

FACT SHEET



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Budget priorities

Virginia's budget reflects the Commonwealth's priorities. Lawmakers must protect those in need through their funding choices.

Supporting Working Families

Raise Minimum Wage. Increasing minimum wage from \$12.41 to \$15 per hour would be a game-changer for families all over Virginia. This would cost \$5.5 mill in FY 2026 and \$26 mill in FY 2027.

Offer Paid Sick Days to all employees. All workers need paid sick days. For this policy to go into effect, Virginia needs to budget \$7.5 mil for DMAS in FY 2026 and \$18.5 mil in FY 2027 to pay for health workers' sick days. DOL would also need \$600,000 in FY 2026 and \$1.2 mill in following years for enforcement.

Increase subsidies for childcare. Increase funding so that the 10,000 eligible families on the wait list can access childcare.

Affordable Housing

Support congregations building affordable housing. \$150K allows DHCD staff to help draft local ordinances supporting Faith and Housing projects. \$5 mill creates a pilot program for congregational predevelopment costs. Another \$5 mill allows localities to apply for funding for infrastructure facilitating housing on faith land.

Housing Trust Fund. In collaboration with Allies for Housing Action, VICPP supports \$150 million for the second year of the biennium.

Health Equity

Cover All Kids. This amendment would provide health insurance for undocumented children whose

parents have low incomes. This costs \$7.3 mill in FY 2026 and \$12 mill in FY 2027.

Unconscious bias bill. This amendment is in conjunction with a bipartisan bill that would require unconscious bias training for all health care professionals. Estimated cost is \$140,750 for FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Presumptive Eligibility for pregnant women.

Women who pass an initial screening should be presumed eligible for Medicaid, allowing them to access prenatal care faster. The estimated cost for general funds is \$250,000 in FY 26 and \$100,000 in FY 27.

Medicaid waiver for incarcerated pregnant and postpartum women in jails. If women are arrested while pregnant, they need continuity of prenatal and postpartum care. The amendment directs DMAS to apply for the 1115 reentry waiver. Estimated cost is \$125,000 in general funds in FY 26 and \$2,015,000 in FY 27.

Perinatal Health Hubs: Responding to Virginia's rural maternal health deserts is important, and the Governor included this in his budget (item 277) for \$2.5 mill in FY 27.

Medicaid waiver for Community Health Workers. Using federal Medicaid dollars to support CHWs increases access to this resource. Developing the waiver would cost \$100K in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

For more information, contact:
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