



**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

September 15, 2004

To: The Honorable Mark R. Warner

and

The Honorable Jane H. Woods
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

and

The Honorable John H. Chichester, Chairman
Senate Finance Committee

and

The Honorable Vincent F. Callahan, Chairman
House Appropriations Committee

The report contained herein is submitted pursuant to Item 365 of the 2004 Appropriations Act. Item 365 (3) directs the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to report annually on spending, program results, clients served and nature of projects funded with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families funds. Item 365 directs VDSS to combine this report with the Virginia Independence Program (VIP) annual report required by § 63.2-619 of the *Code of Virginia*. Data needed to complete the VIP report will not be available until October 2004. As a result, the combined annual report has two parts: the enclosed report and the VIP report, which will be ready for distribution this winter. For your convenience, we shall provide you with a combined annual report containing both parts in December 2004.

Funds from TANF support a wide variety of projects that have been successful in protecting families at risk and facilitating their transition to economic self-sufficiency. Information about the projects is contained in the attached report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurice A. Jones".

Maurice A. Jones
Commissioner

**Report on Projects Funded with the Temporary Assistance for
Needy Families Block Grant**

June 1, 2003 – July 30, 2004

Department of Social Services
September 15, 2004

Report on Projects Funded with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

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Report on Projects Funded with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

Executive Summary

The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds a host of important and effective programs throughout the Commonwealth including the Virginia Independence Program (VIP). The VIP consists of two related but distinct sets of requirements for TANF participants, eligibility requirements and work requirements. The policies that mandate eligibility requirements became effective statewide on July 1, 1995. The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW) is the work-related portion of VIP that requires participants to be employed or engaged in a work activity. Implementation of VIEW was phased in over a two-year period beginning in July 1995, and ending in October 1997.

Between July 1995, and June 2003, the TANF caseload dropped from 70,797 to 31,998, a decrease of 55 percent. There has been a slight increase from July 1, 2003, to June 2004. At the end of June 2004, the TANF caseload stood at 33,218. Of the 100,637 TANF recipients enrolled in VIEW since 1995, almost 72,000 found employment and joined the work force by June 2004.

TANF was scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress before September 30, 2002. However, Congress has passed several continuing resolutions without passing comprehensive reauthorization legislation. Currently the program is operating under a continuing resolution through September 30, 2004. It is unclear whether the continuing resolution will be extended or a reauthorization bill will be passed this year.

Along with the unknown circumstances of federal legislation, the Commonwealth faced the significant barrier this year of an unbalanced TANF budget. Virginia receives a yearly block grant of slightly more than \$158 million. Unspent amounts remain in reserve for the Commonwealth for future years. In the initial stages of the block grant, Virginia developed a considerable surplus of funds attributed to the precipitous decline in TANF caseloads. Programs were then funded with the surplus amount. To balance the TANF budget for SFY 05, \$34 million needed to be cut from TANF spending. Mandatory programs were funded such as TANF cash assistance, the VIEW (including funds for hard-to-serve services) and the statutory rape awareness program. In addition, certain other programs were funded either at no reduction or at a 10% reduction. A competitive grant process has been initiated for the remaining TANF funded programs. To further balance the TANF budget, the General Assembly cut SFY 06 spending by \$6.9 million by adjusting the child support pass-through from \$7.8 million to \$3.9 million and eliminating the \$3.0 million TANF Reauthorization contingency.

Report on Projects Funded with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

Study Charge

The 2004 Appropriations Act, Item 365 (3) provides:

“[The Department of Social Services] shall report annually on September 15 to the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and DPB regarding spending; program results; clients served; the location, size, implementation status, and nature of projects funded with TANF funds; results of all formal evaluations; and recommendations for continuation, expansion, and redesign of the projects. Such report shall be combined with the report required by §63.2-619, Code of Virginia.” [Appendix A contains a copy of this section of the 2004 Appropriations Act.]

Projects Funded with the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Block Grant

Item 365 of the 2004 Appropriations Act provides for a spending strategy designed to protect families at risk and facilitate the transition to economic self-sufficiency. Federal TANF funds are being used to finance these strategies. Below is a description of the projects operated in SFY 2004.

Virginia Independence Program Implementation

The Virginia Independence Program (VIP) consists of two related but distinct sets of requirements for recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), eligibility requirements and work requirements. The policies that mandated the eligibility requirements were effective statewide on July 1, 1995. These eligibility policies encourage participants to take personal responsibility for their families by requiring TANF recipients to cooperate with paternity establishment, have their children attend school regularly and immunize their children. TANF recipients who do not meet these requirements are sanctioned. VIP eligibility policies also put a cap on benefits for children born more than ten months after TANF assistance is authorized.

VIP eligibility policies are instrumental in focusing TANF participants on personal responsibility, and program statistics show this to be true. The majority of recipients have complied with VIP policies and have not needed to be sanctioned for failure to cooperate with eligibility requirements.

The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW) is the work-related portion of VIP. Implementation of VIEW was phased in over a two-year period beginning in July 1995, and ending in October 1997. VIEW policies include:

- a requirement for participants to work within 90 days of receipt of TANF;
- a two-year time limit on TANF benefits; and
- a disregard for earned income up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

To implement VIP and VIEW, Virginia had to secure waivers of federal regulations. Key elements of the Virginia VIEW program include:

- parents of children over the age of 18 months have to participate;
- a two-year time limit on TANF benefits is imposed on families participating in VIEW;
- a full family sanction is allowed;
- the reconciliation process required for sanctioning is eliminated;
- a period of ineligibility can be imposed; and
- the signing of an "Agreement of Personal Responsibility" is required to continue receiving TANF.

Since VIP was implemented in July 1995, the TANF caseload has decreased significantly, from 70,797 to 31,998 by June 2003, a decrease of 55 percent. Since 2003, there has been a slight increase in participants to 33,218, or a 53 percent decrease over those enrolled in July 1995. Of the 100,637 TANF recipients enrolled in VIEW since 1995, almost 72,000 found employment and joined the work force by June 2004.

During SFY 04, 28,501 individuals were enrolled in the VIEW program. Of these, 19,302, or 68 percent of participants were engaged in a work activity. Sixty-four percent, or 18,233 participants, were employed with an average wage of \$6.89 per hour.

Partners in Prevention (Community-Based Non-marital Pregnancy Prevention Program)

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) received TANF funding of \$850,000 for SFY 04 to operate the Partners in Prevention (PIP) program. This program was established to encourage and support community-directed strategies to prevent and reduce the incidence of non-marital births.

In 1998, Virginia reported that 28.8 percent of all non-marital births were to youth aged 10-19 and 55.4 percent were to young adults aged 20-29 (Virginia Health Statistics Annual Report, Vol. I & III 1998). In 2002, Virginia reported that 24.6 percent of all non-marital births were to youth aged 10-19 and 59.7 percent were to young adults aged 20-29 (Virginia Health Statistics Annual Report, Vol. I & II, 2002).

In consideration of these findings, the PIP initiative targets a primary audience of young adults aged 20-29 to reduce the non-marital birth rate. This initiative has a secondary target audience of youth, aged 10-19. Areas of concern that each coalition addresses are as follow: marriage before conception; male responsibility; discouraging cohabitation outside of marriage; delaying sexual involvement until marriage; and discouraging high risk sexual behavior.

PIP employs creative strategies using media campaigns, direct intervention, and public forums. It also works in cooperation with similar initiatives such as the Virginia Abstinence Education Initiative, the Virginia Fatherhood Campaign, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative, and Family Planning. VDH awarded PIP funding to support 15 local Partners in Prevention coalitions representing 46 cities and counties.

In SFY 03, 26,502 participants received one-on-one client services and/or attended group educational trainings, workshops and/or camps, school presentations and similar activities. Based on random telephone surveys, it is estimated that billboards, brochures, bus ads, posters, flyers and radio and TV ads have made 26,547,719 impressions with the program's target audience.

A comparison between the 2001 (the latest statistics available from VDH) and 1997 non-marital birth rates in the localities with a PIP program indicates that 21 (44 percent) of the localities with a PIP program showed non-marital birth reductions, and 27 percent reduced their non-marital birth rates by over 2.0 percent.*

Virginia Abstinence Education Initiative

This program targets seventh through eleventh grade students in school-based abstinence education programs. Through these programs, students learn the importance of maintaining an abstinent lifestyle and postponing sexual involvement. Students receive classroom instruction, one-on-one sessions with abstinence educators and, in some cases, experiential learning sessions with peer educators. In SFY 04, VDH was allocated \$179,350 in TANF funds to develop social marketing products that will assist parents in talking about abstinence and sexuality with their pre-teens and teens.

The Virginia Abstinence Education Initiative (VAEI) conducted focus group research resulting in the development of a Parent Tool Kit designed as an educational tool for engaging in sexuality and relationship discussions with teens.

During SFY 04, the VAEI distributed 100,000 brochures concerning teen abstinence through the following programs and facilities: Right Choices for Youth, Girls Empowered to Make Success (GEMS), the Virginia Fatherhood Initiative, local health departments and selected schools. The program was responsible for the oversight and evaluation of the following four abstinence education programs:

- *Reasons of the Heart: Alliance for Families and Children* (Fairfax County and Fauquier County), serving 2,827 participants in SFY 04,
- *Individuals Abstaining 'Til Marriage: Alliance for Families and Children* (City of Lynchburg and Amherst County), serving 578 participants in SFY 04,

* SFY 04 year-end reports are currently being analyzed.

- *Very Important Person (VIP)*: Horizons Unlimited Ministries, Inc. (Newport News), serving 95 participants in SFY 04, and
- *My Choice, My Future!*: Powhatan County Department of Health (Powhatan County), this program has been restructured from being school-based to community-based during SFY 04.

A longitudinal research study is underway to measure the impact of abstinence education on a student's decision to engage in sexual activity.

Virginia Fatherhood Campaign

The VDH was allocated \$340,000 during SFY 04 to administer the Fatherhood Campaign. This initiative was established to address the many negative health and developmental outcomes of a father's absence from the family. These include greater risks of teen pregnancy, higher rates of childhood diseases, greater risk of substance abuse and school dropout.

The fatherhood initiative offers programs for fathers who live apart from their children and who need to increase their capacity to provide emotional and financial support for them. In order to strengthen families in Virginia and reduce family economic dependence on government, the fatherhood initiative is devoted to involving fathers in supporting their children, keeping fathers involved with their children and families, and improving the quality of parenting. During SFY 04, six community-based fatherhood programs were funded by the fatherhood initiative. A total of 668 fathers regularly attended scheduled group sessions during the course of the year. The program participants had the following characteristics:

- 410 (61 percent) were unmarried, non-custodial parents
- One participant was married since joining the program
- 240 (36 percent) had child support cases with the Division of Child Support Enforcement,
- 332 (50 percent) established paternity since joining the program,
- One participant established a child support order since joining the program,
- 144 (22 percent) have been making regular child support payments since joining the program,
- 136 (20 percent) have gained employment since joining the program, and
- 211 (32 percent) have maintained employment since joining the program.

Fatherhood Campaign activities are offered through community workshops, community grants, training, brochures/posters, and technical assistance for public and private non-profit family service providers. During SFY 04, 93 community outreach events were held reaching 5,547 individuals across the state. In addition, 1,540 fatherhood initiative radio public service ads were aired across the Commonwealth; 43,500 brochures and posters were distributed to fathers in the state; and 900 social workers were trained to work with fathers.

Domestic Violence Services

TANF funds in the amount of \$1,187,500 was appropriated for SFY 04 for domestic violence services. No funds were appropriated for administration of the program. The services provided are crisis and core services to victims of domestic violence including 24-hour crisis telephone service, shelter, crisis counseling, supportive counseling, information and referral, transportation, coordination of services, legal advocacy, and basic children's services for children of victims of domestic violence. The target population served is pregnant women and women with dependent children.

In SFY 04, the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Domestic Violence Prevention Services Program renewed 47 contracts for local domestic violence services throughout the Commonwealth. Thirty-five of the local programs received funding from TANF. The following is a breakdown of services provided:

- 2,589 adults received advocacy;
- 862 adults received legal advocacy;
- 1,160 adults received shelter; and
- 2,461 adults whose children received advocacy.

Community Action Agencies

The Community Action Network consists of 26 local agencies that provide an array of services for low-income families and individuals. TANF funds are used to provide a wide variety of services to needy families including emergency services; job readiness and employment services; case management services; supportive services including child care and transportation to employed families; cars for work programs; individual development account programs; housing services; intensive life skills training for families who are at risk of losing children to foster care; and computer skills. The appropriation for these programs in SFY 04 included \$3,367,775 from federal TANF block grant funds.

The program is targeted to serve needy families with minor children. Localities served by the community action agencies are listed below:

Accomack County	Halifax County	Wise County
Albemarle County	Henry County	Wythe County
Alleghany County	Isle of Wight County	Alexandria
Amelia County	James City County	Bedford
Amherst County	King and Queen County	Bristol
Appomattox County	King William County	Buena Vista
Arlington County	Lee County	Charlottesville
Bedford County	Louisa County	Chesapeake
Bland County	Lunenburg County	Clifton Forge
Botetourt County	Madison County	Covington
Brunswick County	Montgomery County	Danville

Buchanan County	Nelson County	Emporia
Buckingham County	New Kent County	Franklin
Campbell County	Northampton County	Galax
Caroline County	Nottoway County	Hampton
Carroll County	Orange County	Lexington
Charles City County	Patrick County	Lynchburg
Charlotte County	Pittsylvania County	Martinsville
Craig County	Powhatan County	Newport News
Cumberland County	Prince Edward County	Norfolk
Dickenson County	Pulaski County	Norton
Fairfax County	Roanoke County	Petersburg
Fauquier County	Rockbridge County	Portsmouth
Floyd County	Russell County	Radford
Fluvanna County	Scott County	Richmond
Franklin County	Smyth County	Roanoke
Giles County	Southampton County	Salem
Goochland County	Surry County	South Boston
Grayson County	Sussex County	Suffolk
Greene County	Tazewell County	Virginia Beach
Greensville County	Washington County	Williamsburg

During SFY 04, these TANF funds were used to expand the services provided by community action agencies. The following is a list of outcomes achieved by local community action programs and services funded with TANF:

- 8,526 households consisting of 23,669 individuals had their emergency needs ameliorated;
- 281 parents were able to work due to assistance with child care;
- 102 individuals were able to obtain or maintain employment due to transportation services;
- 108 individuals received job readiness services;
- 223 individuals secured new or improved employment;
- 27,092 children were fed in summer feeding programs;
- 698 children from 665 families received Head Start services partially supported by TANF funds;
- 242 youth in Project Discovery programs, partially supported by TANF, participated in activities designed to encourage and prepare them to attend college or other post-secondary educational institutions;
- 94 parents improved their parenting skills;
- 106 families consisting of 307 individuals received Domestic Violence counseling, emergency assistance, and/or emergency housing;
- 232 individuals improved their computer literacy skills so as to secure or improve their employment opportunities;
- 249 families had their homes weatherized;
- 30 families purchased their first homes;
- 28 high school drop-outs returned to school;

- 72 families experiencing domestic violence were provided emergency shelter;
- 35 households consisting of 94 individuals received indoor plumbing and housing rehabilitation services;
- 39 households consisting of 106 individuals were able to secure improved housing;
- 69 families received minor home repairs;
- 32 families received assistance in repairing their water and wastewater systems;
- 39 of 44 individuals released from prison avoided re-incarceration for six months as a result of counseling, assistance and support received from community action ex-offender programs partially funded by TANF;
- 53 families were able to retain housing as a result of housing and financial management/budget counseling;
- 618 families increased their access to quality health care resources,
- 103 healthy births occurred in families receiving “Healthy Baby” services from programs partially funded by TANF;
- 126 students received services to improve academic success,
- 89 low-income youth improved their computer literacy skills;
- 17 families met their savings goals by participating in Individual Development Account (IDA) programs;
- 12 youth gained work experience and income through summer youth employment programs; and
- 86 families containing 171 individuals achieved improved and/or stabilized quality of life in areas of education, income, housing and health as a result of case management and family development services.

Centers for Employment Training

The Centers for Employment Training (CET) received \$637,500 in TANF funding for SFY 04. Four of the five organizations that received funds are community action agencies with the fifth organization existing as a single-purpose agency. The TANF funds are used to provide a variety of employment services to needy families.

The Alexandria CET (not a community action agency) serves Arlington, Fairfax City and County and the City of Alexandria. Alexandria CET students successfully gained employment in the following four skill areas: office skills, building maintenance, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and medical administration. On average, a student’s wages increased 223 percent, from an annual income of \$11,150 before training to an annual income of \$24,850 after training.

The Lynchburg Community Action Group serves Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford and Campbell counties and the cities of Bedford and Lynchburg. Lynchburg Community Action Group works with individuals who are not only looking for employment, but who are also interested in upgrading their skills for better employment. Each participant receives hands-on training and, if needed, remedial education, General Educational Development (GED) preparation, and GED testing.

People, Incorporated serves Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell and Washington counties and the City of Bristol. Activities and services include comprehensive assessment, basic education skills, communication skills, job readiness training, supportive services including transportation

and childcare, and classroom training. The classroom training provides the client with Microsoft Office 2000 technology skills. The program has a 93 percent placement rate with such industries as Boise Cascade, AT&T, Travelocity, Sprint and many local small businesses. One hundred percent (100 percent) of participants exiting the program had or achieved a high school diploma or GED.

The Southeastern Tidewater Opportunity Project serves Isle of Wight and Southampton counties and the cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach. CET in the Tidewater area works with the community, area agencies and local businesses to provide training, support and placement. Due to the increased demand for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), CET has focused efforts on training to provide qualified CNAs. Employers that work with CET to hire graduates include Autumn Care, A-1 Care, Personal Touch, Obici Hospital and Riverside Convalescent. A number of graduates are now enrolled in licensed practical nurse classes.

The Total Action Against Poverty's (TAP) CET program called, "This Valley Works," serves Allegheny, Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke and Rockbridge counties and the cities of Buena Vista, Clifton Forge, Covington, Lexington, Roanoke and Salem. TAP provides training in office automation, warehouse work, and building maintenance/construction. In addition to technical skills training, staff assisted participants in overcoming a variety of serious barriers to employment. Noteworthy examples of success include the office automation student who designed a data base for the program; a foreign student who obtained her GED, work papers, secured employment, purchased a car and enrolled in a local community college with a goal of becoming a paralegal; and a female participant interested in warehouse work who is now employed as a forklift operator.

Virginia's five CET programs achieved the following program results during SFY 04:

- 154 individuals were served,
- 96 (62.3%), of the total individuals served, were placed in either full-time or part-time employment,
- 59 (38.3%), of the total individuals served, were placed in full-time employment,
- 37 (24.0%), of the total individuals served, were placed in part-time employment,
- 32 (20.8), of the total individuals served, have increased their work hours, and
- 35 (22.7%), of the total individuals served, have increased their rate of pay.

Food Banks

Food banks consist of a variety of organizations that distribute food to low-income families. Some work directly with families and others are collection and distribution centers for smaller agencies. The appropriation for food bank initiatives was \$250,000 in each year of the 2002-2003 biennium from the federal TANF block grant. TANF funding for the food banks was used for expanded services to needy families as follows:

Federation of Virginia Foodbanks, statewide

- Kids Café Program

The Federation of Virginia Food Banks, through its seven member regional food banks, expanded its Kids Café Program into communities across the Commonwealth in which at-risk and low-income children were not served or were underserved. This program provides nutrition, educational and social activities, and mentoring in safe, stable neighborhood environments to low-income and at-risk children under the age of 18. Utilizing trained staff and volunteers, Food Banks and community nonprofit and public sponsors provide nutritious meals, snacks and other services to children after school and during holidays.

Utilizing TANF funds, 28 new Kids Café sites were opened, bringing the total statewide to 137 sites. An additional 2,509 new children were enrolled and provided 104,372 meals utilizing 139,779 pounds of food product, with a stronger emphasis on providing more fresh fruits and vegetables.

- Food for Kids Program

The Food for Kids project initiated last year in Northern Virginia was expanded this year into Tidewater through the Food Bank of Virginia Peninsula. This project provided children with adequate and nutritious “kid friendly” meals and snacks that were sent home on Fridays for the children to consume during the weekend.

The Food for Kids project utilized TANF and in-kind dollars to serve 1,412 new at-risk children, distributing 48,333 weekend meals utilizing 66,172 pounds of food product.

- Super Pantry Project

The Federation also sponsored the Super Pantry project, a seven-week life skills training and nutrition program implemented by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network in nine (9) cities and (25) twenty-five counties. While introducing nutrition into the family and providing balanced meals in class and ingredients for the student to prepare as part of their “homework,” it also teaches vital skills so that families can be strengthened and become more self-sufficient. In addition to food handling and preparation, the curriculum focuses on parenting skills, budgeting and financial management, smart shopping, understanding product labels, job readiness, self-esteem and briefings on a variety of low-income assistance programs.

The Super Pantry Project implemented by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank Network conducted 37 courses attended by 270 families consisting of 775 individuals including 358 children. Fifteen thousand, five hundred and twenty-eight (15,528) meals utilizing 56,562 pounds of food were provided as part of the nutrition, cooking and life skills curriculum and distributed to students for preparation at home.

- Commodities Nutrition and Education Project

The final project sponsored by the Federation was the Commodities Nutrition and Education project. Funds were used to introduce federal commodities and nutrition education into the lives of families with children previously not served, with an emphasis on those located in the isolated, remote and rural communities of southwest Virginia. By providing funding for the receipt, inventory, storage and distribution of commodities, nutritious foods were accessed by hundreds of unserved TANF eligible families with children in the service area of Southwestern Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Commodities Nutrition and Education project recruited 34 new distribution agencies, 17 of which are located in rural communities. Seven thousand and forty-four (7,044) families consisting of 23,625 individuals including 10,190 children under age 18 were reached for the first time through this initiative. A total of 226,795 pounds of food products were distributed in SFY 04. Project costs totaled \$86,115, of which only \$22,117 (25.68 percent) was made up of TANF funding.

Food for Others, Fairfax, Virginia

The Food for Others “Milk and Eggs” project provided 513 low-income TANF-eligible families with one gallon of milk and a dozen eggs. When needy families are referred to Food for Others for emergency food assistance, they receive a week’s supply of food from its supply of donated food. Since milk and eggs are never donated, TANF funds were used to purchase and distribute fresh milk and eggs as a supplement to their normal food products.

The Food for Others “Holiday Assistance” project provided holiday baskets to 858 low-income families with children. TANF funds were used to purchase turkeys, chickens and stuffing mixes to supplement the donated food provided in the baskets.

United Community Ministries, Inc., Alexandria, Virginia

United Community Ministries (UCM) administers a comprehensive food services program that addresses emergency food needs and provides intake, screening and assessment, development of a simple service plan and assistance with information and referrals. Like many food banks, the food donated to UCM almost never includes perishable items. As a result, TANF funds were used to purchase milk, eggs and cheese to supplement the food products normally distributed to over 4,000 low-income individuals who apply for emergency assistance.

Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Projects

TANF funds of \$200,000 were distributed to five child abuse and neglect advocacy projects. These projects provide for the investigation, prosecution, case management and treatment of child abuse and neglect.

TANF funds are used to expand the mental health treatment component of the projects. Child abuse/neglect treatment services include crisis intervention, mental health assessment and treatment, parent education, family treatment, or child and family support groups. Services focus on safely maintaining children in their own homes or in the homes of relatives. The projects target victims of child abuse or neglect and their families.

Areas served by the child abuse advocacy projects include the following: southwest Virginia including Bristol, Washington County and the Lenowisco Planning District; and Franklin, Mathews and Frederick Counties, including the City of Winchester.

During SFY 04, the five child abuse/neglect advocacy projects served 419 families that included 544 children. Treatment outcomes were measured for improvements in child safety, health and well-being, and parent-child relationships. Of the 67 families completing TANF funded treatment services, 51 families showed improvement in all of these areas, two families showed improvement in two areas, ten families had no change and four families deteriorated.

A state chapter affiliated with the National Child Advocacy Center was developed in 2002 to support the growth, development and continuation of the Child Advocacy Centers. Members of the state chapter receive assistance in policy development including interagency agreements, protocols and procedures. Quarterly network meetings are held.

Continuum of Housing Services

The General Assembly designated \$4,910,128 million in federal TANF block grant funds for SFY 04 for non-recurrent, short-term housing services for the TANF eligible population. The appropriation was combined with state general funds to expand three existing programs:

- The State Homeless Housing Assistance Resources (SHARE) Shelter Support Grant provided emergency assistance for TANF-eligible families. Supportive services included the following: housing; clothing; food; job training; life skills training; case management; and information and referral. In SFY 04, 3,061 families received shelter and services through this program. The outcomes were continued operation of shelter facilities, and provision of essential supportive services to homeless families necessary to reach self-sufficiency. Thirty-one percent of the families served were transitioned to permanent housing.
- The Child Care Coordinator Grant supported salaries of full-time and part-time service coordinators who arrange intensive social services needed by children in emergency shelters and transitional housing. Services included referrals for health assessments and immunizations; establishing procedures for dealing with infectious diseases in facilities; and handling matters dealing with sexual abuse and prevention, school, and education. In SFY 04, 2,922 homeless children received services. The outcomes were as follows: improved access to health care; education for basic preventive health practices (nutrition, hand washing and so forth); improved mental health, particularly relating to the psychological effects of homelessness and domestic violence; and greater success in schools through tutoring programs and coordination with Project HOPE which is the

Virginia Education Program for Homeless Children and Youth. Fifty percent of the children received health assessments and 28 percent of the children received mental health evaluations.

- The SHARE Homeless Intervention Program provides up to four months of rental assistance to TANF eligible clients. Other non-TANF funds may extend the assistance up to nine months. In SFY 04, 560 TANF eligible families received rental assistance and 383 families exited the program. Of the exiting families, 71 percent were able to maintain existing housing while 18 percent secured new housing. Clients received counseling on budgeting and housing and completed a self-sufficiency plan; 92 percent of the exiting families received counseling on budgeting. The outcomes were prevention of homelessness as a result of a crisis outside the family's control for 340 families and assistance for those families to regain and maintain self-sufficiency.

Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP of VA)

The mission of CHIP of VA is to "improve children's health and promote wellness and self-sufficiency in low-income families, through partnerships with local communities." CHIP of VA programs are local public/private partnerships, which provide comprehensive health supervision, family support and referral to medical and dental services for low-income at-risk children. CHIP programs provide home-based case management which helps identified families connect to needed services. While improved child health is the primary goal, parents of enrolled children also develop skills to increase their self-sufficiency and care for their children.

CHIP's efforts to match families to comprehensive preventive and primary care providers, coupled with family support services, guides families to the effective use of health care and other community resources. CHIP nurses and outreach staff work with families to develop plans for improving health and nutrition, increasing home safety and stability, and enhancing education and employability. The appropriation for the program was \$2,245,155 in SFY 04 from the federal TANF block grant.

Currently, CHIP of Virginia funds 11 sites, serving children in 30 localities across the state. Sites are located in Arlington, Charlottesville, Chesapeake, New River Valley-Radford, Norfolk, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Richmond, Roanoke, Southwest-Abingdon and Williamsburg. During SFY 04, CHIP nurses and outreach workers performed 26,436 home visits to enrolled families, and had a total of 31,084 face-to-face contacts.

The four CHIP core services are:

- **Screening, Assessment and Planning:** Services include assessing the family and child strengths and needs, leading to the development of family service plans. Assessments include child health, development and safety; family wellness and stability; parent work experience and employability.
- **Education and Support:** Services include assisting parents in acquiring parenting skills, learning about growth and development, promoting the health and well-being of their families and increasing self-sufficiency.

- Follow-Up: Activities include ensuring that necessary services are received by families, and are effective in meeting their needs.
- Referral and Outreach: Services include linking families to available community resources and ensuring connection to appropriate community agencies.

Ninety-three percent of CHIP families received all four core services.

A key component of CHIP's case management activities is ensuring effective use of community resources. During SFY 04, CHIP staff members made over 11,100 referrals to community services.

Summary of SFY 04 contacts with community service providers:

- 1,238 contacts with local departments of social services;
- 783 contacts with WIC;
- 493 contacts with schools;
- 534 contacts with emergency resource providers;
- 367 contacts regarding Medicaid applications;
- 331 contacts with housing services;
- 235 contacts with Child Protective Services;
- 217 contacts with mental health services;
- 203 contacts with employment services; and
- Numerous other contacts with doctors, dentists and other health services providers.

CHIP staff work with families to help them assess their needs and resources and to develop plans to meet those needs. In SFY 04, CHIP had 8,001 encounters with families, during which a family needs assessment was performed, and they had 3,138 encounters involving service plan facilitation. Of families actively enrolled in CHIP, 72 percent of them were engaged in family needs assessment and/or service plan facilitation during SFY 04. Family service planning targets outcomes related to both health and self-sufficiency, and families enrolled in CHIP have demonstrated positive outcomes in both areas.

CHIP works to ensure that every enrolled child has and uses a medical home, that is, a primary care provider who provides both well- and sick-child care, offers comprehensive, coordinated, family-centered care; and is available around-the-clock. Within one year of enrollment, 90 percent of CHIP children are up-to-date on their immunizations. (An additional 3 percent of children are on-track with immunizations. They are not fully up-to-date, often because of a late start, but have been given as many immunizations as allowable.)

CHIP service providers help mothers understand the positive effects of healthy birth spacing. Research demonstrates that both mothers and children benefit when there are at least 24 months between births. Only 5.2 percent of mothers enrolled in CHIP for more than one year have subsequent deliveries less than 24 months after their previous ones. CHIP's support to pregnant women has also led to positive birth outcomes for children. Children born to mothers who were enrolled in CHIP at least four months prior to delivery were less likely to be delivered prematurely and less likely to be born with low birth weight.

Of the mothers and fathers who have not received their high school diploma or GED prior to enrollment, 11 percent of mothers and 7 percent of fathers had successfully done so after two years of program services. In addition, after one year of program services, 43 percent of families have one or both parents employed (compared to 35 percent at enrollment). During the first year of CHIP services, 52 percent of families have at least one parent employed or participating in a training program.

Family stability also shows improvements after enrollment in CHIP. After one year of program services, the number of families reporting an unmet food need decreased by 7 percent, the number of families reporting an unmet transportation need decreased by 15 percent, and the number of families reporting an unmet child care need decreased by 2 percent.

Healthy Families

The Healthy Families model is designed to promote positive parenting, improve child health and development, and reduce child abuse and neglect. The model uses home visiting as the cornerstone of the approach to reach families with young children.

Families become involved with the program during pregnancy or at birth. A Healthy Families Assessment Worker completes a Family Needs Assessment. If a family is identified as being at high risk of child maltreatment and in need of support services, that family is offered the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the Healthy Families program. When families accept services, comprehensive home visiting is initiated, and Family Support Workers monitor and follow up on prenatal, postnatal and pediatric care. Those parents whose Family Needs Assessments identify other levels of potential support are offered information and referrals to other community resources.

Healthy Families programs offer voluntary and frequent home visiting services for up to five years to families who agree to participate. The services include in-home parenting education, child development, preventive health care and support services to parents who need and want individualized and comprehensive support. Families participating in Healthy Families are assigned a Family Support Worker who provides in-home services based on developing a trusting relationship with families and building on family strengths. Family needs are assessed and an Individualized Family Support Plan is developed. This plan includes short and long-term family goals and strategies for achieving them. They may include staying in school, finding a job or a better place to live, developing effective parenting techniques, home management skills, ensuring well baby care and so forth. The plan becomes a guide for service provision and involves linking the family with appropriate community resources to help meet all of their identified needs.

For SFY 04, \$4,374,800 in federal TANF block grant funds and \$125,000 in general funds (for a total of \$4,499,800) was available for the Healthy Families program. Based on reports from the funded sites, and recognizing some sites may have reported on all served by the program rather than TANF funding alone, 5,088 adults and 4,041 children were served during SFY 04.

The program serves 85 cities and counties in Virginia. Localities served by Healthy Families are listed below:

Alexandria	Arlington	Harrisonburg
Staunton	Waynesboro	Augusta County
Bath County	Highland County	Rockingham County
Bedford	Bedford County	Lynchburg
Appomattox County	Amherst County	Charles City County
New Kent County	Charlottesville	Albemarle County
Chesterfield County	Colonial Heights	Culpeper
Danville	Pittsylvania County	Fairfax County
Fairfax City	Falls Church	Fauquier County
Hampton	Henrico County	Hopewell
Prince George County	Loudoun County	Newport News
Winchester	Clark County	Frederick County
Orange County	Petersburg	Amelia County
Buckingham County	Charlotte County	Cumberland County
Lunenburg County	Nottoway County	Prince Edward County
Manassas	Manassas Park	Prince William County
Fredericksburg	Caroline County	King George County
Spotsylvania County	Stafford County	Richmond City
Shenandoah County	Chesapeake	Norfolk
Portsmouth	Suffolk	Isle of Wight County
Essex County	Gloucester County	King William County
King & Queen County	Lancaster County	Mathews County
Middlesex County	Northumberland County	Richmond County
Westmoreland County	Virginia Beach	Martinsville
Franklin County	Patrick County	Henry County
Accomack County	Northampton County	Madison County
Rappahannock County	Lee County	Scott County
Wise County	Norton	Warren County
Campbell County		

Evaluation results are not yet available for SFY 04. Healthy Families Virginia contracts with Joseph Galano, Ph.D. of the Applied Social Psychology Research Institute at the College of William and Mary, and Lee Huntington, Ph.D., of Huntington Associates, Ltd. to analyze the Healthy Families data collected from local sites. The Department of Psychology at the College of William & Mary and Huntington Associates, Ltd., have completed five annual Healthy Families Virginia evaluation reports for the Healthy Families Virginia Initiative and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia. They have also completed a benchmark study for the Hampton Healthy Families Partnership measuring community-wide impact over a decade.

The state fiscal year ended June 30, 2004. The data is being analyzed and the SFY 04 evaluation report will be available in the fall of 2004. The following evaluation information is excerpted from the Statewide Evaluation for SFY 03 prepared by Dr. Galano and Dr. Huntington.

The FY 2000 – 2003 Statewide Evaluation Report provides the results of the outcome evaluation of 34 Healthy Families sites. The summary is based on outcome evaluation of eight sites that did not participate in the HFV statewide evaluation project as well as data from 26 sites using the Program Information Management System (PIMS). The following bullet items are notable excerpts on outcomes from the report:

- **Child Abuse and Neglect:** Across 21 sites and 1,747 cases, the rate of founded cases of abuse and neglect among participating families was only 0.97 percent. This is very low, especially considering the characteristics of the participating sample. Four times as many Healthy Families participants were in the CPS Central Registry as childhood victims of maltreatment than as perpetrators.
- **Healthy Birth Weight:** Eighty-eight percent of the babies born to the 948 prenatal enrollees were within the healthy birth weight range surpassing the state criterion. Across the state, 84 percent of all sites attained or surpassed the criterion. The percentage of full birth weight represents a considerable improvement over the FY 2001 statewide rate of 77 percent.
- **Connection to Medical Care Providers:** Approximately 87.5 percent of the 2,800 births to mothers enrolled in Healthy Families programs using PIMS had a primary medical care provider within two months of enrollment. In addition, 87 percent of those children continued with health care providers after six months of participation in the program. This overall level of performance surpassed the statewide criterion set for established programs.
- **Immunizations:** Eighty-five percent of the 5,081 children in both PIMS and non-PIMS sites received 100 percent of their 16 scheduled immunizations. This level of performance surpasses the demanding statewide objective, exceeds the Virginia average of 64.8 percent, and far exceeds the immunization rate for comparable high-risk families of 57.34 percent. This performance is clearly superior not only to the rates for high-risk families, but also to the rates for the Virginia general population.
- **Child Development:** Healthy Families Programs succeeded in ensuring the referral of children with suspected delays to early intervention services and following children to ensure the receipt of services. Many programs, however, experience difficulty in conducting semi-annual screenings of all children.
- **Maternal Health Outcomes:** Of the 2,756 mothers enrolled in the Healthy Families programs, 47 percent (386 teen and 912 non-teen) were enrolled long enough to merit inclusion in this evaluation component. After the targeted 24-month interval, 91.4 percent of the teen mothers had no subsequent births, and 2.3 percent had a subsequent birth; this represents a 94 percent success rate. Ninety-two percent of the non-teen mothers had no subsequent births, and four percent had births after the targeted 24-month interval, representing a 96 percent success rate. These delays in subsequent child birth are associated with higher educational attainment, improved child health, increased future job status and decreased infant homicide.

- **Parent-Child Interaction:** In FY 2003, 12 Healthy Families programs (twice as many as the previous year) conducted the required assessments necessary to evaluate the parent-child interaction objective, and 14 sites (four more than last year) followed families long enough to evaluate the home environment. Ten of the 12 sites surpassed the statewide criterion that at least 85 percent of participants demonstrate acceptable levels of parent-child interaction or experience improvement after one year of participation. In addition, the level of performance at several of the sites surpassed the criterion in the area of optimizing the home environment. Overall, Healthy Families participants displayed greater sensitivity to their children's cues, greater understanding of their children's development, less overall stress and rigidity and greater knowledge of alternative methods of discipline.

St. Paul's College Pilot Program

St. Paul's College is located in Lawrenceville, Brunswick County, Virginia. This initiative, the "Single Parent Support System" (SPSS), is a pilot program designed to address the post-secondary educational needs of single TANF parents who have completed high school, have one or two children between one and ten years of age and have been admitted to St. Paul's college. The program outcome is directed toward increasing the self-sufficiency of those participating. The appropriation for this program from the TANF block grant was \$185,000 for the state fiscal years of 2003 and 2004.

The SPSS is a twelve month residential program. Enrolled parents carry a full load of courses, including summer school, leading to a degree in four years. Parents and their children are housed on campus in small apartments. Child care is provided on campus at the College's Child Development Center, which also serves other families in the college community and in Lawrenceville.

Academically, participants are treated the same as all other St. Paul's students. In addition, participants are required to attend a weekly SPSS seminar with activities and programs designed to enhance achievement or success in academics, parenting and employment.

Under the terms of the contract, participants are required to graduate in four years, maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average, be employed in a job related to their career and not have additional children while enrolled in the program. Participants who do not maintain the required 2.5 grade point average are given additional tutorial assistance on a regular basis. Thirteen participants began the 2004 academic year; three dropped out during the first semester and ten successfully completed it. All ten students were employed and are scheduled to complete their college requirements within four years. At the end of the 2004 spring semester, one participant had a grade point average of 3.5 and three others had grade point averages between 3.0 and 3.4. One student graduated in May of 2004, and is currently enrolled in a graduate program at Howard University where she is seeking a Masters Degree in Education. A second participant completed her required course work for graduation during the first summer session in 2004, and will receive her diploma in May of 2005. St. Paul's is projecting a program enrollment of fifteen during its 2004-2005 academic year.

Economic Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons

The Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons is designed to improve the employability of disadvantaged persons through education and skills training. Services provided by the grantees include training programs designed to meet specific employer needs, possible wage paying activities, and employment and career paths that provide higher paying wages and benefits. The training programs also include job training, work-study, internship, apprenticeship, job shadowing and part-time employment. This program targets individuals returning to the community from federal and state correctional institutions, chronically unemployed or hard-to-employ and those displaced by technical advances in industry. The goal is to provide transitional assistance which moves individuals into lasting unsubsidized employment, leading to economic self-sufficiency. The appropriation for the Economic and Employment Improvement Program for Disadvantaged Persons was \$170,000 in federal TANF block grant funds for fiscal year 2004. The contract performance period ended June 30, 2004.

During SFY 04, 206 participants were served. The program successfully placed 110 participants in unsubsidized employment, a 53 percent placement rate. The programs operated in the following locations during SFY 04:

- Culpeper Department of Social Services, Culpeper
- Danville Community College, Danville
- New Visions, New Ventures, Inc., Richmond
- Tidewater Community College, Norfolk
- Total Action Against Poverty, Roanoke

Opportunity Knocks Program

The Opportunity Knocks program is designed to improve the employability of disadvantaged young parents (ages 18-30) through education and skills training. Services provided include training programs designed to meet specific employer needs, possible wage paying activities, and employment and career paths that provide higher paying wages and benefits. The training programs can also include job training, work-study, internship, apprenticeship, job shadowing and part-time employment. The goal is to provide transitional assistance which moves individuals into lasting unsubsidized employment, leading to economic self-sufficiency. The appropriation for the Opportunity Knocks program was \$425,000 for fiscal year 2004 from the federal TANF block grant.

The Opportunity Knocks program augments educational and employment options available to Virginia's disadvantaged young parents and those at-risk. The program is designed to meet the needs of persons that have not fared well in traditional programs.

During SFY 04, enrollments totaled 315 participants in twenty one months of operation from October 1, 2002, through June 30, 2004. The program successfully placed 201 clients in unsubsidized employment, a 64 percent placement rate. The contract performance period ended June 30, 2004.

The programs operated in the following sites:

- People, Inc. of Southwest Virginia, Abingdon
- Total Action Against Poverty, Roanoke
- New Visions, New Ventures, Inc., Richmond
- Shenandoah Valley Workforce Investment Board/Project 1-2-1, Harrisonburg
- Opportunity Inc., Norfolk
- Capital Area Workforce Investment Board, Sandston
- Roanoke Department of Social Services, Roanoke
- Danville Community College, Danville
- Culpeper Department of Social Services, Culpeper
- Training and Development Corporation/Richmond Career Advancement Center, Richmond

Grants for the Hard-to-Serve

Barriers to employment among welfare recipients have emerged as a concern given work requirements and time limits on welfare. Several major and inter-related initiatives funded from the TANF block grant have begun to address these issues:

- Hard-to-Serve Projects for Services to TANF Clients with Multiple and Severe Barriers to Employment. The General Assembly designated \$2.55 million for SFY 04 and all funds were expended.
- Initiatives for TANF Clients with Disabilities. This included both a special appropriation of \$711,875 for specialized employment services from employment service organizations and other vendors and \$350,000 for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services' (VDSS) purchase of services for employment purposes. About \$1 million was expended.
- Substance Abuse Projects. The Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (VDMHMRSAS) received \$382,000 from VDSS to administer a program (TANF/LINK) in three areas of the state. All funds were expended.

Hard-to-Serve Projects: The VDSS allocated funds to local departments of social services (LDSS) for their continuation of selected Hard-to-Serve community projects which began in the previous biennium. Due to reductions in funding, only 25 of the original 40 Hard-to-Serve projects were selected to receive funding for another fiscal year.

All projects have strong partnerships between LDSS and community service providers; over one-half involved multiple departments (such as the Russell County Project with 11 participating LDSS). Projects have focused on barriers to employment and have supported diverse service approaches and strategies to help TANF clients find and maintain employment. The majority of the grants focused on addressing the following barriers to employment:

- domestic violence;
- low educational levels;
- learning disabilities;
- other cognitive impairments;
- mental health disorders;
- substance abuse issues; and
- transportation.

Providing services to clients with these issues required, in all projects, intensive screening, assessment and diagnostics. The LDSS used psychologists, clinicians, social workers and other professionals to perform this work. This further required:

- coordination among various professionals;
- priority access for TANF clients to on-site specialized testing and other services;
- continued development of new programs to address employment barriers (for example, "Bridges to Practice" has focused on learning disabilities and "Workplace Essential Skills" has focused on low levels of literacy. Both programs have emphasized improving skills for the purposes of obtaining and retaining employment);
- intensive case management and related services;
- treatment services;
- transportation for services and employment;
- facilitation of job entry and job placement; and
- job coaching and job retention services.

The following is a preliminary count of clients who have received services through Hard-to-Serve projects and is based on tentative annual data:

Primary Services Provided	Number of Clients Receiving Service	Number of Clients Employed
Assessment	1,612	731
Intensive Case Management	364	199
Domestic Violence Services	188	59
Education	282	190
Job Readiness and Retention Training	1406	745
Learning Disability Services	437	217
Mental Health	60	30
Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse Services	675	326

Primary Services Provided	Number of Clients Receiving Service	Number of Clients Employed
Substance Abuse	38	6
Training (job skills)	203	117
Transportation (car purchase)	17	8
Vocational Counseling	176	83
Workplace supports (including job coaching)	637	420

Since many individuals have more than one issue that impedes employment, TANF clients often received more than one service. Services received were related, in part, to the project design.

Initiatives for TANF Clients with Disabilities: In FY 04, VDRS expended statewide approximately \$350,000 of TANF funds to serve an estimated 900 TANF clients with disabilities. About one-third of the clients were identified with a learning disability as the primary disability; one-fourth, with mental illness; one-tenth each with a medical condition, mental retardation or orthopedic impairment. Substance abuse was identified as a primary disability for about eight percent of the population served. Forty-two percent had mental health identified as the secondary disability category, clearly the leading secondary factor.

The services provided included:

- diagnosis and evaluation of disability;
- identification and resolution of barriers to employment including accommodations;
- employment preparation activities;
- skills development needed to become employed;
- securing unsubsidized employment; and
- vocational counseling and guidance needed to remain employed.

The VDSS and VDRS collaborated extensively to deliver effective and efficient work programs that support the capacity-building efforts of their respective local offices and that address specific problems and issues other partners have in serving TANF clients with disabilities.

Of the approximately 900 TANF clients served, 392 were new applicants this fiscal year. VDRS reported that 198 Individualized Plans for Employment were written. A total of 105 persons were employed, with 128 achieving at least 90 days of stable employment per job. The average wage ranged from \$5.15 in the western part of the state to over \$7.90 in the Tidewater area and \$8.78 in the Northern Virginia area.

Services to TANF clients with disabilities were expanded through allocation of TANF disability funds to 14 LDSS. They led and coordinated the purchase of specialized employment

services from Employment Services Organizations (ESOs), Centers for Independent Living (CILs), and other vendors. TANF clients with disabilities in about 40 localities received an array of employment and other related services. Many of the clients also received services from VDRS. Other LDSS also purchased specialized employment services, primarily using TANF Job Retention funds.

Substance Abuse Projects: These projects, called TANF-LINK, focused on substance abuse, one of the many problems that can interfere with employment and job retention. Since 1999, VDMHMRSAS has allocated funds to three community services boards (CSBs) serving Norfolk, Richmond, and Roanoke County and Roanoke City. The three CSBs fully expended the annual project allocation of \$382,293 (same level of funding as in prior years) and supplemented TANF with other funds to provide services to participants.

These three CSBs have been the primary providers of family-centered and community-based substance abuse services offered to TANF recipients residing in these communities. Clinicians staff the projects, and services included the following: screening and assessment; specialized case management; on-site treatment services; and referral to other treatment programs such as detoxification, residential care and mental health services. The TANF-LINK projects also collaborated with VDRS, which offers specialized employment services through Welfare to Work funds. During SFY 04, these projects achieved the following:

- provided some level of substance abuse services to over 500 individuals,
- received 817 referrals for screening and/or assessment,
- assessed 534 individuals substance abuse and other conditions,
- identified 261 new individuals in need of substance abuse services, and
- provided substance abuse case management to about 450 individuals, including those continuing to receive services from the prior year.

These services have helped TANF individuals overcome substance abuse and prepare themselves to enter the workplace and obtain and maintain employment. Services also have addressed conditions that delay participation in a treatment program or impede recovery such as homelessness and poor housing, as well as other situations that cause family instability and increase the risk of job loss.

Girls Empowered To Make Success (Resource Mothers Sibling Program)

The VDH was allocated \$176,800 for SFY 04 to administer the GEMS Program (formerly named the Resource Mothers Sibling Program). Studies have found that siblings of pregnant and parenting teens are at higher risk for early premarital sexual activity, out-of-wedlock births and school dropout than siblings of non-pregnant/non-parenting teens.

Adult mentoring relationships, involvement in community activities and establishment of future goals have been found to counterbalance the pressure towards risky sexual behaviors and other negative behaviors. Health promotion; avoidance of non-marital sexual activity; connection to the community; development of leadership skills; and identification of future goals are encouraged through mentoring relationships and through community projects.

During SFY 04, six localities received grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for development of GEMS programs. The programs were located in Charlottesville and support for existing programs in Alexandria, Farmville, Lenowisco, Pulaski and Richmond City.

During the SFY 04 program, data was available for 112 participants. The achievements for those attending a GEMS program include:

- 95 percent of participants wrote plans for their futures that were realistic, constructive and detailed, as measured by mentor observation.
- 98 percent of participants did not smoke. Moreover, 14 percent of participants who had reported smoking in the past were not smoking while they were in the program. Smoking for children of this age is a known predictor of substance abuse in later life.
- Only one participant reported using drugs.
- Only one participant reported being sexually active.
- No participant became pregnant.

Virginia Mentoring Initiative

In SFY 04, \$153,000 was designated for development and support of local community-based mentoring programs and \$42,500 was awarded to Virginia One to One: The Mentoring Partnership.

The Virginia Mentoring Initiative was designed to expand or develop new mentoring programs in the Commonwealth. Mentoring programs provide support to TANF families in achieving self-sufficiency and healthier families in areas such as job coaching, job retention, career advancement, parenting skills, money and household management skills, and fatherhood issues.

In SFY 04, 20 new or expanded mentoring programs were funded. These programs have recruited and trained mentors and provided mentoring aimed at job readiness, career development, healthy relationships, parenting, financial stability, education, reduction of teen pregnancy and prisoner re-entry.

The SFY 04 programs included:

- Three mentoring demonstration projects focused on mentoring children of prisoners. Children with an incarcerated parent can experience the trauma of separation and other adverse effects of parental incarceration such as shame, anxiety, withdrawal, depression, guilt, anger and aggression. This can affect their educational success and the foundation needed to become self-sufficient adults. The goal of the demonstration projects located in Norfolk (Heart of Compassion Partnerships), Richmond (Fresh Start Job Development Center), and Roanoke (Virginia Community Action Re-Entry System-VACARES) was to foster a child's healthy development and help counter balance the impact of parental incarceration. Each program worked with 20 mentees, and the projects also focused on job readiness and work support mentoring for the TANF eligible adult family members.

- Clinch Valley Community Action in Tazewell, Virginia provided mentoring to thirty-nine youth. The program included career and educational assessments, placement in appropriate educational or work experience and mentoring from local business persons. There was a 70 percent increase in grades overall. This project also included work with 50 fathers and their children to strengthen family relationships.
- The Improvement Association, a community action agency located in Emporia, provided 25 at-risk youth ages 14-21 the opportunity to attend workshops on employability, social skills and consumerism. By using a model of worksite mentor rather than worksite supervisor, the youth were able to develop a stronger bond with their mentor and learn more occupational and job readiness skills. In addition, the program design allowed youth to spend more time in work experiences. Seventeen remained in secondary school, four will be attending college, two became employed and two are receiving advanced training.
- Occupational Enterprises, Inc. in Lebanon, Virginia, made mentoring activities available in two remote counties of far southwestern Virginia. Dickenson and Lee departments of social services identified ten hard to serve TANF/VIEW families (39 individuals) in need of mentoring services. Throughout the year, the families participated in meetings to reinforce employment, education and life skills.
- Greater Prince William County Resource Mothers of Woodbridge had 40 families participate in the program this fiscal year. The Resource Mothers Program mentors pregnant and parenting teens up to age 19 in Prince William County, including Manassas and Manassas Park. The program provides services to 40 mother/baby couples. Mentors serve as role models for positive parenting behaviors, encourage continuation of school and appropriate choices regarding subsequent pregnancies. Ninety percent of participants were in school or continued with formal educational program.
- Alliance for Families & Children, through their Smart Moves program, served 40 Lynchburg City Middle school youth. Youth were matched with a volunteer mentor, participated in a weekly education series (including pregnancy prevention) and their parents participated in Parents Nights offering additional resources centering on financial stability and family preservation services.
- DSC Community Meditation Center in Norfolk developed the Higher Mentoring Initiative that included two series of conflict coaching sessions and mentoring to 23 low-income single parents served by Norfolk's Dwelling Place, Chesapeake's Community Resource Network and Portsmouth's Empowerment Zone. The goal was to develop better parenting and conflict resolution skills when dealing with their children and to enhance the stability and health of the families.
- For the Children – Partners-In-Prevention (Bootstrappers) of Martinsville provided mentors for educational and supportive services aimed at building job readiness, career development and healthy relationships. They extended their mentoring prevention services to neighboring jurisdictions, the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County. They

served 289 participants in their educational workshops aimed at job readiness and healthy relationships.

- Mentor/Role Model Program, Inc of South Boston mentored 43 Halifax County youth offering life skills mentoring to its participants. They conducted 21 mentor recruitment activities and held seven mentor training events. A number of mentors for this initiative represent local civic organizations.
- Mercy House, Inc. in Harrisonburg assigned mentors to work with 60 low-income families and provide communication, conflict resolution, financial and parenting skills training. The mentors will also provide six months of follow-up visits.
- Parent Child Development Corporation of West Point focused on increasing self-sufficiency in TANF-eligible families by strengthening family stability through mentoring and education. TANF eligible parents of children under age five received mentoring and educational services at two locations in the rural five-county Middle Peninsula of VA. Intensive mentoring was provided to 42 individuals on parenting and job readiness.
- Richmond City Health Department sponsored the Relationship Building Project - Couples Connection for 18 couples from at-risk communities in Richmond. It focused on the TANF goal of encouraging the formation and maintenance of two-parent families through improving communication, increasing conflict resolution skills and decreasing relationship stressors known to contribute to the dissolution of marriages.
- Safeshome Systems, Inc. in Covington developed the Family Mentoring Project to assist 30 parents in Covington, Alleghany and Bath Counties in gaining and retaining skills in good communication, financial management, conflict resolution and parenting. Methods included educational sessions, hands-on materials, mentoring and quality time activities with the children. Home mentoring visits will be used as follow-ups for up to six months to reinforce the skills.
- Virginia League for Planned Parenthood of Richmond offered an after-school mentoring program that linked 15 at-risk boys from fifth grade aged 10-11, with adult male educators who facilitate life-skills training, mentor and provide positive educational experiences. The participating boys attended either Fairfield or Blackwell Elementary Schools located within the highest teen pregnancy risk areas. As a demonstration of the power of the media, the boys were asked to come up with one sentence that they would like to tell people in the city about violence and drugs. The results of these statements were a public service announcement which aired on AM 1590 WFTH several times throughout the month of February.
- Working Moms Survival Network, Newport News, targeted ten Newport News/ Hampton TANF eligible participants-parents. Eleven mentors were recruited. The program provided mentor training, matched mentors with learning partners and provided a self-reliance program. The project included monthly self-sufficiency 'mini conferences' and mentor support.

- Young Women Leaders Program (YWLP) at the Curry School of Education, University of Virginia in Charlottesville, worked with participants to prevent teen pregnancy and support family preservation in the Charlottesville/Albemarle area by enrolling 25 seventh graders in a mentoring program, piloting a program for 10 YWLP graduates to reinforce their learned skills, and developing materials and opportunities that promote connection between 35 parents and their daughters.
- Through the Youth Entertainment Studios, Inc. of Chesapeake, 25 females ages 12-18, residing in public housing communities in Norfolk, Chesapeake and Portsmouth, will pursue activities relating to the entertainment industry (music, drama, art) and received hands-on training from media professionals. Mentors provided encouragement and support as participants set goals, developed skills and completed professional projects and internships.
- Marriage Builders Alliance of Richmond implemented a mentoring project designed to assist individuals and/or couples who are married, considering marriage in the future, or are custodial and non-custodial parents and receiving services through the Richmond City Department of Social Services. Objectives included expansion of the capacity of community resources to help TANF eligible clients, improvement in the communication skills of participating individuals and mentee couples, strengthening family stability of participating individuals and couples and providing City of Richmond Department of Social Services staff materials, knowledge and skills to help TANF eligible clients to address relationship difficulties and increase family stability. This program was optional and those referred participated voluntarily. Twenty-seven couples from Richmond City churches were recruited and trained as mentors, and they mentored fourteen project participants. Additionally, eleven Richmond City social services workers were trained for continuing the project in the future.

Virginia Mentoring Initiative also continued to partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in promotion and use of the adult to adult mentoring curriculum developed as part of the Virginia Mentoring Initiative. This curriculum provides information on establishing mentoring programs, developing and managing volunteer resources, adult learning principles and applications in mentoring programs, and a best practices guide.

The TANF funding allowed Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) to support various mentoring programs and organizations from across the commonwealth by providing technical assistance and training for volunteer mentors. These programs do not have funding for training purposes, and typically work with children in schools that participate in Title I. Title I is a federally funded program to help disadvantaged children meet student performance standards. The description of the services VMP has performed with this funding includes:

- Provision of technical assistance to new and developing mentor/tutor programs for children and youth across the state. The information shared with volunteers and program coordinators surrounds the best practices of running an effective mentoring program, the use of screening and background checks and information on the tools available for program evaluation.

- Provided training and orientation sessions for volunteers of formally structured programs on how to have the most effective mentoring relationship with the child or youth with which he or she is matched.
- Raised the public's awareness of mentoring via a public relations campaign, and acted as a clearinghouse for incoming calls from individuals interested in becoming mentors, individuals interested in placing their child in a mentor program, and groups interested in starting or collaborating with existing mentoring programs. During the SFY 04, VMP provided mentoring training to equip approximately 420 individuals who mentored approximately 500 participants.

Statutory Rape Awareness Program

The Statutory Rape Awareness Program was awarded \$127,500 of TANF block grant funds to implement its program during SFY 04. The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 mandated that states operate a statutory rape awareness program. This program fulfills the federal mandate. The program goals are to raise community awareness of the problem of statutory rape and to reduce the incidence of statutory rape. Strategies to achieve these goals included implementing a public awareness campaign targeting men, ages 18-30, and developing a web site in coordination with the public awareness campaign. Training programs and materials were developed for law enforcement personnel, counselors and educators. Training was also conducted for fathers and adolescent males by incorporating issues of male responsibility, sexual coercion and statutory rape into existing curricula used by the Virginia Fatherhood Campaign and other fatherhood programs around the state.

The following activities were implemented during SFY 04 in order to meet the broad goals set for this initiative:

- Campaign media appeared on eight outdoor billboards in Richmond and Roanoke. 255,000 post cards, posters, coasters and napkins with the campaign message were distributed to approximately 150 bars, restaurants and retail establishments in Richmond, Roanoke, Arlington, Falls Church and Alexandria.
- A VDH news release on the media campaign generated a story on the front page of the Washington Post. Program managers took calls from CBS Evening News, Good Morning America and the Comedy Channel's "Tough Crowd" show. They participated live on CNN's "American Morning," National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" call-in show and Voice of America. Also, they were interviewed on MSNBC's Abram's Report, the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather and on all Richmond local television stations. The story was carried on the Associated Press wire and appeared in 62 media outlets in approximately 20 other states.
- Seventy-six training events on "Sexual Coercion and Sexual Exploitation of Minor Youth," were held in Virginia to increase youth service providers' knowledge concerning sexual exploitation. Training participants indicated a 7 percent increase in knowledge of the subject as measured in pre- and post-training surveys.

- An evaluation of the pilot media campaign revealed a 46 percent increase in awareness of the campaign message.
- A four-hour training curriculum for law enforcement was created and received approval for continuing education credit from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.
- A website was maintained and updated to complement the campaign. The site www.varapelaws.org includes information on statutory rape punishments, all the laws related to sexual assault and minors, and options for the individual who knows someone

who may be in a coercive relationship. Web trend data indicates that there have been over 5,000 hits to this web page since the implementation of the statutory rape awareness campaign.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI)

The goal of this initiative is to help reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies. The VDH was awarded \$910,000 for SFY 04, to implement prevention programs in seven areas of the state with high teen pregnancy rates. The areas are as follows: Alexandria, Norfolk, Richmond, the Petersburg area, Eastern Shore, Roanoke and Portsmouth. In 1996, the teen pregnancy rate in Virginia showed that 36.2 in every 1,000 girls between the ages of 10 and 19 experienced a pregnancy. In the seven areas that TPPI serves, the rates ranged from 54.9 to 71.8 per thousand.

TPPI programs spearhead community efforts and collaborated with other local organizations and programs to provide a variety of school and/or community-based services. Information presented in various settings with youth is designed to help pre-teen and teen populations understand the potentially negative consequences of early sexual involvement and to improve their ability to resist media, social and peer pressures leading to such involvement. Through education, awareness, abstinence and life-skills training, pre-teens and teens are offered the following: opportunities to develop mature and healthy relationships; responsible decision-making skills; effective communication skills with peers and parents; and improved understanding of physical and emotional changes of adolescence. The primary message of this initiative is one of premarital sexual abstinence and male responsibility. Mechanisms include parental involvement, access to health care services and the use of mentors and role models.

TPPI accomplished the following across all areas served during SFY 04:

- The teenage pregnancy rate for 2002 (the latest year's statistics available from the VDH Center for Health Statistics) has reduced to 27.6 from 32.0 per 1,000 and the teen live birth rate has increased to 24.1 from 21.0 per 1,000.
- The program served approximately 3,461* youth in local programs, providing them with activities designed to foster the decrease of teenage sexual activity reflected by teenage pregnancy, teenage birth rates and sexually transmitted disease (STD) rates.

- Ten training sessions were held to implement pregnancy prevention and life skills curricula.
- The 2nd annual Adolescent Sexual Health Evaluation Conference was held for program providers. Sixty-three were in attendance representing teenage pregnancy and abstinence education program providers, public health nurses, school nurses and community-based coalition members.

Four group presentations have been made to a total of 200 persons* in support of the teen pregnancy prevention initiative.

Conclusion

This year, the Commonwealth faced the significant barrier of an unbalanced TANF budget. Virginia receives a yearly block grant of slightly more than \$158 million. Unspent amounts remain in reserve for the Commonwealth in future years. In the initial stages of the block grant, Virginia developed a considerable surplus of funds attributed to the precipitous decline in TANF caseloads. Programs were then funded with the surplus amount. To balance the TANF budget for SFY 05, \$34 million had to be cut from TANF funds. Mandatory programs were funded in the budget, as well as certain other programs. A competitive grant process has been initiated for the remaining TANF funded programs, and awards are expected to be made in the fall of 2004.

* Estimate. Year-end reports are still being analyzed.

2004 Appropriation Act, Item 365

Department of Social Services (765)

365 (language only)

1. It is hereby acknowledged that as of June 30, 2003, there existed with the federal government an unexpended balance of \$28,256,886 in federal TANF block grant funds which are available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to reimburse expenditures incurred in accordance with the adopted State plan for the TANF program. Based on projected FY 2004 spending levels, appropriations in this act, and the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3, below, the Commonwealth's accumulated balance for authorized federal TANF block grant funds is estimated at \$9,664,170 on June 30, 2004; \$1,981,018 on June 30, 2005; and \$1,197,866 on June 30, 2006.

2. Out of this appropriation, \$1,500,000 the first year from the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and \$1,500,000 the second year from the TANF block grant shall be provided to develop a competitive grant program for use in the provision of services to engage present and former TANF recipients in activities to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. The grants shall comply with federal TANF laws and regulations. The grant program shall use criteria that will ensure grants are awarded statewide and to organizations that have a proven record of effectively delivering services and leveraging private and public sector dollars to carry out activities. The grant funds shall be awarded through a competitive process for programs and shall be administered by the Department of Social Services.

3. DSS shall report annually on September 15 to the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and DPB regarding spending; program results; clients served; the location, size, implementation status, and nature of projects funded with TANF funds; results of all formal evaluations; and recommendations for continuation, expansion, and redesign of the projects. Such report shall be combined with the report required by § 63.2-619, Code of Virginia.