

VACSB Budget Priorities for 2026 General Assembly Session

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINIC DEMONSTRATION: The CCBHC model was developed at the federal level and has been implemented in multiple states over the last decade. The state adopted System Transformation Excellence and Performance in Virginia (STEP-VA) which is based off of the core services and supports included in the CCBHC model:

Same Day Access	Outpatient	Veteran and Family Services
Case Management	Primary Care Screening	Peer Family Support Services
Crisis Services	Psychiatric Rehabilitation	Care Coordination

In order to realize the potential of having these critical services in place, Virginia needs to fully implement the CCBHC model, and CSBs will play a critical role in the success of that implementation. Full implementation includes the development of a prospective payment system that covers the cost to deliver services based on a rate methodology that is tailored to the provider's circumstances.

States that have fully implemented the CCBHC model have seen significant improvements in their service delivery systems, including an expansion of capacity to serve children/youth, the uninsured and those without a prior source of outpatient care. In addition, CCBHCs have expanded access to substance use disorder treatment, including medication assisted treatment which helps to keep individuals engaged in their recovery.

The VACSB will pursue legislation to ensure that Virginia is ready to apply for the federal CCBHC demonstration on 01 APR 2026.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY (DD) WAIVER SERVICES: FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT COORDINATORS: The VACSB is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for including \$8.7M in the FY26 budget to allow CSBs to recruit additional support coordinators. This funding is essential to ensure that Developmental Disability Waiver slots can be brought online quickly. **Therefore, the VACSB requests that this funding be made ongoing.**

EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES: VACSB requests an increase in funding for Early Intervention services to account for the 5% increase in children served each year and to account for the deficit that Early Intervention services operate under each year. Early Intervention services for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities can have a significant impact on a child's ability to learn new skills and increase their future success in school and in life. These services are much more effective and less costly when provided during the Early Intervention period, which is from birth to age three.

MARCUS ALERT PROGRAMS: The Code of Virginia requires all localities with a population of greater than 40K individuals to participate in a MARCUS Alert program by 2028. In order to ensure this code mandate is fulfilled, the **VACSB requests funding for the 13 MARCUS Alert programs that will need to be brought online over the 2026 – 2028 biennium.**

RESTORATION OF COMPETENCY TO STAND TRIAL: The VACSB is grateful to the Governor and the General Assembly for including \$1.5M to allow for increased capacity to provide restoration on an outpatient basis and provide training to clinicians. The state has prioritized outpatient restoration services in order to relieve the pressure on state psychiatric facilities which have seen a dramatic increase in forensic admissions, many of which are due to the need for restoration services which may be offered on an outpatient basis if funding were sufficient. **VACSB requests that this funding be made ongoing.**

PREVENTION SERVICES: Prevention services are an important part of how CSBs serve the community across a full continuum. Federal funding cuts have threatened the progress that CSB prevention programs have made in the past several years. Schools, police departments and other community partners appreciate how robust and active CSB prevention programs have become. All of the federal pandemic funding has ended as of March 2025. To account for this loss, **VACSB requests an increase in general funds that are dedicated to prevention services.** This will allow the CSB prevention staff to continue its robust array of services in every community of the Commonwealth.