



**WEEKLY E-MAILING**  
**September 8, 2022**  
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## **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>

## **No Wrong Door Virginia Announces a New Member of the Statewide Team at DARS**

*Sara Link, No Wrong Door Director*



Please join me in welcoming Ms. Bronwyn Stokes as the new No Wrong Door Governance Specialist! Bronwyn will be overseeing contract administration, coordinating the NWD statewide Advisory Council and managing statewide projects that expand Virginians access to home and community based services.

Bronwyn has been a life-long advocate for individuals with disabilities. Bronwyn is from the Richmond area and attended the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, where she studied Psychology and Business-Spanish. She has 8 years of experience working in the human services field, and this began working in direct support care with the I/DD population in residential and independent living settings within Chesterfield County. From there, she transitioned into service coordination for both children and adults with I/DD for both Chesterfield and Henrico CSBs. She then desired to advocate at a different level and springboarded the transition into Adult Services/ Adult Protective Services with Chesterfield-Colonial Heights DSS. Within Social Services, she transitioned internally to a facilitation-focused position to support families within child welfare. Bronwyn has training and certification in Positive Behavior Support Facilitation and Family Partnership Meeting Facilitation, both of which encourage a person-centered, trauma-informed consensus building platform for folks coming to the table to support their loved one(s).

Bronwyn is super excited to be a part of such a collaborative team and agency!

## **Press Release: Needs Assessment Survey for Older Virginians**

*Charlotte Arbogast, Policy Analyst*

The **Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)** has contracted with Polco to seek the public's insight on the **Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA)**. CASOA will inform the development of the next State Plan for Aging Services (Oct. 1, 2023 - Sept. 30, 2027), which guides the Commonwealth's implementation of Older Americans Act programs and services and seeks to coordinate a statewide response to meeting the needs of older Virginians. Using a scientifically random sample of adults ages 60 and older, CASOA provides a statistically valid survey to identify the strengths and needs of older adults in Virginia, as reported by older adults themselves. The press release is attached.



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Sept. 6, 2022**

**For more information, contact**  
Charlotte Arbogast, Senior Policy Analyst  
[charlotte.arbogast@dars.virginia.gov](mailto:charlotte.arbogast@dars.virginia.gov)  
(804) 662-7093

## **NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR OLDER VIRGINIANS**

(RICHMOND, Va.) — The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) has contracted with Polco to seek the public’s insight on the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA).

CASOA will inform the development of the next State Plan for Aging Services (Oct. 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2027), which guides the Commonwealth’s implementation of Older Americans Act programs and services and seeks to coordinate a statewide response to meeting the needs of older Virginians. Using a scientifically random sample of adults ages 60 and older, CASOA provides a statistically valid survey to identify the strengths and needs of older adults in Virginia, as reported by older adults themselves.

Selected Virginia residents will receive a postcard in advance to notify them about the survey. Respondents can complete the survey online or through a paper copy mailed to them with a postage-paid return envelope. The online survey will be available in Arabic, English, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese. Those who receive the survey are encouraged to participate.

Those who do not receive a survey will still have additional ways to provide feedback later this fall when DARS opens the online survey to all older adults. More information about this will be shared in the coming weeks through DARS, its network of 25 Area Agencies on Aging and other community partners.

In implementing the survey, Polco is committed to a strict privacy policy—they only share anonymous, combined results. Participants’ individual data and responses are never shared.

The findings from the needs assessment will enable state agencies, local governments, community-based organizations, the private sector and other community members to understand more thoroughly and predict more accurately the services and resources required to serve older Virginians and their caregivers.

“This survey will help the department identify priorities for the next four years. The CASOA survey presents a novel and exciting opportunity for us to hear from older Virginians

and we hope those who are invited to participate will feel comfortable and interested in doing so,” said DARS Deputy Commissioner Marcia DuBois.

For more information or if you need assistance with the survey, contact the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services at (804) 662-9310.

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The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services, in collaboration with community partners, provides and advocates for resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security and independence of older Virginians, Virginians with disabilities, and their families. For more information, visit [www.vadars.org](http://www.vadars.org) or follow DARS on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/vadars](https://www.facebook.com/vadars) or Twitter at @vadars.

## **SCC Bureau of Insurance Offers New Medigap Premium Comparison Tool**

*Charlotte Arbogast, Policy Analyst*

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Contact: Katha Treanor

Email: [Katha.Treanor@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:Katha.Treanor@scc.virginia.gov)

Telephone: 804-371-9141

**RICHMOND** – If you are covered under Medicare, or will soon be eligible for Medicare coverage, the State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) offers a helpful tool for you: the Medigap Premium Finder. This tool allows you to search and compare annual premiums for Medicare Supplement plans. These optional plans, also known as “Medigap” and offered by private insurance companies, are designed to help pay deductibles, copayments and some out-of-pocket costs, and provide other benefits that Medicare does not cover. Medigap policy premiums are separate from any other premiums consumers pay for Medicare coverage.

There are 12 different Medigap plans – A through N – from which consumers can select. Premiums can vary significantly depending on the insurance company and plan you choose. While comparison shopping for prices, benefits, and services can seem daunting, the Medigap Premium Finder helps simplify this task. This one-stop shopping tool allows you to search by ZIP Code to see the names and contact information for insurance companies writing Medigap insurance in your area, as well as those companies’ coverage options and annual premiums.

Comparison shopping can result in considerable cost savings and help consumers find a company and policy that best suits their needs. The Bureau encourages Virginians to comparison shop before selecting a specific Medigap plan.

Consumers can access the Medigap Premium Finder at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Med-Premium-Finder](https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Med-Premium-Finder). The website also includes the Virginia Medigap Guide and other valuable consumer insurance information.

The Bureau's Life and Health Division also has specially trained staff who can help with your questions regarding Medigap insurance. To contact them, call 804-371-9691 in Richmond or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or email the Bureau at [BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:BureauofInsurance@scc.virginia.gov).

Additionally, the Bureau offers free consumer outreach programs on a number of insurance-related topics, including Medigap. Speakers are available to talk to your group or organization on the insurance topics of your choice and can provide answers to general questions regarding insurance. For more information, contact the Bureau's Outreach Section at 804-371-9389 or e-mail [ConsumerOutreach@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:ConsumerOutreach@scc.virginia.gov).

## **HUD Offers Grants to Modify Older Adults' Homes**

*Charlotte Arbogast, Policy Analyst*

The **Older Adult Home Modification Program** makes grants to experienced nonprofits, state and local governments, and PHAs for comprehensive programs that make low-cost, high-impact safety and functional home modifications to enable low-income elderly homeowners to remain in their homes. One third of the funding is set aside for communities with “substantial rural populations.” The **deadline** is October 13. For more information, contact **Dr. Taneka Blue**, HUD, 202-402-6846.



## Nominations for the 2022 Virginia Housing Awards Extended to Sept. 9!

Mark your calendar to attend the [2022 Virginia Governor's Housing Conference \(VAGHC\)](#) on Nov. 16-18 at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. Join us for Virginia's largest housing and community development event. [Dr. Elliot Eisenberg has been announced as this year's keynote speaker!](#)

Each year, one of the conference's highlights is the Virginia Housing Awards Luncheon, which recognizes innovative, effective efforts that address our housing needs. All awards are presented at the conference during the luncheon on Thursday, Nov. 17.

The six award categories for 2022 include:

### **Best Affordable Housing Development**

The award in this category will go to a housing development that is innovative in its concept and design and exceptional in meeting the needs of the targeted client population. Nominations may be for new construction, renovation or adaptive reuse projects. Examples might include a housing development for senior citizens that is designed with their needs in mind or an affordable

housing development that will offer low-income persons an opportunity to become homeowners for the first time.

### **Best Housing Program or Service**

The award in this category will go to a housing program or service that has demonstrated innovative and creative efforts in providing services or assistance to citizens in need of help in meeting any aspect of housing needs. Examples might include financial counseling programs for prospective homeowners, shelters for homeless individuals or families, programs to assist homeless citizens' transition into permanent housing or fair housing programs.

### **Best Housing Preservation/Revitalization Effort**

The award in this category will go to a housing activity that preserves existing housing or uses housing as a critical component of a broad revitalization effort. Examples might include a housing rehabilitation program that allows residents to remain in their homes while improving the overall conditions of the neighborhood or the development of affordable housing in a structure not previously used for housing that contributes to a revitalization effort.

### **Outstanding Rural Community Development**

This award will reflect superior rural community development efforts that include an affordable housing element. Nominations may be for new construction, preservation, renovation or adaptive reuse projects. Downtown revitalization projects, which include a substantial housing component, are also eligible as are broader community and economic projects which feature the creation or preservation of workforce housing. Examples might include preservation and rehabilitation of an existing neighborhood, repurposing a derelict, underutilized building for mixed use, revitalization of a business district corridor where the development of housing units significantly contributes to the vitality of the area or housing development to support job creation and retention activities.

### **Community Engagement and Inclusivity Award**

The award recognizes projects or practices or policies that exemplify intentional efforts to create affordable and inclusive, diverse housing opportunities. Projects and efforts that result in the expansion of mixed income, accessibility, income integration and inclusiveness in neighborhoods and communities are the focus of this award category. Further, efforts which exemplify community engagement activities to give voice to stakeholders, particularly to maximize inclusivity and diversity, are eligible. Examples may include a notable effort to bring workforce housing into a community where

very little currently exists, a locality that has adopted inclusionary housing policies, projects which have resulted in a deconcentrating of poverty, organizations leading the industry by promoting inclusionary practices or efforts to provide integrated housing opportunities for a range of special needs populations, or listening and engagement sessions which ultimately result in broader participation by community members as it relates to housing and neighborhood development.

### **Best Regional Partnership**

Regional collaborations are essential to maintaining safe, supportive and affordable housing and sparking economic and community development in communities across the commonwealth. This award will go to a regional effort that exemplifies how leveraging successful partnerships can lead to vibrant communities. Whether a collaboration of regional organizations, localities or a public-private partnership, this award will demonstrate how regional teamwork is impacting a community.

**Nominations have been extended to Friday, Sept. 9, 2022 by 5 p.m.**

For more information about the Virginia Housing Awards, contact Rhonda Spear at (804) 371-7000 or [rhonda.spear@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:rhonda.spear@dhcd.virginia.gov)

[Submit a Nomination](#)

For more information on the conference, visit [vaghc.com](http://vaghc.com).

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## **VDDHH Zoom Presentation Series in ASL: Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

**ZOOM Presentation Series in ASL**

**Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing and feeling anxious, alone or overwhelmed after a disaster?**

**Join Olivia as she shares:**

**Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone**

**Date: September 13**

**Time: 5:30pm**

**Click here to register**

Olivia Stein - DeafLEAD Presenter

Lynn Odom - VDDHH Moderator

Made with PosterMyWall.com

**Date: September 13**

**Time: 5:30pm**

**Link to register:**

**<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeATRAQI6t.../viewform...>**

**Are you Deaf or Hard of Hearing and feeling anxious, alone or overwhelmed after a disaster? Join Olivia as she shares "Disaster Distress Helpline Videophone".**

## **SCC Offers Life Insurance Awareness Month Reminders**

*Charlotte Arbogast, Policy Analyst*

Contact: Katha Treanor

Email: [Katha.Treanor@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:Katha.Treanor@scc.virginia.gov)

Telephone: 804-371-9141

**RICHMOND** – When a family member dies – particularly if they are a wage earner – their survivors may suffer financial loss, or even hardship. Life insurance is designed to protect loved ones against the loss of an individual’s income or services. During Life Insurance Awareness Month (September), the State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) Bureau of Insurance (Bureau) reminds Virginians that there are many factors to consider when determining if life insurance is right for you and your family.

“When considering your family’s financial future, review your existing financial resources, debts and other liabilities, as well as your family’s needs and goals,” said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Scott White. “Understand the different types of life insurance and shop around to compare prices and coverage.”

White encourages Virginians who already have life insurance to review their policies regularly and update their policies and beneficiaries to ensure their coverage keeps pace with their changing circumstances. Life events – such as a birth, divorce, remarriage, or other changes affecting your finances (such as a new mortgage or a new job) – may trigger a need to update your life insurance policy.

When determining whether to purchase life insurance and how much coverage you may need, evaluate your existing resources and your family’s likely financial situation following a death. Consider the following: Does your spouse work? Do you have any sources of income other than salary? Do you have life insurance through your job?

Also think about financial obligations that may fall upon family members if you die, such as mortgage or rent payments, business expenses, medical expenses, car loans or student loans. Also consider your family’s short-term and long-term goals – such as your spouse’s retirement, providing care for a loved one or your children’s education.

Understand the types of life insurance available – term life or permanent – and how benefits are paid if you die. What you pay for life insurance (premiums) depends largely on the type of policy chosen, your health status, age, gender, occupation, family health history and lifestyle. Be sure to compare premiums, coverage and claims service when considering life insurance options.

Contact the Bureau in Richmond at 804-371-9741 or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 for questions or to make sure the company or individual offering the coverage is licensed and in good standing. The Bureau offers a free Virginia Life Insurance Consumer Guide with answers to many life insurance questions on its website at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Tips,-Guides-Publications](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Tips,-Guides-Publications).

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners offers a free Life Insurance Policy Locator Service that can help consumers find lost life insurance policies and annuity contracts. To learn more about the Locator Service, visit <https://eapps.naic.org/life-policy-locator/#/welcome>.

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

The current issue of IL Impact is available here:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/IL-Impact-Newsletter.html?soid=1134646283912&aid=gLre4ZwuqA0>