



DARS

**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES**

*Supporting Virginians' efforts
to secure independence and employment*



Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services FY 2023-2024 Budget Amendments

February 1, 2022
House Appropriations
Health and Human Resources Subcommittee

Increase Support for Public Guardianship Slots

Funds 300 additional guardianship slots as well as the cost of rebasing existing slots to a statewide minimum. Support is also provided for an additional agency oversight position as well as one-time funding to conduct a legislatively required study.

| | Current | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2023 | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2024 |
|---------------------|----------------|--|--|
| General Fund | \$4,508,833 | \$2,692,226 | \$2,617,226 |
| Positions | 2.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |

This will increase slots from 1,049 to 1,349 and increase Public Guardianship staff from two to three.

This DARS proposal is to ensure that the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-Mental Health (DBHDS-MH) public guardianship slots (98) can be compensated at a rate of \$7,000 per slot, per year, and all other public guardianship slots (951) can be compensated at a rate of \$5,000 per slot, per year.



Increase support for the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program

Provides Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) with additional funding to support the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program. This program provides free, unbiased, confidential counseling to Medicare beneficiaries.

| | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| General Fund | \$600,000 | \$600,000 |

These State General Funds would be allocated entirely to the AAAs (approximately \$25,000/local program). Currently there are not General fund dollars appropriated. The federal grant amount is approximately \$1.1M.

This funding would allow them to hire additional staff who will be able to recruit, train and certify more volunteer counselors to meet the increased demand for Medicare counseling, as well as, conduct outreach and education activities for Medicare/Medicaid beneficiaries.



Add Adult Protective Services Regional Office Staff

Provides an additional adult protective services position in each of the agency's five regional offices. These positions will improve the oversight of adult protective services being provided by local departments of social services.

| | Current | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2023 | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2024 |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$1,433,619 | \$599,207 | \$599,207 |
| Positions | 11.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |

This will increase Adult Protective Services staff from 11 to 16 and budget.

Support for this request reflects the Commonwealth's interest in elevating aging services, strengthening adult maltreatment protections, and supporting programs that help adults "age in place," such as home-based care. Additionally, support for these regional consultant positions will enable DARS to implement JLARC recommendation #22, to develop and provide training to local departments of social services staff on how to review annual guardianship reports and provide guidance to help staff identify concerns that should prompt a more in-depth review or investigation. The growth and complexity of APS cases hinders current state APS staff from taking on an expanded role in supporting local departments on "aging in place" services and guardianship.



Address Procurement Deficiencies

Increases agency procurement staff by three positions to address deficiencies identified by a Department of General Services - Procurement Management Review.

| | Current | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2023 | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2024 |
|---------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$495,713 | \$376,373 | \$376,373 |
| Positions | 5.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |

This will increase General Services staff from five to eight.

To meet the needs of the DSA's that consist of over 1,500 employees across six state agencies and meet the unique challenges of direct client purchases the additional positions are needed. The Department of General Services (DGS), Division of Purchasing and Supply (DPS) issued a Procurement Management Review (PMR) with a 72% non-compliance rate. All non-compliance issues were distributed over 23 separate categories under the Agency Procurement and Surplus Property Manual (APSPM), indicating a condition of "unsatisfactory." As a component of the PMR DGS/DPS provided a staffing analysis that concluded that DARS needed 8.0 full time positions and currently the agency is budgeted for 5.0.



Cover Operating Cost of Adult Services Case Management System

Funds 200 additional seat licenses for the adult services information technology system.

| | Current | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2023 | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2024 |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$475,000 | \$105,000 | \$105,000 |

The agency is currently budgeted for 1,000 licenses; however the statewide growth in adult protective services and adult services caseloads has made it necessary for additional workers to access the system.

In addition, \$25,000 is provided to account for necessary system enhancements and continued license growth.



Continue Support for the Senior Legal Helpline

Replaces expired federal grant support for legal services provided through the Senior Legal Helpline (SLH). This service provides low income seniors with basic legal advice and referrals to other legal aid programs.

| | FY 2023 | FY 2024 |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| General Fund | \$100,000 | \$100,000 |

Funding for the SLH was provided through a Legal Enhancement Grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living. The Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC) continued to provide this service until recently when funding was no longer available.

The Department is requesting a budget amendment in the amount of \$100,000 per year to contract the services of the VPLC to staff the SLH.



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Increase Support for Jewish Family Services

Provides additional funding for the Jewish Family Services to assist low-income seniors who have experienced trauma.

| | Current | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2023 | Additional Proposed Funding FY 2024 |
|---------------------|----------------|--|--|
| General Fund | \$150,000 | \$50,000 | \$50,000 |

