

## 2024 Virginia Plan to Increase Independent Living Options - Dashboard - Quarter 1 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"> <li>• Maintain high (approx. 95%) utilization of current VH preference vouchers.</li> <li>• Research options to ensure VH voucher access is sustained or expanded post Settlement Agreement.</li> <li>• Develop a plan to ensure access to VH vouchers for individuals in the target population.</li> </ul>	VH/DBHDS		Virginia Housing continues to administer 127 vouchers with a current utilization rate of 90.5%.
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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Implement action plans.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/VH		The Sr. Regional Housing Coordinator in Region 2 reached out to the new Housing Choice Voucher Director at Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority to provide information about the Housing Authority's set-aside vouchers for the Settlement Agreement target population and discuss strategies to utilize the remaining two voucher slots. The HCV Director plans to reach out to several adult household members with disabilities in public housing to see if they may be interested in moving out of the family home and into their own home.
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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Implement action plans</li> </ul>	DBHDS/PHAS		No Update this quarter

1	1.2	1.2.3	Explore strategies to ensure access to vouchers for individuals with developmental disabilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research strategies used by other states and PHAs to ensure access to housing resources and identify strategies that may be effective in Virginia.</li> <li>• Provide recommendations to PHAs on strategies to ensure voucher access for the target population.</li> </ul>	VH/DBHDS, PHAS		Virginia Housing continues to research and explore strategies 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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Involved agencies will establish preference unit utilization metrics and</li> </ul>	VH/DBHDS		No data available yet on the 9% round. Total 4% units to date for 2024 is 1,901 with 191 set aside units
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"> <li>• Accessible Supportive Housing (ASH) LIHTCs will be awarded to developments.</li> </ul>	VH		No data available yet on the ASH pool
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"> <li>Negotiate an agreement with the Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development to establish a Section 811 Project Rental Assistance Contract program. Begin implementation activities when agreement is finalized.</li> <li>Develop criteria and process for awarding SRAP-Project Based Rental Assistance funding</li> </ul>	VH/DBHDS		There are currently 54 units with a project based rental subsidy under contract through the 811 program
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1	1.4	1.4.1.	<p>Continue to administer SRAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to manage contracts with Partner Agencies to administer SRAP certificates funded in the base budget through CY23.</li> </ul>	DBHDS		The SRAP programs operated by Arlington Housing Bureau, Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority, Richmond Redevelopment & Housing Authority and Rappahannock Rapidan Community Services Board (now known as Encompass Community Supports) have achieved 100% slot utilization. DBHDS Office of Community Housing will begin waitlists for these programs and will redirect referrals to other rental assistance resources (e.g., PHAs with Special Admissions Vouchers, LIHTCs with project-based vouchers). The Governor's proposed biennial budget for FY2025 and FY2026 does not contain expansion funding for SRAP.
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"> <li>All Developers are informed of the option to provide preferential leasing of the accessible units in the properties to the target population</li> </ul>	VH		No Update this quarter
2	2.1.	2.1.3.	<p>Provide a LIHTC increase in eligible basis for developments that provide a minimum percentage of housing units for people in target population.</p> <p>Deleted 2018.</p>	VH		Deleted
2	2.1.	2.1.4.	<p>Provide state-administered development funding to encourage developers to prioritize units for the target population that will meet their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	DHCD, DBHDS/DBHDS		Subject to an approved state budget, DHCD plans to reintroduce a streamlined PSH and pre-development application process in FY25. This revamped process will include a dedicated staff member assigned to provide technical assistance and handle application processing. Additionally, DHCD will actively engage in communication and outreach efforts related to this program.
2	2.1.	2.1.5.	<p>Refine LIHTC incentives and state-administered capital subsidies as appropriate to enhance their effectiveness in housing individuals in the target population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involved agencies will review effectiveness of current incentives as part of ongoing assessment of the program.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>Discuss LIHTC QAP criteria and seek alignment with ASNH funding criteria and the housing needs of the target population</li> </ul>	VH/DHCD		The Affordable and Special Needs Housing team has conducted input sessions with developers/applicants to the program and is working to evaluate the efficacy of the incentives for PSH in the ASNH program for FY25.

2	2.1	2.1.6	Provide ongoing training to developers on accessibility and Universal Design standards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance understanding of and compliance with HUD Section 504 requirements/Americans with Disabilities Act Architectural Guidelines, building code standards and Universal Design standards</li> <li>• Enhance understanding of and compliance with HUD Section 504 and Fair Housing Act Amendments requirements for reasonable accommodations.</li> </ul>	VH		Since July of 2023, 57 additional units have been targeted for individuals in the Target Population and 181 units have been designated to conform to Universal Design Standards.
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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"> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>	DBHDS/DHCD		No update 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"> <li>• Broaden DBHDS Trust Fund language to permit use of funds, should they become available, for individuals with DD residing outside a training center.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/DHCD		No Update 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"> <li>• Continue to produce and distribute 2-3 newsletters/year to PHAs, LIHTC properties and landlords about target population's successes, needs and available resources.</li> </ul>	DBHDS		The OCH DD Housing Team continues to produce communications materials. The Spring/Summer edition of the Housing Happenings Newsletter is being drafted.
3	3.1.	3.1.2.	<p>Develop and update outreach &amp; educational materials to reflect new services and expanded resources that promote the transition to housing. Materials support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted outreach to increase voucher utilization (Action Item 1.1.3)</li> <li>• Support coordinator and provider trainings (Action Items 3.2.1 &amp; 3.2.2)</li> <li>• RIT information sessions on housing resources for individuals/families (Action Item 3.2.4)</li> <li>• Continue to create communication materials and distribute through targeted outreach, support coordinator trainings, and RIT information sessions.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/VH, DHCD, DARS, DMAS		The OCH DD Housing Team continues to update outreach and educational materials to promote the transition to independent housing. Housing Coordinators attended Transition Resource Fairs on March 2 and March 16, 2024 where there were over 100 people in attendance. Housing Coordinators also provided information sessions consisting of case managers, providers, individuals and parents that are interested in independent living for over 30 attendees.
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"> <li>• Record a webinar to educate Support Coordinators about Regional Resources for Tenancy Supports.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/DMAS		No Update this quarter
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"> <li>• Contingent upon completion of 4.3.1, incorporate a Coordinated Housing Assessment &amp; Referral System module into the existing on-line independent housing training series for support coordinators.</li> </ul> <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. • Continue to host information sessions for individuals/families	DBHDS/RITs		Region 1: The Regional Housing Coordinator has conducted resource fairs and in-person meetings with providers of housing and services as part of outreach efforts Region 2: The Arc of Loudoun hosted a virtual housing workshop in March. The Region 2 Housing Coordinator presented information about housing resources for individuals with developmental disabilities in Loudoun County. Approximately 15 family members attended. Region 3: The Regional Housing Coordinator continues to work with the Southwest RIT members to develop strategies and share information on independent housing options in Southwest Virginia. 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. Region 5: The Peninsula RIT and Southside RIT continue to meet on a regular basis. The Southside RIT conducted a virtual Information Session in January 2024
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 • RIT members support outreach to PHAs and housing providers to: (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		Region 1: No updates this quarter. Region 2: No updates this quarter. Region 3: No updates this quarter. Region 4: No updates this quarter. Region 5: 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. • 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. • 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 Continuum of Care		Completed
4	4.1	4.1.1	Clarify roles for the Community Housing Guide Service • Map roles and responsibilities for tracking provider enrollment, service utilization, outcomes, training and certification.	DBHDS, DMAS		No Update 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"> <li>• Monitor partnership between selected LIHTC housing provider(s) and service provider(s)</li> <li>• Identify strategies for service sustainability</li> </ul>	DBHDS/VH, DMAS		<p>CRI tenancy supports staff and Wesley Housing property management/resident services staff continue to provide direct outreach and engagement to individuals at Wesley Housing properties, including The Arden, The Cadence, The Waypoint, and Whitefield Commons. To date, ten residents with developmental disabilities have enrolled in tenancy support services. DBHDS OCH continues to provide technical assistance and monitoring to CCC, and has been meeting with CCC, LIHTC partners, and PSH service providers regarding relevant aspects of the partnership. During this quarter, the focus has been obtaining housing referrals as pre-leasing of the designated LIHTC property has begun. There are several referrals that are in process.</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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Establish and implement data collection strategy that identifies barrier to access</li> <li>• Identify new members to fill vacancies on the IHAC in accordance with principles of diversity, equity and inclusion</li> <li>• Revise IHAC charter to emphasize principles of diversity, equity and inclusion</li> <li>• Continue to meet regularly with RIT to identify barriers and strategies to remove them and relay issues to other stakeholders and input groups</li> </ul>	DBHDS, VH, DMAS, DARS, VDH, DVS, DSS		<p>IHAC meet in January and discussed barriers to housing for the I/DD population, including utilization of the LIHTC First Leasing Preference (FLP) units created. The next IHAC meeting will focus on data and strategies to improve utilization of the FLP</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"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Identify at least one provider interested in shifting its business model to align with supportive housing best practices.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/DMAS		<p>No update this quarter</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"> <li>• Monitor the coordination process for those on the BI waiver with availability of housing and service resources.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Review WaMS changes that may impact the way the housing module operates</li> <li>Make changes to the housing module to ensure system operability.</li> <li>Data is transferred and electronic assessment and referral system is launched</li> <li>Support coordinators are trained on use</li> <li>Housing matches are made through web-based system</li> <li>Housing outcomes reports in the system</li> </ul> <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"> <li>Continue piloting Tenancy Supports across the Commonwealth</li> <li>Identify strategies to implement tenancy supports to address gaps.</li> </ul>	DBHDS, RITs/DBHDS, DHCD, VH		TSPs continue in Region 2, 3, and 5. Additional funding is not available at this time to support expanding to other regions of the state.
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"> <li>Assist group residential providers to explore individuals' interest in independent housing and support provider efforts to expand services in independent housing.</li> </ul>	DBHDS		No Update this quarter
4	4.3	4.3.5.	<p>Develop a performance measurement system for independent housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify baselines and benchmarks for SRAP housing stability outcomes</li> <li>Analyze housing access, services, and outcomes by demographic group.</li> </ul> <p>Should inequities be identified, identify and implement solutions.</p>	DBHDS		Housing Stability reported and monitored regularly as part of DBHDS KPAs. The quality and structure of data does not permit the type of data analysis needed.
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"> <li>Expand Coordinated Referral Network (CRN) process to refer individuals to available LIHTC units</li> <li>Continue to refine the process for filling turnover units in occupied projects with multiple leasing preferences.</li> </ul>	DBHDS/DMAS, DARS, DHCD, VH		PSH Steering Committee planning to reconvene in Spring of 2024
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"> <li>Hold input sessions.</li> <li>Form workgroups to address benefit design and operations.</li> </ul> <p>Deleted in 2022</p>	DMAS/DBHDS, DHCD, VH, DARS, DSS, DVS, VDH		Deleted