



**WEEKLY E-MAILING**  
**February 15, 2022**  
**Table of Contents**

**[Helpful Links](#)**

**[Commonwealth Council on Aging Best Practices Awards](#)**

**[VCPEA 2022 Conference](#)**

**[FCC Handout: Plan Ahead for Phase Out of 3G Phones & Devices](#)**

**[Elderly Simplified Application Project for SNAP](#)**

**[Link to DARS Independent Living Newsletter](#)**

## **Helpful Links**

### **ACL News & Information**

Here is a link to news & information from the Administration for Community Living (ACL):

<https://acl.gov/>

### **ADvancing States (NASUAD) Information**

Here is a link to state technical assistance from ADvancing States:

<http://www.advancingstates.org/state-technical-assistance/enhancedtechnical-assistance>

**Commonwealth Council on Aging 2022 Best Practices Awards**  
*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

The Commonwealth Council on Aging is sponsoring the 2022 Best Practices Award Program targeted to organizations serving older Virginians and their families. The awards will be given to innovative programs and services that assist older adults to age in the community. The Council aims to recognize creativity in services, such as livable communities, home and community based supports, transportation, housing, caregiver supports, intergenerational programming, and more. The Council believes the door is wide open for creative best practices.

Complete instructions, nomination forms, and information on previous Best Practices Award winners are on the DARS Aging Boards and Councils website under "News and Information" found here: <https://www.vda.virginia.gov/boardsandcouncils.htm>.

**Nominations for the 2022 awards must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.**

The Council is pleased to support the following awards to the top winners: 1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place. The Council will also recognize up to three honorable mention programs. Award winners will be notified in late March.

The Council thanks Dominion Energy for their ongoing commitment to and support of this initiative.

**Renew, Refresh, Refocus: Elder Abuse Prevention in Times of COVID (Flyer)**  
*On behalf of Marjorie Marker, MA, DARS*

The 26<sup>th</sup> annual **Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (VCPEA) conference** will be held **May 25-27, 2022**. The conference will be held at Kingsmill Resort and Conference Center in Williamsburg. A flyer is attached with registration and conference details.



# Renew, Refresh, Refocus: Elder Abuse Prevention in Times of COVID

Announcing the 26th Annual VCPEA  
Conference at Kingsmill on the James!

May 25-27, 2022

Kingsmill Resort and Conference Center

Williamsburg, VA

**ABOUT VCPEA:** Since 1993 VCPEA has been a leader in promoting awareness and training on behalf of Virginia's abused, neglected, and exploited adults. We are a coalition of individuals and agency representatives committed to improving the lives of adults in Virginia who are older or who have a disability. VCPEA hosts the only statewide conference focusing on adult abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and is considered one of the best on the East Coast.

**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS:** We want everyone to be safe! Safety precautions will be in place at the time of the conference in accordance with state and federal requirements and recommendations. At this time, VCPEA will require conference participants to wear face masks at all conference events.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Situated along the James River, Kingsmill is a delightful AAA Four Diamond resort. They have partnered with us to offer a limited number of rooms at the prevailing government rate of \$118 per night plus taxes with a discounted charge of \$6/day for on-site parking for those staying overnight. One night's lodging will be charged to your credit card seven days prior to your arrival. Please note rooms must be cancelled at least seven days prior to your arrival. The cut-off date for the discounted lodging rate is May 3, 2022.

**MEALS:** Breakfast will be offered on Thursday and Friday. Lunch will be provided on Thursday.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Adult Protective Services Workers
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program Staff
- Victim Witness Advocates
- Social Workers
- Professionals Who Work with Seniors
- Attorneys
- Fire and Rescue Services Personnel
- Mental Health Professionals
- Long-Term Care Providers
- Medical Professionals

**SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS:** Sponsors and exhibitors must register per instructions on the website. Sponsors will be recognized at the conference and in our program. Please see the website for more information, including sponsorship levels and costs.

**SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** who were selected for our May 2020 will remain the same unless they are unable to attend.

We hope you will be a part of our 26th annual conference! We look forward to reconnecting with everyone!

**ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:** Mr. Stu Maddux and Mr. Joseph Applebaum are internationally recognized filmmakers who will offer a premier showing of their latest production, *All The Lonely People*, that documents a handful of people from different life-stages who each are battling chronic loneliness and isolation and explores the causes of their isolation. This is an especially important topic in light of COVID-19. The health-related consequences of loneliness are as profound as those caused by smoking and obesity. The state of "loneliness" is now considered a world-wide epidemic, occurring as frequently as happiness among millions around the world and from all walks of life.



*Joseph Applebaum and Stu Maddux are film makers, producers, and directors. Their company, The Clowder Group, is Emmy award-winning with content that creates lasting social change. They have spoken at national conferences including the American Psychological Association and the American Society on Aging.*

Other featured sessions being planned include:

- Victims of Crime
- Making Work Fun!
- Assessing Capacity
- Rural Elders
- Financial Exploitation
- Evidence Collection
- Family Conflicts in Caregiving
- Defining a Fiduciary

**REGISTRATION:** Registration must be made online through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/united-states--virginia/vcpea/>. Registrations received for the 2020 conference have been transferred to the 2022 conference. Contact us at [info@vcpea.org](mailto:info@vcpea.org) with questions.

Registration rates are as follows: \$350 Early Bird until February 14; \$400 General Registration from February 15 to April 30; and \$500 Late Registration on and after May 1.

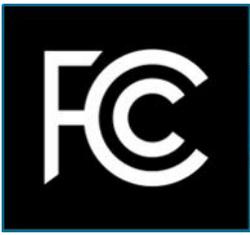


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A Non-Profit, All-Volunteer Organization Employer ID Number: 54-1721896  
VCPEA, PO Box 70054, Henrico, VA 23255  
Website: [www.vcpea.org](http://www.vcpea.org) E-Mail: [info@vcpea.org](mailto:info@vcpea.org)

## **FCC: Plan Ahead for Phase Out of 3G Phones & Devices**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

The FCC is sharing a Consumer Guide to the shutdown of 3G networks by providers such as Verizon, AT & T and T-Mobile. Older phones and devices that rely on a 3G network will not operate after providers phase out 3G services. Consumers are urged to contact their providers before this happens so they will not lose services – particularly 911 services. See the attachment for details.



## Plan Ahead for Phase Out of 3G Cellular Networks and Service

If your mobile phone is more than a few years old, you may need to upgrade your device before your mobile provider shuts down its 3G network, to avoid losing service. For more information on your mobile providers' plans for 3G retirement and how you can prepare, contact your provider directly.

### What is happening?

Mobile carriers are shutting down their 3G networks, which rely on older technology, to make room for more advanced network services, including 5G. As a result, many older cell phones will be unable to make or receive calls and texts, including calls to 911, or use data services. This will affect 3G mobile phones and certain older 4G mobile phones that do not support Voice over LTE (VoLTE or HD Voice).

Learn more about other connected devices, such as medical devices and home security systems that may be impacted below.

### When is it happening?

As early as January 1, 2022, though plans and timing to phase out 3G services will vary by company and may change. Consult your mobile provider's website for the most up-to-date information.

- [AT&T](#) announced that it will finish shutting down its 3G network by February 2022.
- [Verizon](#) announced that will finish shutting down its 3G network by December 31, 2022.
- [T-Mobile](#) announced that it will finish shutting down Sprint's 3G CDMA network by March 31, 2022 and Sprint's 4G LTE network by June 30, 2022. It also announced it will shut down T-Mobile's 3G UMTS network by July 1, 2022, but has not yet announced a shutdown date for its 2G network.

If your mobile carrier is not listed here, you may still be affected. Many carriers, such as Cricket, Boost, Straight Talk, and several Lifeline mobile service providers, utilize AT&T's, Verizon's, and T-Mobile's networks.

*Note: These are dates for completing the shutdowns. Carriers may begin retiring parts of their networks sooner.*

### What do I need to do?

Contact your mobile provider or consult your provider's website for more information about their 3G retirement plan and whether your phone, or other connected device, may be affected. It is important to plan now so that you don't lose connectivity, including the ability to call 911.

Some carrier websites provide lists of devices that will no longer be supported after 3G networks are shut down. You may need to upgrade to a newer device to ensure that you can stay connected, and carriers may be offering discounted or free upgrades to help consumers who need to upgrade their phones.

Some devices may only require a software update to enable VoLTE (HD Voice) or other advanced services. If you purchased your phone independent of a mobile provider, you should be able to check whether your device is 4G LTE (with VoLTE or HD Voice) enabled by checking your phone's settings or user manual, or by searching your phone's model number on the internet, to determine whether you need to purchase a new device or install a software update.



### **Does this just impact phones?**

No, other devices, such as certain medical devices, tablets, smart watches, vehicle SOS services, home security systems, and other connected products may be using 3G network services. And don't forget about devices that use cellular connectivity as a back-up when a wired internet connection goes down. If the device is not labeled, contact the monitoring company or other service provider to confirm how the device connects and whether your device may be impacted.

### **Why are 3G networks being phased out?**

As mobile carriers seek to upgrade their networks to use the latest technologies, they periodically shut down older services, such as 3G, to free up spectrum and infrastructure to support new services, such as 5G. Similar transitions have happened before. For example, some mobile carriers shut down their 2G networks when they upgraded their networks to support 4G services. Mobile carriers have the flexibility to choose the types of technologies and services they deploy, including when they decommission older services in favor of newer services to meet consumer demands.

### **Need Other Help Staying Connected?**

As mentioned above, your mobile service provider may be offering special deals on new devices, including some deals that might include a free cell phone.

In addition, although they do not cover the cost of new devices, other FCC programs may be able to assist eligible consumers with the cost of phone or internet services:

- The FCC's Lifeline program may be able to assist eligible consumers in getting connected to phone and internet services. The program provides a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family and emergency services. You can learn more about the Lifeline Program and find out if you may be eligible [here](#).
- In addition, The FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program provides a temporary discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households during the COVID-19 pandemic. You can learn more about the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, what it covers, and find out if you may be eligible [here](#).

### **Additional Resources**

To learn more about 5G, visit our [FAQs page](#).

For more on the FCC's 5G strategy, visit the FCC's [America's 5G Future](#).

For more information on consumer issues, visit the FCC's Consumer Help Center at [www.fcc.gov/consumers](http://www.fcc.gov/consumers).

### **Alternate formats**

To request this article in an alternate format - braille, large print, Word or text document or audio - write or call us at the address or phone number at the bottom of the page, or send an email to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov).

Last reviewed: 10/29/2021



## **Eldery Simplified Application Project (ESAP) for SNAP**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Policy Analyst*

### **What is SNAP ESAP?**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP) is a SNAP demonstration project that seeks to increase participation among the older adult (60 and older) low-income population by streamlining the application and recertification process for SNAP benefits.

Specifically, ESAP uses a simplified application, waives the recertification interview requirement, makes use of data matches to reduce the amount of client-provided verification, and extends the certification period to 36 months.

### **Is Virginia Participating?**

Yes! Virginia's ESAP launches on March 1, 2022.

In Virginia, ESAP will reduce the burden of paperwork for SNAP households that consist of all older adult members (age 60 and older) and streamline the process for local department of social services (LDSS) eligibility workers.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) has created a standalone ESAP application that excludes some questions, such as those related to pregnancy and education. Those questions will also be removed from the "drive flow" in [CommonHelp](#) for older adults applying online and in the VaCMS Rapid Data Entry (RDE) for older adults applying via the call center.

Rather than the usual 12-month certification, ESAP households will have a 36-month certification.

ESAP households will not be subject to interim reporting. ESAP households will be subject, however, to a simplified reporting process. Simplified reporting includes a requirement for notification to the LDSS if there is a change in the household composition, if the household receives earned income, or lottery and gambling winnings of \$3,750 or more.

In addition, ESAP does not require recertification interviews for ESAP households unless: 1) requested by the household, 2) the recertification form is questionable, or 3) the recertification may be potentially denied.

## What Can I Do?

Anecdotally, the aging network has reported a perception for many years that the administrative burden for accessing SNAP benefits is not always worth it for older adults. ESAP reduces that burden and makes SNAP more accessible.

If you think an older Virginian may be eligible for, but not receiving SNAP benefits, encourage them to:

- Option 1: [Screen for eligibility and/or apply online through CommonHelp](#)
- Option 2: Bypass eligibility screening and submit an application manually. Fill out an "Application for Benefits" from the forms section on this page and return it to the appropriate [local department of social services](#).
- Option 3: Apply via phone by calling the Enterprise Call Center 1-855-635-4370.

You can learn more about SNAP on the DSS website [here](#).

**Link to DARS Independent Living Monthly Newsletter**  
*Kevin Koziol, Director of Independent Living*

The current issue of IL Impact is available here:

<https://conta.cc/3ogkTJm>