



*Virginia Community
Action Partnership*

Partnerships to create economic opportunity and facilitate mobility from poverty

Virginia Association of Local Human Services Officials (VALHSO)

September 30, 2022



Overview

- Partnerships are at the core of community action!
- About VACAP
- VACAP Board Priority is Expanding Partnerships at the State and Local Level



Partnerships are at the core of community action!

- Created in 1964 and was centerpiece of the War on Poverty
- Focus is on addressing all short and long-term needs facing people experiencing poverty through a range of coordinated programs
 - All conduct data-driven community needs assessment to inform planning
- CAAs are as varied as the communities they serve in their delivery structure
- All are governed by a Tripartite Board
 - Low-income community
 - Local elected officials
 - Private and public community stakeholders
- CAAs implement a range of federal, state and local programs
 - VDSS (Office of Economic Opportunity) are the key funder of CSBG and TANF and more importantly the key collaborator with VACAP network
 - Local Departments of Social Services are essential partners!
 - CAAs also have essential partnerships with Head Start, Weatherization, Area Agencies on Aging, job training, workforce, housing, legal services, health, nutrition, emergency services and more



Whole Family Approach is the best practice

- Community Action is focused on the Whole Family/2 Generation approach to economic mobility
- As pandemic resources diminish, community action focus on whole family approach is more needed than ever
 - Can help overcome benefits cliff
 - Can end cycle of poverty
 - Can increase workforce participation
- Whole family Pilot in Virginia
- Coaching is key
- Connecting internal and external programs/partners is critical



About VACAP

- Statewide Membership Association for thirty-one non-profit private and public community action agencies (CAAs)
 - 28 local and regional agencies (6 public)
 - 3 statewide agencies (Project Discovery - pathways to college, VA CARES -Re-Entry System and SERCAP – water, housing and small business)
 - List of Agencies - <https://www.vacap.org/agencies/>
- VACAP's mission is to build the capacity and competencies of Virginia's CAAs to achieve their mission of creating economic opportunities and facilitating mobility from poverty for the people of Virginia



The Value of VACAP

- VACAP exists to support community action agencies in achieving their mission in partnership with federal, state and local partners
- Advocacy
 - Whole Family Approach
 - CSBG
 - TANF
 - Partial State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)
- Training/Technical Assistance
 - New Executive Director Academy
 - Racial Equity
 - Regional Multi-State convenings
 - Peer Groups (ED, public agency, HR, IT, Fiscal, Senior Leaders)
- Building Partnerships in Service Delivery
 - CASH Campaign – EITC
 - \$1.2 million Diaper Distribution Grant Announced –
 - Appalachian Regional Commission - Nonprofit Ready
- Membership Services/Shared Services
 - Joint Wage Study
 - Legal Services through CAPLAW
 - Fiscal Assistance Resources



Expanding Partnerships

- Partnerships are at the core of community action!
 - Thank you for today
- Opportunities for collaboration at state and local level
 - Joint workforce challenges
 - Trauma informed care
 - New funding opportunities
 - Regular communication
 - Coordination between programs
 - Other ideas?...Brainstorm with your community action partner
- Upcoming Meetings
 - November 1-2, Pathways from Poverty to Prosperity Summit – Richmond
 - 2023 VACAP Regional Meetings



Contact Details

- Thank you for your partnership!
- Contact details for your local/regional community action agency
 - <https://www.vacap.org/agencies/>
- VACAP
 - www.vacap.org
 - 804-644-0417
 - ejohnston@vacap.org