

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES NEARLY \$1 MILLION
GRANT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE IN VIRGINIA**

(Richmond, Va.)—The Virginia Department of Health has received \$969,729 in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support the development of plans to provide affordable health insurance for uninsured Virginians.

“The grant will help Virginia develop strategies to improve access to health care and coverage for more residents,” said State Health Commissioner Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.

The grant will first involve a study to identify uninsured residents and the reasons why they are uninsured. This information will then be used to determine the most effective ways to provide high-quality, affordable health insurance.

“We recognize and thank our many partners in the private sector for their role in the development of this important grant proposal. Their continued support and commitment is a vital element of this endeavor’s success,” said René Cabral-Daniels, Director of the Virginia Department of Health’s Office of Health Policy and Planning.

The partner organizations include Virginia’s academic medical centers, safety net providers, such as the Virginia Primary Care Association and the Virginia Association of Free Clinics, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association, Virginia Medical Society, Virginia Health Care Foundation, Virginia Rural Health Association, Virginia Quality Healthcare Network and faith-based community organizations.

Nearly 15 percent of all Virginians are uninsured, and most work full-time. Nationally, more than 40 million Americans lack health insurance.

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