

**Unified Regulatory Plan of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services for State Fiscal Year
2026**

Prepared on June 30, 2025

Description of Agency or Boards

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) is designated as the state agency authorized to carry out, administer, or support programs for vocational rehabilitation, other related employment services, independent living for individuals with disabilities, brain injury services, Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative Trust Fund Program, Social Security Administration's Disability Determination Services for SSDI and SSI claimants, the Older Americans Act and services for older Virginians through area agencies on aging, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, the state's Assistive Technology Act Program, the Virginia Assistive Technology System, the Public Guardian and Conservator Program, and to develop and supervise local departments of social services in the delivery of adult protective services, adult services, and the Auxiliary Grant Program. The Commissioner of DARS is also required to oversee human research conducted or authorized by the agency, a sheltered workshop, a center for independent living, and the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center. DARS operates under the supervision of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

REGULATIONS:

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Conform Discharge and Death Notices to Align with 22VAC30-110-40		
Brief Overview This action will amend 22VAC30-80-45 (Auxiliary Grants (AG) Program) to align the timeframes by which ALFs must provide notice to local departments of social services (LDSS) when AG residents are discharged, have been discharged due to an emergency, or have died to match 22VAC30-110-40 (Assessment in Assisted Living Facilities (ALF)).		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	These revisions eliminate contradictory provisions by retaining them in one chapter and referring to them in the other. It also eliminates confusing regulatory content for the participating ALFs.	
Expected Date	August 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Remove Targeted Case Management Services for Recipients of Auxiliary Grants		
Brief Overview This action repeals Medicaid-covered Targeted Case Management (TCM) for Auxiliary Grant Program participants in assisted living facilities in 22VAC30-110, the TCM definition in 22VAC30-110-10, the TCM section found at 22VAC30-110-100, and amends the notification requirements in 22VAC30-110-110 to align the chapter with a recent regulatory action undertaken by DMAS (See: Action 6656/Stage 10594).		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☒ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☐ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This action will ensure alignment between two state agency regulations and will result in a reduction of four (4) mandatory and three (3) discretionary regulant requirements in 22VAC30-110.	
Expected Date	August 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Amend IL due to WIOA and Periodic Review	
Brief Overview This action amends 22VAC30-30 (Provision of Independent Living Rehabilitation Services) to comply with federal regulations for the independent living (IL) program and IL services.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☒ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	There are numerous areas of the chapter that are derived from outdated federal regulations and can be reduced. DARS is currently identifying ways to streamline the chapter and improve the clarity.
Expected Date	September 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Amend Vocational Rehabilitation Regulations	
Brief Overview The agency seeks to amend 22VAC30-20 (Provision of Vocational Rehabilitation Services) to provide minor revisions and clarifications to certain areas, such as the release of personal information. The agency anticipates putting forward the changes via Fast-Track action for changes that are deemed non-controversial.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☒ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the regulatory content to identify potential opportunities for regulatory reductions, increased efficiencies, and improved readability.
Expected Date	December 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Action 5280/Stage 8922	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Amend Regulations Following Periodic Review	

Brief Overview		
This chapter prescribes the requirements that state-designated AAAs shall meet to receive federal and state funds. Changes are required following a 2019 Periodic Review as well as new federal Older Americans Act regulations, which were issued in February 2024.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☒ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the regulatory content to identify potential reduction opportunities for inclusion in proposed regulations.	
Expected Date	January 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Action 5708/Stage 9239		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Amend Regulations Following Periodic Review		
Brief Overview		
Following a Periodic Review conducted in 2020, DARS concluded that 22VAC30-70 (The Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program) needed to be amended. The current chapter requires regulatory changes to further define program requirements; protect the health, safety, and welfare of the vulnerable clients; and bring conformity to program standards and operations across the Commonwealth.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☒ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☐ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the regulatory content to identify potential opportunities for reductions.	
Expected Date	February 2026	

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS:

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5100		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Virginia State Plan for Aging Services		
Brief Overview In accordance with the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965, and pursuant to Virginia Code § 51.5-136, DARS is mandated to submit a State Plan for Aging Services to the U.S. Administration on Community Living. Revisions to the OAA regulations and new State Plan Guidance have prompted updates to this document.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	The State Plan for Aging Services' is directed heavily by federal requirements. While DARS' ability to modify content is limited, DARS will look at the State Plan for potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	September 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6496		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Pre-Employment Transition Services Manual		
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) is authorized by the federal Rehabilitation Act. This manual provides guidance to DARS staff on vocational rehabilitation for students with disabilities. Updates will clarify working with providers and identifying service needs for students with disabilities.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is taking a comprehensive look at the manual's contents with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving readability, and aligning it with federal requirements and expected practices.	
Expected Date	September 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4522
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Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Vocational Rehabilitation Policy and Procedure Manual		
Brief Overview		
The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Policy and Procedure Manual outlines the agency's requirements and practices for the implementation of the VR Program. It defines eligibility, coverage and services, client rights and responsibilities, financial participation obligations, etc. It is updated periodically as needed.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS regularly reviews the VR Manual with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving the readability, making necessary updates, and aligning it with federal requirements and expected practices.	
Expected Date	September 2025 and March 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
5335		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
AS Assisted Living Facility Private Pay Assessment Manual		
Brief Overview		
This manual provides guidance related to the assessment process for assisted living facilities (ALFs). The focus of this manual is ALF residents and applicants who are private pay. The title of the e-learning training for private pay assessors will be updated and other minor changes may also be made.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	October 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
4519		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Virginia Guide to Supported Employment and Job Coach Training Services		

Brief Overview		
This document supplements the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Policy Manual. It illustrates best practices gleaned from case examples and data and provides practitioners with guidance on supported employment services. Revisions are needed to clarify provisions for Long Term Employment Support Services.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS intends to review the guide for potential opportunities to reduce the burden, streamline the document, and improve the clarity.	
Expected Date	October 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
6758		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Senior Community Service Employment Program Operations Manual		
Brief Overview		
The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is authorized under Title V of the Older Americans Act of 1965. This manual provides guidance for state and local SCSEP coordinators on how to implement SCSEP. It discusses federal regulations, monitoring, and the services to be provided.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☐ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is reviewing this document to streamline requirements, improve readability, and align it with the corresponding federal regulation. A reduction in length is expected.	
Expected Date	October 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
6501		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
User's Manual: Uniform Assessment Instrument		
Brief Overview		
This manual provides general instructions on completing the Uniform Assessment Instrument (UAI). The manual content will be amended to include references to the Adult Protective Services online		

reporting portal, which launched in November 2024. Other minor technical changes will also be made.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	November 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4525		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) & Extended Employment Services (EES) Policy Manual		
Brief Overview Long Term Employment Support Services (LTESS) and Extended Employment Services (EES) are authorized by the Code of Virginia § 51.5-169.10. This document provides guidance to Employment Service Organizations (ESOs) that provide LTESS and EES to assist individuals with disabilities maintain stability in employment. The allowable services content will be updated.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	
Deregulatory Component	Funding for LTESS and EES is authorized and awarded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. The manual will be reviewed for reduction opportunities.	
Expected Date	November 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6497		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Office of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Policies & Procedures		
Brief Overview The Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (OSLTCO) will undertake a comprehensive review of the OSLTCO Policies and Procedures and develop appropriate revisions to ensure it fully aligns with the 2024 Older Americans Act Final Rule.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed

	☐ Final	☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is taking a comprehensive look at the document with an eye for streamlining requirements, improving the readability, and aligning it with the Older Americans Act regulatory requirements.	
Expected Date	November 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4520		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Consumer's Guide to Self-Employment		
Brief Overview The Consumer's Guide to Self-Employment provides insight into the DRS Self-Employment Enterprise program and its procedures as well as what is expected of consumers. The guide will be updated to bring it into alignment with current practices and expected program improvements.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is reviewing this document to streamline requirements, improve readability, and align it with the corresponding federal regulation. A reduction in length is expected.	
Expected Date	November 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5348		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document AS Assisted Living Facility Public Pay Assessment Manual		
Brief Overview This manual provides guidance for the assessment of assisted living facilities (ALFs). The focus of this manual is ALF residents and applicants who are eligible for or receiving an Auxiliary Grant (AG). It will be amended to address the e-learning training for public pay assessors and make other minor changes.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document

Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.
Expected Date	December 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6504	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Assisted Living Facility Relocation Plan	
Brief Overview This document is intended to be used as a resource in the event of a voluntary or involuntary closing of an assisted living facility (ALF) in Virginia. The guidance document will be amended to remove outdated content and make other minor technical changes.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Guidance Document ☐ Exempt Action
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.
Expected Date	December 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4521	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Vocational Evaluation Best Practices Manual	
Brief Overview This manual unites all segments of DARS Vocational Evaluation Services for consistency of standards and practices under the leadership of an evaluators' advisory group who serve as "Quality Assurance Consults." This manual will be updated with current practices and expected program improvements.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Guidance Document ☐ Exempt Action
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	DARS will review the guidance for potential opportunities, and a reduction in length is expected.
Expected Date	December 2025

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5081		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Guidance for the Provision of Therapeutic Behavioral Services (TBS)		
Brief Overview This document provides information about the requirements for the Provision of TBS, including expectations, licensure, and rates as they pertain to vendor services. It will be updated to bring it into alignment with current practices and expected program improvements.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document has not been updated in over five years. DARS intends to take a comprehensive look at it and identify potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	December 2025	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5349		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document AS Adult Services Manual Chapters 1-9		
Brief Overview This manual outlines the policies for implementing the Adult Services (AS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) programs. Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 7 will be amended to remove duplicative content, align with enhanced case management systems, and make other minor changes.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	January 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4531		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Human Research Procedures Manual		
Brief Overview		

This action will update procedural guidance in the manual to comply with 45 CFR part 46, specifically focusing on ensuring proper oversight and reporting of incidents related to nonexempt human research as outlined under 45 CFR 46.103(e), 45 CFR 46.108(a)(4), and 45 CFR 46.113.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final Rule ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☐ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is currently reviewing the manual for potential opportunities.
Expected Date	January 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4532	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Personal Assistance Services Program Handbook	
Brief Overview The Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Handbook provides information about the requirements for participation in the PAS Program. The updates will include changes in the PAS Program process generally and income requirements that align with the Medicaid income requirements.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is taking a comprehensive look at the PAS Handbook with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving the readability, and aligning it with federal requirements and expected practices.
Expected Date	February 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4533	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Personal Assistance Services Policy and Procedure Manual Chapters 1-5	
Brief Overview The Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Policy and Procedure Manual Chapters 1-5 provides the requirements for the PAS program. This manual will be revised to update current practices and processes and ensure income requirements align with the Medicaid income requirements. It will also integrate content from Chapters 6-14, which will be deleted as a standalone document.	
Regulatory Stage	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA

(check one box)	☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS will combine this Manual with Chapters 6-14, which is currently filed as a separate guidance document (ID: 4534).	
Expected Date	February 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
4534		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Personal Assistance Services Policy and Procedure Manual Chapters 6 through 14		
Brief Overview		
The Personal Assistance Services (PAS) Policy and Procedure Manual Chapters 6-14 provides information about the requirements for the PAS program to include eligibility, roles, and responsibilities. This manual will be deleted.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document will be deleted as a standalone document. Appropriate content will be integrated into the Personal Assistance Services Policy & Procedure Manual Chapters 1-5 (ID: 4533).	
Expected Date	February 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available)		
Not Applicable		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document		
Brain Injury Services Provider Manual		
Brief Overview		
This new manual will provide important guidance to state-funded brain injury services providers for the delivery of services, such as case management, clubhouse, day programs, and the statewide resource connection program. The manual will identify and explain expectations for specific services and data reporting standards.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document

Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	While this would be a new guidance document, it will help reduce current ambiguity, improve consistency across the Commonwealth, and support effective delivery of services.
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5161	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document VDA Farm Market Fresh for Seniors Handbook for Farmers	
Brief Overview This Handbook applies to all Farmers in the Senior and WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, also called the Farm Market Fresh Program. All authorized farmers must comply with the principles and procedures in this handbook. This handbook is updated annually to reflect changes to the procedures required by USDA.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Guidance Document ☐ Exempt Action
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☐ Action required by state statute
Deregulatory Component	Virginia's S/FMNP is authorized and awarded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This limits DARS' ability to modify some content. However, DARS will look at the Handbook for opportunities.
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6495	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document VDA Aging Services Standards: All Standards Combined	
Brief Overview The Service Standards provide minimum standards for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in delivering Older Americans Act (OAA)-funded programs that assist older adults. This update will align it with OAA and new federal regulatory requirements. It will also include content from guidance documents 5158 and 5159, which will be deleted.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☒ Guidance Document ☐ Exempt Action
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Discretionary action ☒ Action required by state statute

Deregulatory Component	DARS is taking a comprehensive look at the Aging Services Standards with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving readability, and aligning it with federal requirements and expected practices.
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5158	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document VDA National Family Caregiver Support Guidance	
Brief Overview Funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) is under Title III, Part E of the Older Americans Act. This content will be updated and moved to the VDA Aging Services Standards guidance document. The standalone document will be deleted.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This standalone guidance document will be deleted, and updated content will be integrated into the VDA Aging Services Standards guidance document (ID: 6495), consolidating the two documents into one.
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5159	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document VDA Cost Sharing/Fee For Service Policy	
Brief Overview Under the federal Older Americans Act as well as the Virginia Appropriation Act, DARS must apply certain restrictions and provide for certain allowances for clients to contribute to the cost of specified services that Area Agencies on Aging provide to them. This standalone guidance document will be deleted.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This standalone guidance document will be deleted, and updated content will be integrated into the VDA Aging Services Standards guidance document (ID: 6495), consolidating the two documents into one.

Expected Date	March 2026
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Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5160	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document VDA Grants Manual	
Brief Overview The purpose of this Manual is to provide guidance to Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) on governance and personnel management, financial management, and other related operational practices. The Manual will be updated with a new title, the inclusion of the agency's criminal record check policy, revisions for compliance with updated federal regulations, and the latest expectations for strong fiscal practices.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document has not been updated since 2018. DARS is examining opportunities for reductions and will be incorporating content from a to-be-deleted standalone guidance document (ID 5162), merging two documents into one.
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5162	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Criminal Background Check Policy for Area Agencies on Aging and Subcontractors	
Brief Overview This policy expands on the contractual requirements for criminal record check requirements for Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and their service providers. This standalone guidance document will be deleted, and applicable content will be incorporated in the VDA Grants Manual (ID: 5160).	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This standalone guidance document will be deleted, and applicable content will be incorporated in the VDA Grants Manual (ID: 5160).
Expected Date	March 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6499		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Board & Advisory Council Handbook for Virginia's Area Agencies on Aging		
Brief Overview This Handbook provides additional explanation and an overview of the requirements for Area Agencies on Aging related to their Governing Boards and Advisory Councils. Topics include Older Americans Act requirements, FOIA expectations and meeting records, avoiding conflicts of interest, and more.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document has not been updated since 2015. DARS is taking a comprehensive look at this handbook with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving readability, and aligning it with federal requirements and expected practices.	
Expected Date	March 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 4545		
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center Governance Manual		
Brief Overview This Governance Manual contains policies for the administration and operation of Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) within applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Requirements, operations, and service delivery content will be updated.		
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	DARS is taking a comprehensive look at it with a focus on streamlining requirements, improving the readability, and aligning it the DARS VR Policy Manual.	
Expected Date	April 2026	

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) Not Available

Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Virginia Public Guardian and Conservator Program Manual	
Brief Overview This new manual will provide important guidance to local public programs contracted by DARS for the delivery of public guardianship and conservatorship services. The manual will identify and explain expectations for specific services and data reporting standards.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☐ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	While this would be a new guidance document, it will help reduce current ambiguity, improve consistency across the Commonwealth, and support effective delivery of services.
Expected Date	May 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 5079	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Vendor Application for Licensed Behavioral Health Services Provider A1205- Guidance Document	
Brief Overview The Vendor Application for Licensed Behavior Health Services will be deleted. The provision of service agreement section of this document will be incorporated into a related document.	
Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final ☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action ☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute ☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document will be deleted. The provision of service agreement section of this document will be incorporated into a related document.
Expected Date	June 2026

Action/Stage or Guidance Document Forum ID (if available) 6264	
Title of Proposed Regulatory Action or Guidance Document Licensed Behavioral Health Services - Guidance and Fees Document	
Brief Overview This document provides information about the requirements for Licensed Behavioral Health Services to include vendor criteria, expectations, and fees. This document will be updated to bring it into alignment with current practices and expected program improvements.	

Regulatory Stage (check one box)	☐ NOIRA ☐ Proposed ☐ Final	☐ Emergency or Emergency/NOIRA ☐ Revised Proposed ☐ Fast-Track
Additional Description	☐ Expedited Review Requested ☐ Exempt Action	☒ Guidance Document
Legal Authority	☒ Action required by federal statute ☒ Action required by state statute	☒ Discretionary action
Deregulatory Component	This document has not been updated in over ten years. DARS intends to take a comprehensive look at it and identify potential opportunities.	
Expected Date	June 2026	