The Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia (ITCVA) action report series focuses on efforts underway to improve the long-term sustainability of Virginia’s Part C early intervention system. You’ve told us about the fiscal challenges and provider shortages you are facing on the local level. We hear you, we understand you, we appreciate your hard work, and we are working on your behalf every day to address these challenges. These are challenges we have faced and successfully addressed before in the ITCVA, and we can do it again by working together and focusing on actionable strategies to make improvements.

Actions to address Medicaid managed care challenges:

- DBHDS is continuing to work with DMAS to address ongoing challenges with securing interpreter services through some MCOs.
- The EI-MCO Workgroup convened by the Virginia Association of Community Service Boards (VACSB) is meeting quarterly, and will host a training on Part C for MCO care coordinators on July 19, 2021.

Actions to address provider shortages:

- Virginia’s telehealth flexibilities established in the March 19, 2020 Medicaid Memo, including those related to early intervention, remain in effect and are expected to continue through the end of the federal public health emergency. Although the federal public health emergency order can only be reauthorized in 90-day increments, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services has indicated in a letter to Governors the intent to continue the federal public health emergency through December 31, 2021.
- DMAS has posted for public comment proposed manual updates outlining policies for the permanent use of telehealth, including for early intervention. These new policies offer an exciting opportunity to maximize the accessibility of early intervention. They are available for public comment through June 23, 2021.
- As a result of suggestions from the Infrastructure Work Group, the ITCVA state office has eliminated the requirement for certified practitioners to maintain a professional development plan and streamlined the documentation required to show completed training.

Actions to address broader fiscal picture:

- The Infrastructure Work Group is meeting every other month, with members sharing information with and soliciting input from constituents between meetings. Recent work has included the following:
  - Reviewed all Part C forms and identified changes to consider as we work with the selected vendor to incorporate our forms into the new statewide data system.
- Gathered information from other states that use a regional or shared services approach for some or all aspects of Part C early intervention.
- Currently analyzing across local systems the costs and revenues associated with system components (administration, system management, public awareness, training, etc.) to understand what helps keep these costs down.
- Discussing how a shared services approach for some functions may (or may not) help to reduce costs and/or improve the system.

Meeting notes and materials are available [here](#).

**National fiscal updates:**
- Virginia is receiving $5.1 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for Part C. These are one-time funds we expect to receive July 1, 2021. While we are still waiting for official written guidance from the U.S. Department of Education on use of these funds, indications are that they can be used for all the same purposes as our regular federal Part C funds. We will share additional information as soon as we receive the federal guidance and clear any state-level approvals, if required.