

2008 Virginia General Assembly Updates

In the Governor's introduced budget, Governor Kaine included many budget items to help strengthen Virginia's safety net. This included \$5M for the safety net each year, \$50,000 for the Virginia Dental Health Foundation Mission of Mercy (MOM) project each year, \$300,000 in 2010 for the Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection Program, and expanding prenatal coverage in FAMIS MOMS from 185% of FPL to 200% of FPL beginning in 2009.

Organization	Funding Per Year	Purpose of Funding	% of Operating Costs
VAFC	\$1.7M	Operating costs	8.89%
VACHA	\$1.8M	Operating costs	4.60%
VHCF	\$1.0M	Underwrite service expansions and/or increase the number of patients served at existing or new sites	
N/A	\$0.5M	Increase capacity for dental services for uninsured adults	

Due to the revenue shortfall in the Commonwealth, the General Assembly changed some of these proposals, but was still able to keep some funding in that would help many Virginians. The GA reduced the funding for the safety net from \$5M for both year to \$3.5M in 2009 and \$1.75M in 2010.

Organization	2009 Funding	2010 Funding
VAFC	\$1.7M	\$850,000
VACHA	\$1.8M	\$900,000
VHCF	\$0	\$0

The GA also reduced funding for the Mission of Mercy project to \$25,000 per year. The Virginia Breast and Cervical Cancer Detection Program remained as introduced by the Governor and will reach an additional 1,000 low-income women ages 18 - 44. In addition, the GA expanded prenatal coverage in FAMIS MOMS beginning in 2010.

Considering the current revenue picture, the GA and Governor have worked hard to find ways to increase funding to the safety net. While not all of the original funding was included, this is a great first step in shoring up the Commonwealth's safety net.