



WEEKLY E-MAILING

July 11, 2023

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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>

Virginia Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled

Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs

In Virginia, those who are over age 65 or disabled may qualify for relief from Virginia real estate taxes. The program is called "Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled," and each governing body in the state of Virginia has been permitted to establish their own rules and eligibility requirements.

Compilation of Real Estate Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled by locality:

<https://www.marottaonmoney.com/virginia-real-estate-tax-relief-for-the-elderly-and-disabled-by-city-and-county/>



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | media@dss.virginia.gov



Cooling Assistance Application Period Underway

RICHMOND, VA (July 5, 2023) – The [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) (VDSS) will provide cooling assistance to qualifying households this year through the [Virginia Energy Assistance Program](#) (EAP). Applications are currently being accepted and can be submitted until **Tuesday, August 15**.

To qualify, a household must have a child less than six years of age, an adult 60 years or older, or an individual living with a disability. Income requirements, which are based on a household's gross monthly income (before taxes), can be found [here](#) (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Individuals and families in need of cooling assistance are encouraged to apply even if they are unsure of their eligibility status.

Assistance is available for:

- payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment;
- payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment;
- repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump;
- purchase of a whole-house fan, including ceiling or attic fans;
- purchase and installation of a window unit air conditioner.

Households who received a one-time benefit of \$600 for payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment in June will not be eligible to receive additional payments for this type of assistance in 2023.

Applications (available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) can be submitted to a [local department of social services](#), online via [CommonHelp](#), or by calling 1-855-635-4370. Eligibility is determined by the local department of social services. All applications must be submitted by Tuesday, August 15. VDSS has provided relief to local residents through the federally-funded [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) for over 20 years. Last year, cooling assistance was provided to over 86,000 Virginia households through the LIHEAP.

RetirePath VA: Employer Toolkit

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

RetirePathVA has an Employer Toolkit with optional resources and templates to introduce eligible employees to RetirePathVA.

https://www.retirepathva.com/resources/docs/retirepathva_employer_toolkit.pdf

LeadingAge Virginia: Advanced CNA Curriculum Toolkit

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst



We are pleased to share a new online resource developed by LeadingAge Virginia to assist in the implementation of an Advanced Certified Nurse Aide curriculum at your nursing home.

LeadingAge Virginia was awarded funding through the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Civil Money Penalty Reinvestment program. We used this opportunity to lead an innovative initiative to address the health care workforce shortage by creating an opportunity for certified nurse aides to become leaders in the aging services field.

In collaboration with Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC), we developed an Advanced Certified Nurse Aide curriculum in compliance with the Virginia Board of Nursing regulatory curriculum requirements. Moreover, we provided 22 scholarships to eligible certified nurse aides working in CMS certified nursing homes to complete the course at BRCC and Northern Virginia Community College.

As part of this initiative, we created an online toolkit with the curriculum and resources to support community colleges and nursing homes throughout Virginia with developing and offering an Advanced Certified Nurse Aide (ACNA) program. The toolkit can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Please note that before implementing an ACNA course, your organization must offer a current Virginia Board of Nursing-approved CNA Training program. We also suggest that you consult with the [Virginia Board of Nursing](#) to ensure your ACNA program is in compliance with the curriculum requirements as stated in [18VAC90-26-90](#).

We hope that you find this resource helpful and that your nursing home can use it to enhance the lives of the residents you serve.

National Institute on Aging (NIA) Caregiver Worksheets

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

Caregiver Worksheets

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has created a series of caregiver worksheets designed to assist in organizing and managing caregiving responsibilities effectively. These worksheets cover a range of topics, including coordinating caregiving tasks, ensuring home safety, hiring care providers, considering the option of moving an older adult into one's home, managing medications, and organizing important documents. Caregivers can download and utilize these worksheets to streamline their caregiving efforts and maintain essential information in an organized manner.

[Click here](#) to view the resources.

Newly Revised CMS Home Health Benefit Brochure

Charlotte Arbogast, MS. Senior Policy Analyst

<https://www.medicare.gov/publications/11357-home-health-getting-started.pdf?emci=d8ff4bdc-321c-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&emdi=858d0dca-351c-ee11-a9bb-00224832eb73&ceid=6106883#:~:text=CMS%20Product%20No.%2011357%20Revised%20June%202023%20Medicare%20E2%80%99s,G%20S%20T%20A%20R%20T%20E%20D>

Polco Blog Posts on Virginia Data

Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst

See below for the links:

[How Resident Data Informs Virginia's State Plan on Aging](#)

[How Governments Use Data to Win Grants](#)



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Virginia Receives Federal Approval to Replace SNAP Benefits for Victims of Fraud

RICHMOND, VA (July 10, 2023) - The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) was approved by the United States Department of Agriculture's [Food and Nutrition Service](#) to replace certain [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) benefits stolen from clients' [Electronic Benefits Transfer](#) (EBT) cards beginning July 17, 2023.

Under the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#), Virginia can use federal funding to replace certain SNAP benefits **stolen between Oct. 1, 2022 and Sept. 30, 2024** through card cloning, skimming and other fraudulent methods. Eligible SNAP benefits may also include Disaster SNAP and emergency allotments.

Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer benefits, also known as P-EBT benefits, established by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, are not approved to be replaced in accordance with the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023.

VDSS urges SNAP customers to take preventive measures to protect their funds, whenever possible. This includes changing their card PIN often, examining card swiping devices for any signs of tampering, and not responding to unsolicited texts, emails or phone calls concerning their EBT account. VDSS has a [dedicated webpage](#) with more information on how customers can help protect themselves from EBT scams.

Virginia households that become victim to EBT scams should contact their [local department of social services](#) and fill out all required paperwork within 30 days of discovering that benefits were stolen. Upon validation of the claim, replacement funds will be issued within 10 days of the reported loss. Households are limited to two replacement issuances for stolen benefits in the federal fiscal year.

Visit www.dss.virginia.gov/EBTscam to access the funds replacement form and find more information about SNAP replacement funding.