



## Virginia Division of Licensing Programs Receives Infection Prevention and Control Grant

**RICHMOND, VA. (November 29, 2021)** - The Virginia Department of Social Services's (VDSS) Division of Licensing Programs (DOLP) was recently awarded \$3.8 million in grant funding by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to provide essential infection prevention and control support to licensed adult care facilities. The funding will also provide necessary resources to adult care facilities and their staff to provide ongoing support in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Additional program outcomes of this funding will include:

- Creation of an Infection Prevention and Control Team (IPCT) in each region of the Commonwealth. The IPCT, led by licensed nurses, will conduct on-site, scheduled tours of licensed adult care facilities to observe infection control practices and provide expertise on risk reduction strategies and mitigation techniques.
- In-person and virtual training using data collected through on-site observations, reporting of infectious diseases, results of ongoing surveys, and the review of adult care facilities' infection control plans and policies.
- Development of a new data platform to ensure tracking and communication of infectious disease threats. Data tracking will guide VDSS in the development and dissemination of educational training regarding infection control practices.

“It is imperative that the workforce caring for vulnerable adult populations are properly trained and equipped to deliver best practice-based interventions pertaining to proper infection control for their own protection and for the protection of those being served,” said VDSS Division of Licensing Programs Director Tara Ragland. “We are committed to supporting the needs of our adult program providers to help ensure the mitigation of infectious and communicable diseases. We are excited about this opportunity and pleased to have such a strong partnership with VDH who we look forward to collaborating and learning with.”

This funding is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases Cooperative Agreement. For more information, contact [IPCTeam@dss.virginia.gov](mailto:IPCTeam@dss.virginia.gov).

### About the Virginia Department of Social Services

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), one of the Commonwealth's largest government agencies, is comprised of approximately 2,000 state staff who proudly serve alongside more than 10,000 employees of 120 local departments of social services and community action agencies to deliver critical social services to Virginia's most vulnerable citizens. VDSS is committed to ensuring Virginians have access to the high-quality human services and resources needed to enhance their individual and collective well-being, and shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities. The agency

provides a wide range of services and resources in the areas of food and energy assistance, foster care and adoption, child support, and abuse and neglect prevention, among others. For more information, visit [dss.virginia.gov](https://dss.virginia.gov).