



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, Virginia has provided a safety net to the most vulnerable citizens of the Commonwealth by administering the benefit programs of SNAP, TANF, Medical Assistance, General Relief, Auxiliary Grant, Refugee Cash Assistance and Energy Assistance Program by local department of social services; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's landmark welfare reform legislation and the present social economic climate in the United States and Virginia have 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 will continue to impact technology changes for benefit programs well into future; and

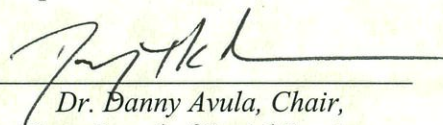
WHEREAS, Virginia's 3,087 Benefit Programs Specialists have been at the forefront of public efforts to meet that need, steadily maintaining a high rate of application processing and case management to ensure that those qualified for social services receive and continue to receive them; and

WHEREAS, 43,691 TANF recipients and \$5.7 million in diversionary payments to prevent long term dependence on public assistance; 815,132 SNAP recipients, 1,070,591 Medical Assistance recipients, 319 General Relief recipients, 4,083 Auxiliary Grant recipients, and 186,711 Energy Assistance households, are served through the Benefit Programs Division, and depend on the dedication and commitment of Benefit Programs Specialists who handle their cases in an accurate and timely manner; and

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

WHEREAS, Benefit Programs Specialists provide ethical public service, respect human dignity, are responsible for the application of the law, demonstrate personal integrity and promote professional excellence; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on this 18th day of October, 2017, 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, 2018 as Benefit Programs Specialists Appreciation Month, calling upon Virginians to join in acknowledging their public service contributions.



*Dr. Danny Avula, Chair,
State Board of Social Services
Commonwealth of Virginia*