

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH BUDGET

**Presentation to the Senate Finance and
Appropriations
Health and Human Resources Subcommittee**

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Virginia State Health Commissioner
January 16, 2025**

Outline

- VDH Protecting Public Health
- JLARC Report and Update on Recommendations
- Summary of VDH's Budget
- Governor's Proposed Budget Amendments
 - Maternal and Child Health
 - Regulating Nursing Homes
 - Office of Emergency Medical Services
 - Improving Compliance
 - Other Amendments

Protecting the Public Health

- The mission of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is to protect the health and promote the well-being of all people in Virginia.
- Over the last year VDH has:
 - Responded to multiple drinking water emergencies across the Commonwealth (Richmond, Lake Anna, Orange County, South Hill fire)
 - Responded to Hurricane Helene
 - Ensure restaurants are safe to reopen after hurricanes, floods, and water events
 - Increased efforts to respond to the opioid and fentanyl crisis in Virginia
 - Investigated and responded to incidents in hospitals and nursing homes
 - Conducted screening of incoming passengers at Dulles when new diseases threatened
 - Worked to improve maternal and child health outcomes

Protecting the Public Health



JLARC Report Response

In November 2024 JLARC released a report on the operations and management of the Virginia Department of Health. That report discussed many of the factors which have impacted VDH, including:

- A large wave of COVID funding and the strain of COVID response on the agency
- Historical under investment in administrative staff
- Key staff turnover

VDH has already taken significant action:

- The Chief Operating Officer has led Monthly Operating Reviews of all programs over the last 15 months.
- Hired a Deputy Commissioner for Community Health Services, and a Deputy Commissioner for Population Health and Preparedness.

JLARC Report Response

- Hired a Chief Financial Officer, making it clear that financial accountability is of utmost importance across our organization. Now working with DOA (as recommended) on important financial hires.
- Created an Office of Grants Administration ensuring that accountability and compliance controls are front and center as we administer the over \$2 Billion of open federal grants. Director selected and will be onboarded in February 2025.
- Created the Controller position to oversee financial compliance and accounting processes. Candidate selected and will be onboarded in February 2025.

JLARC Report Response

- Hired Regional Health Directors to ensure that communication and accountability is improved across the 35 health districts. For the first time in many years, VDH has filled all local health director positions.
- Hired a new Director for the Office of EMS who will start on January 25th
- Taking steps to assure our health workforce incentive programs are accessible and responsive. In recent months, program added 6 staff to address the current Nurse Preceptor Program applications, focus on process improvement, and full implementation of the new database for all incentive programs in 2025.

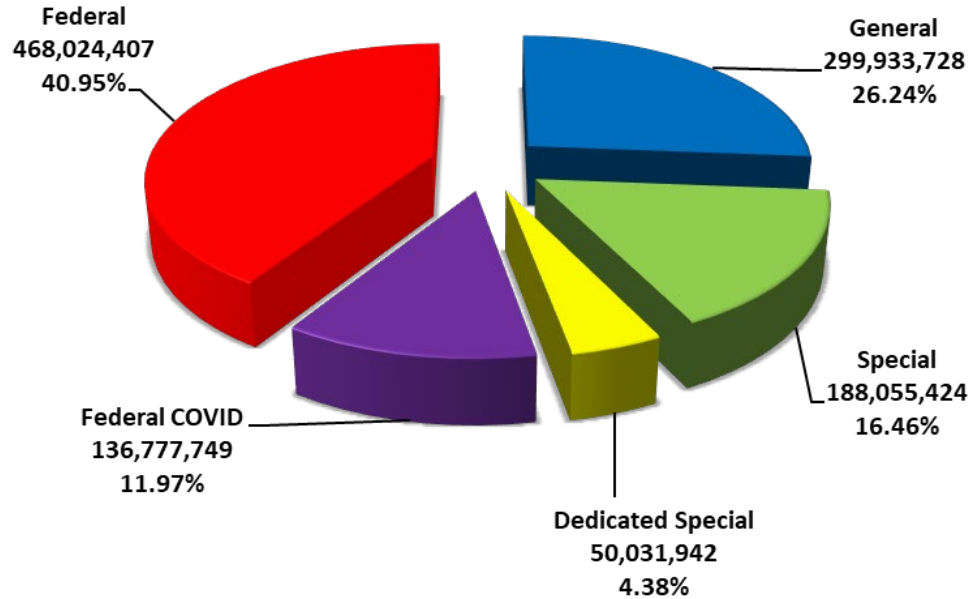


Virginia Department of Health

Funding Streams, Budget & Staffing Levels

VDH Funding & Staffing - FY 2025 & FY 2026

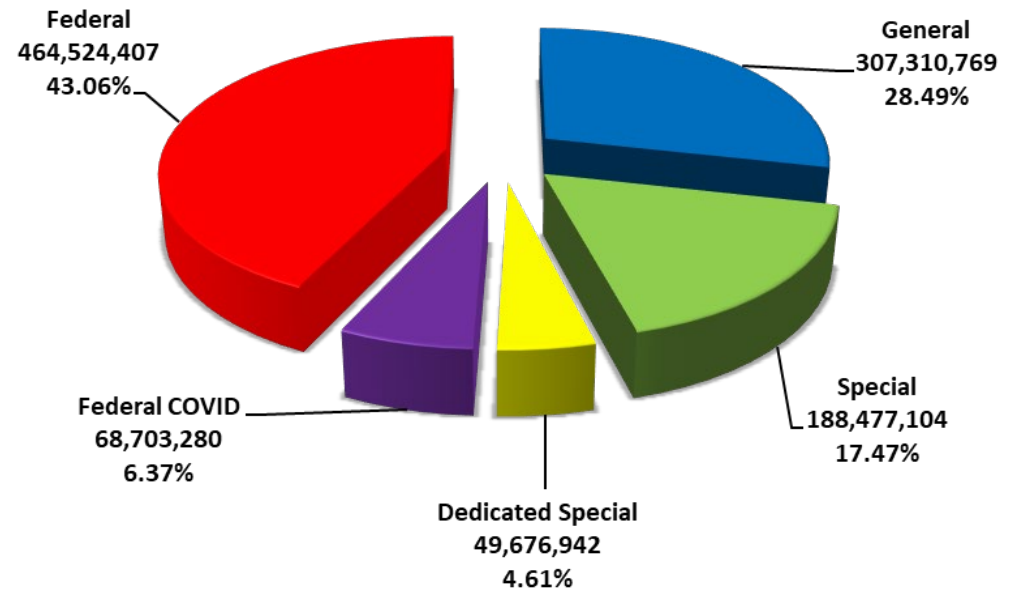
FY2025 Appropriation
Total \$1,142,823,250



FTEs

GF:	1,614.5 (41.55%)
NGF:	2,271 (58.45%)
Total:	3,885.5

FY2026 Appropriation
Total \$1,078,792,502

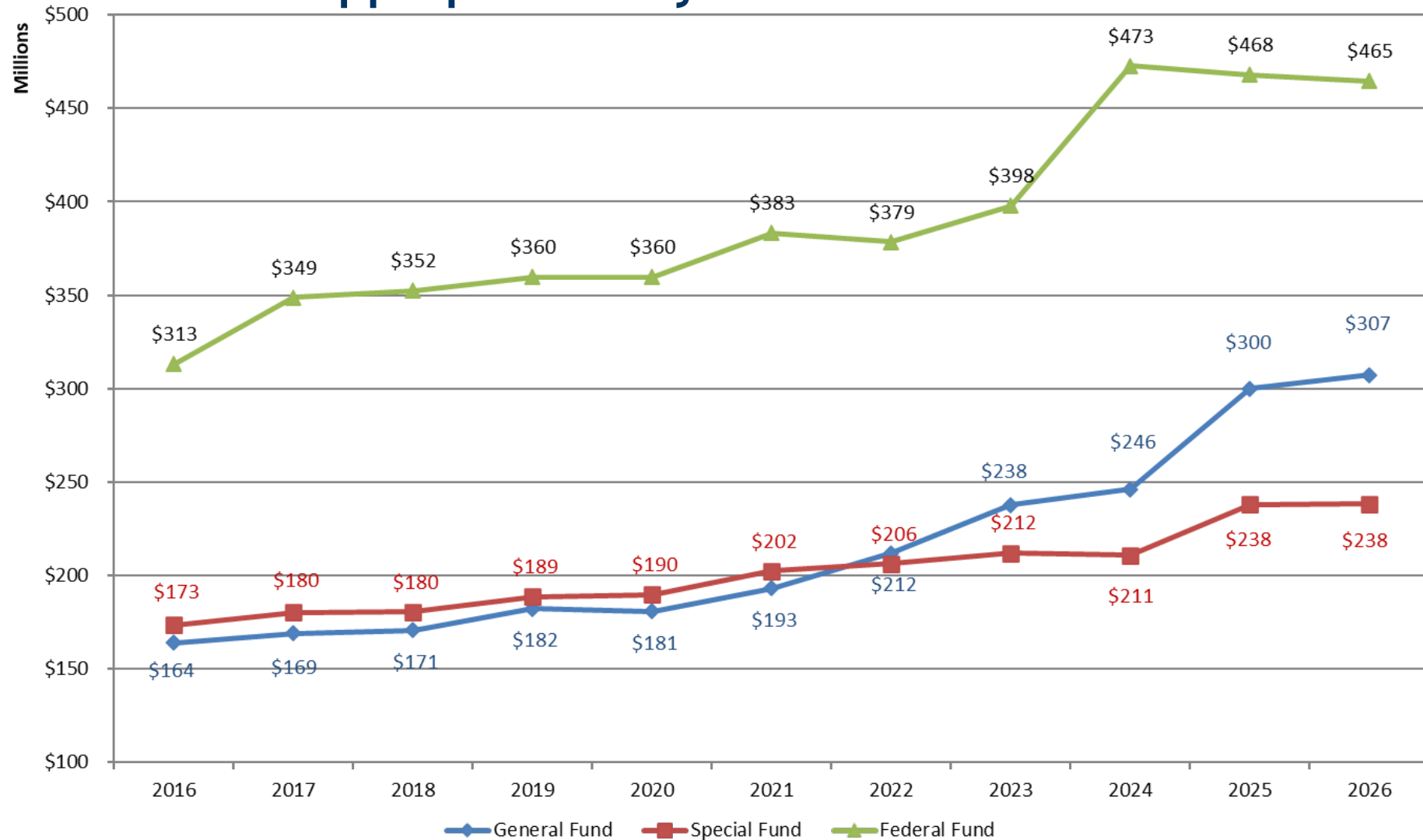


FTEs

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Governor's Introduced Budget	FY25		FY26	
	GF	NGF	GF	NGF
2024 Appropriation	299,815,177	842,889,522	297,371,844	839,034,522
New Funding / Appropriation	118,551	-	9,938,925	521,680
Reduce COVID Federal Appropriation				(68,074,469)
Proposed Budget	299,933,728	842,889,522	307,310,769	771,481,733
Total Proposed Budget	1,142,823,250		1,078,792,502	
Authorized Positions	1,614.5	2,271.0	1,614.5	2,271.0
Proposed New Positions				
Maximum Employment Level	1,614.5	2,271.0	1,614.5	2,271.0
Total MEL	3,885.5		3,885.5	

Virginia Department of Health Appropriation by Fund 2016 - 2026



- The federal appropriations illustrated above **do not include any COVID, ARRA, or H1N1 funding.**
- The increase in federal funds in FY17 is largely due to AIDS/HIV grants and is not new funding, but a technical appropriation increase, as these funds increased in the last biennium (FY19 increase are also Ryan White related and just a technical). The FY21 increase is also about 50% Ryan White and the rest is largely due to central appropriation. FY24 is the DWRSF from the Infrastructure Bill.



FY 2026 Budget Amendments

Maternal and Child Health

Budget Amendments

- **Provide funding for a perinatal health hub pilot program**
Provides funding to support a perinatal health hub pilot program in Virginia to reduce maternal and infant mortality.
FY26 - \$ 2,500,000 GF
- **Add support for community health workers and doulas at local health districts**
Provides additional support for community health workers and doulas at local health districts that serve localities with the highest rates of maternal mortality.
FY26 - \$ 1,000,000 GF



FY 2026 Budget Amendments

Regulating healthcare facilities

Budget Amendments

- **Provide support for the Home Care Organization Licensure Program**
Provides support for the Home Care Organization Licensure Program's biennial inspection workload.
FY26 - \$ 853,098 GF

- **Provide support for intermediate disciplinary actions for medical care facilities**
Provides support for the administration of intermediate disciplinary actions for medical care facilities. This funding is tied to forthcoming legislation.
FY26 - \$ 319,883 GF



FY 2026 Budget Amendments

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS)

- Remove budget language that prohibits changes to emergency medical services council regional boundaries
 - Eliminates restrictive language that prevents changes to current emergency medical services regional council boundaries.



FY 2026 Budget Amendments

Improving Compliance

Budget Amendments

- **Provide support to maintain compliance with drinking water regulations**
Provides additional support to the Office of Drinking Water to maintain compliance with state and federal drinking water requirements.
FY26 - \$ 1,803,598 GF
- **Provide support for information technology security audits and mandatory investigations**
Provides support to the Office of Internal Audit for additional financial and information technology auditors to address an increase in workload.
FY26 - \$ 847,529 GF



Additional Budget Amendments

Budget Amendments

Title	Summary	FY 25 GF	FY 25 NGF	FY 26 GF	FY26 NGF	FY 26 Total
Continue support for the Division of Disease Prevention due to decreased federal support	Provides support for the Division of Disease Prevention to continue sexually transmitted infection prevention efforts due to an unanticipated loss of grant funding.			\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Support rent increases at local health department facilities	Provides funding to offset expected rental or moving costs at local health department facilities.			\$546,266	\$421,680	\$967,946
Fund electronic health records system	Provides funding to support initial costs of an electronic health record system for pilot sites and eventually for full implementation. This initiative will improve communication between patients and providers and to help providers work more efficiently.			\$500,000		\$500,000
Establish a Large Animal Veterinary Loan Repayment program	Establishes the Large Animal Veterinary Loan Repayment program to provide loan repayments for large animal veterinarians operating in Virginia.			\$450,000		\$450,000
Fund implementation of rainwater harvesting system regulations	Provides funding for the implementation of rainwater harvesting system regulations and associated database costs.	\$118,551		\$118,551		\$118,551
Complete opioid impact reduction registry	Provides Commonwealth Opioid Abatement and Remediation funding for one-time costs associated with the development of the Opioid Impact Reduction Registry.				\$100,000	\$100,000

Budget Amendments (Language only)

Title	Summary
Increase vital records fee for expedited records	Increases the amount charged for expedited records from \$48.00 to \$53.00 to cover for increased services costs.
Amend language for the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program to expand access to purchase HIV prevention medication	Amends language for the State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program to expand access to purchase pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post exposure prophylaxis (n-PEP) HIV prevention medication, co-pays, and other out-of-pocket costs.
Restrict taxpayer funding for abortion services	Prevents expenditures from general or nongeneral fund sources to be used for providing abortion services, except as otherwise required by federal law.
Update language to reflect current funding levels for the Virginia Center for Health Innovation	Updates language to reflect current funding levels for the Virginia Center for Health Innovation.

Questions

Thank You!