



## 2019-2020 Budget Priorities

The 2019 General Assembly session falls in the middle of the biennium for the state's budgeting purposes. VACSB will focus on preserving what the General Assembly funded for FY 2020 and will advocate for additional funding for the three priorities identified by VACSB at the beginning of the biennium that have not yet been fully funded.

1. **STEP- VA - System Transformation, Excellence and Performance in Virginia:** STEP – VA was developed to address: Accountability, Access, Quality, and Consistency across all CSBs to work toward excellence in behavioral healthcare and ultimately a healthy Virginia. STEP – VA services are intended to foster wellness among individuals and prevent crises before they arise.

The services and supports in STEP-VA have been mandated in the Code of Virginia to be implemented, yet funding has not been fully provided. The 2017 General Assembly mandated that Same Day Access (SDA) and Primary Care Screening (PCS) be implemented by 2019 with the remaining eight services to be implemented by 2021. In order to meet the code mandated timeline for implementation of all the services and supports, the General Assembly needs to provide the rest of the funding required to implement all of the STEP – VA services.

**Request:** Funding in the 2019 General Assembly session for FY 2020 to implement the remaining services in the STEP – VA model. The General Assembly has provided the funds to implement Same Day Access and Primary Care Screening, as well as a portion of the funds needed for Outpatient Services. More funding for Outpatient Services and funding for the remaining seven services (listed below) are needed in the 2019 Session to meet the mandates in the Code of Virginia.

- Remaining funds needed for Outpatient Services
- Psychiatric Rehabilitation
- Care Coordination
- Mental Health Care for Members of the Armed Services and Veterans
- Behavioral Health Crisis
- Targeted Case Management
- Peer Supports
- Person-Centered Treatment Planning

2. **Increase the reimbursement rate for Medicaid Early Intervention Case Management to its data-determined adequacy:** Early Intervention Services result in special education cost savings and provide an increased quality of life for the child and his/her family.

**Request:** Increase the Medicaid Early Intervention case management reimbursement rate. This increase is necessary because the current monthly rate does not cover the expenses of providing this critical service, which ensures eligible children and families receive service coordination that is appropriate to the needs of infants, toddlers and their families.

3. **Reduce the I/DD Waiver Waiting List:** Currently, over 13,000 people with developmental disabilities are on a waiting list for community-based services. Receiving a Waiver slot will enable an individual who needs developmental services and supports to live a life that is fully integrated in the community.

**Request:** A reduction of the waiting list for DD Waivers by focusing on those individuals on the waiting list who are categorized as "Priority 1".

Please note that while dollar amounts are not included in this draft version of the budget priorities, the VACSB and advocacy partners are calculating the funding needed. ***Until the release of the Governor's budget or unless legislators request specific amounts, VACSB chose to adopt this strategy, for advocacy purposes of defining the priorities.***