



## WEEKLY E-MAILING

September 6, 2023

Table of Contents

[Helpful Links](#)

[Caregiver Guide](#)

[Consumer Advisory: Take Action When Home Insurance is Cancelled or Costs Surge](#)

[DMAS: Eligibility Redetermination Tracking Dashboard](#)

[SCC Offers Life Insurance Awareness Month Reminders](#)

[Affordable & Special Needs Housing Program Funding Opportunities](#)

[FY2023 Thriving Communities Program Coming Soon](#)

[DMAS/DSS Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination](#)

[Webinar: How Virginia Makes Positive Impacts on Affordable Housing](#)

[Webinars of Interest](#)

[DARS Independent Living Newsletter](#)

[Funding Opportunity: National Center for Benefits Outreach & Enrollment](#)

## **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 Caregiver Coalition Caregiver Guide**

*Cecily Slasor, Administrative Program Support*



**DARS will be printing the VCC *Taking Care - A Resource Guide for Caregivers*.**

---

## **Consumer advisory: Take Action When Home Insurance is Cancelled or Costs Surge**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

A notice from your insurer dropping your home insurance policy can feel like your largest investment is at risk. Unexpected jumps in the cost of your coverage can put a strain on your budget. And, problems with getting the right amount and type of insurance can make your home more difficult to sell. Changes in the insurance business across the country are making these problems more common for homeowners.

In response to extreme weather events and natural disasters, some home insurance companies are going out of business. In states like Florida and California, several insurers have stopped selling policies. Other companies have increased the price of insurance to the point where homeowners can't afford it. Homeowners are facing new decisions about insurance, often with limited time to consider their options.

[Learn ways to get ahead of high insurance costs and stay prepared](#)

**Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services: Eligibility  
Redetermination Tracking Dashboard**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

DMAS has launched an updated Eligibility Redetermination Tracking Dashboard. Please see the link below. The new dashboard will now be updated weekly rather than monthly and will have more detailed information including information on demographics, regional data, and data by locality.

Link: <https://www.dmas.virginia.gov/data/return-to-normal-enrollment/eligibility-redetermination-tracker/>

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

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

September 1, 2023

Contact: Katha Treanor

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

Telephone: 804-371-9141

**RICHMOND** – Many Virginians would face financial hardship if a wage earner in their immediate family died unexpectedly. 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 planning for your family's financial future, review your existing 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 and beneficiaries regularly 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.

If you do not have life insurance, shop around and understand the different types of policies available and the costs. When determining 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 difference between term life and permanent life insurance 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 questions about life insurance. Consumer resources on a variety of insurance topics are available at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Tips,-Guides-Publications](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Tips,-Guides-Publications).

Additionally, 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 insuring deceased individuals.

Register online to receive SCC news releases by email at [scc.virginia.gov/pages/News-Release-Subscriptions](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/News-Release-Subscriptions)



# How-to-Apply Workshops

## Affordable and Special Needs Housing (ASNH) Program Funding Opportunities

The [Department of Housing and Community Development's Affordable and Special Needs Housing \(ASNH\) Program](#) has opened its first of two competitive application cycles for fiscal year 2024.

The ASNH Program is the consolidated, competitive application used by DHCD to award National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Virginia Housing Trust Fund (VHTF), and Housing Innovations in Energy Efficiency funds towards the development of affordable multifamily rental and single-family homeownership projects across the Commonwealth.

For Fall 2023, DHCD will hold two How-to-Apply Workshops to cover in detail the funding opportunities for Rental Projects and Homeownership Projects:

### Rental Focus

Wednesday, September 28

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

*Google Meet joining info:*

[Video call link](#)

### Homeownership Focus

Wednesday, September 13

2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

*Google Meet joining info:*

[Video call link:](#)



Or dial: (US) +1 434-230-0065

PIN: 260 010 535#

Or dial: (US)+1 434-230-0065

PIN: 828 746 522#

**The Fall 2023 ASNH Competitive Application will open in CAMS from today, Friday, September 1, 2023 and accept applications until Friday, October 6, 2023, at 11:59pm.**

*If you have any questions about the Rental Focus workshop, please contact Carly Blake at [Carly.Blake@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:Carly.Blake@dhcd.virginia.gov)*

*If you have any questions about the Homeownership Focus workshop, please contact Dawn Scott at [Dawn.Scott@dhcd.virginia.gov](mailto:Dawn.Scott@dhcd.virginia.gov)*

Learn More



## **FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Coming Soon!**

*Devin M. Bowers, MPH, Grants Specialist*

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 [Thriving Communities Program](#) opportunity for Capacity Builders and communities is expected to open in summer 2023. USDOT will update this webpage with more information when it becomes available. [Subscribe to email updates](#) to receive updates about upcoming Thriving Communities Program opportunities and other technical assistance and funding opportunities from across USDOT.

Through the Thriving Communities Program, USDOT selects and funds Capacity Builder teams to provide deep-dive technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to under-resourced and disadvantaged communities across the U.S. to help ensure these communities have the technical tools and organizational capacity to comprehensively plan for and deliver quality infrastructure projects and community development projects that enable their communities and neighborhoods to thrive. USDOT selects Capacity Builders and communities through separate but coordinated application and review processes.

### **What Can I Do to Prepare?**

If the Thriving Communities Program sounds like a good fit for your organization or community, here are some suggestions to prepare for the FY 2023 program:

- **If you are a community that needs technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support:**
  - Begin identifying community partnerships and discussing your community's specific needs and vision for transformative transportation and community revitalization projects.
  - Review the [list of selected FY 2022 communities](#) to see the types of issues and places that USDOT is supporting and check out the [selected Capacity Builders](#) to see what types of technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support is available.
- **If you are a technical assistance provider:**
  - Begin forming partnership teams with other technical assistance providers. [This list of potential Capacity Builders](#) includes information from potentially interested organizations from the FY 2022 program and may be a good place to start.
  - Review the [list of communities who submitted Letters of Interest](#) for the FY 2022 program to better understand the diversity of places seeking support.



## **DMAS/DSS Medicaid Eligibility Redetermination**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

DMAS continues to work, in partnership with the Local Departments of Social Services (LDSS), to complete Medicaid eligibility redeterminations. The memo below explains important provisions for a 90-day grace period that is available to some individuals who do not get their renewals completed and lose their coverage but could still be eligible.

**The big picture is to make sure that individuals know to contact Cover Virginia if they have any questions or concerns about their Medicaid eligibility status.**

<https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/>  
<https://coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/return-to-normal-enrollment/>

**Coverage During the 90-Day Enrollment Grace Period**  
**[Download PDF](#)**

Bulletin Effective Date: August 29, 2023, 8:44AM

---

To: All Providers and Managed Care Organizations Participating in the Virginia Medicaid and FAMIS Programs  
From: Cheryl J. Roberts, Director Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS)

The purpose of this Bulletin is to provide information about how the 90-day grace period during the *Return to Normal Enrollment* process relates to Medicaid and FAMIS (Family Access to Medical Insurance Security) health care coverage.

## **Webinar: How Virginia Makes Positive Impacts on Affordable Housing for Aging in Place**

*Charlotte Arbogast, MS, Senior Policy Analyst*

**Date & Time:** Sep 19, 2023 02:00 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

### **Webinar Description:**

Virginia state and housing leaders are finding success with informing plans and raising funds to benefit aging in place for their older population. Learn how in this webinar by Polco on 9/19.

Studies show older adults want to age in place. But with nationwide affordable and accessible housing shortages, many Americans worry they won't be able to.

Experts point to housing modifications and in-home services as solutions for older adult living, especially in rural areas. Unfortunately, these types of services often go underfunded. And many state agencies say they need more reliable data to secure additional grant funding and meet federal guidelines.

So how can AAA, state government, housing, and planning leaders make a significant difference for Americans aging in place?

In this Polco webinar, aging and housing leaders from the state of Virginia will reveal their successful approach to improving aging in place. Join us to hear how they assess older adult needs, inform state plans, and the key to winning grants and launching new initiatives.

You'll also get the latest data highlights from National Research Center (NRC) at Polco about aging in place. See survey results that all state and housing leaders should know about older adult living.

In this webinar:

- Hear from Virginia leaders in aging and housing about how they use data to make decisions
- Learn what state and local governments can do to help older adults age in place
- See how your government can make housing accessible, affordable, and available for older adults in your community

Can't make the date? No worries. We will email the webinar recording and show notes to all who register.

**Registration Link:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Q\\_1J0-8QSx6hJFoQ-L8dvA](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q_1J0-8QSx6hJFoQ-L8dvA)

## **Webinars of Interest**

*Kathy B. Miller, Director of Aging Programs*

### **PET PROGRAM COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS 101**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 AT 2:00 P.M. EDT**  
**HOSTED BY MEALS ON WHEELS AMERICA**

Pet programs across the Meals on Wheels network have developed an impressive array of community partnerships with animal welfare organizations, veterinary partners, groomers, pet/animal enthusiasts and so many more. These partnerships provide support, expertise and collaboration across all services – pet food deliveries, access to veterinary care, grooming, boarding and dog walking. Join Learning @ Meals on Wheels America, the Helen Woodward Animal Center in San Diego and several other guest speakers to learn more about how to find and build partnerships within your community. Whether you have a robust pet program or are looking to start one, you won't want to miss out on this learning opportunity!

This webinar will be recorded and sent to registrants if you are unable to attend.

**WEBINAR:** [Pet Program Community Partnerships 101](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EDT

### **PROVIDER READY: PREPAREDNESS FOR OLDER ADULT SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT 10:30 A.M. EDT**  
**HOSTED BY FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)**

Many older adults depend on community service providers for necessities and psychosocial support. However, these crucial services may be disrupted during disasters, impacting older adults in your community. This workshop prepares organizations that provide critical support services to older adults. The webinar will discuss continuity of operations, preparedness planning for older adults, disaster mental health issues and case studies.

**WEBINAR:** [Provider Ready: Preparedness for Older Adult Service Providers](#)

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023

**TIME:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. EDT

[REGISTER NOW](#)



## **DARS Independent Living Newsletter**

*On behalf of Teresa Jones*

The DARS Independent Living Newsletter can be found using this link:

<https://conta.cc/45PxGFV>

## **Funding Opportunity from National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment**

**Applications due October 5, 2023**

The National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment is soliciting applications for grants from organizations who wish to become Benefits Enrollment Centers (BECs). The grants are for the 19-month period from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. BECs use person-centered strategies in a coordinated, community-wide approach to find and enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries – both older adults age 65+ and adults with disabilities – into a range of public benefits.

Special consideration will be given to applicants serving areas that are not currently served by a BEC and that are focused on serving groups who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequity. These groups include people who identify as Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American, Asian American and Pacific Islander, and other people of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) individuals; people with disabilities; people who live in rural areas; people otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality; and those with limited English proficiency (LEP).

Organizations eligible to apply for BEC grants include state or community-based nonprofit organizations, state government agencies, tribal entities, and faith-based organizations addressing the needs of older adults and younger adults with disabilities. Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$250,000 will be awarded to selected organizations.

[Learn more and apply](#)

*The [National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment](#) is operated by the National Council on Aging through a cooperative agreement with ACL. The Center provides training and technical assistance to help professionals enroll low-income Medicare beneficiaries into benefits. It also serves as the MIPPA Resource Center and leads the Senior SNAP Enrollment Initiative.*