



VIRGINIA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

2022 Advocacy Agenda



Allow Public Health Professionals to Lead Local Health Departments (SB 192)

Allows local health directors to possess a Doctor of Public Health degree, a Master of Public Health degree, or a doctoral degree in the area of public health as an alternative to the current requirement that local health directors be physicians licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth.



Increase Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Dental Providers

Governor Northam proposed a 5 percent Medicaid reimbursement rate increase for dental providers beginning in FY 2024. We urge the General Assembly to fund a larger increase that begins in FY 2023.



Create a Virginia Health Equity Trust Fund

This fund would finance innovative public health programs not funded through categorical grants and other restricted funding sources.



Establish a CHIP Health Service Initiative Workgroup

This workgroup should examine how Virginia can better leverage CHIP Health Service Initiatives to address public health issues that disproportionately affect low-income children.



Study the Financing & Delivery of Public Health Services in Virginia

We urge the Joint Commission on Health Care to study how public health is financed and delivered in Virginia. The study should include recommendations on how to deliver public health services more effectively and equitably in the Commonwealth.



Complete! The JCHC voted to study the structure and financing of Virginia's local health departments in 2022.