



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, adjusting to new 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 3953 Benefit Programs Specialists (3450 Specialists, 463 Supervisors, and 40 Managers) 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 receive and continue to receive them; and

WHEREAS, 38,897 TANF recipients and an additional \$3,397,940 in TANF Diversionary payments were issued to prevent long term dependence on public assistance, 773,719 SNAP recipients, 1,622,214 Medical Assistance recipients, 458 General Relief recipients, 3254 Auxiliary Grant recipients, 128,967 Energy Assistance households, and 4,781 children under 17 in Foster Care are served through the Benefit Programs Division, and depend on the dedication and commitment of Benefit Programs Specialists 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 21st day of October 2020, 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 2021 as Benefit Programs Specialists Appreciation Month, calling upon Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service contributions.

*Ms. Lou Brown Ali, Chair,
State Board of Social Services
Commonwealth of Virginia*