



VACSB Budget Priorities 2020 – 2022 Biennium Budget

- **Restore to the base budget state general fund dollars taken from CSBs as a result of Medicaid expansion:** The Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) is appreciative of the \$7M in restoration money allocated to the CSBs for FY 2020. This funding will help, although, because of several factors listed, VACSB will advocate for the full restoration of ongoing funds: (1.) In FY2020 CSBs face roughly double the reduction in general fund dollars that they incurred in FY 2019. (2.) While CSBs are able to bill for services provided to some of the individuals they had been serving without reimbursement, there are still individuals that CSBs serve that do not qualify for Medicaid expansion and there will always be individuals who do qualify, but for various reasons refuse to sign up. The CSBs continue to serve these individuals with no payer source from a now-reduced state general fund allocation. (3.) The Medicaid rate for most services does not cover the cost to actually deliver the service. State general fund dollars help to reduce the negative impact of this and allow CSBs to continue to serve priority populations. (4.) Lastly it is difficult to provide services in a managed care environment. CSBs are experiencing reductions in authorizations for some services as well as an increase in the amount of time between when a service is delivered and when it is paid for by an MCO.
- **Provide the remaining funds needed for the Outpatient Services step of STEP- VA:** STEP – VA was developed to address: Accountability, Access, Quality, and Consistency across all CSBs. STEP-VA services are intended to foster wellness among individuals and prevent crises before they arise. The result would be fewer admissions to state and private hospitals, decreased emergency room visits, and reduced involvement of individuals with behavioral health needs in the criminal justice system.

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 is needed to complete the Outpatient Services step in the STEP-VA model.

An enactment clause in the code of Virginia states that all of the steps of STEP – VA be implemented by July of 2021. VACSB will advocate to have that date extended to 01 JUL 2022 for the remaining unfunded steps of STEP – VA, a position endorsed by a recent Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) report.
- **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. 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.
- **Funding to eliminate the “priority one” waiting list for DD Waiver slots:** Currently, just under 13,000 people with developmental disabilities are on the Waiver waiting list for community-based services. Receiving a Waiver slot enables an individual who needs developmental services and supports to live a life that is fully integrated in the community. Addressing the Priority One waiting list will help those individuals who are identified as having the most need and saves money later by preventing mental health crises, institutionalization, and incarceration.
- **Funding to create a student loan repayment program specifically for behavioral health providers:** The CSBs continue to struggle with a workforce shortage and high staff turnover. CSBs continuously recruit new staff, but the time and resources spent on high turnover positions put a great strain on the system of care. A student loan repayment program specific to behavioral health safety net providers will make the CSBs a more desirable choice for employment.

VACSB will also support amendments from its advocacy partners once they are advanced.