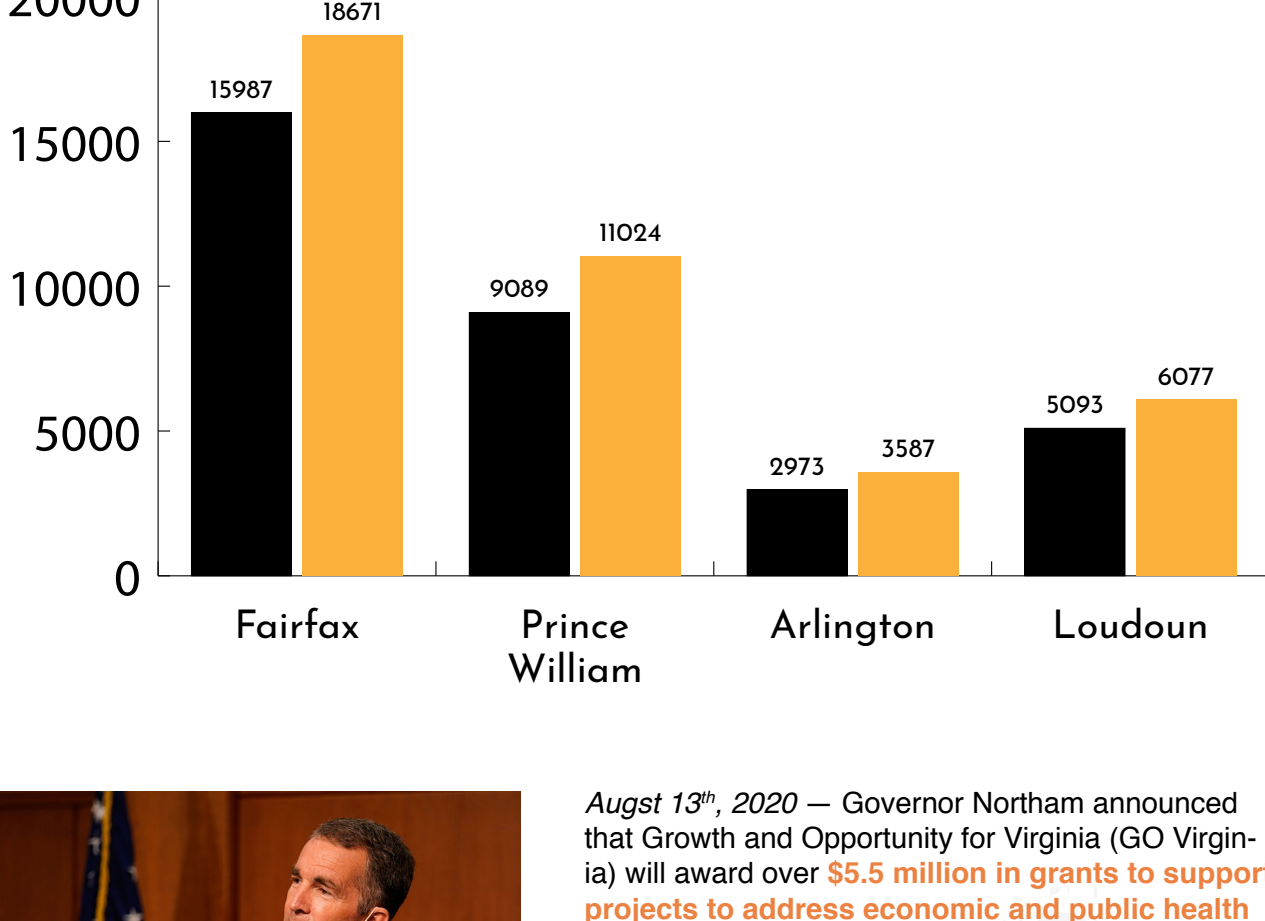


# BPSOS Falls Church NEWSLETTER

## September 2020

### COVID-19 CASES IN VIRGINIA as of September 4<sup>th</sup>

| LOCATION              | August       | September    |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Fairfax County        | 15987        | 18671        |
| Prince William County | 9089         | 11024        |
| Arlington County      | 2973         | 3587         |
| Loudoun County        | 5093         | 6077         |
| <b>VIRGINIA</b>       | <b>94251</b> | <b>124k+</b> |

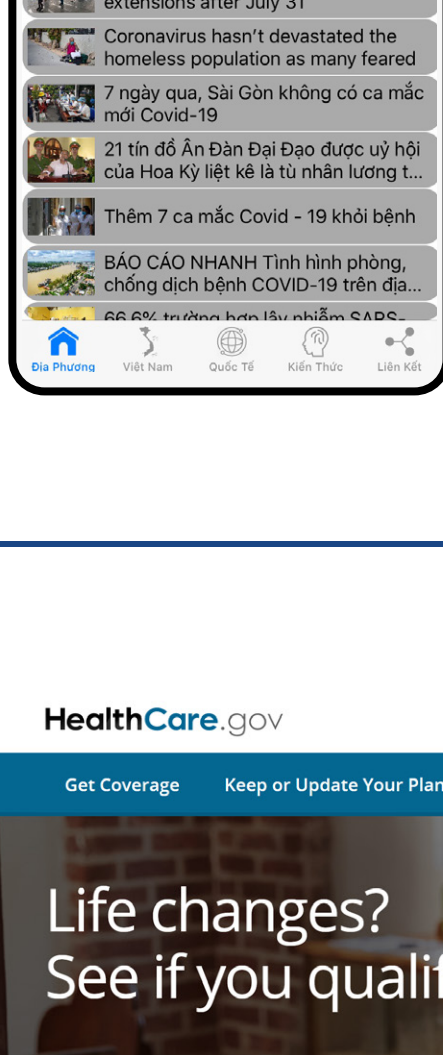
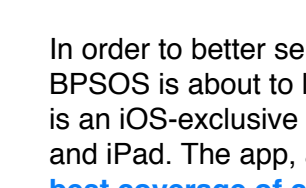


VA Governor Ralph S. Northam

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — Governor Northam announced that Growth and Opportunity for Virginia (GO Virginia) will award over **\$5.5 million in grants to support projects to address economic and public health challenges created by COVID-19**. The newest projects to receive funding are focused on strengthening the health sciences workforce pipeline, advancing new renewable energy ventures, and developing a regional service network for entrepreneurs. The grant awards will leverage an additional \$7,732,043 in non-state sources to assist with economic diversification and recovery efforts throughout Virginia. Since beginning in 2017, GO Virginia has funded 114 projects and awarded approximately \$37.5 million to support regional economic development efforts.

On the same day, Governor Northam announced Virginia Department of Health will **conduct pediatric COVID-19 serology study in Northern Virginia**. This study will measure the proportion of children with antibodies to COVID-19. Northern Virginia was selected for the study due to the number of positive COVID-19 pediatric cases reported in the region. This study will provide information on the number of children that have been infected with COVID-19 in Northern Virginia and statewide, including those who may have had mild or asymptomatic infections.

Follow [governor.virginia.gov](https://governor.virginia.gov) for more detail.



### KEEP YOURSELF UP-TO-DATE WITH OUR NEW TIN VIET APP!

In order to better serve our Vietnamese community, BPSOS is about to launch the Tin Viet app. Tin Viet app is an iOS-exclusive app that can be installed on iPhone and iPad. The app, as its name suggests, **provides the best coverage of current events and is updated daily by our best editors**. We categorize news into topics: local, international, Vietnam and general knowledge, so that you can browse according to your interest.

Tin Viet help you stay up-to-date on important stories and events. **The app is currently in testing and expected to launch in mid-September**. Stay tuned!



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### VIRGINIA TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE THROUGH STATE-BASED EXCHANGE

The expansion of Medicaid since 2018 has proven a critical lifeline for Virginians during the health pandemic, with more than 125,603 Virginians, including 41,272 children, enrolled in Medicaid since the COVID-19 state of emergency was declared in Virginia on March 12<sup>th</sup> of this year. Furthermore, governor Ralph Northam announced in August that Virginia has been approved to proceed with a state-based health insurance exchange. Approval from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services allows Virginia to take over some functions of its current federal exchange beginning with open enrollment this November, and puts the Commonwealth on a path to full control by 2023.

*"...a state-based exchange will give Virginia the autonomy we need to expand access to care and reduce premiums. As governor and as a physician, I will never stop fighting for affordable, high-quality health care." — Gov. Northam*

By establishing the Virginia Exchange, the Commonwealth can implement policies to better address costs. The state will be able to work directly with insurance companies to meet the health coverage needs of all Virginians purchasing coverage, including small employers. Virginia will also be able to provide more targeted outreach and enrollment services and extend the time Virginians have to enroll in coverage, if needed. These strategies will expand access to health care and help increase overall affordability.

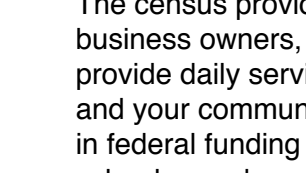
This August, BPSOS—VA has **helped more than 160 people** with their health insurance enrollments and questions. Furthermore, we aim to educate our clients about health insurance literacy so that they will be more confident in the future. For more information, please call **(703) 538-2190**.



### UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER

In August, BPSOS Falls Church project coordinators has spent a lot of time and effort with 4 couples in order to educate them about necessary communication skills regarding marriage. For the purpose of creating a healthy family, we had multiple conversations with each couple over the phone in order to **identify, recognize and start fixing problems regarding interpersonal communication skill**, which we understood is crucial in building a family.

Besides, our staffs also helped others with their children's **school application** for the upcoming school year. Children were also offered advice about their health safety when attending school. We also referred individuals who needs help with **health insurance and social welfare** to experienced navigators in our ACA program.



### COUNT YOURSELF IN!

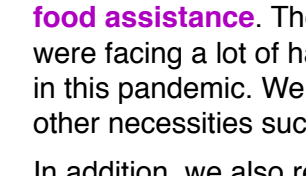
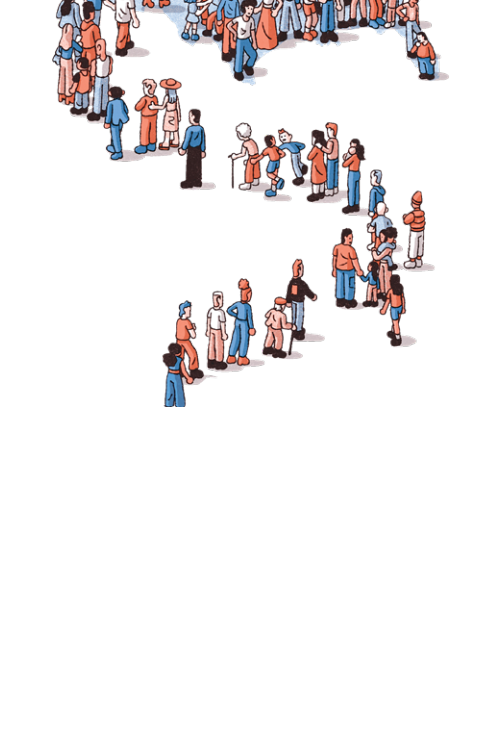
**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Census 2020 has been extended until the September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. We advise our community to complete the census this year as soon as possible.

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The results of the census also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and they are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

**Because of social distancing, the most effective action is to respond online, by phone, or by mail when you receive your invitation**

BPSOS-VA has been helping **more than 350 people** filling out the census online and over the phone in August. Especially, the seniors in our community were very happy to participate in the Census. They reminded and referred their peers and family members to us as well. They expressed their wish to have more funding for housing, Medicaid and SNAP benefits, etc.

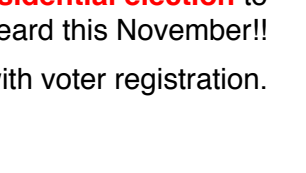
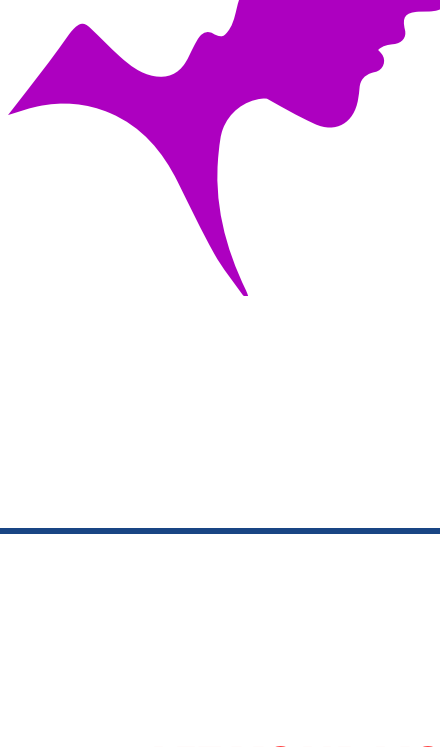
If you haven't responded to the Census, please do so as soon as you can. You can do it online or if you need help, please contact our office at **(703) 538-2190**.



### COMMUNITY AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In August 2020, BPSOS' case managers continued to assist domestic violence clients with applying for benefits. Through our efforts, 3 DV clients have successfully gotten **food assistance**. They were mothers and children who were facing a lot of hardship with their abusers, especially in this pandemic. We were also able to help them with other necessities such as baby milk and diapers,...

In addition, we also referred 2 clients to immigration legal services where they could apply for **green cards** in the US. Some clients were also referred to be **trained to become a caregiver**, which allowed them to support themselves financially during COVID-19. One DV survivor has recently **bought a new house** and was very thankful for our help.



### LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

Are you registered to vote for the 2020 presidential election? Make sure you can vote **this November!**

**Register NOW for the 2020 presidential election** to make your voice heard this November!!

Contact us **(703) 538-2190** for help with voter registration.

# GET OUT TO VOTE

## BPSOS BRANCHES

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>BPSOS-AL (Alabama)</b>     | (251) 517-3011 |
| <b>BPSOS-CA (California)</b>  | (714) 897-2214 |
| <b>BPSOS-GA (Georgia)</b>     | (770) 458-6700 |
| <b>BPSOS-MS (Mississippi)</b> | (228) 436-9999 |
| <b>BPSOS-TX (Texas)</b>       | (281) 530-6888 |
| <b>BPSOS-VA (Virginia)</b>    | (703) 538-2190 |