



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
*Benefit Programs Specialist Appreciation Month
Resolution of Appreciation***

WHEREAS, Virginia's landmark welfare reform legislation has significantly impacted the services provided by local Benefit Program 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 increased technological advances with the implementation of Eligibility Modernization and the deployment of the Virginia Case Management System which is currently deployed and will continue to impact technology changes for benefit programs well into 2017; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's 3,120 Benefit Programs Specialists 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, 49,429 TANF recipients and \$6.3 million in diversionary payments to prevent long term dependence on public assistance, 817,943 SNAP recipients, 1.2 million Medicaid recipients, 613 General Relief recipients, 4,086 Auxiliary Grant recipients, and 158,003 Energy Assistance households, are served monthly through the Benefit Program Division, and depending on the dedication and commitment of Benefit Programs Specialists who handle their cases in an accurate and timely manner; and

WHEREAS, Benefit Program Specialists are continually faced with reconciling and environment of rapidly changing policies, procedures, and technological advances with quality control requirements; and

WHEREAS, the present social economic climate in the United States and Virginia has significantly impacted the services provided by local Benefit Programs Specialists, calling upon them to creatively promote individual self-sufficiency and personal responsibility; while simultaneously providing case management to increasing numbers of citizens.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 19th day of October, 2016, 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, 2017 as Benefit Programs Specialists Appreciation Month, calling upon Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service contributions.

*Darrell Jordan, Jr., Chair,
State Board of Social Services
Commonwealth of Virginia*