



AAA Input Session

April 22, 2025



Agenda



- Federal Updates
- Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF): Circling Back
- State Plan for Aging Services: Next Steps
- New Area Plan Rollout: Checking In
- Next State Plan: Needs Assessment Planning
- Tribal Convening and Collaboration



Federal Updates

As a Reminder: FFY 2025



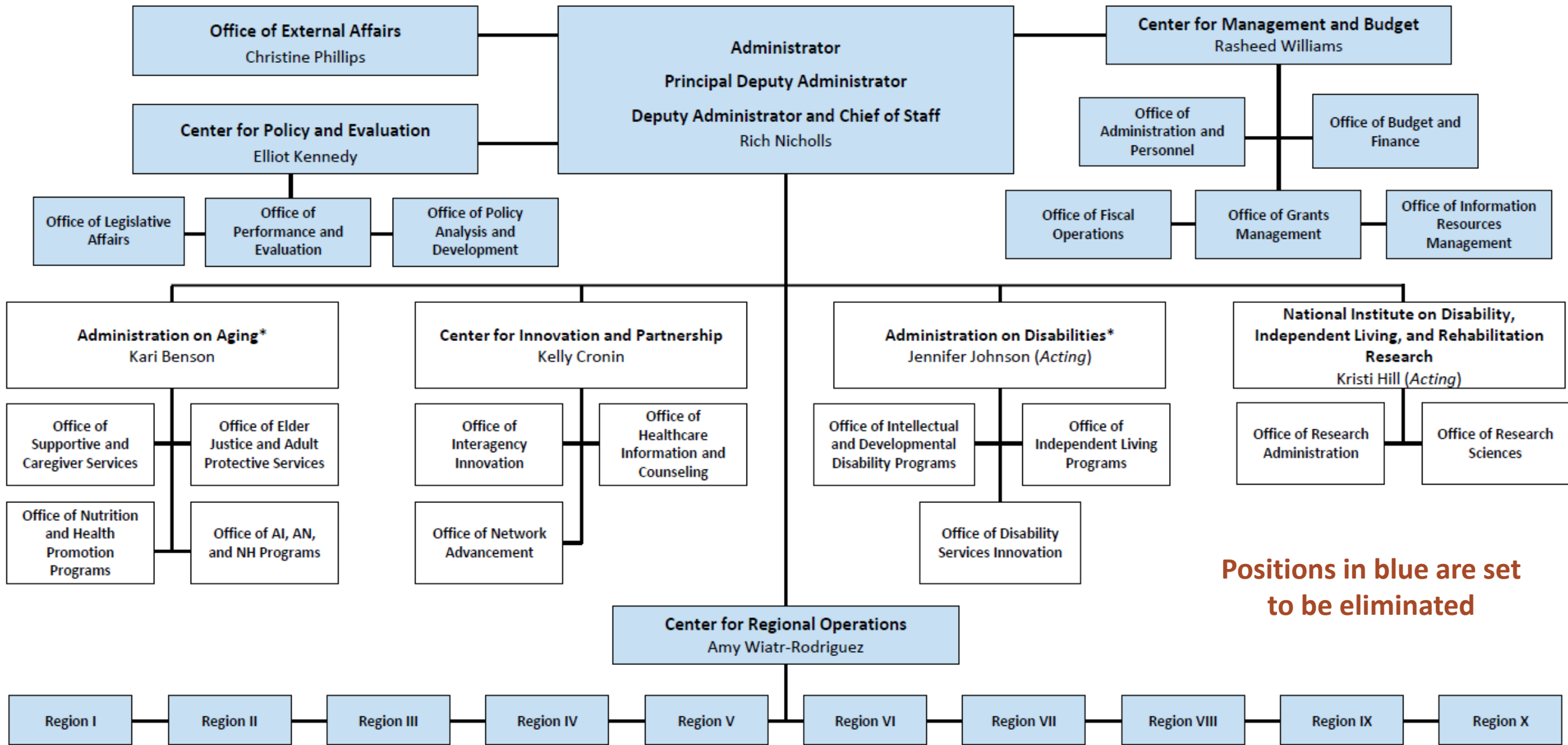
- In mid-March, the House and Senate passed a continuing resolution (CR) to extend federal funding through Sept. 30, 2025 (the end of the federal fiscal year), avoiding a federal government shutdown
- The CR had the following impacts for ACL and the Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)
 - The CR provided level funding generally for OAA programs
 - The CR included a reduction of \$29,268,000 in earmarked funding for the Administration for Community Living (ACL)
 - The CR included an extension of MIPPA through September 30, 2025, and the full-year funding for each of the entities that administer MIPPA

ACL Staffing Updates



- On April 1, a substantial number of ACL staff received reduction in force (RIF) notifications
 - The affected staff included all individuals from the ACL front office, Regional Offices, Office of Policy and Evaluation, Office of External Affairs, and the Office of Management and Budget
- As of April 4, affected staff from the Regional Offices, Office of Policy and Evaluation, and Office of Management and Budget were temporarily reinstated to resume support for mission critical activity
 - After critical activities have been transitioned, staff may be placed on administrative leave for the remainder of their employment through June 2

Administration for Community Living Organizational Chart



Positions in blue are set to be eliminated

Other Agency Updates



- Within ACF:
 - The team that stands up the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was eliminated
 - In Virginia, SSBG is partially used for Adult Protective Services/Adult Services
 - The team that stands up the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) was eliminated
- CMS is expected to lose 300 staff
 - According to initial information, many staff from the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) received RIF notices
 - Staff in the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) have moved under the CMS Innovation Center

Congressional Negotiations



- The House and Senate have both passed budget resolutions providing instructions to their respective committees on minimum amounts they must cut from their programs over a 10-year period
- The House and Senate resolutions differ in their instructions and will need to be aligned during the next step of legislative development
- As a reminder, the relevant committees of jurisdiction for aging and disability programs:
 - House Committee on Education & Workforce
 - Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP)

Congressional Negotiations



- Congress is in recess until Monday, April 28
- In the meantime, House staffers are working to draft legislation
- Twelve Republican Representatives (including Kiggans and Wittman from Virginia) sent a letter pushing back on cuts that would reduce Medicaid coverage
- House committees may be expected to submit their proposals to the Budget Committee by May 9
 - There is uncertainty about future funding for a variety of mandatory aging and disability-related programs (e.g., Medicaid, SSBG)
 - Some cuts to these programs are expected in the forthcoming legislative drafts

FY 2026 Proposed Budget



- Also happening: The Trump administration is preparing its proposed FFY 2026 Budget for Congressional consideration
- In doing so, a leaked “passback” document between HHS/OMB came out last week that identified structural changes for federal agencies and some programmatic cuts/eliminations for aging and disability programs
- The document can be found [here](#)
- USAging, ADvancing States, and other organizations are analyzing the potential impacts
- We are monitoring activities at the federal level and encourage AAAs to stay plugged-in as the situation unfolds

Virginia's Current Funding



- DARS is waiting to receive the final Notice of Awards (NOAs) documents for the FFY 2025 from ACL
- ACL had indicated that Virginia should receive our outstanding NOAs in the first part of May
- Once DARS receives the outstanding FFY 2025 NOAs, the agency can then calculate the estimated allocations for the AAAs for FFY 2026 and notify the AAAs of their allocations
- AAAs will need those figures to complete their FFY 2026 Area Plans

DARS' Allocation Process



- Continuing Resolution
- Three Activities:
 - Estimated Allocations to AAAs
 - Obligations to AAAs
 - Actual Reimbursement to AAAs
- 1. Allocations:
 - Delay in FFY 2025 Allocation/NOAs to States
- 2. Obligations
 - Contracting with AAAs
- 3. Actual Reimbursement to AAAs
 - Steps to Issue Dollars to AAAs
 - PMS Updates

Questions?

Interface with SUAs



- State Units on Aging (SUAs), like DARS, are continuing to move forward with implementing the Older Americans Act Final Rule
- ACL has added the OAA Final Rule related materials back to their [website](#)
- DARS expects the State Plan for Aging Services and Virginia's AAA Area Plans will be in compliance by October 1
- DARS will be working over the summer to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for other activities that will continue beyond October 1



Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF)

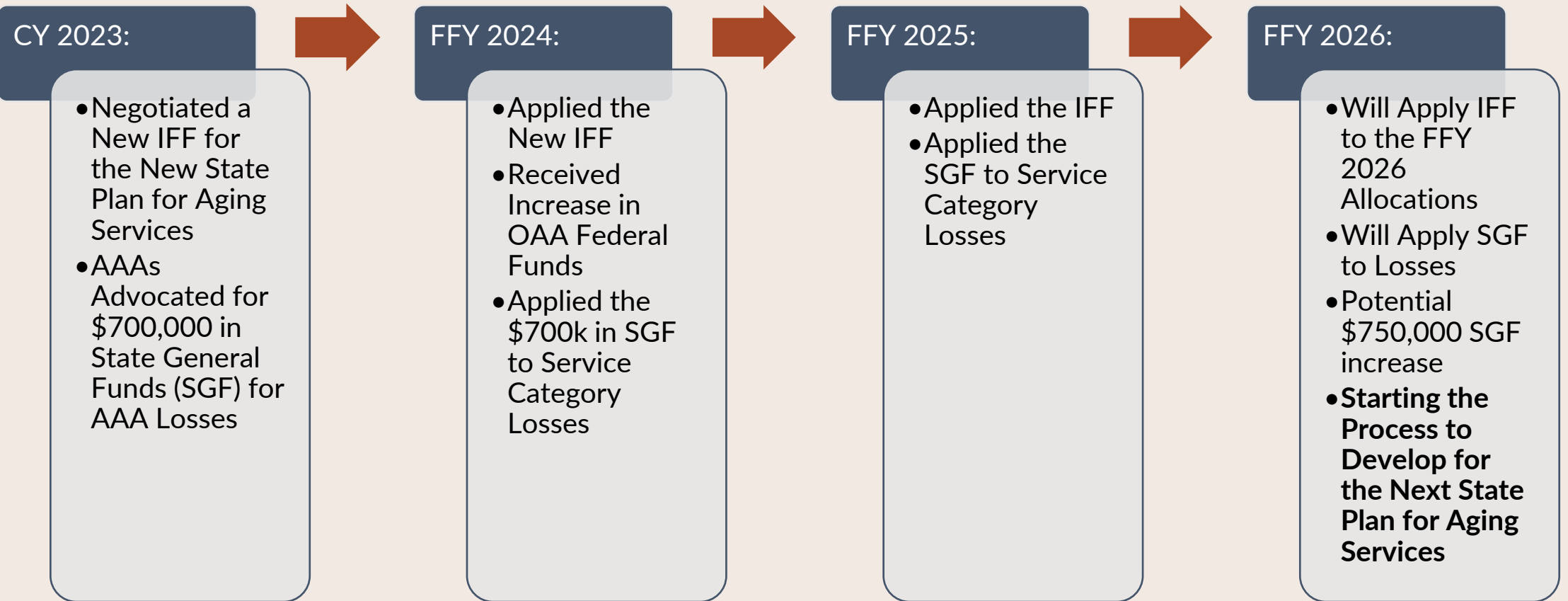
Circling Back

Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF)



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES



Next State Plan: IFF Decision



- For the next State Plan for Aging Services, DARS intends to:

Retain Existing IFF through FFYs 2026-2028

- This will allow us to have a few more years to see how the IFF will continue to unfold
- Current IFF includes rolling base which allows funding to AAAs to trend over time
- No new federal OAA funds are expected and there is potential for funding cuts
- The \$700,000 in State General Funds (SGF) has been sufficient thus far to absorb AAA losses
- TBD: Potential \$750,000 increase in SGFs for AAAs, which would be run through the IFF

Current IFF Structure Complies with new ACL State Plan Requirements

- No formula changes would be needed for the next State Plan for Aging Services
- DARS would just need to update the latest population & funding estimates

Option to Revisit the IFF after Submitting the Next State Plan

- After the new State Plan takes effect (October 1, 2027-September 30, 2031), DARS and the AAAS can spend more focused time on examining the data & exploring future options

AAAs:
What do
you
think?



Draft Amended State Plan for Aging Services

Next Steps

Timeline: What's Left?



Public Comment Period



DARS is wrapping up a 30-Day Public Comment Period on the draft amended State Plan on April 23, 2025 (tomorrow)

- To make a public comment via the Town Hall website, please visit:
<https://townhall.virginia.gov/L/GDocForum.cfm?GDocForumID=2688>
- Written public comments may also be submitted:
 - Via Mail: DARS, C/O Charlotte Arbogast, 8004 Franklin Farms Drive, Henrico, VA 23229
 - Via Email: StateAgingPlan@dars.virginia.gov
 - Via Fax: (804) 662-7663



Virtual Public Hearing



- DARS held a Virtual Public Hearing on the draft amended State Plan on Friday, April 11, 2025 at 1:00 PM
- 26 Attendees
- No specific public comments were offered, but a few attendees express gratitude for the information provided

Public Comments Thus Far



- 2 comments have been registered in Town Hall:
 - Commenter 1: Jennifer C Witteborg
 - Access for Deaf/ hard of hearing and Blind/DeafBlind
 - State Plan for Aging services/ Older American Act Regulations
 - The number of Deaf ASL users is small and yet the number of Deaf /hard of hearing people/people with hearing loss is enormous - (even if they may deny their hearing status).
 - EVERY VIDEO, EVERY Services, EVERY THING should be accessible in text and ASL and other languages as well.
 - It's exhausting to try and advocate for myself to get captions and/or ASL interpreters for events including Elderly.
 - This has to improve

Public Comments Thus Far



- **Commenter 2: Vic Nicholls**
 - Singles, local collaboration
 - The single/never married group is going to grow larger. Is it possible to review options for them? These will be workers of all backgrounds and economic areas.
 - A big problem I've seen is small, home grown, charities, that get food or other items from larger entities, have more and more problems with the donations. Especially in terms of produce, the variety and freshness is not what it was.
 - Some local entities are not always favorably disposed to local charities.
 - Will some of the cities with health/recreation programs give discounts to older adults, especially if they're from surrounding communities where there are not as many services? Roanoke, for example, would have more resources than, Weyers' Cave, for example.
 - Any ideas about partnering with small, in home, adult care?



New Area Plan Rollout

Checking In

What Makes Up the Area Plan?



1. AREA PLAN PROGRAM

- Provides Background on the AAA
- Summarizes the PSA and Community Needs
- Identifies AAA Services to be Provided

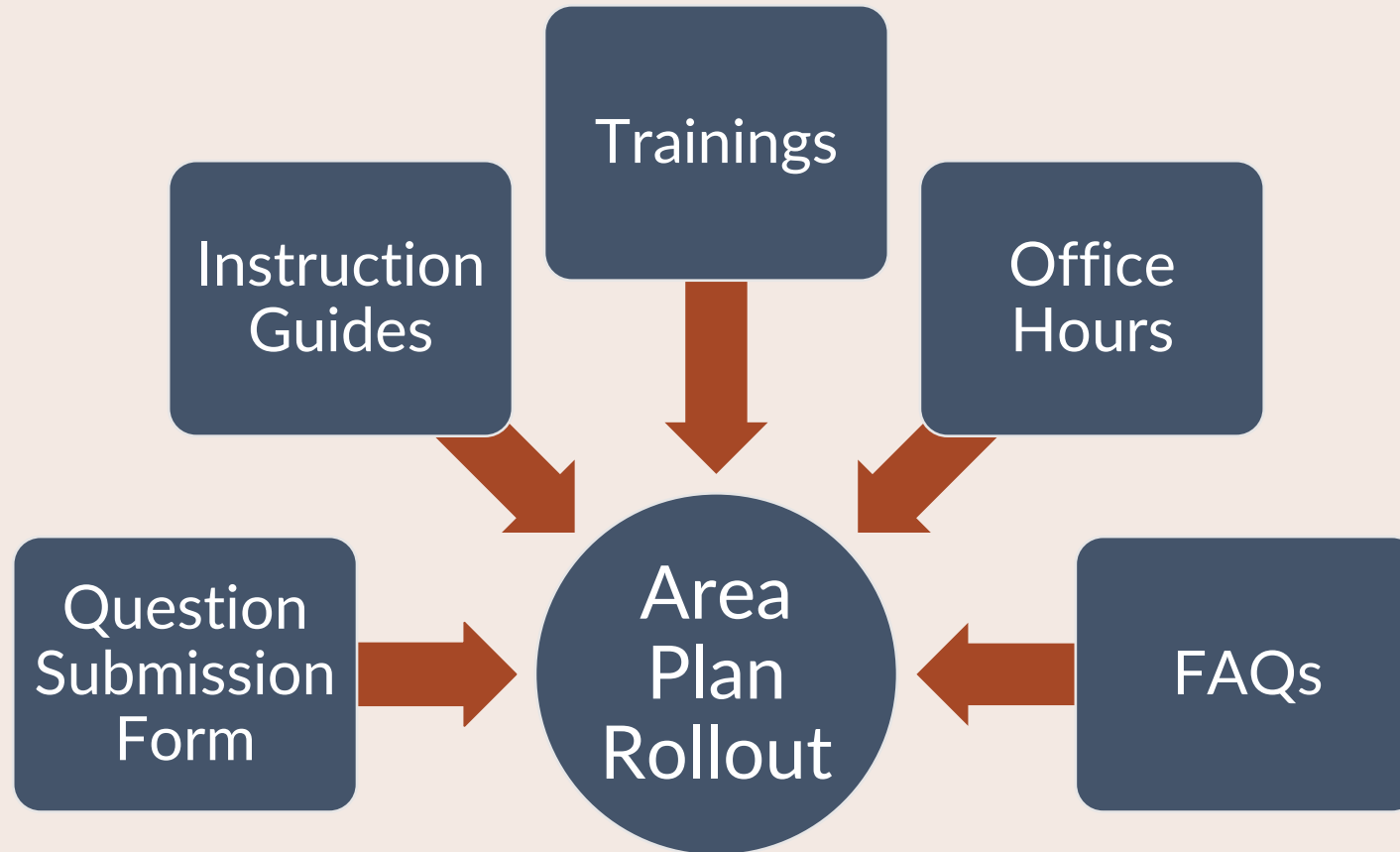
2. AREA PLAN BUDGET

- Identifies Allocations for OAA and State-Funded Services

**Due
August 1**

Most of the Area Plan content requirements are derived from 45 CFR § 1321.65

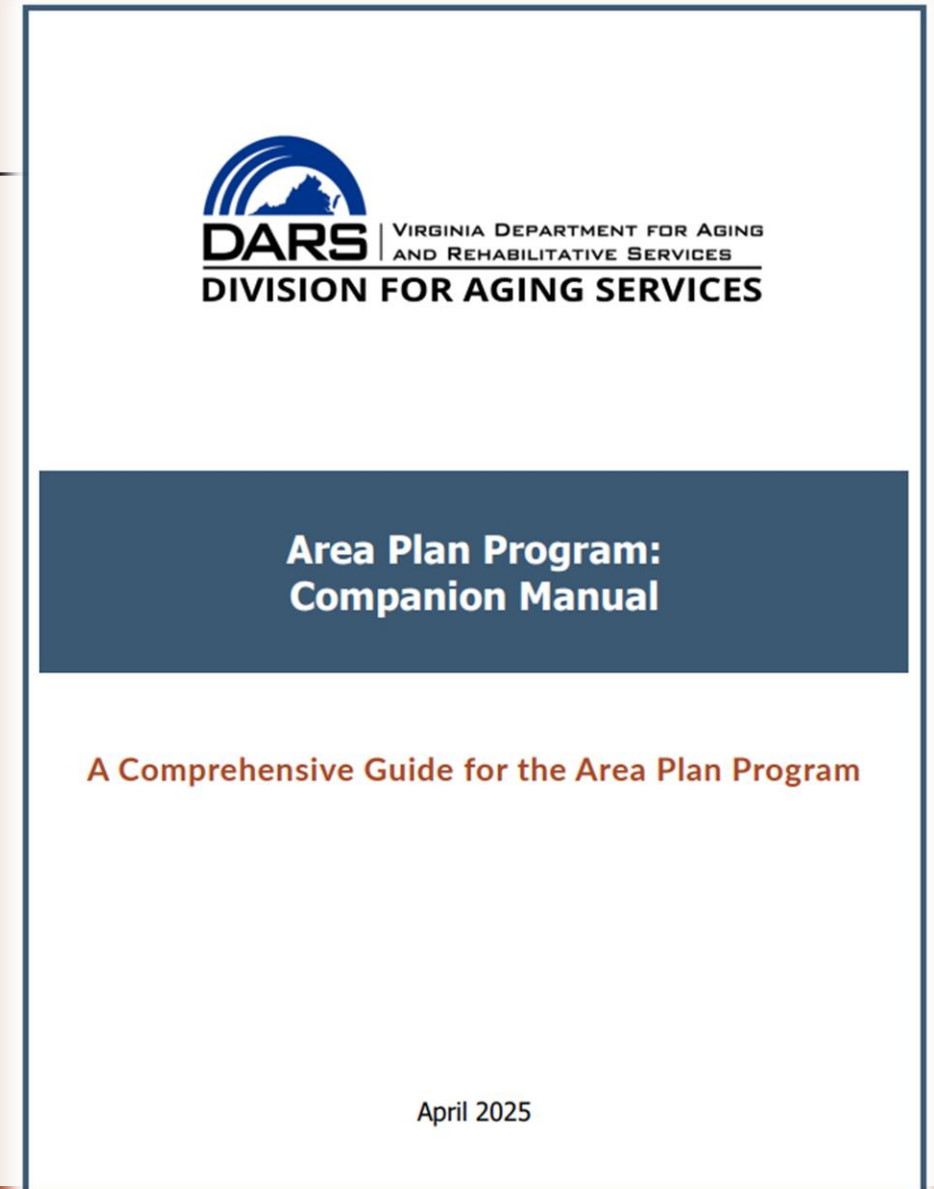
Area Plan Rollout Modalities



All Area Plan Materials are
Posted in the Provider Portal
[Here](#)

NEW: Companion Manual

- Released and Posted in the Provider Portal on April 8, 2025
- DARS strongly recommends that AAAs review this as they are completing the Area Plan Program sections

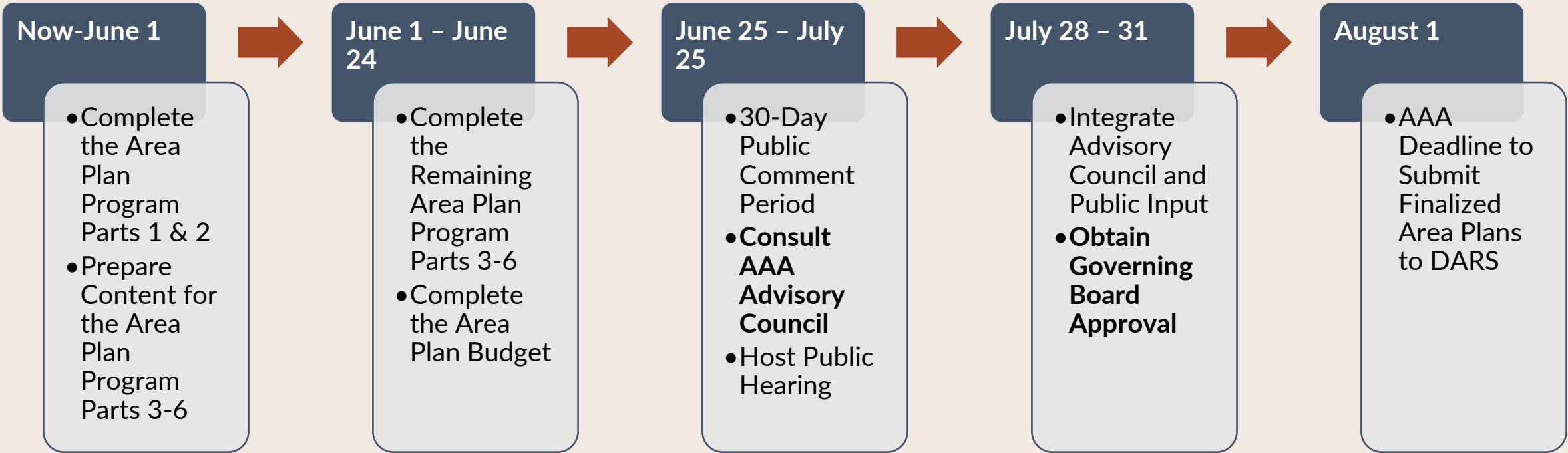




AAA Area Plan Development



AAAs should follow the timeline outlined below to develop their Area Plans:



As you are planning ahead, consider if you need to adjust your Governing Board or Advisory Council meeting dates.

Presented Another Way...

DRAFT PLAN

June 25 – July 25

Concurrent Activities

30-Day Public Comment
Period

Consult AAA Advisory
Council

Host Public Hearing

1

FINAL PLAN

July 28 – 31

Subsequent Activities

Integrate Advisory Council
and Public Input

Obtain Governing Board
Approval

2

3

Please review the Area Plan Program Companion Manual for additional information/instructions

Trainings and Office Hours



- Area Plan Program **SERVICE GROUPS 1-4 AND 7:**
 - Group 1: In Home
 - Group 2: Access
 - Group 3: Legal Assistance
 - Group 4: Other
 - Group 7: National Family Caregiver Support Program
- **TRAINING**
 - Tomorrow, April 23 from 10-11:30 AM
 - Register [Here](#)
 - Recording and Slides will be posted in the Provider Portal
- **OFFICE HOURS**
 - Wednesday, April 30 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#) (no registration required)

Trainings and Office Hours



- Area Plan Program **NUTRITION PROGRAMS:**
 - Group 5: Nutrition
 - Group 6: Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
 - State Funded Home Delivered Meals
- **TRAINING**
 - Thursday, May 1 from 10-11:30 AM
 - Register [Here](#)
 - Recording and Slides will be posted in the Provider Portal
- **OFFICE HOURS**
 - Monday, May 12 from 1-2:30 PM
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#) (no registration required)

Trainings and Office Hours



- Area Plan Program **SERVICE GROUPS 8-9, CCEVP AND OTHER SERVICES**
 - Group 8: Elder Abuse Prevention
 - Group 9: Long-Term Care Ombudsman
 - CCEVP
 - Other Services
- **TRAINING**
 - Tuesday, May 22 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Register [Here](#)
 - Recording and Slides will be posted in the Provider Portal
- **OFFICE HOURS**
 - Thursday, May 29 from 10-11:30 AM
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#) (no registration required)

Trainings and Office Hours



- Area Plan **BUDGET**

- **TRAINING**
 - Monday, June 9, 2025 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Register [Here](#)
 - Recording and Slides will be posted in the Provider Portal

- **OFFICE HOURS**
 - Tuesday, June 17, 2025 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#)

Open-Ended Office Hours



- Tuesday, June 3, 2025
 - 10-11:30am
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#)
- Monday, June 16, 2025
 - 2:00-3:30pm
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#)
- Monday, June 23, 2025
 - 2-3:30pm
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#)
- Office Hours are a great venue to ask AAA-specific questions

Trainings and Office Hours



- **Annually Required Documents and Emergency Preparedness Documents**

- **TRAINING**
 - Monday, July 7, 2025 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Register [Here](#)
 - Recording and Slides will be posted in the Provider Portal

- **OFFICE HOURS**
 - Tuesday, July 15, 2025 from 2-3:30 PM
 - Access the Meeting [Here](#)

Questions?



- You can submit questions using the Microsoft Form found [here](#)
- Remember to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document
- The FAQ document is updated each Friday with new Q&As
- You can find the FAQs document in the Provider Portal [here](#)



Next State Plan: Needs Assessment

Reminder: Current State Plan



Scope

State Plan for
Aging Services

Phase 1

Polco CASOA™
Random
Sampling (Mail)

VCoA Listening
Sessions

Phase 2

Polco CASOA™
Open
Participation
Sampling
(Online)

VCoA Trends in
Data &
Reporting

Phase 3

Engage with
Other Agencies
by Soliciting
State Agency
Reports

Products

CASOA
Statewide Report

AAA-Level
CASOA Reports

State Agency
Reports

Tentative: Next State Plan

Scope

State Plan
for Aging
Services

NCI-AD

Sampling of
AAA Clients

VCoA

VCoA
Listening
Sessions

VCoA
Trends in
Data &
Reporting

State Agency Reports

Engage with
Other
Agencies by
Soliciting
State
Agency
Reports

Products

NCI-AD
Report

VCoA Report

State Agency
Reports

NCI-AD



- National Core Indicators for Aging and Disabilities (NCI-AD)
- Initiative from ADvancing States and the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI)
- You can learn more about NCI-AD here: <https://nci-ad.org/>



NCI-AD and Medicaid



- NCI-AD is used by the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) for the CCC Plus Waiver
 - DMAS also uses the NCI-Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (NCI-IDD) for the DD Waivers
 - DMAS partners with Health Services Advisory Group, Inc. (HSAG), the External Quality Review Organization (EQRO), and the VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities (VCU-PPD) to implement NCI-AD and NCI-IDD
- The CMS Medicaid Access Final Rule requires State Medicaid Agencies to collect data on the experience of care and pre-established measures for Medicaid services
 - CMS has approved the NCI-AD, NCI-IDD, HCBS CAHPS and POM as approved data collection tools for these purposes

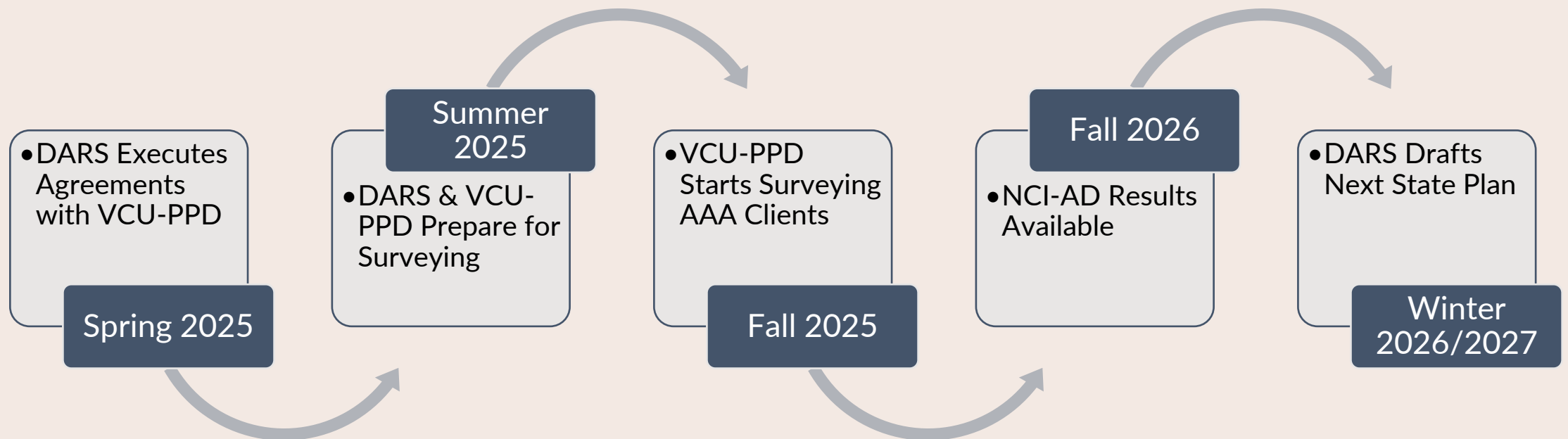
CASOA v. NCI-AD



CASOA	NCI-AD
More expensive	Less expensive
Random sampling of older Virginians	Random sampling of AAA clients
No connection to DMAS	Alignment with DMAS
Focuses more on general population needs	Focuses more on service satisfaction and client needs
Flexible timeline for implementation	Structured timeline for implementation
Has an option to add extra questions	Has an option to add extra questions
Statewide and AAA-level data	Option for Statewide and AAA-level data
Benchmark comparisons available	Benchmark comparisons available

NCI-AD Timeline

NCI-AD has a 15-18 month start-to-finish implementation timeline



Virginia Center on Aging



- VCoA & VCU Department of Gerontology

2026:
VCU Gerontology's
50th Anniversary

2027:
Celebrate!

2028:
VCoA's 50th
Anniversary

- 2026: Undertaking outreach and research on “Elderhood”
 - Connection and alignment with DARS State Plan for Aging Services Needs Assessment



Tribal Convening and Collaboration

Title III & VI Coordination



- DARS will continue to engage with some AAAs and the OAA-funded tribes for compliance on the Title III-Title VI coordination requirements.
- We anticipate that these items should not require a CAP:

Emergency
Management

Engagement &
Information
Sharing

Outreach &
Referrals

Culturally
Appropriate
Service
Delivery

Specific AAAs Impacted



- At this time, the following AAAs will need to pay particular attention to Title III-VI Coordination requirements and begin work to come into compliance:

The Span
Center

CVACL

VPAS

Bay
Aging

- Important Notes:
 - DARS continues to encourage all AAAs to increase engagement and outreach to older Native Americans who live in their PSAs
 - Down the road, other Virginia tribes could also apply to ACL and receive OAA funding, which would then extend these requirements beyond the AAAs listed

Summer Tribal Convening



- June 18, 2025
- Hosted at Chickahominy Tribe Community Center
- Purpose: to continue to foster partnership, share resources, and provide technical assistance
- Who: DARS, Division for Aging Services, ACL, local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), and Title VI Grantees

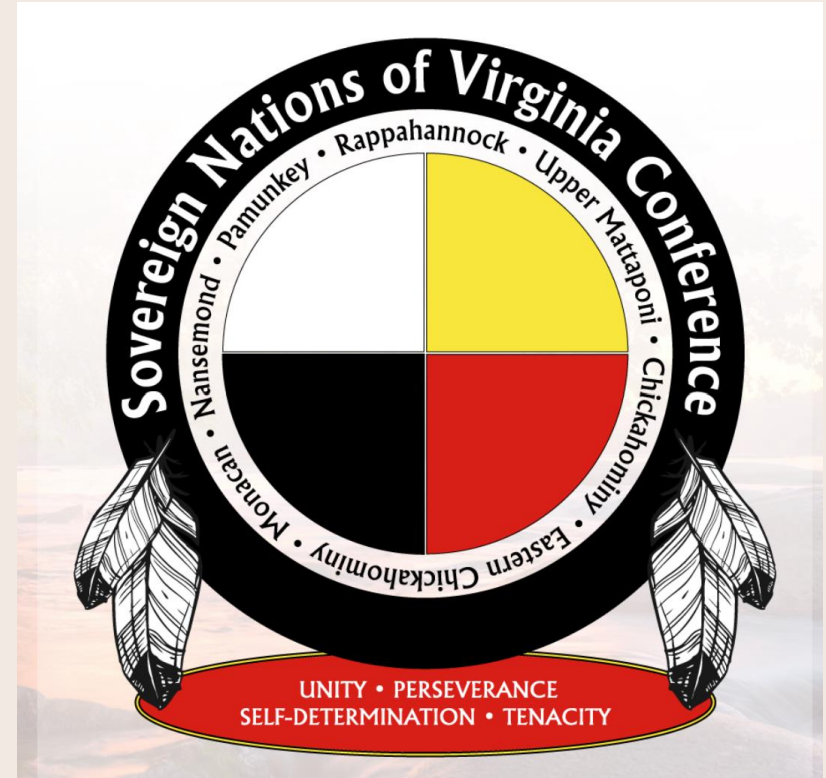
Sovereign Nations Conference



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

DIVISION FOR AGING SERVICES

- <https://sovereignnationsva.org/>
- September 18, 2025
- Purpose: To build cooperative relationships between Virginia's Tribal Nations and state agencies
- Tuition-free, online or in person



Wrap-Up



- Continue Work on Developing Your Area Plan
 - Submit Area Plan Questions using the Online Form & Watch for FAQs
 - Register & Attend for the Area Plan Trainings
 - Attend Area Plan Office Hours
 - Finalize Governing Board & Advisory Council Meeting Plans

- Next AAA Input Session: Wednesday, May 14 from 3-4:00 PM