies and Procedures, Purchasing, Financial Assistance and DEQ and Pharmaceutical Waste, created educational workshops for EMS agencies, and acted as subject matter experts to provide guidance in their use. The workgroup was supported by dozens of individuals and agencies who also shared their time and expertise which resulted in meeting the April 15, 2025, deadline that had been established. Almost all of the over 500 EMS agencies in the Commonwealth successfully transitioned from hospital stocked regional EMS medication kits to agency stocked kits, a monumental feat.”



From Left to Right - Michael D. Berg, EMS Systems Funding, Virginia Department of Health; Jeremy R. Bennett, VACo Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; and JC Bolling, State EMS Advisory Board, Southwest Virginia EMS Council, Vice Chair.





Visit Shenandoah County and the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse

Constructed in 1795 of native limestone, the Shenandoah County Historic Courthouse is the oldest courthouse west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in continuous use. It saw much activity during the Civil War, with troops from both sides in and around the building and leaving their mark with graffiti on the interior walls.

A Greek Revival addition was built in 1871 that contained a new courtroom and construction in 1886 added clerk's offices in the Victorian style. The front of the building was altered in 1927 with the addition of columns and a portico. Even today, the building's cupola is topped with a weather vane of delicate scrollwork and a figure of uncertain identity. The courthouse served as the center of county government until the early 20th century. Adjacent to the courthouse, the traditional Lawyer's Row remains, though the original buildings are used for other purposes. The courthouse now serves as a Visitor Information Center, Historic Courtroom Museum, Shenandoah County Historical Society offices, and periodic court use.

103 North Main Street, Woodstock, VA 22664

Tourism office 540-459-6227 or Historical Society 540-459-1795

SOURCE: [Visit Shenandoah County](#)



VACo 2025 REGIONAL MEETINGS

- **REGION 4** | April 28 | Brunswick County
- **REGION 1** | May 7 | Sussex County
- **REGIONS 3&5** | May 12 | Henrico County
- **REGION 10** | June 12 | Pittsylvania County
- **REGION 7** | June 16 | King George County
- **REGION 13** | July 21 | Dickenson County
- **REGIONS 11&12** | July 22 | Bland County
- **REGION 8** | August 20 | Prince William County
- **REGION 2** | August 27 | Gloucester County
- **REGIONS 6&9** | September 18 | Shenandoah County



Planning for Agriculture Toolkit

American Farmland Trust (AFT) works nationwide—and here in Virginia—to protect farmland, promote sound farming practices, and support thriving farm economies.

Through Regenerate Virginia, AFT and our partners are advancing a future for farming grounded in smart policy, strong partnerships, and community-based planning. A key effort is our Planning for Agriculture in Virginia initiative, designed to help local leaders protect farmland, boost farm viability, and encourage conservation-based practices.

This fall, we're launching a Planning for Agriculture Toolkit—a practical online resource filled with fact sheets, case studies, and strategies tailored to Virginia's localities. It was developed with input from over 40 statewide stakeholders and guided by expert advisor Julia Freedgood.



Want to be notified when the toolkit goes live?

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/5c8xn4jut>

Special thanks to our advisory committee:

- Melissa Allen, John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District
- David Blount, Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions
- Detrick Easley, Halifax County
- Katelyn Jordan, Virginia Farm Bureau
- Joe Lerch, Virginia Association of Counties
- Ann Mallek, Albemarle County
- Elli Travis, Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement
- Stephen Versen, Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
- Lyndsie Young, Grayson County



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Community:

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Pierce Insurance was selected by National Benefit Partners to represent Benefits That Benefit Children's voluntary products and services and our clients have since raised over **\$122,000** for Children's Hospital Foundations.

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Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employers win because they generate significant donations to children's hospitals in their communities simply by offering select best-in-class voluntary benefits to their employees - *no purchase necessary.*

WIN



CHILDREN'S CHAMPIONS EMPLOYEES

Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employees win because they are able to elect best-in-class voluntary benefits products and services with preferred underwriting and plan designs from some of the nation's top-rated employee benefit providers.

WIN



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Children's hospitals all across the country win because the Benefits That Benefit Children cause marketing program raises awareness of their special financial needs and provides significant donations to their foundations.



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Chesterfield Renames Beulah Recreation Center in Honor of Longtime Supervisor Jim Holland



During a ceremony Wednesday, May 7, just shy of the two-year anniversary of the Beulah Recreation Center's opening, Chesterfield recognized Dale District Supervisor Jim Holland's nearly two decades of service by dedicating the site – which includes both the center and adjacent neighborhood park currently under construction -- in his name.

With the unsuspecting guest of honor watching on a video screen inside the facility's large multipurpose room along with his wife, Judith, and several other invited guests, two county employees unveiled the new outdoor sign for the James M. Holland Recreation Complex at Beulah.

Holland played a critical leadership role in Chesterfield's construction of a new, modern Beulah Elementary School that opened in 2018. Once the school system determined it had no use for the vacant former school building near the intersection of Beulah and Hopkins roads, Holland convinced his fellow supervisors the county should make needed improvements and convert it into a community gathering place.

Today, the James M. Holland Recreation Complex at Beulah is one of the most active recreation centers in the county – quickly becoming a cultural melting pot of activity for area residents and organizations. "I want to thank each of you for being here today. It's a huge honor. I'm forever humbled and grateful," said Holland, who was first elected to represent the Dale District on the Board of Supervisors in November 2007. "When you have your name on anything, you have to live up to it."

Holland was chosen by his peers to serve as the board's chair in 2014, 2021 and 2024, and as its vice chair in 2010 and 2022.

To read more about the ceremony, including video of the event, visit the "[Chesterfield On Point](#)" blog.

News Release

For Immediate Release



CONTACT

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awhittaker@roanokecountyva.gov

Megan Baker Named One of Top 50 Economic Developers in North America

(May 13, 2025) — Roanoke County Economic Development Director Megan Baker, CEcD, has been named one of the [top 50 economic developers in North America by Consultant Connect](#), a consulting agency connecting economic developers with site consultants to promote best practices in the industry.

The annual recognition honors outstanding economic development professionals nominated by their peers for innovative strategies, strong practices, and measurable impact in building thriving communities.



“I’m honored to be recognized among so many talented professionals,” said Baker. “This recognition reflects the collaboration and momentum we’ve built in Roanoke County to attract investment and create opportunity.”

Baker has served as Roanoke County’s Economic Development Director since October 2022. Under her leadership, the County has celebrated \$144 million in new project announcements and the creation of 1,300 jobs, including major investments from Wells Fargo, Mack Trucks, Southern Team Hyundai, and Vistar Eye Center.

“Megan’s leadership has brought a new level of energy and focus to our economic development efforts,” said Roanoke County Administrator Richard Caywood. “This recognition is well deserved, and we’re proud to have her representing Roanoke County.”



PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2G
Christiansburg, VA 24073

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Montgomery County Blacksburg Christiansburg Regional Tourism Office Selects Executive Director

May 14, 2025 – Samantha Livesay has been named Executive Director of the Montgomery County Blacksburg Christiansburg Regional Tourism Office, effective June 3, 2025.

“After conducting an extensive and competitive search, we are thrilled to have Samantha lead the Regional Tourism Office,” said Angie Hill, Montgomery County Administrator. “Samantha’s experiences and skills will allow her to be an excellent advocate for our regional tourism efforts, while providing strategic guidance and vision to the tourism office.”

As Executive Director of the regional tourism program, Livesay will report to the Blacksburg Town Manager, Christiansburg Town Manager, and Montgomery County Administrator. Working in close collaboration with the Montgomery County Tourism Board, her role will involve the strategic marketing of the region’s diverse attractions, such as its sports and outdoor offerings, deep-rooted local history, craft beverage scene that includes breweries, wineries, and distilleries, festivals, museums, theater venues, diverse dining and lodging options, and the variety of events and activities hosted by Virginia Tech.

“I welcome the opportunity to serve Montgomery County and elevate the regional tourism program,” said Livesay. “I grew up in Montgomery County and my family and I are proud to call this community our home. I’m looking forward to collaborating with local, regional and state partners in this new role.”

Earlier this year, the towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg and Montgomery County signed a renewal on a joint tourism cooperative agreement, which has been operational for over a decade. This unified regional approach recognizes the significant economic impact of tourism in Montgomery County, which generated over \$270 million in spending in 2024.

Prior to joining Montgomery County, Livesay was the Senior Director of Business Engagement for Onward New River Valley. Before that, she served as the Community Relations Coordinator for Community Housing Partners. In addition to previously serving as Co-Chair of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce’s Ambassador Team (2018–2020), she has served on the Chamber’s Board of Directors since 2023 and currently Co-Chairs its Business Resource Committee.

Livesay is a graduate of Radford University with a bachelor degree in communications and public relations.

To learn more about the Blacksburg, Christiansburg and Montgomery County Regional Tourism Office, visit <https://gotomontva.com/>.

###

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Brittany Niemeyer Named Nelson County Assistant Director of Economic Development & Tourism



Nelson County Administrator Candice McGarry recently announced the appointment of Brittany Niemeyer as Assistant Director of Economic Development & Tourism for Nelson County. Niemeyer officially began her new role on May 12.

Brittany Niemeyer joins Nelson County after a distinguished career in communications and brand development, notably serving as Digital Communications Manager for the Anheuser-Busch Northeast Regional Team & Devils Backbone Brewing Company. Her innovative approach to digital marketing, combined with her expertise in social media management, content creation, and event planning, will be instrumental in elevating Nelson County's Economic Development & Tourism initiatives.

Throughout her career, Brittany has demonstrated a strong ability to craft compelling narratives and engage audiences from multiple platforms. "We are excited to welcome Brittany Niemeyer to our team," said Maureen Kelley, Director of Economic Development & Tourism. "Her innovative marketing experience and passion for community engagement will be invaluable to us as we work to showcase all that our beautiful Nelson County has to offer."

Special General Assembly Committees Monitoring Federal Actions Hit the Road in May



The General Assembly's special committees that are working to understand and address potential impacts of federal funding reductions on the state budget continued their work this month, with the House Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions meeting on May 12 in Wytheville and the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee's Special Subcommittee on Federal Impacts to Resources convening on May 20 in Alexandria.

House Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions

The House Emergency Committee's May 12 meeting focused on health care and the needs of rural areas, featuring presentations on potential changes to Medicaid, challenges facing rural hospitals, the state's economic development efforts, and the importance of tourism and agriculture and forestry to Virginia's economy.

Department of Medical Assistance Director Cheryl Roberts and her staff provided [an overview](#) of Virginia's Medicaid program and the potential impacts of proposals under consideration in federal budget reconciliation discussions. A version of the reconciliation bill had been released the night

before the Emergency Committee meeting, and revisions have continued in the intervening days, with additional changes possible as the bill moves to Senate consideration (a summary provided to the Committee by KFF's Deputy Director Jennifer Tolbert of proposed changes to Medicaid being discussed at the federal level may be found at [this link](#)).

Enacted in 2018, Virginia's Medicaid expansion coverage (which covers individuals with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level) includes language in the state budget that would trigger disenrollment of individuals covered by the expansion in the event the federal government reduces its enhanced match for this population. Virginia funds the state share of expansion costs through a tax on private hospitals. These provider assessments and other similar mechanisms have recently come under scrutiny, and any proposals to set caps on these funding methods below Virginia's current rate would affect Virginia's funding structure for expansion coverage, which also uses revenue generated by a separate provider assessment to make supplemental rate payments to private acute care hospitals. Work requirements for Medicaid recipients are also under consideration, as well as more frequent redeterminations of eligibility.

Carilion Clinic Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Don Halliwill [outlined](#) investments in access to care that have been funded by hospitals, and shared concerns that reductions to Medicaid will create service disruptions, require higher costs to be passed along to commercial insurance, and reduce access to care, a particular concern in rural areas, which tend to have higher rates of chronic illness. Jason El Koubi, President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, [discussed](#) the importance of job creation and diversification in responding to federal actions, to include VEDP's aspirations to position Virginia as a top state for talent – a goal that requires retaining and attracting workers, developing talent and aligning workforce skills with employer needs, and reducing barriers to employment, such as child care and transportation. He highlighted key challenges, including major changes in the commercial real estate market, technological disruption associated with artificial intelligence, and increased volatility in trade relations, and cited several areas for state action, to include continuing efforts to enhance site and infrastructure readiness, as well as reviewing the overall competitiveness of Virginia's tax structure, and enhancing "regulatory agility" in permitting, land use, and workforce credentialing.

The Committee also received [updates on the importance of tourism to the state economy](#) and programs at the Virginia Tourism Corporation that assist with financing certain tourism-related community assets and market Virginia as a tourism destination, [as well as community development programs administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development](#). Committee members also received briefings [on the contributions of agriculture and forestry to the state economy](#) and the federal programs that support these industries; [the potential effects of tariffs on Virginia agriculture](#), and challenges facing programs that address food insecurity in southwest Virginia (presentations available at [this link](#) and [this link](#)).

The House Emergency Committee's next meeting is scheduled for June 20 at Norfolk State University.

Senate Finance and Appropriations Special Subcommittee on Federal Impacts to Resources

The Senate Special Subcommittee's May 20 meeting featured an economic update, a report from the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) on the status of federal budget reconciliation, and a

presentation from Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee staff on potential impacts of federal actions on Virginia.

Professor Robert M. McNab painted a concerning portrait in his [presentation on economic conditions](#) at the national and state level, noting that although economic indicators have been positive in recent months, these measures lag policy decisions by three to six months. He pointed to several worrisome data points that are more current, including significant declines in consumer sentiment since January, paired with a spike in consumers' inflation expectations in 2025. Tariff impacts may include layoffs and supply chain disruptions, and businesses are reporting that the uncertainty surrounding trade policy is increasing costs and causing investments to be deferred. As has been discussed in other presentations, Virginia is particularly vulnerable to federal workforce actions, given the state's large share of federal civilian employees and their concentration in areas that generate most of the state's gross domestic product.

NCSL Federal Affairs Advisor Austin Reid explained the [process of federal budget reconciliation](#), underscoring the fluid and changing status of the bill under consideration this week in the House of Representatives. He also reported on recent federal actions related to education, including action in March to cancel previously-granted approvals of extensions to spend remaining pandemic education relief funds. Virginia had \$49 million remaining to be expended as of March 2025. After litigation, the Department has reversed course; however, approvals have been slow and have apparently been narrow in scope.

To conclude the meeting, Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst Mike Tweedy [outlined potential impacts of federal actions on Virginia](#), pointing out that federal funding represents 25 percent of Virginia's budget, with the lion's share of these dollars concentrated in health and human resources. Mr. Tweedy highlighted proposed changes to the structure of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and their potential effects on the state budget; these proposals would require the state to assume a higher level of administrative costs as well as sharing a portion of benefit costs, which have historically been funded entirely by the federal government.

The 2025 Appropriation Act includes several provisions intended to guard against major federal policy changes, including a pause on automatic conformity to certain changes to federal income tax policy, and language setting aside any FY 2025 surplus revenues (after \$20 million for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program, and required Revenue Reserve Fund and Water Quality Improvement Fund deposits) for use in responding to federal actions in a 2025 special session or the 2026 regular session. The Governor's May 2 vetoes, paired with previous unappropriated balances, also establish an unappropriated balance of approximately \$884 million as a cushion against near-term economic dislocation.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

SMART SCALE Projects Approved



SMART SCALE

*Funding the Right
Transportation Projects
in Virginia*

At the May meeting of the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB), the CTB agreed to a resolution approving the 6th round of SMART SCALE projects. The Consensus Scenario is an update to the Staff Recommended Scenario, which was presented to the CTB at the January meeting, based upon feedback from the CTB members and input from the spring public meetings.

270 project applications were submitted for Round 6 (FY 26), which totaled around \$8.2 billion in funding requests. With \$1.07 billion in funding available, not every project would or could be funded. The CTB would ultimately approve 53 projects for funding totaling \$983.6 million. This is well below Round 5 (FY 24), when 164 projects were selected for funding totaling \$1.6 billion.

While the SMART SCALE projects are now approved, the CTB must still approve the Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP), which is a state document that outlines planned spending for transportation projects proposed for construction development or study for the next six years. The approved round 6 SMART SCALE projects will be included in the SYIP, which is set to be considered at the June meeting of the CTB.

Click to [view the Consensus Scenario](#), which includes changes from the [Staff Recommended Scenario](#).

VACo Contact: [James Hutzler](#)

Joint Commission on Health Care Adopts Workplan, Receives Updates on Fentanyl Study, Hiram Davis Medical Center Closure



The Joint Commission on Health Care held its first meeting of 2025 on Wednesday, May 21, adopting a revised work plan for the remainder of the year and receiving an update from its staff on a previously-directed study of the fentanyl crisis in Virginia, as well as [an update from Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services Commissioner Nelson Smith](#) on the planned closure of Hiram Davis Medical Center.

The Commission had previously directed its staff to undertake three studies in 2025:

- **Policy Solutions to the Commonwealth's Fentanyl Crisis:** This study will analyze fentanyl prevalence and fentanyl overdoses in the Commonwealth, to include an examination of fentanyl use in the context of other addiction trends in recent history. Staff are charged with determining which prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies implemented in Virginia are succeeding, and developing recommendations to reduce the prevalence of fentanyl and the number of fentanyl overdoses in the Commonwealth.
- **Access to pharmacy services in Virginia:** This study is required to identify areas in Virginia that constitute pharmacy deserts, determine factors that affect access to pharmacy services, and develop policy options to improve such access. This study will also incorporate concepts from unsuccessful 2025 legislation that sought to address this issue; the bill would have created a program to provide financial assistance to independent pharmacies in rural and medically-underserved areas.
- **Transportation-related barriers to health care:** This study will analyze transportation barriers to health care in Virginia, the factors that contribute to such barriers, and the populations most

affected, and will also include identification and evaluation of existing interventions and programs that address such barriers, and recommendations for strategies that Virginia could implement.

At its May 21 meeting, the Commission approved the addition of two narrowly-scoped studies to staff's 2025 workplan, based on areas of interest previously discussed by the Commission and 2025 legislation that was referred to the Commission for consideration. In addition to the three studies discussed above, staff will undertake a study of the potential implementation of a Medicaid-funded food and nutrition benefit in Virginia, as well as a study of potential strategies for legislative oversight of Medicaid program spending (to include approaches adopted in other states).

Commission staff provided an [interim briefing](#) on the study of policy solutions to the fentanyl crisis, outlining key research questions and methods and providing a brief history of fentanyl overdose deaths relative to overdose deaths caused by other opioids in recent years, noting that fentanyl overdose deaths dropped significantly in the last two years after a sharp increase during the COVID-19 pandemic, appearing to return to pre-pandemic levels. Staff have identified numerous evidence-based strategies being implemented to reduce fentanyl overdose deaths; staff analysis is focusing on strategies that promote prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery, with a particular interest in how successful strategies can be sustained over time. A full briefing will be provided at the Commission's September meeting. Written public comment on the study may be submitted prior to close of business on Friday, May 30; comments may be provided via email (jchcpubliccomments@jchc.virginia.gov) or U.S. Mail (411 E. Franklin Street, Suite 505, Richmond, VA 23219).

Statutes outlining the Commission's authority require its involvement in any planning process for the proposed closure of a state hospital. As [previously reported](#), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services is planning to close Hiram Davis Medical Center by the end of 2027. This facility has not undergone any substantial renovations in the 50 years since it was opened and has HVAC and electrical systems, as well as elevators, at the end of their useful lives; major repairs would require staff and patients to be displaced for up to 24 months. In accordance with Code requirements, a State and Community Planning and Consensus Team has been convened, which will be providing a plan to ensure continuity of care as alternative placements are developed for current patients. This plan is required to be provided to the Governor, the Commission, and the "money committees" by November 1. The Department is anticipating that the 30 patients being served at the hospital as of July 2025 will opt for placements in group homes, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities, or homes on the campus of the Southeastern Virginia Training Center, which would offer skilled nursing care. Discussions in the State and Community Planning and Consensus Team have focused on supporting patients in this transition, to include developing or enhancing community services, and assisting staff, ideally in finding other positions within the Department.

The Commission also received a [briefing from Mike Tweedy](#), Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst at the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, on key health and human resources items in the recently-signed 2025 Appropriation Act.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for June 18.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Fire and EMS Needs Assessment Survey Results and Analysis

Virginia Association of Counties (VACo)

Prepared By Jeremy R. Bennett

5/9/2025

Background:

As a result of a request for assistance received by VACo from a member county, and as feedback given at the VACo Region 4 meeting, on April 17, 2025, VACo sent the following survey questions to its member county administrators regarding fire and emergency medical services (EMS), funding, and needs. VACo received responses from 39 member counties (40% of total member counties) representing a geographically diverse cross section of urban, suburban, and rural members. A map of respondent counties is attached.

The survey posed the following six questions:

- How is your locality funding EMS and fire services?
- Have you established mutual aid agreements with neighboring jurisdictions?
- Have you implemented an EMS/fire fee or tax?
- Are billing and/or collections presenting challenges?
- If your county has volunteer EMS and fire services, how are you recruiting volunteers?
- Overall, what is the current situation for EMS and fire services in your county?

VACo received responses to these questions through the beginning of May 2025.

Results:*Question #1:*

Regarding the first question on funding, 100% of survey respondents indicated that they provide some degree of county general funds to their fire and EMS providers, or a county stipend of general funds to volunteer departments and agencies. Furthermore, several respondents noted that they also receive state funding such as the Aid to Localities program and also federal grants. A number of respondents indicated that they also use billing for EMS transportation and/or dedicated tax levies using the authority given to counties and cities under [§ 32.1-111.14:2 of the Code of Virginia](#). One respondent indicated using casino revenue funds to help pay for operating costs associated with fire and EMS.

Click to read the rest of the Report**VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)**

State Revenue Collections, Outlook for Future Under Discussion at Money Committee Meetings



The House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committees met on May 19 and May 20, respectively, with each Committee receiving [a briefing on state revenues from Secretary of Finance Stephen E. Cummings](#), who reiterated the Administration's confidence in FY 2025 revenues meeting the forecast in the Appropriation Act, but acknowledged that the outlook for FY 2026 is less certain.

State General Fund revenues performed well in April, exceeding projections by 3.3 percent; revenue growth was largely driven by a strong performance in nonwithholding collections, which increased by 21.9 percent in April relative to April 2024. Although withholding collections missed the forecast by 10.6 percent, the Administration believes this variance to be an anomaly resulting from the last day of April falling on a Wednesday, which likely pushed withholding deposits into May. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, withholding collections are 6.3 percent above last year, although collections are lagging the forecast by 0.3 percent, or \$46.6 million. Sales tax collections were up 4.2 percent in April (reflecting March sales), which may be attributable to consumers attempting to avoid tariffs by making purchases earlier. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, sales and use tax revenues have grown by 1.7 percent, and are slightly behind the forecast, trailing by 0.1 percent, or \$5.7 million. On a fiscal year-to-date basis, overall

General Fund revenues are \$211.1 million, or 0.8 percent, ahead of forecast. Secretary Cummings pointed out that revenue collections could decline by 4.7 percent through the end of the fiscal year and still meet the revenue forecast.

Secretary Cummings provided an overview of actions underway within the Administration to track and respond to proposals at the federal level that might pose risks to state revenues, including monitoring of weekly withholding collections from federal agencies and the largest federal contractors and tracking federal grants that have been paused or are otherwise under review. He emphasized that Virginia is in a strong position to weather potential economic headwinds, with revenues poised to meet the FY 2025 forecast, strong reserves, and the additional cushion created by the Governor's May 2 vetoes, paired with the unappropriated balance from the reconvened session – financial strength recently recognized by Moody's, which reaffirmed Virginia's AAA bond rating in April. Members of both committees raised concerns that these views may be overly optimistic, citing potential funding reductions and significant cost shifts to the state under consideration at the federal level for future fiscal years, issues under discussion in special committees in both chambers.

The House Appropriations Committee also received [a presentation from State Health Commissioner Karen Shelton](#), who updated the Committee on actions taken at the Virginia Department of Health to address deficiencies in financial management and other shortcomings detailed in JLARC's November 2024 review of the agency. The meeting concluded with [a presentation from the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation](#) on a new data dashboard that tracks early childhood care and education supply and demand.

Deputy Tax Commissioner Kristin Collins [briefed](#) the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee on the Department of Taxation's replacement of its tax processing and accounting system, Virginia's conformity to federal income tax law (which is largely paused for 2025 and 2026 in accordance with provisions in the Appropriation Act, to allow the state to respond to tax policy changes at the federal level), and how income is taxed when a worker lives in one state but works in another. Robert Ward, Chief Transformation Officer, [updated](#) the Committee on projects undertaken by the Office of Transformation, with a particular focus on the Office of Recovery and Rebuilding and its work to expedite disaster recovery efforts. Other projects underway include improving state parks' non-general fund revenue generation opportunities and the Reclaiming Childhood initiative.

VACo Contact: [Katie Boyle](#)

Public Comment Requested for Implementation of the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) Fire Reporting Notice



Legislation passed during the 2025 General Assembly session tasks the Virginia Fire Services Board to develop a policy to require emergency incident reporting to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS). Aid to Localities funding will be contingent on this reporting requirement.

The Virginia Fire Services Board, and staff from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP), will begin drafting the policy during the summer of 2025. VDFP encourages localities and their fire departments to be involved in the process. The Virginia Fire Services Board will meet on the below dates and all meetings can be found by accessing [VFSB Meeting Dates - Virginia Department of Fire Programs](#).

- **June 6, 2025**, VDFP Headquarters, Glen Allen, VA
- **September 24 and 25, 2025**, Harrisonburg, VA
- **December 2, 2025**, VDFP Headquarters, Glen Allen, VA.

[Link to letter from Brad Creasy, Virginia Department of Fire Programs Executive Director.](#)

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) “Drone” Replacement Program Funded



Governor Youngkin signed HB1600 (“the budget bill”) on May 2, 2025. The bill includes [budget item 394 #2c](#), which establishes a \$1M grant program to assist law enforcement and other first responders to transition from drones made in countries identified as foreign adversaries. Virginia is the second state to create such a grant fund, with Florida having implemented a \$25M program in 2023. The budget item becomes effective July 1, 2025.

Senator Russet Perry and Delegate Pauk Krizek introduced the original budget item following on the heels of President Biden signing the FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). VACo supported additional funds to help counties comply with these mandates, after [surveying](#) members in December 2024 and discovering that compliance with federal mandate would potentially impose additional financial burdens on counties.

Specifically, [Sec. 1709 of the 2025 NDAA](#) directs that within a year, any one of the five U.S. national security agencies must determine whether Chinese-made drones (specifically, DJI and Autel) pose a risk to national security. Three of the five agencies had already made this determination prior to the 25 NDAA, making it not an “if,” but a “when” the new determination would be released. Within 30 days of such a determination, DJI and Autel will be added to the [FCC’s covered list](#), prohibiting the FCC from providing operating authorization to new DJI or Autel drones. Even if none of the five agencies make a determination in 2025, the 2025 NDAA requires that both DJI or Autel are automatically added to the FCC’s covered list.

While exact specifics are unavailable, anecdotal information indicates there are hundreds of public safety drones operating in Virginia. It is also estimated that between 85-90% of these drones are DJI and Autel drones.

In Virginia, the grant program will be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in coordination with the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Virginia State Police, Virginia Association of Counties, Virginia Municipal League, the Fire Chiefs and Ambulance Associations, as well as the Sheriff’s Association. Together, these entities will help establish the criteria for the program, ensuring that no grant exceeds \$25,000 per drone and that the funding is only used to purchase replacement drones that are in compliance with the [American Security Drone Act](#), enacted by Congress in 2023.

VACo thanks the General Assembly, the Governor, and our members for the advocacy and leadership on these issues and will report on updates regarding the grant program as they become available.

VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



VA SAFE HAVEN FOR PROVIDERS

1-888-510-2229

24/7 Safe Haven Hotline

VA SAFE HAVEN LAW

In Virginia, the Safe Haven law allows a parent to safely surrender their unharmed infant who is 30 days old or younger, to a staff member at a designated Safe Haven location: a hospital that provides 24-hr emergency services, an attended emergency medical services (EMS) agency that employs emergency medical personnel such as some fire stations and rescue squads, or a newborn safety device located at and operated by such hospital or emergency medical services agency.

Additionally, the Safe Haven law provides hospital and emergency medical services personnel criminal and civil immunity for injury or other damages to the infant unless such injury or other damage to the infant was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct by such personnel.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE HAVEN PROVIDERS

ATTENDED EMS STAFF

- Accept physical custody of the infant under the Safe Haven law.
- Request the surrendering parent to provide medical information and any other important facts about the infant. **Note:** If the parent declines this request, a Safe Haven provider **cannot** compel the parent to provide this information.
- Provide any immediate medical care the infant may require.
- Arrange to have the infant transported to the nearest hospital.
- Notify hospital staff that the infant has been surrendered under the Safe Haven law. Hospital staff will then contact the local Department of Social Services to inform them.
- If the surrendering parent contacts you regarding reclaiming custody of the infant, please direct the parent to contact the local Department of Social Services to initiate this process and discuss options.
- If you have any questions or for information regarding training for your staff, please contact the Safe Haven hotline at 1-888-510-2229.

HOSPITAL STAFF

- Facilitate conversation around private adoption and make a referral to a private adoption agency if necessary and/or contact the National Safe Haven Alliance (NSHA) at 1-888-510-BABY (2229) to assist with this step.

Click to read more | VACo Contact: [Jeremy R. Bennett](#)



HRSD's Municipal Assistance Program: Supporting Local Water Management

Since 1992, HRSD's **Municipal Assistance Program (MAP)** has partnered with Virginia's local governments to provide critical environmental services—ranging from water quality monitoring to regulatory compliance support. Through this program, municipalities can access technical expertise and specialized resources that support efficient, cost-effective water management.

Services Designed for Local Needs

MAP offers a wide range of services tailored to meet the needs of communities of all sizes—from small towns to larger municipalities—providing flexible support where it's needed most.

- **Environmental Sampling & Monitoring** – Assistance with stormwater programs and VPDES permit compliance.
- **Treatment Process Analysis** – Evaluation of wastewater treatment system performance to identify inefficiencies and optimize operations.
- **Industrial Pretreatment** – Sampling and analysis to support permitting, compliance, enforcement, and surcharge assessments.
- **Water Quality** – Identification of pollutant sources, biological assessments, and support in meeting environmental standards.
- **Air Monitoring** – Services include air sampling, odor evaluations, and emissions assessments.
- **Training & Consulting** – On-site training and expert guidance to help staff build in-house capability and confidence.

Why Partner with HRSD?

With over 50 municipal clients, HRSD's Municipal Assistance Program continues to grow as a trusted resource for reliable environmental services. MAP operates on a cost-reimbursement basis, allowing local governments to access advanced support in a budget-conscious way—particularly in areas where internal staffing or outside consulting may be limited. Referrals typically come from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and regional partnerships.

Looking ahead, HRSD is helping municipalities prepare for future challenges, including emerging contaminants like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The program's accredited laboratory and experienced staff are actively expanding monitoring capabilities to meet new standards and support evolving regulatory needs.

For more information about the Municipal Assistance Program, contact **Bruce Weckworth, Environmental Scientist**, at bweckworth@hrsd.com or **757.460.4256**.

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

Scholarships are still available for you and your team.

Join over 10,000 county leaders already benefiting from the effectiveness of the [NACo Leadership Academy](#), the **12-week, online leadership program** founded by General Colin Powell.

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Virginia graduates:

Manuel Duarte, Senior IT Analyst, Prince William County

Lisa Fucci, Firefighter/Paramedic, Essex County

Bruce Nicholson, Assistant Director of Information Technology, Prince William County

Dillon Selph, Lieutenant, Essex County

Gina Vaughan, Deputy Clerk to County Administrator, Essex County

Ellen Volo, Opioid Response Manager, Fairfax County

Cameron Williams, FF/AEMT, Essex County

Enroll now for August 2025!

Our August Cohorts are right around the corner. Join us in investing in the workforce – empowering them to become better leaders today and into the future.

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

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



Performance Contracting 101 with Schneider Electric

What if upgrading your aging infrastructure didn't mean draining your budget—or your patience? Meet *Performance Contracting (PC)*: the superhero of budget-friendly, energy-efficient solutions.

Here's the scoop: PC allows you to address infrastructure challenges strategically by leveraging future energy savings and significant cost reductions to fund your projects with minimal upfront capital investment.

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STEP 2

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STEP 3

Savings offset costs, enabling upgrades with lower upfront investment.

What's in It for You?



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Modernize your systems and save big.



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Boost sustainability while creating healthier communities.



As the **#1 Energy Services Company (ESCO)** since 2017 (by Guidehouse Insights), we bring decades of experience and a proven track record partnering with counties nationwide to deliver results.

Curious how PC can work for your county?
Let's discuss your project



Abby Weigel
804-248-0523
Abby.Weigel@se.com



Kevin DeLeon
804.517.2819
Kevin.DeLeon@se.com



Learn more about Energy Sense and how this program can help your community save money with simple tips and advice on conserving energy.

Here's a hot tip on saving energy this summer: Did you know that lowering the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees can cut your power bill up to [\\$400 a year](#)?

That's the kind of small adjustment that can make a big impact on cost — without sacrificing comfort. It's just one of the many energy-saving tips Virginia Energy Sense shares to help Virginians save on energy bills.

Virginia Energy Sense (VES) operates under the guidance of the State Corporation Commission as Virginia's only statewide energy-efficiency education program. Our mission is simple: Empower Virginians with the knowledge and tools they need to use energy more efficiently, reduce their monthly costs, and make a positive impact on the environment.

We achieve this through free, practical resources designed for individuals, businesses and local governments.

If your county is looking to support your residents or further sustainability goals, VES is here to help. We offer a wide range of easy-to-use, factual, easily accessible resources and information that can be used in newsletters, publications, social media, public outreach campaigns and in offices.

We know local government plays a powerful role in shaping energy-conscious communities. We want to work with you. If your department specializes in sustainability, public outreach, or utility services, we'd love to hear from you and discuss how VES can support your mission.

Visit www.virginiaenergysense.org to view our full library of resources. Contact us directly via email at EnergySense@scc.virginia.gov. Or call 804-371-9141 to learn more about collaboration opportunities. Together, we can help Virginians save energy and money — one energy-saving tip at a time.

VACo Releases 2025 Legislative Summary

VACo LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



2025 Second Edition

www.vaco.org

The [Legislative Summary](#) details the actions of the 2025 General Assembly. It also includes information on legislation of interest to counties.

This edition contains links to bills through the General Assembly's Legislative Information System and includes studies and statistics of importance to counties.

[Read VACo's 2025 Legislative Summary](#)

VACo Contact: [Legislative Team](#)



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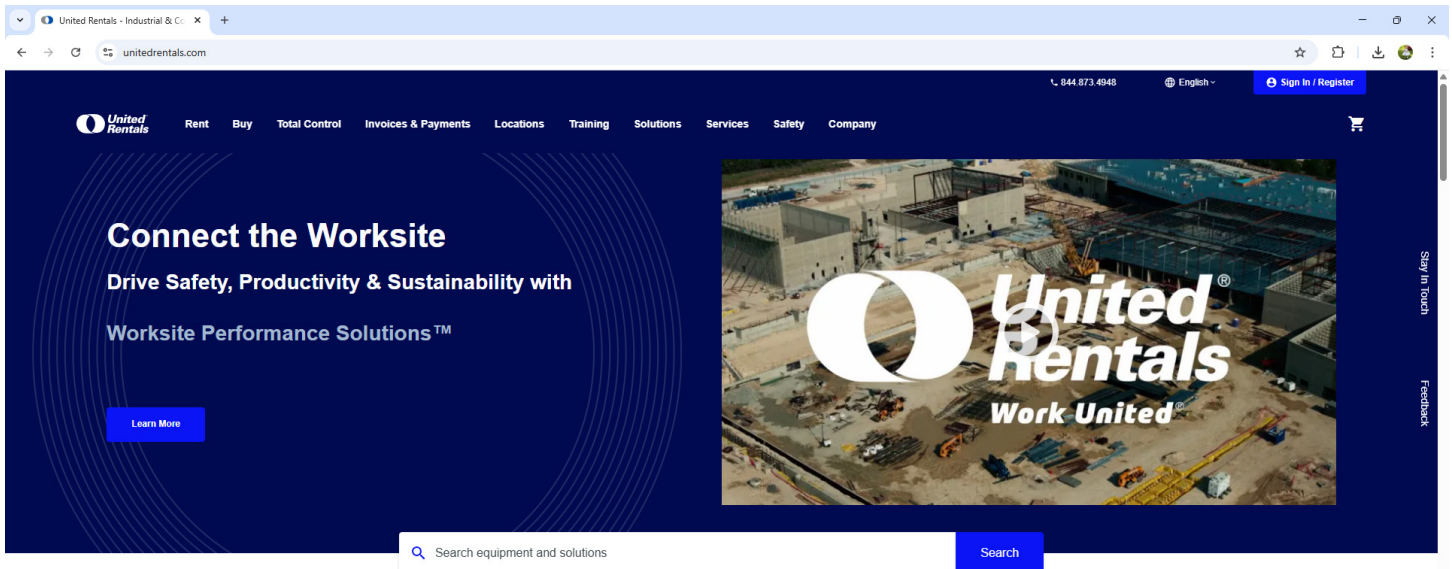


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VACo long-standing partner Nationwide Retirement Solutions, provides these valuable services:

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- Protected Retirement Solutions
- Nationwide Retirement Institute
- Social Security

VACo Executive Director, Dean Lynch, recently sat down with Debbie Turner, Charlie Brennan, Lynn Robinette, and David Bazzell to discuss their expertise in assisting counties with comprehensive savings and retirement programs and what sets Nationwide apart.



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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).





Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing

Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

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Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

CONTACT US TODAY

Questions?

Contact Steve Mulroy
804-648-0635

smulroy@valocalfinance.org





OneDigital is thrilled to be one of VACo's 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.



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Enter the 2025 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline is July 1, 2025



Dear **VACo Members** –

It's time for the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so **ENTER NOW!**

[2025 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. **Electronic submissions through the link above must be received by July 1, 2025.**

Last year, [we processed 145 entries](#) and selected 45 winners from over 30 Counties. VACo presented awards at Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 90th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2025 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 **Smyth County** for its "**Smyth Grow**" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact [**gharter@vaco.org**](mailto:gharter@vaco.org) with questions or for more information.

[Achievement Awards Submission Form](#) | [Achievement Awards Website](#)
[2024 Achievement Awards Press Release](#) | [Past Achievement Award Winners](#)

Community IMPACT

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Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy [Anthony Cline](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff [Ernest Giles](#) for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

Premier Partner Spotlight

Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

Blue Line Solutions is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

Blue Line Solutions uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.



INTRODUCING A NEW VACo PREMIER PARTNER

Anthony Chapman

National Program Director

NACo Public Promise Procurement

Direct: 804.399.1821

Email: achapman@naco.org

Website: www.publicpromiseprocurement.org

The PPP resource hub is up and available at...

<https://publicpromiseprocurement.org/resourcehub>



The VA250 Mobile Museum: A Classroom on Wheels

Get ready to bring Virginia's history to life! The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience, a hands-on, interactive, and immersive museum on wheels, is coming early 2025. This unique experience will transport students back in time, exploring key stories from every region of the state.

Perfect for:

- **Schools:** Enhance your curriculum with a memorable field trip.
- **Community organizations:** Host a unique event for all ages.
- **Local festivals:** Attract visitors with a fascinating historical exhibit.

Book the museum for your school or community event today! Visit [the VA250 website](#) for more information and to schedule a visit.



Get your VA250 license plates - now available

Are you ready to show your pride in America's 250th anniversary? The VA250 commemorative license plate is now available for purchase! As a symbol of our nation's rich history and bright future, this limited-edition license plate offers a unique opportunity to drive with a piece of history.

By purchasing a VA250 license plate, you're not only adding a stylish touch to your vehicle, but you're also supporting a worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds from each plate sold will be donated directly to VA250, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating educational programs, events, and exhibits to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of history and support a great cause. [Visit the Virginia DMV website](#) to purchase your VA250 license plate today.

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

Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition



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Manuals are \$75 for VACo Members. Manuals are \$150 for Non Members.

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Mail completed form to:

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1207 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX form to 804.788.0083 Questions? Call

804.343.2507



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](#).

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 23

[CLERK OF COUNCIL/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER](#) | City of Lexington | Posted May 23

[COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | New Kent County | Posted May 23

[CITY ATTORNEY](#) | City of Colonial Heights | Posted May 23

[PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR](#) | Henry County | Posted May 20

[MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICE SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[EMPLOYEE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER \(ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY II](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT \(JOB COACH/DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[MHSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST \(JOB COACH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[RECOVERY ACADEMY CLINICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN \(PT/BENEFITS ELIGIBLE\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 19

[DEPUTY DIRECTOR](#) | Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission | Posted May 19

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 19

[SYSTEM ENGINEER](#) | Montgomery County | Posted May 15

[LIBRARY OUTREACH SERVICES COORDINATOR](#) | Shenandoah County | Posted May 15

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Fluvanna County | Posted May 15

[EMPLOYEE RELATIONS CONSULTANT](#) | Mecklenburg County | Posted May 14

[DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION](#) | Bedford County | Posted May 13

[STAFF AUDITOR - 100% TELEWORK ELIGIBLE \(Richmond Region\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

[CUSTOMER SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE \(Access Services\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

[MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT - PT](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

[SENIOR CLINICIAN \(Child & Adolescent Service\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

[PRINCIPAL LABOR CREW CHIEF \(Environmental Engineering\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 13

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 13

[ENGINEERING ASSISTANT - STORMWATER](#) | Loudoun County | Posted May 13

[DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION](#) | City of Newport | Posted May 12

[EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 12

[SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 12

[TOWN ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Town of Scottsville, VA | Posted May 9

[BUILDING OFFICIAL](#) | Campbell County | Posted May 8

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Hanover County /Pamunkey Regional Jail | Posted May 8

[TOWN MANAGER](#) | Town of Tappahannock | Posted May 7

[BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | New Kent County | Posted May 7

[TAX TECHNICIAN I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted May 7

[SENIOR UTILITY WORKER](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[MANAGER V. ANIMAL CONTROL](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[COMMUNICATION'S OFFICER](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[PROBATION OFFICER](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[FIREFIGHTER/EMT PRE-CERTIFIED](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST II - DSS](#) | Prince George County | Posted May 7

[BUSINESS OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR](#) | Town of Culpeper | Posted May 7

[ACCOUNTS PAYABLE SPECIALIST](#) | Town of Culpeper | Posted May 7

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | King George County | Posted May 7

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted May 7

[LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE \(GALLOWAY\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[VAN DRIVER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[PLUMBING/MECHANICAL INSPECTOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR/IN-HOME PROGRAM](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[SENIOR RESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR \(NORTH ARCH\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[SENIOR CLINICIAN/DISCHARGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[LPN/ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY TREATMENT](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[CUSTODIAN \(PT\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted May 6

[911 DISPATCHER](#) | Mathews County | Posted May 5

[HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER](#) | City of Lexington | Posted May 1

[PLANNER I/PLANNER II \(TRANSPORTATION/DEVELOPMENT\)](#) | Montgomery County | Posted May 1

[COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR](#) | Charlotte County | Posted May 1

[SENIOR ACCOUNTANT](#) | Isle of Wight County | Posted May 1

[FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST](#) | Botetourt County | Posted April 29

[SENIOR ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[MAINTENANCE WORKER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[FACILITY MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[APPRAISER I](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 29

[SENIOR ENGINEER \(PART TIME\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 28

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted April 28

[CITY ATTORNEY](#) | City of Colonial Heights | Posted April 25

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Lake of the Woods | Allen Austin Inc. | Posted April 25

[ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY](#) | Hanover County | Posted April 24

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 22

[FINANCIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST II](#) | Campbell County | Posted April 22

[UTILITY PLANT MECHANIC](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 22

[DIRECTOR OF FINANCE](#) | Halifax County | Posted April 22

[MENTAL HEALTH CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICE SUPERVISOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[STAFF PSYCHIATRIST](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[CASE MANAGER \(HOUSING CASE MANAGER\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[SENIOR CLINICIAN \(CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[STRUCTURAL BUILDING INSPECTOR](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[SENIOR AUTOMATION TECHNICIAN](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[CASE MANAGER \(SERVICE COORDINATION\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[SEASONAL MAINTENANCE WORKER \(ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES](#) | Spotsylvania County | Posted April 21

[PRINCIPAL ENGINEER \(ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING\)](#) | Chesterfield County | Posted April 21

[FAMILY SERVICES SPECIALIST](#) | Montgomery County | Posted April 21

[BENEFIT PROGRAM SPECIALIST I](#) | Montgomery County | Posted April 21

[COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PLAN REVIEWER](#) | Stafford County | Posted April 21

[BUILDING INSPECTIONS SUPERVISOR](#) | Stafford County | Posted April 21

[TRANSPORTATION ENGINEER](#) | Roanoke County | Posted April 21

[PAYROLL COORDINATOR](#) | Culpeper County | Posted April 21

[FINANCE DIRECTOR](#) | Amelia County | Posted April 21

VALUE OF VACo



ADVOCACY

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



EDUCATION

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



MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



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

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VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

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