VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Partners for Better Communities

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Partners for Better Communities

VIRGINIA DHCD

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is committed to creating safe, affordable, and prosperous communities in which to live, work and do business in Virginia.

DHCD partners with Virginia's communities to:

- develop their economic potential;
- increase their capacity to address community development and housing needs;
- improve the quality and affordability of housing;
- regulate Virginia's building and fire codes and provide training and certification for building officials; and
- invest more than $100 million each year into housing and community development projects throughout the state.

By partnering with local governments, nonprofit groups, state and federal agencies, and others, DHCD is working to improve the quality of life for Virginians.

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Creating better communities in which to live, work, and do business

DHCD takes a comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life in Virginia's communities. Programs and partnerships are designed to support economic development, revitalization, infrastructure improvements, housing, and other community issues.

DHCD's community development programs are designed to benefit businesses, communities, and low and moderate income individuals.

Comprehensive community development assistance is available through the Virginia Community Development Block Grant (VCDBG). This federally funded program provides grants to eligible units of local government in non-urban parts of the state for projects that address critical community needs, including housing, infrastructure, economic development and telecommunications. The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) program also provides comprehensive community assistance in the Appalachian portions of the Commonwealth.

Community revitalization is a catalyst for encouraging economic development and business growth.

The Virginia Enterprise Zone program encourages new job creation and private investment in targeted areas by providing economic incentives to businesses.

Downtown revitalization is the focus of the Virginia Main Street (VMS) program. Designated VMS

Main Street - Waynesboro

Self-Help Virginia water project in King William

communities receive support for revitalization based on the community's unique heritage and attributes. VMS provides training, technical assistance, resource materials, marketing and networking assistance for Virginia's downtowns.

Asset development moves people into economic self-sufficiency and strengthens Virginia's communities. The Virginia Individual Development Accounts (VIDA) program encourages homeownership, self-employment and continued education by providing training and matched savings for low-income citizens working to become independent.

The Virginia Enterprise Initiative (VEI) helps emerging entrepreneurs advance their business development efforts. Individuals with limited business experience are provided with education and training, and access to small business loans if they are unable to take advantage of traditional capital resources.

By partnering with local organizations, DHCD strives for not only better results, but stronger communities as well.

Strategic community services provided through the Office of Community Capacity Building (OCCB) provide the financial and technical assistance needed by local partners to maximize their effectiveness. OCCB is focused on fostering sustainable organizations and partners that improve the quality of life in the communities they serve.

Community Development Programs - Community Development Block Grant program • Appalachian Regional Commission program • Telecommunications • Self-Help Virginia • Southern Rivers Watershed Enhancement Program • Southwest Virginia Regional Water/Wastewater Construction Fund • Supplemental Rehab Loan Program

Revitalization and Economic Development -Programs • Virginia Main Street program • Virginia Enterprise Zone program

Asset Development Programs
Virginia Individual Development Accounts program • Virginia Enterprise Initiative

Strategic Community Services -
Capacity Building

Providing safe and affordable housing

A safe and affordable home is a dream that has become increasingly difficult for many Virginians. For those that do not have a home, DHCD provides grant assistance to homeless shelters to ensure safe and continuous operations. Financial support also goes to coordinate child care and services for children from homeless families.

Citizens that want to become homeowners but find that affordable housing is beyond their grasp can take advantage of down payment assistance. Combined with housing counseling, education, and help in accessing special mortgage programs, this assistance is instrumental in creating hundreds of new homeowners every year.

DHCD also focuses on creating and preserving affordable housing throughout the state. By supporting Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO)'s, and providing gap financing, DHCD contributes to the production of affordable housing opportunities across the Commonwealth. Financing assistance is also targeted to developing housing for special needs populations such as the disabled, veterans and the elderly.

Preservation and rehabilitation programs safeguard existing affordable housing stock. Houses without indoor plumbing, those with lead hazards, and units in need of weatherization and emergency repairs are targeted to maintain and improve the current supply of affordable housing.

Providing safe and affordable housing

Housing Finance Services –
Affordable Housing Production Program • Community Development Housing Organizations assistance and certification • HOME Program • Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS • HOMEownership Down Payment Assistance program
• Special Needs Housing Assistance

Housing Preservation –
Emergency Home Repair program • Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program • Virginia Lead Safe Homes Program • Weatherization Assistance program • Indoor Plumbing Rehabilitation program

Shelter Services –
Child Care for Homeless Children • Child Services Coordinator grant • HOME Match for the Supportive Housing Program • SHARE Expansion • Homeless Intervention Program • Shelter Support Grant

Fostering Safe Communities

Safe buildings and communities result from strategic partnerships between citizens, architects, builders, code officials, and tradespeople. DHCD's objective is protecting citizens from safety hazards in their homes and in public buildings throughout the state.

DHCD's supports the Board of Housing and Community Development in promulgating the Uniform Statewide Building Code and Statewide Fire Prevention Code. The agency also supports the Manufactured Housing Board in promulgating the Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations.

The agency trains and certifies inspectors for commercial and residential buildings and amusement devices, and performs more than 10,000 fire safety inspections each year through the State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO). Fire safety inspections are conducted for hospitals, nursing homes, child and adult care facilities, public and private schools, state government buildings, public and private universities and colleges, and nightclubs.

The Jack Proctor Virginia Building Code Academy (JPVBCA) provides mandated training and certification for the nearly 4,250 code enforcement personnel working within the Commonwealth. This unique, hands-on training program is considered a national model for building and fire code instruction.

Fostering Safe Communities

DHCD also participates in the development of national model codes and standards, and provides representation on a number of national associations including the International Code Council, National Fire Protection Association, and national testing and certification organizations.

Building Code Programs – Administration of the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) • Administration of the Virginia Industrialized Building Safety Regulations (IBSR) • Regulation of the Virginia Manufactured Home Safety Regulations (MHSR) • Regulation of the Virginia Manufactured Housing Licensing and Transaction Recovery Fund Regulations (Licensing Regulations) • Administration of the Virginia Construction Code • Administration of Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (VADR)

Training and Certification Office – Provides training and certification for code enforcement officials responsible for the Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC), Statewide Fire Prevention Code (SFPC) or the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (VADR) • Training offered includes Core, Advanced Official, Property Maintenance, Plan Review, Mechanical Inspection, Electrical Inspection, Plumbing Inspection, Building Inspection, and Amusement Device Inspection • Certifications offered for Virginia Certified Officials, Building Inspector, Fire Inspector, Plans Examiner, Elevator Inspector, Amusement Device Inspector

The Commission on Local Government

The Commission on Local Government, operating within DHCD, promotes and preserves the viability of Virginia's local governments by fostering positive intergovernmental relations. The Commission assists counties, cities, and towns in the Commonwealth in the following ways:

- reviews and publishes advisory reports on boundary change and governmental transition issues for the courts and localities;
- provides technical assistance to localities and state agencies on the state's boundary change and governmental transition processes;
- develops and distributes annual reports analyzing the comparative revenue capacity, revenue effort, and fiscal stress of Virginia's counties and cities;
- develops and distributes an annual catalog of state and federal mandates on local governments;
- oversees the executive agency assessment of state and federal mandates on local governments;
- publishes an annual report on local government utilization of cash proffers;
- examines proposed state legislation for its potential fiscal impact on the state's localities; and
- develops and distributes other reports and information on local government fiscal condition and Virginia's counties, cities, and towns.

The commission is composed of five members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Virginia General Assembly. The members are required by statute to have knowledge and experience in local government, and they can hold no other elective or appointive office while on the commission. Commission members are appointed for five-year terms, and are eligible for reappointment.

Sunnybrooke Community - affordable housing for Virginians

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For more information about DHCD programs, visit:
http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov or call (804) 371-7000