



## Local Departments of Social Services

### In Virginia, what is the relationship between state and local social services?

Virginia has a state-supervised and locally-administered social services system. There are 120 local departments of social services in Virginia. Local departments are tasked with delivering the majority of the state's social services programs.

The state-supervised, locally-administered nature of Virginia's system means that **the vast majority of contact with individuals and families through social services programs occurs through these 120 local departments, including foster care and adoption.**

Virginia's supervision structure is in the minority when compared to the other 49 states and D.C. Only nine states can be described as state-supervised and locally-administered: California, Colorado, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Virginia's Department of Social Services and each local department has a board of social services. Federal agencies and local governments also play a role in the supervision and funding for the system's programs.

### What is the Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE)?

The VLSSE is a professional organization comprised of the executive leadership of the local departments of Social Services.

The mission of the VLSSE is to: **Support** local agency leadership; **Advocate** for our agencies, our staff, and the people we serve; and **Collaborate** with state partners and other stakeholders to shape service delivery and guide public policy." The League has 18 standing committees to further its mission, vision, values, and commitments.

#### Virginia League of Social Services Executives Contact Information

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