

2023 Virginia Plan to Increase Independent Living Options - Dashboard - Quarter 2 Report

Goal	Strategy	ID	ACTION/ INTENDED OUTCOME	LEAD AGENCY/ OTHERS INVOLVED	Status	STATUS/ACTUAL OUTCOMES
1	1.1.	1.1.1.	<p>Virginia Housing will maintain a set aside of 127 Housing Choice Vouchers for the DD population and will maintain at 95% lease up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain high (approx. 95%) utilization of current VH preference vouchers. • Research options to ensure VH voucher access is sustained or expanded post Settlement Agreement. • Develop a plan to ensure access to VH vouchers for individuals in the target population. 	VH/DBHDS		Virginia Housing continues to administer 127 vouchers with a current utilization rate of 96%. One applicant is currently in the searching for a unit phase of leasing. VH is exploring options and identifying resources in future delivery post Settlement Agreement.
1	1.1.	1.1.2.	<p>Review voucher utilization and identify underserved localities across the state. Perform additional outreach to increase voucher utilization by the target population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage Community Services Boards (CSBs) with low percentages of people on the Developmental Disabilities (DD) waiver and DD waiver waitlist who are independently housed. Develop specific action plans with these CSBs to increase referrals in areas with rent assistance. • Implement action plans. 	DBHDS/VH		Regional Housing Coordinators will continue to work with their respective targeted CSB's to increase housing voucher resource utilization, where vouchers are applicable.
1	1.2	1.2.1.	<p>Encourage local PHAs in areas where there is high demand from the target population and no alternative housing resources to affirmatively serve the Settlement Agreement population.</p> <p>Item completed in 2020</p>	DBHDS/ DHCD, VHDA, DMAS	Completed	
1	1.2	1.2.2	<p>Review utilization of local preference vouchers and State Rental Assistance Program (SRAP). Identify underserved localities statewide. Perform additional outreach to increase target population's voucher utilization.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to engage CSBs with low percentages of people on the DD waiver and DD waiver waitlist who are independently housed. Develop specific action plans with these CSBs to increase referrals in areas with rent assistance. • Implement action plans 	DBHDS/PHAs		<p>OCH is currently reassessing underserved localities to identify where to target and outreach specific localities.</p> <p>Region 3: DBHDS OCH continues to administer a Tenancy Supports Pilot with Highlands Community Services Board to increase SRAP utilization in the underserved community of Washington County, VA</p> <p>Region 4: There has been no increase in referrals this quarter by the targeted CSB. The targeted CSB will stay in communication with DBHDS as needed to inquire of technical assistance regarding other housing related issues.</p>

1	1.2	1.2.3	Explore strategies to ensure access to vouchers for individuals with developmental disabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research strategies used by other states and PHAs to ensure access to housing resources and identify strategies that may be effective in Virginia. • Provide recommendations to PHAs on strategies to ensure voucher access for the target population. 	VH/DBHDS, PHAs		VH is currently working to develop a strategy to create ongoing access to vouchers for persons with developmental disabilities.
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1	1.3	1.3.1.	Apply the 9% LIHTC and 4% tax exempt bond QAP provisions which require developers to construct and rehabilitate units that are available on a preferential basis to the target population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Properties funded in the 2023 competitive round will produce units required to provide the leasing preference. Approximately 50% will target individuals in the DOJ Settlement Agreement population. • TE 4% properties will be produced. Approximately 50% will serve target individuals in the DOJ Settlement Agreement population. Final numbers being reviewed by the VH Allocation Team • Involved agencies will establish preference unit utilization metrics and methodology 	VH/DBHDS		A minimum of 10% of units will be targeted for individuals in the Target Population. For the competitive round 210 units were committed for this population. In the tax exempt 4% LIHTC's issued since the start of 2023, 167 units have been committed. This to is a minimum of 10%. VH is in the process of establishing metrics and methodology.
1	1.3	1.3.2.	Provide LIHTC competitive program incentives to encourage developers to construct and rehabilitate units and provide a preference for the target population Deleted in 2018	VH		Deleted
1	1.3	1.3.3.	Make LIHTCs available in a special pool to developers providing accessible units that may have project-based vouchers in integrated settings that must provide preferential leasing to the target population for up to 25% of the units. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible Supportive Housing (ASH) LIHTCs will be awarded to developments. 	VH		The ASH Pool provides up to 15% of units for the Target Population.
1	1.3	1.3.4	Provide targeted outreach to owners of existing LIHTC properties with units appropriate to the needs of the target population, and encourage them to provide preferential leasing to the target population. Deleted in 2018	VH		Deleted
1	1.3	1.3.5	Make capital subsidy available to developments where there is an effective demand and available supportive services. Deleted this item in 2020. DBHDS will pursue capital investment in partnership with state and local affordable housing funding cycles, allowing for leveraging of other state, federal and local funding. See Item 2.1.4.	DBHDS		Deleted

1	1.3	1.3.6	<p>Explore opportunities to create project-based subsidy where there is an effective demand and available supportive services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiate an agreement with the Department of Housing & Urban Development to establish a Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Contract program. Begin implementation activities when agreement is finalized. • Develop criteria and process for awarding SRAP-Project Based Rental Assistance funding 	VH/DBHDS		Summer 2023 is the target to have a signed cooperative agreement with HUD
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1	1.4	1.4.1.	<p>Continue to administer SRAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to manage contracts with Partner Agencies to administer SRAP certificates funded in the base budget through CY23. 	DBHDS		<p>DBHDS Office of Community Housing (OCH) has developed tools and a protocol for monitoring each local SRAP program to determine whether partner agencies are administering the program in accordance with their contractual agreement and the program manual guidelines. OCH has trained staff on the monitoring process and is "beta testing" the process with a single SRAP program and making refinements to the tools and protocol before launching it for use across all local programs.</p> <p>DBHDS OCH has developed FY2024 funding allocations for the existing 22 SRAP programs and is in the process of completing contract modifications with all programs. There is no expansion of SRAP to new locations planned for FY 2024.</p>
2	2.1.	2.1.1.	<p>Provide targeted outreach to owners of existing multifamily properties with units appropriate to the needs of the target population. Encourage them to provide preferential leasing to the target population.</p> <p>Deleted 2018.</p>	VH		Deleted
2	2.1.	2.1.2.	<p>Provide LIHTC competitive program incentives to encourage developers to construct and rehabilitate units that meet accessibility and Universal Design standards, and are made available on a preferential basis to the target population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Developers are informed of the option to provide preferential leasing of the accessible units in the properties to the target population 	VH		VH has developed a on demand 24/7 Universal Design Course. VH provides incentives for UD/Accessibility. VH inform the developers that they may set the units aside for the target population.

2	2.1.	2.1.3.	Provide a LIHTC increase in eligible basis for developments that provide a minimum percentage of housing units for people in target population. Deleted 2018.	VH		Deleted
2	2.1.	2.1.4.	Provide state-administered development funding to encourage developers to prioritize units for the target population that will meet their needs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHCD selects eligible projects, if any, for pre-development funding with DBHDS input. Examine outcomes from DBHDS funds invested pre-development activities through the DBHDS-DHCD MOU. Modify strategies and determine need for DBHDS funds in future competitions. 	DHCD, DBHDS/DBHDS		No updates this quarter.
2	2.1.	2.1.5.	Refine LIHTC incentives and state-administered capital subsidies as appropriate to enhance their effectiveness in housing individuals in the target population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involved agencies will review effectiveness of current incentives as part of ongoing assessment of the program. Develop protocols to coordinate between DHCD for developers/owners of non-LIHTC properties; and VH for 4% credit recipients; and DBHDS to ensure utilization of preference units. Discuss LIHTC QAP criteria and seek alignment with ASNH funding criteria and the housing needs of the target population 	VH/DHCD		DHCD is in the process of proposing new Bond rules and regulations that may mirror the LIHTC program that are in draft stages.

2	2.1	2.1.6	Provide ongoing training to developers on accessibility and Universal Design standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance understanding of and compliance with HUD Section 504 requirements/Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines, building code standards and Universal Design standards Enhance understanding of and compliance with HUD Section 504 and Fair Housing Act Amendments requirements for reasonable accommodations. 	VH		VH has developed a on demand 24/7 Universal Design Course. VH Construction Control Officers ensure that the units are built to standards. VH Compliance will work with partners regarding reasonable accommodations and fair housing.
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2	2.2.	2.2.1	Seek to identify feasible incentives to encourage owners to agree to preferential leasing. Deleted in 2018.	VH	Deleted	
2	2.3.	2.3.1.	Encourage localities to leverage local funding with state development funding for production of units with preferential access to target population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 local government provides funding to support developments with units that provide a preference for the target population (this is contingent on 2.1.4 - local leveraging as a criteria for award of any state-administered capital subsidy). 	DBHDS/DHCD		No updates this quarter.
2	2.3	2.3.2	Examine the use of the DBHDS Trust Fund for investment in affordable housing should funds become available. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broaden DBHDS Trust Fund language to permit use of funds, should they become available, for individuals with DD residing outside a training center. 	DBHDS/DHCD		No updates this quarter.

3	3.1.	3.1.1.	<p>Develop communication materials tailored to PHAs, developers, landlords and owners of multifamily properties and individual units.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to produce and distribute 2-3 newsletters/year to PHAs, LIHTC properties and landlords about target population's successes, needs and available resources. 	DBHDS		DBHDS OCH continues to develop and distribute a Housing Happenings newsletter to housing providers and community stakeholders. The summer 2023 edition of currently being drafted.
3	3.1.	3.1.2.	<p>Develop and update outreach & educational materials to reflect new services and expanded resources that promote the transition to housing. Materials support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted outreach to increase voucher utilization (Action Item 1.1.3) • Support coordinator and provider trainings (Action Items 3.2.1 & 3.2.2) • RIT information sessions on housing resources for individuals/families (Action Item 3.2.4) • Continue to create communication materials and distribute through targeted outreach, support coordinator trainings, and RIT information sessions. 	DBHDS/VH, DHCD, DARS, DMAS		OCH continues to develop and update outreach and educational materials that support transition independent housing. The DBHDS Regional Housing Coordinators continue to take the lead on participation in information sessions and resource fairs across the state targeted at individuals, families and providers as well as frequently participating in SC meetings to share information on housing resources and options for individuals with developmental disabilities.
3	3.2.	3.2.1.	<p>Educate DD support coordinators and waiver service providers about how to assist individuals with pre- and post-tenancy supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record a webinar to educate Support Coordinators about Regional Resources for Tenancy Supports. 	DBHDS/DMAS		Housing Modules for Case Managers are currently being created with the assistance of TAC and a workgroup of stakeholders, CSB and OCH staff. Once completed they will be available for training of tenancy supports.
3	3.2.	3.2.2.	<p>Develop an updated on-line training module for DD support coordinators to reflect the new on-line housing referral and assessment system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingent upon completion of 4.3.1, incorporate a Coordinated Housing Assessment & Referral System module into the existing on-line independent housing training series for support coordinators. <p>Deleted in 2021</p>	DBHDS		Deleted

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3	3.2.	3.2.3.	RITs conduct targeted information and outreach to individuals, families and support coordinators in areas where housing resources are underutilized to increase referrals for independent housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to host information sessions for individuals/families 	DBHDS/RITs		<p>Region 1: The Regional Housing Coordinator and the Regional Implementation Team continue to work together to develop strategies and overcome barriers to independent housing. RHC attended and provided resources and technical assistance at an information session for families and providers hosted by CRCs at Region Ten.</p> <p>Region 2: The Region 2 Implementation Team conducted a housing information session for the Prince William County Transition Council in April 2023. Approximately ten high school transition specialists attended. Region 4: The Regional Housing Coordinator and RIT continue to meet and work on strategies to increase referrals across the Central VA Region, and to discuss other housing related items.</p> <p>Region 3: The Region 3 Regional Implementation Team provided technical assistance and shared housing resource education with Region 7 Special Education Transition personnel and family members. The Regional Housing Coordinator and RIT continue to develop strategies and investigate opportunities to engage families and individuals in independent housing efforts.</p> <p>Region 4 housing coordinator during this period presented at the Request for Life in the Community Symposium, specifically at the "Building Your Nest" Housing session that was hosted by The Autism Society of Central Virginia, The Virginia Down Syndrome Association, and The Arc of Virginia. Region 4 housing coordinator also hosted a virtual housing information session for the Hopewell/ Prince George Healthy Families organization in efforts to continue to get the word out about DBHDS current housing resources.</p> <p>Region 5: The Peninsula Implementation Team participated in the Hampton Public Schools SEAC Resource Fair to conduct outreach to students, families and teachers in April 2023. The Southside Implementation Team participated in the Norfolk Public Schools Annual Transition Tour Bus & Agency Fair in May 2023 to conduct outreach to students, families and teachers.</p>
3	3.2	3.2.4	RITs lead local/regional efforts to educate PHAs, landlords and housing providers about the need for housing resources for the target population <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RIT members support outreach to PHAs and housing providers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) make SRAP available in local communities (2) leverage local, state and tax credit resources to develop independent housing for the Settlement Agreement target population 	DBHDS/RITs		No updates this quarter.
3	3.2	3.2.5	Educate DD waiver service providers who offer independent living supports and in-home supports about how to assist individuals with pre- and post-tenancy supports in housing in accordance with the Medicaid Waiver's allowable activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct and record at least one webinar for DD Waiver service providers throughout the state. Completed in 2021	DBHDS/DMAS		Completed
3	3.2	3.2.6	Improve cross-sector alignment of homelessness and developmental services systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct pilot to create a model for connecting individuals who are homeless with DD in Fairfax County to housing and services. Completed in 2021	DBHDS/Local CSBs, Local Continuua of Care		Completed
4	4.1	4.1.1	Clarify roles for the Community Housing Guide Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map roles and responsibilities for tracking provider enrollment, service utilization, outcomes, training and certification. 	DBHDS, DMAS		No updates this quarter.
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4	4.1.	4.1.3.	<p>Implement partnership between selected LIHTC housing provider(s) and service provider(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor partnership between selected LIHTC housing provider(s) and service provider(s) • Identify strategies for service sustainability 	DBHDS/VH, DMAS		<p>DBHDS OCH continues to support CRI, Inc. to implement its partnership with Wesley Housing to provide tenancy support services in nine LIHTC properties. CRI, Inc. has performed intensive outreach and engagement efforts in Quarter 2 to encourage residents with developmental disabilities (DD) who have SRAP and a LIHTC leasing preference to participate in tenancy support services designed to help them maintain housing stability. For example, CRI tenancy supports staff have attended social activities, food distribution events, and workshops at the properties to let residents know about the supports they offer. They have "advertised" their services in Wesley Housing resident newsletters and met with support coordinators to provide information about tenancy supports available to their clients. Currently, CRI is providing tenancy supports to five Wesley Housing residents with DD on a weekly basis. DBHDS OCH continues to support Commonwealth Catholic Charities. CCC has been meeting with DBHDS, LIHTC's, and PSH service providers to collaborate regarding relevant aspects of the partnership.</p>
4	4.1	4.1.4	<p>Obtain input on barriers to housing for the target population and strategies to remove barriers and increase access to local housing resources from key stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet quarterly with stakeholders on the Integrated Housing Advisory Committee (IHAC) to identify barriers and strategies, ensure racial equity, and provide updates on VPILO plan progress. • Establish and implement data collection strategy that identifies barrier to access • Identify new members to fill vacancies on the IHAC in accordance with principles of diversity, equity and inclusion • Revise IHAC charter to emphasize principles of diversity, equity and inclusion • Continue to meet regularly with RIT to identify barriers and strategies to remove them and relay issues to other stakeholders and input groups 	DBHDS, VH, DMAS, DARS, VDH, DVS, DSS		<p>IHAC quarterly meeting was held on 4/25/23 and welcomed Chair James Williams from HHR.</p>
4	4.2.	4.2.1.	<p>Continue to review DD Waivers to identify potential strategies that will facilitate greater access to independent living and help individuals maintain their housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate providers about changes to the DD waiver and licensing regulations that will permit individuals to use DBHDS or PHA rent assistance along with waiver services. • Identify at least one provider interested in shifting its business model to align with supportive housing best practices. 	DBHDS/DMAS		<p>DBHDS OCH completed a three-month "Learning Collaborative" with two providers of in-home and supported living services. The intent of the Collaborative was to for OCH and the participating providers to jointly explore how providers might reconfigure their waiver services to promote supportive housing. Guided by experts at the Corporation for Supportive Housing, OCH and these providers explored how to better align Medicaid Waiver SL services with supportive housing principles and practices and discussed potential partnerships with developers of LIHTC properties. The Collaborative began identifying potential changes needed to certain waiver services to improve this alignment.</p>
4	4.2	4.2.2.	<p>Improve coordination of Building Independence (BI) waiver assignments with availability of housing and service resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the coordination process for those on the BI waiver with availability of housing and service resources. <p>Item completed in 2021</p>	DBHDS		<p>Completed</p>
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4	4.3	4.3.1.	<p>Use an electronic assessment, intake and referral system to seamlessly connect individuals in the target population to housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review WaMS changes that may impact the way the housing module operates Make changes to the housing module to ensure system operability. Data is transferred and electronic assessment and referral system is launched Support coordinators are trained on use Housing matches are made through web-based system Housing outcomes reports in the system <p>Deleted to reflect timelines required to make WaMS changes</p>	DBHDS		Deleted
4	4.3	4.3.2.	<p>Develop strategies to address tenancy support gaps in each RIT region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue piloting Tenancy Supports across the Commonwealth Identify strategies to implement tenancy supports to address gaps. 	DBHDS, RITs/DBHDS, DHCD, VH		<p>DBHDS OCH has extended its agreement with Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board to operate a tenancy support program for individuals on the waiver waitlist for another year, from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. The program has served 12 individuals on the waiver waitlist from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 (the target number to be served is 15). Seven of the 12 individuals successfully leased rental units, one successfully addressed an outstanding lease violation, two have rental applications approved and are awaiting a lease start date, and two voluntarily declined services.</p> <p>DBHDS OCH continues to monitor its agreement with Highlands Community Services Board to operate a tenancy support program including provision of in-home residential and community housing guide services for individuals on the waiver waitlist in need of tenancy supports to maintain housing stability and increase opportunities for others in live independently. The program is currently serving 4 individuals living independently and is developing a plan to engage directly with individuals in congregate setting and on the waiver waitlist.</p>
4	4.3	4.3.3	<p>Continue to identify and catalogue creative approaches to leveraging private resources to create housing options for individuals in the target population.</p> <p>Completed in 2018</p>	DBHDS		Completed
4	4.3	4.3.4.	<p>Continue to assist Community Resource Consultants with provider development efforts in areas of the state with high housing demand, available housing resources and minimal service capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist group residential providers to explore individuals' interest in independent housing and support provider efforts to expand services in independent housing. 	DBHDS		No updates this quarter.
4	4.3	4.3.5.	<p>Develop a performance measurement system for independent housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify baselines and benchmarks for SRAP housing stability outcomes Analyze housing access, services, and outcomes by demographic group. Should inequities be identified, identify and implement solutions. 	DBHDS		No updates this quarter.
4	4.3	4.3.6	<p>In collaboration with the PSH Steering Committee, develop a process to coordinate housing referrals within DBHDS and from key state agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand Coordinated Referral Network (CRN) process to refer individuals to available LIHTC units Continue to refine the process for filling turnover units in occupied projects with multiple leasing preferences. 	DBHDS/DMAS, DARS, DHCD, VH		No updates this quarter.
4	4.3	4.3.7	<p>Solicit input on the development of the 1115 Waiver High Needs Support Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold input sessions. Form workgroups to address benefit design and operations. <p>Deleted in 2022</p>	DMAS/DBHDS, DHCD, VH, DARS, DSS, DVS, VDH		Deleted