



# VACSB Budget Priorities for FY 2022

## THE VACSB REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING IN ADDITION TO WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE GOVERNOR'S INTRODUCED BUDGET:

**\$3M for the MARCUS Alert Program:** VACSB is requesting an additional \$3M to the current funding allocated for the first five sites that will implement the new protocols related to the MARCUS Alert legislation. In allocating these funds, the General Assembly recognized that there will be costs associated with meeting the new requirements. If funding is not included for development and implementation of the protocols in future sites, the money will have to be carved out of existing STEP-VA funds. STEP-VA funding was put in place prior to the additional requirements included in the MARCUS Alert legislation and should remain whole in order to meet the stated objectives of that program. The second set of 5 sites are due to be in place by July 1, 2023 so the funding needs to be made available in FY22 and included in the base budget to support development and implementation.

**Language to Maintain the Integrity of Local Inpatient Purchase of Service (LIPOS) Funds:** The Governor's budget contains language changing the current LIPOS program funding (Item 322 GG. & Item 321 C.1.) This language needs to be changed to ensure that those funds are used to fully reimburse CSBs for their LIPOS expenditures before DBHDS can divert any funds to state-managed LIPOS activities.

## THE VACSB APPRECIATES THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE GOVERNOR FOR THEIR RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE SERVICES CSBs PROVIDE AND THANKS THEM FOR THE FOLLOWING BUDGET ITEMS:

**\$30.2M in FY22 for the Additional STEP-VA Services:** 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.

**\$25.7M in FY22 for the Provider Reimbursement Rate Increase for DD Waiver Services:** This funding was appropriated based on a model for reimbursement rates created by a nationally recognized expert.

**\$2.4M in FY22 for the Reimbursement Rate Increase for Behavioral Health Service Providers:** These funds will increase the physician rate to 110% of the Medicare reimbursement rate.

**\$17M in FY22 for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH):** Stable housing is one of the greatest barriers to discharge for individuals in state psychiatric facilities. PSH funds remove that barrier and reduce state hospital census. The 2019 report on PSH shows that state hospital utilization decreased 82% for individuals in PSH. This resulted in \$9.5M in savings for state hospitals. Eighty-six percent of individuals served in PSH remained stably housed.

**95 Community Living and 455 Family and Individual Supports Waiver Slots in FY22:** Currently, roughly 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.