



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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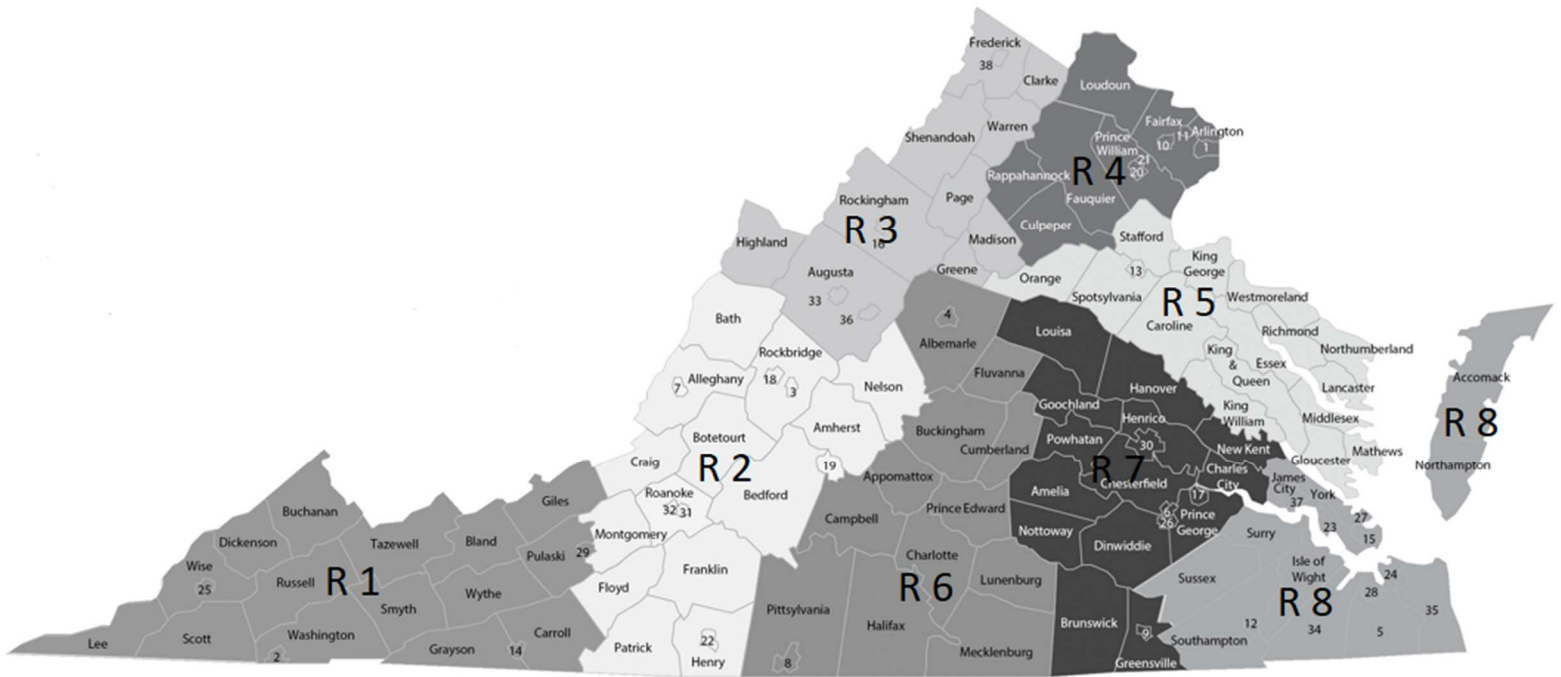
POLICY STATEMENT Technology Assistance Program (TAP)

Background: The Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (VDDHH) offers specialized telecommunication equipment and assistive technology devices to qualified applicants as a solution to their communication needs through the Technology Assistance Program (TAP). According to section 22VAC20-20-30-Eligibility Requirements for the Technology Assistance Program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Virginia residents who participate in TAP must meet income eligibility requirements (for equipment at no cost) and fall into one of the following categories:

- Deaf
- Hard of Hearing
- Person with difficulty speaking
- Have both a hearing and vision loss
- Veteran with hearing loss and an honorable discharge
- Surviving spouse/child with a hearing loss of a veteran killed in active duty
- National guard member with a hearing loss

Eligible applicants shall be granted program participation based on a first-come, first-served basis and the availability of program funds. As outlined in section 22VAC20-20-20-Ownership Guidelines of the TAP regulations, equipment will be assigned to qualified individuals for a 30-day trial period giving applicants up to 30 days to determine if the selected device meets their communication needs. During the 30-day period, if it is determined that the equipment does not meet the applicant's communication needs, they have the option to return or exchange the equipment. At the end of the 30-day period, if the applicant feels that the equipment meets their needs, they retain ownership of the equipment. The regulations also establish a four-year renewal period for TAP equipment distribution at which point TAP consumers can reapply for new TAP equipment.

The Technology Assistance Program provides assistance to all residents of Virginia by way of contracted Deaf and Hard of Hearing Specialists. The state has been divided into 8 regions with each region having at least one D/HH Specialist (see map below).



Policy Statement: As stated in section 22VAC20-20-30 of the TAP regulations-Eligibility requirements, upon request for assistive technology equipment by an applicant VDDHH will require information as to the nature of the applicant’s disability, family size, financial status and veteran status (if applicable).

Policy Details: Applicants eligible to participate in the program shall meet the following requirements:

1. Certification as deaf, hard of hearing, hearing-disabled/visually-disabled, deaf-blind, or speech-disabled by a licensed physician, audiologist, speech-language pathologist, hearing aid specialist, vocational rehabilitation counselor employed by the Department of Rehabilitative Services or the Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired, a Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind representative, a VDDHH outreach specialist or other appropriate agency or government representative.
2. A completed and signed TAP application
3. Provision of one of the following, in the name of the applicant or the applicant’s spouse or legal guardian, as proof of residency in the Commonwealth of Virginia:
 - o Current Lease or deed to domicile in Virginia;
 - o Current Virginia Driver’s License or Virginia-issued ID;
 - o A utility bill, dated within twelve (12) months of the submission, for a residence in Virginia; or
 - o Any other form of proof approved by the department.

Technology Assistance Program Policy-December2022

4. Proof of correct and verifiable information on the family's gross income. The department reserves the right to request verification of income from any program applicant before determining eligibility
5. Copies of Power of Attorney or Guardianship documents at the request of VDDHH when the application signature is not the recipient of the device(s).

TAP Procedures:

1. Virginia resident submits TAP application and required documentation.
2. D/HH Specialist completes intake assessment and determines eligibility.
3. Once eligibility is determined, equipment is distributed to applicant on a 30-day trial basis.
4. After the 30-day trial, if the equipment meets the applicant's need, they retain ownership. If the equipment does not meet the applicant's needs, they are able to exchange or return their equipment. All accepted equipment will receive a one (1) year warranty provided by VDDHH.
5. After 4 years, a renewal application can be submitted by the applicant for new equipment.

Forms: 2022 TAP Application Packet
 Consumer Intake Form
 Equipment Assignment Form

Reference: Technology Assistance Program Policy – December2022

Approved: Eric Raff, Director

Effective Date: