



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
COMMISSIONER

July 1, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Ralph Northam
Governor of Virginia

Honorable Thomas K. Norment, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance

Honorable Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.
Co-Chairman, Senate Finance

Honorable S. Chris Jones
Chairman, House Appropriations

Daniel Timberlake
Director Department of Planning and Budget

FROM:

S. Duke Storen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Duke Storen".

SUBJECT: Report on Item 344 (F) (2) of the 2018 Appropriation Act – Adoption of Children in Foster Care

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' annual report pursuant to Item 344 (F) (2) of the 2018 Appropriation Act. Item 344 (F) (1) provides \$1,500,000 in the first year and \$1,500,000 in the second year to implement pilot programs that increase the number of foster care children adopted. It requires the Department of Social Services to report annually on the use and effectiveness of this funding, including the number of additional children adopted from foster care and the types of ongoing supportive services provided as a result of the expenditure of these funds. If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this report, please contact me at (804) 726-7011.

SDS: kc
Attachment

**Department of Social Services
Annual Report on Adoption Contracts
(June 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019)**

Report Mandate and Background

Items 344(F1) and (F2) of the 2018 Appropriation Act provides:

- (1) “Out of this appropriation, \$1,500,000 the first year from federal funds and \$1,500,00 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to implement pilot programs that increase the number of foster care children adopted.”

- (2) “Beginning July 1, 2017, the department shall provide an annual report, not later than 45 days after the end of the state fiscal year, on the use and effectiveness of this funding including, but not limited to, the additional number of special needs children adopted from foster care as a result of this effort and the types of ongoing supportive services provided, to the Governor, Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.”

Extreme Recruitment® - FAM-15-093

Extreme Recruitment® is located relatives and kin of foster care youth who have parental rights terminated to find permanency through guardianship or adoption. There are four contractors providing child specific adoption recruitment services under this funding stream are C2Adopt, United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) Tidewater, UMFS Northern Virginia, and Radford Department of Social Services (DSS). UMFS Tidewater is contracted to provide services in the Eastern Region (e.g., Accomack, Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Gloucester, Greensville-Emporia, Isle of Wight, James City, Mathews, Northampton, Prince George, Southampton, Surry, Sussex and York-Poquoson counties; and the cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg). UMFS Northern VA is contracted to provide services in the Northern Region (e.g., cities of Alexandria, Arlington, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park; and Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Frederick, Greene, Harrisonburg-Rockingham, King George, Loudon, Louisa, Madison, Orange, Page, Prince William, Rappahannock, Shenandoah, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren and Winchester counties). Radford DSS is contracted to provide services in the Western Region (e.g., City of Radford; and Montgomery, Floyd, Grayson, Giles and Washington counties).

Number of Foster Care Youth Served	116
Number of Foster Care Children Connected with Adoptive Parents	46
Number of Finalized Adoptions	4

Future of the services:

VDSS will extend existing Extreme Recruitment® contracts until June 30, 2020 after which a new Request for Proposals (RFP) will be issued to solicit proposals for the 30 Days to Family® program. 30 Days to Family® is a more preventative approach that searches for relatives and kin within the first 30 days of the child entering foster care for permanency options such as adoption.

Post Adoption Services – FAM-15-083

There are three contractors providing ongoing post adoption supportive services under this funding stream. The Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.) is providing services in the Eastern Region (e.g., cities of Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson City, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg; and Gloucester, and James City counties) and the Piedmont Region (e.g., Franklin, Craig, Bedford, Campbell, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Roanoke, and Amherst counties, and cities of Lynchburg, Roanoke and Salem). DePaul Community Resources is providing services in the Piedmont Region (e.g., Amherst, Alleghany, Appomattox, Bedford, Campbell, Charlotte, Craig, Halifax, Henry, Mecklenburg, Pittsylvania, and Roanoke Counties and the cities of Danville, Martinsville, and Roanoke). Frontier Health is providing services in the Western Region (e.g., Lee, Scott and Wise Counties and the City of Norton).

Ongoing supportive services provided by contractors this reporting period

Family and individual counseling, case management, and crisis intervention	154 adopted youth
Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) to mental health professionals	25 therapists

Future of the services:

On March 18, 2019, VDSS issued RFP # FAM-19-060 to solicit proposals from nonprofit post-adoption service providers to establish consortia-delivered post-adoption services and supports in each of the five VDSS regions. Based on a set of recommendations from an evaluation of existing post-adoption services in Virginia commissioned by VDSS and conducted by Child Trends, a nonprofit, nonpartisan research center based in Bethesda, Maryland, VDSS is implementing a new service delivery model in response to feedback received from providers, families, local departments of social services and from an in-depth literature review and identification of best-practice interventions. The overall goals of the new model are to implement evidenced-based interventions identified by Child Trends and to expand post-adoption services and supports in each region to make sure that services are accessible and available, regardless of where adoptive families live in the region. Existing post-adoption contracts will continue through December 31, 2019 to ensure that no interruption in critical services occurs before consortia-provided services begin on January 1, 2020. Existing contracts with C.A.S.E., DePaul Community Resources, and Frontier Health have been renewed for a six-month period in SFY20. VDSS expects the three contractors to be highly involved in consortia and service delivery in their respective regions under the new model.