



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES *Benefit Programs Specialist Appreciation Month Resolution of Appreciation*

WHEREAS, Virginia has provided a safety net to the most vulnerable citizens of the Commonwealth by administering the benefit programs of SNAP, TANF, Medical Assistance, General Relief, Auxiliary Grant, Refugee Cash Assistance and Energy Assistance by local department of social services; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's landmark welfare reform legislation and the present social economic climate in the United States and Virginia have significantly impacted the services provided by local Benefit Programs Specialists, calling upon them to creatively promote individual self-sufficiency and personal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Virginia continues to experience unprecedented implementation of complex policies and procedures in all major benefit programs, as well as, continuing the processes of working remotely and relying on technology for processing cases and issuing benefits during a public health emergency as essential employees; and


WHEREAS, Virginia's 3916 Benefit Programs Workers (3409 Specialists, 465 Supervisors, and 42 Managers), 316 VIEW workers and 453 Child Care workers have been at the forefront of public efforts to meet that need, steadily maintaining a high rate of application processing and case management to ensure that those qualified for social services benefits receive and continue to receive them; and

WHEREAS, 37,577 TANF recipients and an additional \$4,707,569 in TANF Diversionary payments were issued to prevent long term dependence on public assistance, 7,166 VIEW cases, 753,638 SNAP recipients, 1,841,088 Medical Assistance recipients, 444 General Relief recipients, 3,014 Auxiliary Grant recipients, 107,933 Energy Assistance households, 26,666 Child Care households, 4,414 children under 17 in Foster Care and 838 young adults (18-21 year olds) are served through the Benefit Programs Division and depend on the dedication and commitment of Benefit Programs Specialist who handle their cases in an accurate and timely manner, and

WHEREAS, Benefit Programs Specialists are continually faced with reconciling an environment of rapidly changing policies, procedures, and technological advances with quality control requirements; and

WHEREAS, Benefit Programs Specialists provide ethical public service, respect human dignity, are responsible for the application of the law, demonstrate personal integrity and promote professional excellence;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 15th day of December 2021, the State Board of Social Services does hereby commend all Benefit Programs Specialists across the Commonwealth of Virginia for a job well done and recognizes the month of February 2022 as Benefit Programs Specialists Appreciation Month, calling upon Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service contributions.


Clyde Santana, Chair,
State Board of Social Services
Commonwealth of Virginia