



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
*Office of the Commissioner*

S. Duke Storen  
Commissioner

November 13, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Ralph S. Northam  
Governor of Virginia

Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight

**FROM:** S. Duke Storen *S. Duke Storen*

**SUBJECT:** Plan for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' comprehensive plan and recommendations for the TANF Block Grant, prepared pursuant to Item 340 (S) of the 2019 Appropriation Act. If you have questions, please contact me.

SDS:kc  
Attachment

# Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Spending Plan



Virginia Department of Social Services

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# I. Executive Summary

Item 340 S. of the 2019 Appropriations Act directs the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services to develop a comprehensive plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and make recommendations to ensure the block grant is being used in the most effective manner to best support low-income families in achieving self-sufficiency.

The plan shall: (i) review and evaluate the current uses of TANF block grant funds; (ii) assess the effectiveness of current TANF benefits in assisting families; (iii) evaluate the effectiveness of the discretionary uses of TANF in meeting the four goals of the TANF program and whether such uses have outcome measures; and (iv) provide estimates for the costs of any recommendations in the plan.

The Commissioner shall consult with stakeholders in developing the plan, and shall submit the plan to the Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight by October 1, 2019.

## Background

TANF is an annually fixed federal block grant program designed to provide cash assistance to families living in poverty in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency. The impacts of poverty, especially the impacts on children, are well-documented. These include substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition, food insecurity, poor academic achievement, abuse and neglect, behavioral and socio-emotional problems, and developmental delays.

Under the federal program rules, TANF dollars may be spent on a wide variety of activities to further any of the four statutory purposes:

1. to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for at home;
2. to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
3. to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
4. to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The federal government allows states to set their own eligibility criteria and standards of assistance. States are not required to spend their full allotment of the TANF block grant each year and any unspent funds can be carried over to subsequent budget years.

## Current Use of TANF in Virginia

Virginia's annual allotment for the TANF block grant is \$158 million. Because Virginia's Standards of Assistance have not changed over time to keep up with the pace of inflation, the percentage of Virginians eligible for TANF benefits and the purchasing power of TANF benefits has substantially declined. Virginia's spending on cash assistance to households has declined significantly, with the projected FY20 TANF surplus being \$117 million.

Virginia's TANF cash assistance program covers only those living in extreme poverty. In 1994-1995, for every 100 Virginia families living below the federal poverty limit, 73 were receiving assistance. By 2016, only 19.2 families in Virginia were receiving TANF assistance for every 100 families in poverty. Because Virginia has not adjusted program eligibility standards incrementally to keep up with inflation, fewer and fewer families are eligible to participate each year despite living below the poverty level.

## Effectiveness of Virginia's Current Cash Benefit to Families

The amount of TANF payments to eligible families have also remained relatively low when compared to the increased cost of living. Since 1985, the amount of cash assistance paid to families participating in the program increased sporadically and in small increments. In the thirty-year period from 1985 to 2015, Virginia raised the amount of cash assistance only once. The cost of living increased by 137.5%, compared to a 30.6% increase in Virginia's TANF payments. The federal poverty limit, the government's official statistical definition of poverty, is \$1,409 (monthly) for a two-person household. Virginia's maximum TANF payment for a two-person household is \$367, or 26% of the federal poverty level. In an effort to decrease the number of families living in poverty and to promote self-sufficiency, housing stability, and food security, other states have raised the TANF benefit at varying levels.

The TANF program allows states to conduct pilots with federal TANF dollars. In addition to raising the Standards of Assistance and TANF payments, Virginia could also provide a limited increase in payments during the summer months to combat summer hunger in localities that do not qualify for or do not provide a summer feeding program. A third-party evaluation sponsored by USDA has shown this increase to be the most effective means of addressing the summer hunger crisis faced by low-income children who do not have access to meals when school is out.

Like other benefits, TANF has income limits that terminate at different levels. This results in a "benefit cliff" (as income rises, certain benefits end, resulting in fewer resources to the family). For many families, the benefit cliff results in a net loss of resources because the amount of the benefit is larger than the increase in income. Recognizing the benefit cliff can often act as a disincentive for a TANF participant to seek a higher paying job, other states have explored different thresholds for the earned income disregard in order to avoid this scenario. Virginia could also conduct a pilot to determine the most appropriate threshold.

# Effectiveness of Discretionary TANF Funding

Virginia funds many initiatives and programs through a direct appropriation of the TANF surplus or “discretionary” dollars. In this report, we provide a list of those programs, along with their alignment with the core purpose of the TANF program, and any outcomes reported. Some programs have a clear purpose that aligns with the federal TANF goals and report associated outcomes. Other programs have not historically reported outcomes data directly related to these goals.

## Improving Virginia’s Use of TANF dollars

The full report contains the rationale and detailed explanations of these options.

### **1. Revise the TANF Standards of Need and increase the amount of benefits.**

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to revise the Standard of Need with a 10% increase in benefits, a 20% increase in the income threshold, and a 20% increase in income disregards. The total request is approximately \$39M (\$5.1M GF, \$23.7M TANF federal funds, and \$10.2M Child Care federal discretionary funds) in FY2021 and FY2022 with an additional \$418,823 (\$168,520 GF and \$250,302 TANF federal funds) in FY2021 for local staffing and on-boarding costs. A 15.5% local match will also be required (approximately \$1.7M in FY2021 and \$1.6M in FY2022).

### **2. Implement a “benefit cliff” pilot to inform policy related to transitioning from the program.**

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to implement a benefit cliff pilot to fill in the gap created by the loss of other benefits, eliminate or reduce the disincentive for people to seek higher paying jobs, and smooth the transition towards self-sufficiency. VDSS has requested \$2M of TANF federal funds in FY2021 and FY2022 to implement the pilot.

### **3. Provide a targeted, limited supplemental benefit for needy families in the summer to combat hunger.**

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to increase cash benefits for a limited time in the summer in 38 localities with one or no community site participating in the Summer Food Service Program. The purpose is to use federal funds to fill in the gaps so that low-income children in these communities can still access food in the summer when they cannot receive meals at school. The total request is for \$2.7M in TANF federal funds in FY2020 and \$7.7M in TANF federal funds in FY 2021 and FY2022. This directly aligns with the TANF goal to provide support for needy families so children can be cared for at home.

### **4. Increase the TANF Caseload Reserve to plan for economic downturns and an increased need for cash assistance in Virginia.**

A larger reserve of TANF funds to account for increases in caseload during economic downturns can ensure that there are no disruptions in TANF-funded services or reductions in benefit amounts for TANF participants.

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# Improving Virginia's Use of TANF dollars

*Continued*

**5. Require all programs funded with TANF discretionary funds to enter data into the Virginia Longitudinal Data System in order to establish evidence of their impact and alignment with federal TANF goals.**

This requirement enables VDSS to understand and promote effective, efficient, evidence-based practices.

**6. Consider allowing the Virginia Department of Social Services to have broader authority and flexibility around administration of the block grant funds in order to blend and braid TANF dollars with other resources designed to provide workforce development services in the Commonwealth.**

The workforce development services provided by the program can be more effective if the Department had direct control of the TANF block grant allocation and could blend and braid its services with the other workforce service providers funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Wagner-Peyser, and the higher education system. This would require a language change in the budget.

## II. Background

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) was a federal assistance program in effect from 1935 to 1996, created by the Social Security Act (SSA) and administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. AFDC provided financial assistance to children whose families had low or no income. In the AFDC program, each state set payment standards based upon the living costs in the state. The program was funded with federal (50%) and state (50%) funds.

In 1996, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PROWA), eliminating AFDC and replacing it with TANF. At the time, the new TANF program was a drastic departure from AFDC, imposing a lifetime limit of five years for the receipt of benefits and allowing each state to set their own eligibility criteria. AFDC was an uncapped federal matching program, under which states received more federal money when they spent more on cash assistance, and less when their caseloads declined. Under TANF, states are given a fixed block grant, under which funds can be spent on a wide variety of activities to further any of the four statutory purposes of TANF:

- to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for at home;
- to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
- to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
- to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

States are not required to spend the total amount of their annual allotment and any unspent funds may be carried over to the following fiscal year. TANF also has a “maintenance of effort” (MOE) requirement under which states must continue to spend at least 75 percent of the amount that they did prior to the implementation of TANF on programs serving needy families.



# III. Current Use of TANF Block Grant Funds

## A. Allotment, MOE, and Surplus

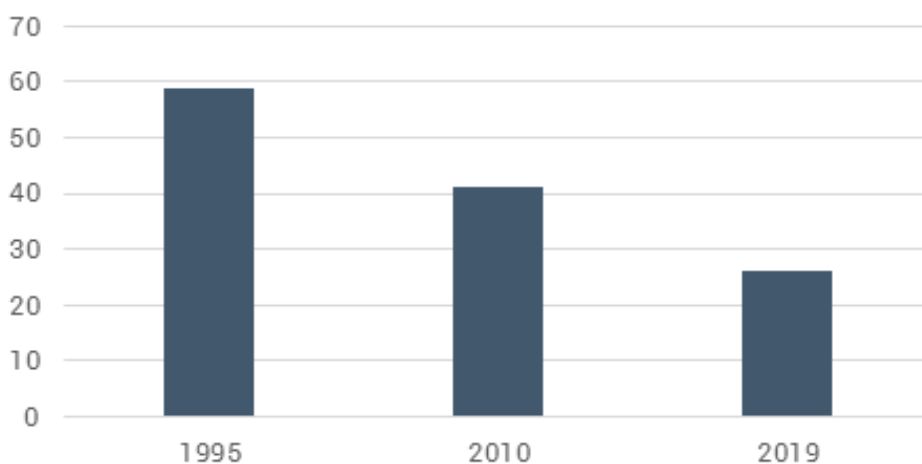
Virginia's annual allotment for the TANF block grant is \$158 million. The MOE requirement for Virginia is \$128 million per year. At the time of passage of PRWORA, Virginia's monthly AFDC caseload was over 70,000 families. The monthly caseload has since fallen to 16,451 and the amount spent on cash assistance has declined from over \$200 million per year to \$55.7 million. The projected TANF surplus at the end of FY20 is \$117 million.

## B. Eligibility and Standards of Assistance

Under TANF, each state sets eligibility and payment standards based upon the living costs in the state. Local departments of social services employ staff to determine eligibility through a two-step process: 1) a gross income test followed by 2) a net income test. If the family has income in excess of the gross income limit, the family is not eligible. If the income is less than the gross income limit, eligibility workers apply deductions to calculate a net income and compare it to the Standards of Assistance. If the eligibility worker determines the net income is less, the family receives an amount equal to the Standard of Assistance minus the net income.

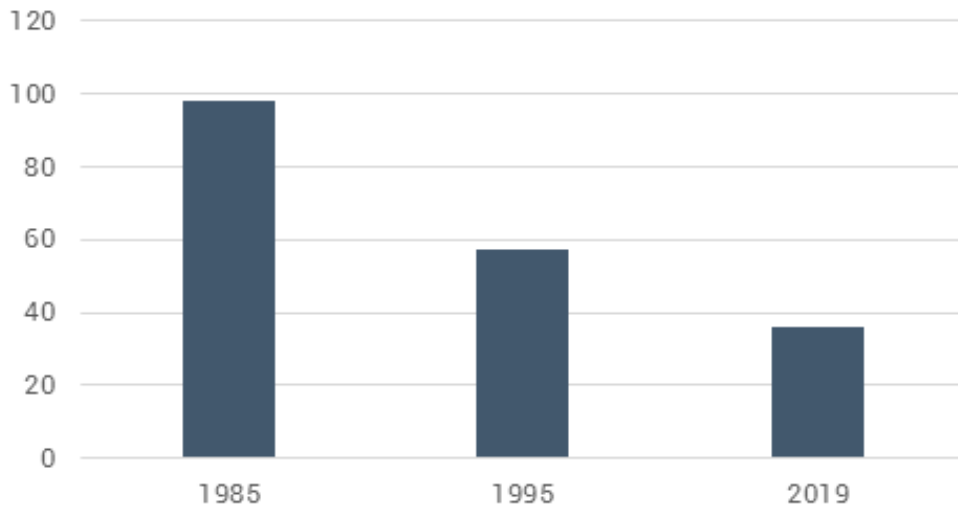
Because Virginia's Standards of Assistance have not changed over time to keep up with the pace of inflation, and eligibility is based on the standard, the percentage of Virginians eligible for TANF and the purchasing power of TANF benefits has substantially declined over time. In 1995, 59% of TANF applications were approved. By 2010, the approval rate had fallen to 41%. Currently, only 26% of TANF applications are approved. As a result, the Department of Social Services spends more administrative dollars denying participation in the program than helping the low-income/no-income households participating in the program.

**Application Approval Percent**



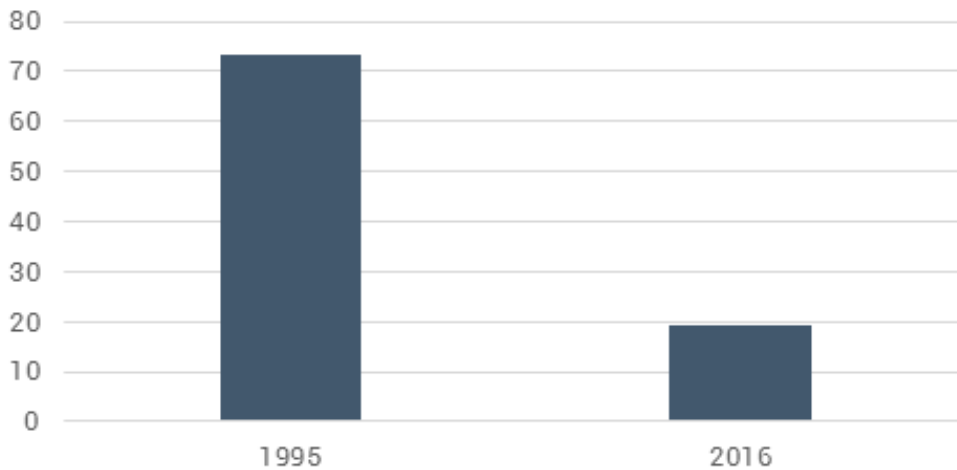
These declines exist despite the fact that many of the families denied are living in very low-income households by any standard measure of poverty. In 1985, a three-person household residing in the City of Richmond could be eligible for TANF with an income at 98% of the Federal Poverty Limit (FPL). By 1995, this had dropped to 57% of the FPL. Currently, the eligibility threshold in Virginia is 36% of the FPL. While AFDC and TANF previously provided assistance for a greater range on the income spectrum, it now only covers those in extreme poverty. Currently, basic assistance makes up just 15.7% of TANF appropriations.

### Eligibility as a Percentage of FPL



Another way to measure this effect is to use the poverty ratio, a comparison of the number of cash assistance families to the number of families with children in poverty from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS). In 1994-1995, the TANF to poverty ratio was 73.2, that is, for every 100 families in poverty, 73 were receiving assistance. By 2016, only 19.2 families in Virginia were receiving TANF assistance for every 100 families in poverty.

### Number of Families Receiving TANF Out of Every 100 Families in Poverty



The Standards of Assistance are state developed figures representing the amount of assistance provided to families of various sizes. Since 1985, Standards of Assistance have increased sporadically and in small increments. From 1985 to 2015, Virginia increased the Standards of Assistance only once. From 1985 to the present, the cost of living increased by 137.5%. Virginia's TANF payments increased by 30.6% during this time. The increases after 1985 are listed below:

- July 2000 – 10%
- July 2017 – 2.5%
- January 2016 – 2.5%
- July 2018 – 5%
- July 2016 – 2.5%
- July 2019 – 5%

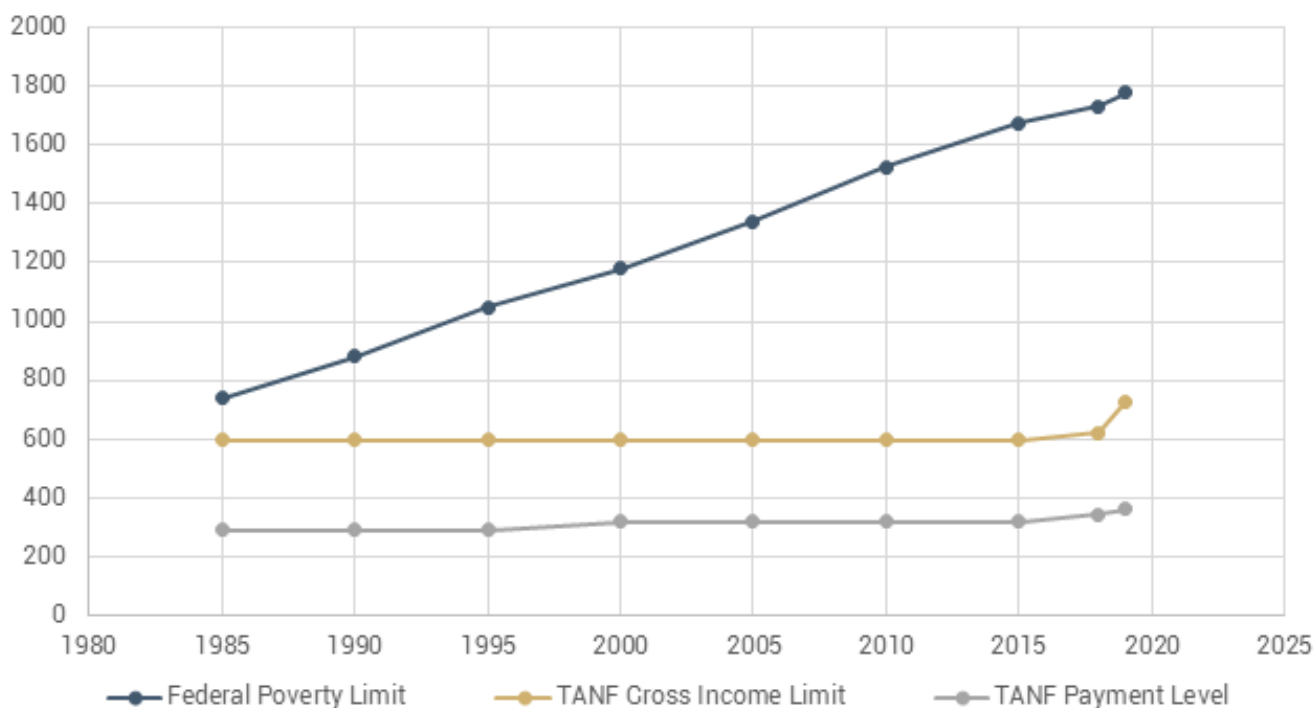
# IV. Effectiveness of Current TANF benefit

Inflation has significantly degraded the value of TANF benefits. Virginia's average monthly TANF payment for a family is \$307. In contrast, the state's average monthly payment for a single child in foster care is \$597. A family of three in the City of Richmond receives a maximum of \$363 per month in TANF. If the 1985 Standards of Assistance had kept pace with inflation, the monthly payment would be \$692.

The Social Security Administration originally developed the poverty thresholds in 1963-1964. The federal government uses these as its official statistical definition of poverty. The current poverty threshold (monthly) for a two-person household is \$1,409. The maximum TANF payment for a two-person household is \$367, which is 26% of the federal poverty level.

In an effort to promote economic mobility and decrease the negative impacts of poverty, other states have begun to increase their TANF payments. In October 2017, Maine raised its TANF benefit by 20 percent, which was the first time it had increased in more than a decade. In July 2018, Washington implemented a raise in its benefit by 9%. On July 1, 2019 New Jersey significantly increased its benefit for the first time in 31 years.

### TANF Payment Eligibility and Payment Levels Over Time



## IV. Effectiveness of Current TANF benefit *cont'd*

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has developed a living wage standard. MIT defines the living wage as the hourly rate an individual must earn to support a family, taking into account the costs of items such as food, child care, medical, housing, and transportation. For Virginia, this measure of the income needed for a family to meet basic needs, is \$4,787 per month. If we subtract the cost of food and medical care (since most TANF recipients also receive Medicaid and SNAP), the income amount needed is approximately \$3,787 per month. The current TANF benefit would cover 9.6% of the costs needed to meet basic needs.

The United Way has developed a household survival budget and a household stability budget as part of their United for ALICE project. The monthly survival amount for one adult and one school age child is \$2,845. Assuming a family receiving TANF also receives SNAP and Medicaid, the amount is \$2,051. The current TANF benefit would only cover 17.8% of the necessary costs. Under the stability budget, the monthly income needed is \$5,678, or \$4,099 if food and medical costs are deducted. TANF meets 8.9% of costs.

### United Way - ALICE Project Survival Budget

	Single adult and one child
Housing	\$ 766
Child Care	\$ 237
Food	\$ 316
Transportation	\$ 398
Health Care	\$ 478
Technology	\$ 55
Miscellaneous	\$ 259
Taxes	\$ 336
Monthly Total	\$ 2,845
Annual Total	\$ 34,140
Hourly Wage	\$ 17.07
Poverty Level	\$ 16,910

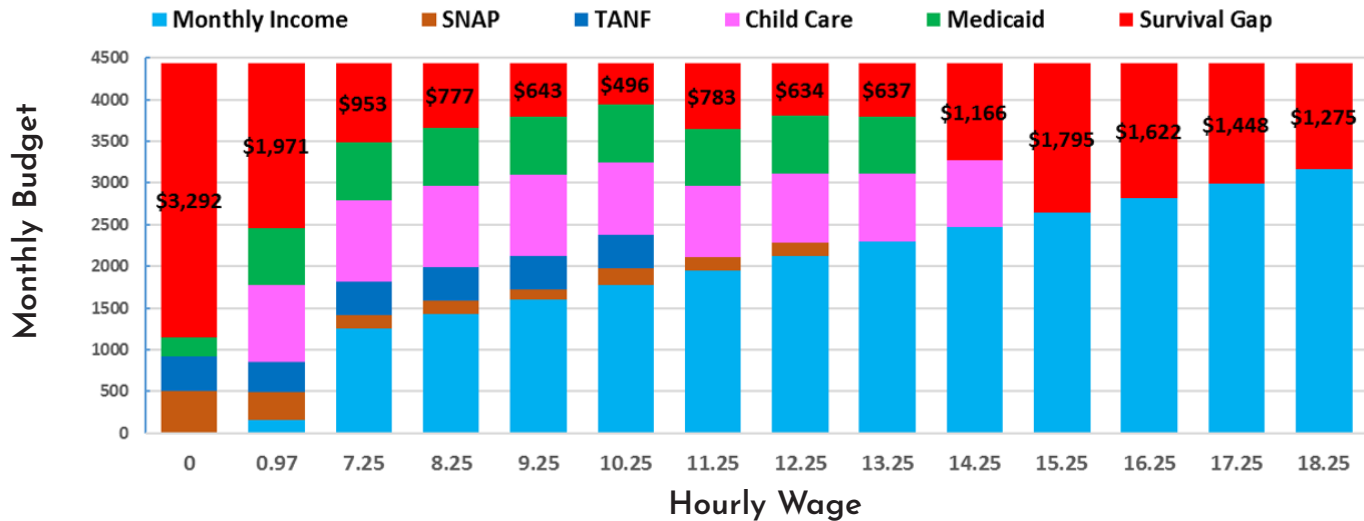
*Source: United Way Virginia*  
*Does not include savings*

Like other benefits, TANF has income limits that terminate at different levels. This results in a "benefit cliff" (as income rises, certain benefits end, resulting in fewer resources to the family). The following charts shows the impact of the benefit cliff on a family with one adult and two children. With zero income, the family receives TANF, SNAP, and Medicaid, and has a survival gap of \$3,292. As income rises, the survival gap shrinks, until the adult is earning \$10.25. The family loses eligibility for TANF and the survival gap increases. As income further increases, the survival gap again decreases until the adult is earning \$14.25 an hour and it starts to increase again.

## IV. Effectiveness of Current TANF benefit *cont'd*

### Virginia Family of One Adult and Two Children SFY2018 Wages, Benefits, and Survival Gap

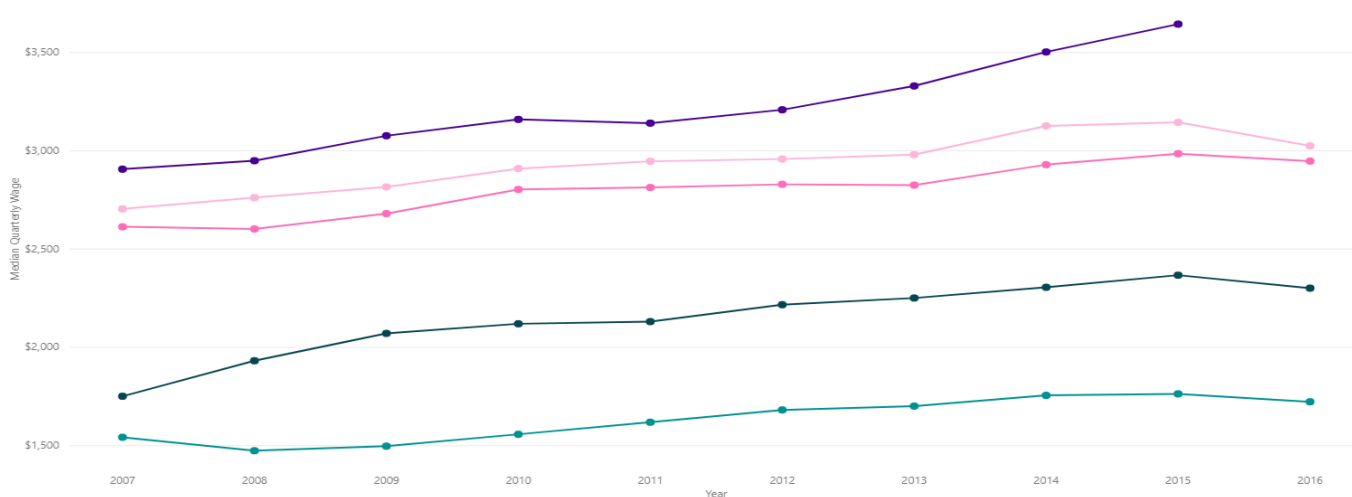
Source: ORP 9/4/2019; VACMS ED\_TF\_BUDGET\_STG, ED\_FS\_BUDGET\_STG, ED\_CDC\_BUDGET\_STG



The Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) is the employment and training program for recipients of TANF. Since the program's inception in 1995, 96% of participants have participated in employment and training activities and 70% have entered employment. Participation in the TANF VIEW program results in wage gains over time. However, the threshold for termination of TANF benefits is low on the wage spectrum, 100% of the poverty level. Since the program's inception in 1995, 96% have participated in employment and training activities and 70% of participants have entered employment. However, the current average wage for VIEW participants is \$10.53 per hour. This is not sufficient to sustain a family without further advancement, which could be addressed with continued connection to the Commonwealth's workforce services. The workforce development services provided by the program can be more effective if the Department had direct control of the TANF block grant allocation and could blend and braid its services with the other workforce service providers funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Wagner-Peyser, and the higher education system.

### Change in Quarterly Wages Before, During and After TANF (for program exits from 2007 to 2016) Quarterly Wage Over the Years

Time — Employed 6 Months Before TANF — Employed During TANF — Employed 6 Months After TANF — Employed 12 Months After TANF — Employed 24 Months After TANF



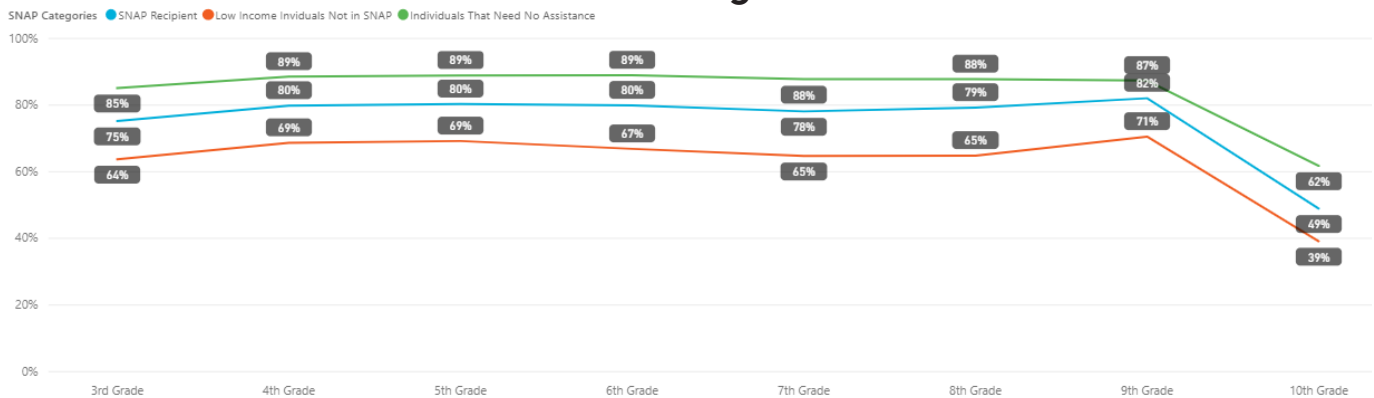
## IV. Effectiveness of Current TANF benefit *cont'd*

The impacts of poverty are well documented, especially regarding the impacts on children. These include substandard housing, homelessness, inadequate nutrition and food insecurity, poor academic achievement, abuse and neglect, behavioral and socio-emotional problems, and developmental delays. Abby C. Winer and Ross A. Thompson of UC Davis in "How Poverty and Depression Impact a Child's Social and Emotional Competence" found that poverty has lasting impacts on children. In "The Effects of Poverty on Children," Gunn and Duncan found "family income has substantial effects on child and adolescent well-being. Children who live in extreme poverty or who live below the poverty line for multiple years appear, all other things being equal, to suffer the worst outcomes." In recent years, there has been growing research on toxic stress and poverty, which is associated with poor ability to learn, aggression, and health and emotional problems. National Institutes of Health research by Dr. Clancy Blair concluded that the toxic stress of poverty was associated with inhibited higher cognitive functions such as planning, impulse and emotional control, and attention, which further impacts both school readiness and classroom performance. Poor performance in school further affects education level and future earnings and continues the cycle of poverty.

Published in Children and Youth Services Review, "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Life Opportunities: Shifting the Narrative" (Metzle, Merrick, Klevens, Ports, and Ford), found that adverse childhood experiences including poverty, is associated with diminished health across lifetimes and generations. Furthermore, having income below the poverty level was associated with a greater incidence of dropping out of high school, unemployment, and future income below the poverty level. They conclude that "This evidence suggests that preventing early adversity may impact health and life opportunities that reverberate across generations."

Virginia's data on SOL passing rates show educational outcomes increase for children that receive public assistance. Consistent with other findings, the lasting impacts of extreme poverty can be improved with access to public assistance.

### SOL Passing Rate



### SOL Passing Rate Table

SNAP Categories	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade
SNAP Recipient	75%	80%	80%	80%	78%	79%	82%	49%
Low Income Individuals Not In SNAP	64%	69%	69%	67%	65%	65%	71%	39%
Individuals That Need No Assistance	85%	89%	89%	89%	88%	88%	87%	62%

Increasing access to TANF as well as the payments can have broad impacts on children and families. Research from The National Center for Children in Poverty at the Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health (Young Children in Deep Poverty by Mercedes Ekono and Sheila Smith) found that higher percentages of children in poverty and deep poverty have poor outcomes in indicators of health and development. In addition, children in deep poverty are at a higher risk for future health and development problems. Ekono and Smith conclude that "States should consider raising both benefit levels and income eligibility thresholds to lift families out of deep poverty."

# V. TANF Spending Summary

Virginia has a wide variety of programs funded with TANF discretionary dollars. Discretionary TANF funding has been increasingly available as cash assistance caseloads have fallen and payment levels have stagnated. Currently, basic cash assistance makes up 15.7% of TANF appropriations.

The TANF budget for benefits and services for FY20 is as follows. These figures do not include the state and local funds that contribute to the required Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

## FY2020

### Mandated Core Benefits and Services:

TANF Income Benefits	\$27,456,362
VIEW Employment and Training Services	\$13,612,144
VIEW Child Care Services	\$2,119,005
TANF Caseload Reserve	\$2,000,000

### Administration

State Administration	\$3,002,653
Technology Costs	\$4,152,023
Local Staff and Operations (eligibility and employment services)	\$45,571,057
ESM/IT Allocation Reserve	\$1,000,000

### Transfer to Other Block Grants:

CCDF for At-Risk Childcare	\$12,857,212
CCDF for Head Start Wrap-Around	\$2,500,000
SSBG for Local Staff Support (CPS)	\$6,405,502
SSBG for Comprehensive Services Act (CSA)	\$9,419,998

### Expanded TANF Programming:

Healthy Families	\$9,035,501
Community Action Agencies	\$6,250,000
CHIP of Virginia	\$2,400,000
Domestic Violence Prevention	\$3,846,792
Earned Income Tax Credit Grants	\$185,725
Boys and Girls Club	\$1,500,000
Resource Mothers	\$1,000,000
Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives	\$3,000,000

Virginia Early Childhood Foundation	\$1,250,000
Northern Virginia Family Services	\$1,000,000
Child Advocacy Centers	\$1,125,500
Visions of Truth	\$75,000
Early Impact Virginia	\$600,000
Laurel Center	\$500,000
FACETS Homeless Assistance Services	\$100,000
City of Richmond Office of Community Wealth Building	\$300,000
Community Employment and Training Programs	\$10,200,000
Federation of Virginia Food Banks	\$3,000,000
Two-Generation Whole Family Pilot	\$1,125,000
Russell County Child Advocacy Center	\$11,000

Below are descriptions of programs funded with the TANF surplus funds.

### **Domestic Violence Services**

TANF funds in the amount of \$3,846,792 were appropriated for SFY 20 for domestic violence services. The programs are designed to meet the TANF goal of assisting needy families so children can eventually be cared for at home. These programs provide crisis and core services to victims of domestic violence, including a 24-hour confidential crisis hotline, shelter, crisis counseling, supportive counseling, information and referral, transportation, coordination of services, legal advocacy, and basic children's services. The target population are victims of domestic violence who are either pregnant or have dependent children.

### **Community Action Agencies**

The Community Action Network consists of 28 local agencies that provide an array of services for low-income families and individuals. The services provided by Community Action Agencies support the second purpose of TANF to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work. TANF funds are used in combination with federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds and other federal, state, local, and private sector resources to provide a wide variety of services to needy families. The mission of Community Action agencies is to provide substantive outcomes (changes) in the lives of people in poverty. These outcomes are achieved through a wide array of anti-poverty services, programs, and approaches, including emergency services, job readiness and employment services, case management services, supportive services including child care and transportation services for employed families, free tax preparation and assistance in securing earned income tax credits, individual development account programs, housing, family development, education, and homeless/domestic violence shelter programs. The appropriation for these programs in SFY 20 totaled \$6,250,000 in federal TANF funds.

In Virginia, community action agencies provide services to more than 150,000 low-income individuals. In the last full completed year, those served included: over 30,000 children, over 19,000 seniors, over 10,000 people with

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## V. TANF Spending Summary *cont'd*

disabilities, and over 21,000 people who lacked health insurance. In addition to the \$6.25 million of TANF funds to Community Action agencies, the Virginia community action network's non-TANF funds totaled over \$145 million. For each \$1 of TANF funds, the Virginia community action network leveraged \$24 from federal, state, local and private sources, including the value of volunteer hours.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit/Virginia Cash Campaign**

TANF funds of \$185,000 are appropriated for work with the Earned Income Tax Credit. The services provided by the Virginia Cash Campaign support the second purpose of TANF to end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation and work. The Virginia Department of Social Services works with the Virginia Community Action Partnership for use of those funds through the Virginia Cash Campaign. That Initiative works with community groups and coalitions throughout Virginia by providing grants to support quality free tax preparation services and help keep low and moderate income taxpayers compliant with their tax obligations. Volunteers also provide financial education and coaching to those who would like to develop positive savings habits to reach financial stability.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Projects**

TANF funds in the amount of \$1,125,500 were appropriated to the CACs for SFY 2019 and will continue at level funding for SFY 2020. The CACs also receive General Funds and funding through the Victim Of Crimes Act (VOCA). In 2015, the General Assembly changed the method of distribution from a competitive Request for Proposals to a formula based on accreditation status, child abuse rate, child population and number of counties served. The projects are designed to meet the TANF goal of assisting needy families so children can safely be cared for at home.

### **Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP of VA)**

The mission of CHIP of Virginia is to "improve children's health and promote wellness and self-sufficiency in low-income families, through partnerships with local communities." The program is designed to meet the TANF goal of assisting needy families so children can be cared for at home. CHIP of Virginia programs are local public/private partnerships providing 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 families connect to needed services. While improved children's health is the primary goal, parents of enrolled children also develop skills to increase their self-sufficiency and care for their children.

CHIP's mission 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 in SFY 20 was \$2,400,000 from the federal TANF block grant.

CHIP services include:

- **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.

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- **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 connections to appropriate community agencies.

### **Healthy Families**

The Healthy Families evidence-based model is designed to promote positive parenting, improve child health and development, and reduce child abuse and neglect. The model uses home visiting to reach families with young children. The program is designed to meet the TANF goal of assisting needy families so children can be cared for at home.

Families are referred to the program during pregnancy or at the time of the baby's delivery. 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, the family is offered the opportunity to voluntarily participate in the Healthy Families program. When families accept services, comprehensive home visiting is initiated that includes Family Support Workers who monitor and follow up on prenatal, postnatal, and pediatric care. For those parents whose Family Needs Assessments identify the need for support not available through Healthy Families, information and referrals to other community resources are offered.

Healthy Families programs offer voluntary and frequent home visiting services for up to five years. The services include in-home parenting education, child development, preventive health care, and support services. 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. Strategies may include staying in school, finding a job or a better place to live, developing effective parenting techniques, home management skills, and ensuring well baby care. 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 20, \$9,035,501 in federal TANF funds was appropriated to the Healthy Families program.

### **Boys and Girls Club**

Funds are provided to support the expansion of community-based prevention and mentoring programs to alleviate conditions that lead to teen pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, juvenile crime, school failure, and other negative consequences for children. This program supports the TANF purposes to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and promote work. The Virginia Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs serves children between the ages of 6-18 with programming across three program areas including academic success, workforce development, and healthy lifestyles. All eligible clubs in the Commonwealth participate, and programming is provided to children statewide. Clubs offer services for academic success, workforce development, and healthy lifestyles.

### **Long-Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARC)**

The Virginia LARC Initiative is funded by the Commonwealth of Virginia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. This program supports the TANF purpose to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies. The purpose of the Virginia LARC Initiative is to expand access to hormonal intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants, known as LARCs, in order to decrease unintended pregnancies and improve maternal and birth outcomes. Under this program, qualified health providers offer free hormonal LARCs to patients whose income is

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## V. TANF Spending Summary *cont'd*

below 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). Priority access is given to uninsured women and underinsured women who choose a LARC as their preferred contraceptive method. For FY 20, \$3 million has been appropriated.

### **Resource Mothers**

The Virginia Department of Health administers the Resource Mothers Program. The goals of this program are designed to meet the TANF program purpose to “prevent and reduce out-of-wedlock pregnancies.”

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 toward risky sexual behaviors and other negative behaviors. The Virginia Resource Mothers' home visitors working with pregnant and parenting teens will refer younger non-pregnant sisters, ages 9-15, to a mentoring program.

Health promotion, avoidance of non-marital sexual activity, connection to the community, development of leadership skills, and identification of future goals will be encouraged through the mentoring relationships and through community projects.

### **Northern Virginia Family Services Homeless Prevention**

Supportive services are provided that address the basic needs of families in crisis to prevent homelessness. The program provides non-assistance benefits and services, which are intended to assist families in crisis. This program supports the first purpose of the TANF program to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.

### **Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) - School Readiness**

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation's (VECF) vision is that every child is prepared for school, laying a foundation for workforce and life success. This program supports the first purpose of the TANF program to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes. VECF implements this vision by informing policy and budget decisions, providing research-based expertise, and nurturing innovation. Through public and private partnerships, VECF builds capacity for increasing school readiness at the state and local levels, harnesses best practices, maximizes resources and gains efficiencies, and secures outcome-driven investments.

At the local/regional level, VECF convenes an alliance of Smart Beginnings initiatives across the Commonwealth. Smart Beginnings is a locally-driven enterprise that creates community commitment to school readiness by bringing public and private leaders together to collaborate on priorities for their youngest citizens. Local Smart Beginnings partners help communities deliver on ensuring conditions for a strong, healthy start for young children and their families. An important role for Smart Beginnings is to ensure that families can access existing programs supporting children's healthy development. VECF provides to Smart Beginnings entities resources through grant agreements, technical assistance, and peer learning opportunities. This fosters evidence-based practices, serves as a problem solver, drives policy solutions, and supports use of data to guide local decision making and strategic development. VECF creates uniform data collection and evaluation.

At the state level, VECF partners with state government to advance early childhood development, to engage the private sector, and seek private sector resources and solutions to promote school readiness (not to include

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organized fund raising). This informs policy and budget decisions, provides strategic direction, and sets performance targets for school readiness.

At the local level, VECF provided comprehensive technical assistance to 17 Smart Beginnings initiatives. Nine initiatives received funds for their systems-building efforts from VECF through TANF; the remaining eight Smart Beginnings initiatives sustained operations through funds from other sources. Additionally, VECF awarded Data Capacity Booster Grants (which included development of Community Early Childhood Demographic and Risk Factor Profiles, Data Capacity Plans, and 8 individualized capacity-building sub-projects) to eleven Smart Beginnings initiatives. Six awards were made for Innovative Partnership projects (which support potentially replicable, local data-informed innovations) with two of the awards supported by TANF funds. Smart Beginnings entities have indicated improvements such as increased early childhood program participation in Virginia's quality rating and improvement system, increased community utilization of state pre-kindergarten slots which have chronically been un- or underutilized, and increased Ages & Stages Questionnaires® screenings for early identification of young children's developmental needs.

### **Visions of Truth**

Visions of Truth operates the STRIVE Program (Students Taking Responsibility in Valuing Education). With the funding provided tutoring and homework help will be available as well as individualized study/progress plans, based on pre and posttests. STRIVE will engage parents to identify family/child strengths and weaknesses and participants will have the environment and resources needed in order to successfully participate in the program and in school. These services support the TANF purpose to end the dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation and work.

### **FACETS**

FACETS offers prevention and diversion services to families at risk of homelessness. FACETS meets emergency shelter needs and helps clients secure safe sustainable and permanent housing. Through educational, life skills and career counseling programs FACETS works with the families to end the cycle of homelessness and poverty. TANF funding of \$100,000 was appropriated for the FACETS program for FY20. This program supports the first purpose of the TANF program to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.

### **Federation of Virginia Food Banks**

The most recent budget appropriated \$3 million to the Federation of Virginia Food Banks.

The Federation will apportion the funding to its seven members in proportion to the number of people in poverty residing in their respective service.

Activities/programs to be funded:

- Equipment to expand production and distribution capacity for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) - At-risk Afterschool Meals
- Any allowable programmatic costs for the SFSP and CACFP not compensated by federal reimbursement
- Food, materials, transportation, and staff support for weekend food backpack programs for youth age 18 and under

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## V. TANF Spending Summary *cont'd*

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- Food, materials, transportation, and staff support for household food distributions at schools or other child nutrition program sites.

This program supports the first purpose of the TANF program to provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes.

### **Community Employment and Training**

For FY20, \$10,500,000 from the TANF block grant was appropriated for community employment and training programs. These services support the TANF purpose to end the dependence of needy parents by promoting job preparation and work. These funds were to provide funding for competitive grants for community employment and training programs designed to move current and former TANF clients and those with incomes 200% or less of the poverty level into meaningful employment with the prospect of a career path and wage growth. Of the appropriation, \$2,000,000 was set aside to provide for competitive grants to be provided by Employment Services Organizations (ESOs). Only four ESOs applied for funding. All received awards for a total of \$1,281,462.00.

In 2018, the General Assembly added \$3,000,000 for the first year and \$3,000,000 for the second year from the TANF block grant to provide for a second round of grants for community employment and training programs. The new funds provide additional resources to expand and enhance evidence-based innovative types of service delivery efforts to address more fully the needs of the target population prior to their entry into work and during employment. In January 2019, twenty projects were selected for awards.

# VI. Recommendations

## 1. Revise the TANF Standards of Need, earned income disregard, and benefit amounts.

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to revise the Standard of Need with a 10% increase in benefits, a 20% increase in the income threshold, and a 20% increase in income disregards. The total request is approximately \$39M (\$5.1M GF, \$23.7M TANF federal funds, and \$10.2M Child Care federal discretionary funds) in FY2021 and FY2022 with an additional \$418,823 (\$168,520 GF and \$250,302 TANF federal funds) in FY2021 for local staffing and on-boarding costs. A 15.5% local match will also be required (approximately \$1.7M in FY2021 and \$1.6M in FY2022).

## 2. Implement a “benefit cliff” pilot to inform policy related to transitioning from the program.

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to implement a benefit cliff pilot to fill in the gap created by the loss of other benefits, eliminate or reduce the disincentive for people to seek higher paying jobs, and smooth the transition towards self-sufficiency. VDSS has requested \$2M of TANF federal funds in FY2021 and FY2022 to implement the pilot.

## 3. Provide a targeted, limited supplemental benefit for needy families in the summer to combat hunger.

VDSS has presented for consideration in the budget process the option to increase cash benefits for a limited time in the summer in 38 localities with one or no community site participating in the Summer Food Service Program. The purpose is to use federal funds to fill in the gaps so that low-income children in these communities can still access food in the summer when they cannot receive meals at school. The total request is for \$2.7M in TANF federal funds in FY2020 and \$7.7M in TANF federal funds in FY 2021 and FY2022. This directly aligns with the TANF goal to provide support for needy families so children can be cared for at home.

## 4. Increase the TANF Caseload Reserve to plan for economic downturns and an increased need for cash assistance in Virginia.

A larger reserve of TANF funds to account for increases in caseload during economic downturns can ensure that there are no disruptions in TANF-funded services or reductions in benefit amounts for TANF participants.

## 5. Require all programs funded with TANF discretionary funds to enter data into the Virginia Longitudinal Data System in order to establish evidence of their impact and alignment with federal TANF goals.

This requirement enables VDSS to understand and promote effective, efficient, evidence-based practices.

## 6. Consider allowing the Virginia Department of Social Services to have broader authority and flexibility around administration of the block grant funds in order to blend and braid TANF dollars with other resources designed to provide workforce development services in the Commonwealth.

The workforce development services provided by the program can be more effective if the Department had direct control of the TANF block grant allocation and could blend and braid its services with the other workforce service providers funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), Wagner-Peyser, and the higher education system. This would require a language change in the budget.

# VII. Cost Impact

Decreased access to TANF benefits has left the poorest and most vulnerable families without resources needed to meet their basic needs. Increasing benefits will cost \$818,955 for each for each 1% that benefits are increased; therefore, the increase could be scaled according to the availability of funds.

Percentage Increase in Payments	Amount
1%	\$ 818,955
2%	\$ 1,637,910
3%	\$ 2,456,865
4%	\$ 3,275,820
5%	\$ 4,094,775
10%	\$ 8,189,550
15%	\$12,284,324
20%	\$16,379,099
25%	\$20,473,874

Raise the income eligibility criteria - The cost of this is scalable. It will cost approximately \$303,027 for each percentage increase in the eligibility screening amounts.

Percentage Increase in Screening Amount	Amount
1%	\$ 303,027
2%	\$ 606,055
3%	\$ 909,082
4%	\$ 1,212,110
5%	\$ 1,515,137
10%	\$ 3,030,274
15%	\$ 4,545,411
20%	\$ 6,060,578
25%	\$ 7,575,686

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Adjust the TANF eligibility calculation to disregard more income - This is scalable. It will cost approximately \$303,027 for each percentage increase in the eligibility screening amounts.

Percentage Increase in Screening Amount	Amount
1%	\$ 303,027
2%	\$ 606,055
3%	\$ 909,082
4%	\$ 1,212,110
5%	\$ 1,515,137
10%	\$ 3,030,274
15%	\$ 4,545,411
20%	\$ 6,060,578
25%	\$ 7,575,686



# VIII. Conclusion

Multiple studies show that direct cash assistance is the most effective way to enable families to lift themselves out of poverty and contribute to family and child well-being. The Commonwealth's goals to improve school readiness and academic outcomes, reduce infant and maternal mortality, reduce food insecurity, and prevent child abuse and neglect all point to the reduction and eventual elimination of poverty as the most impactful social determinant intervention. Although many well-meaning programs seek to help families with education and training or otherwise mediate a family's self-determination, Virginia should prioritize direct investment in families, not programs.

Fortunately, the legal flexibility and resources are available to make these important investments that will enable low-income and no-income families to meet their basic needs and access important job readiness and job training services to place them on a path of economic independence. By updating the TANF program's standard of need, earned income disregard, and benefit amounts, more low-income families can receive the cash assistance they need to meet their basic needs and the greater their incentive to earn a living wage. The aforementioned recommendations also recognize the reality of summer hunger and the associated learning loss during summer months and propose using TANF funds to provide a supplemental benefit for families not able to access the Summer Food Service Program which is intended to replace the school breakfast and lunch programs during the summer months.

Virginia also has the opportunity to lead the nation in solving the "benefit cliff" problem that arises as families lose medical, nutrition, and housing assistance as their earned income increases, providing a disincentive to progress toward a living wage. Finally, Virginia must use its scarce resources efficiently and effectively, including those dedicated to workforce development. Instead of a series of direct appropriations of TANF surplus funds that go to a myriad of important but not necessarily evidence-based programs, the Virginia Department of Social Services should have the responsibility and be held accountable for using the TANF block grant to meet the needs of Virginia's most vulnerable children through evidence-based interventions and to coordinate the delivery of workforce services so that parents can become economically independent by earning a living wage.

## APPENDIX

# Appendix A - Study Mandate

## **Item 340 S. of the House Bill 1700 (Budget Bill):**

The Commissioner, Department of Social Services, shall develop a comprehensive plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and make recommendations to ensure the block grant is being used in the most effective manner to best support low-income families in achieving self-sufficiency. The Commissioner shall: (i) review and evaluate the current uses of TANF block grant funds; (ii) assess the effectiveness of current TANF benefits in assisting families; (iii) evaluate the effectiveness of the discretionary uses of TANF in meeting the four goals of the TANF program and whether such uses have outcome measures; and (iv) provide estimates for the costs of any recommendations in the plan. The Commissioner shall consult with stakeholders in developing the plan, and shall submit the plan to the Joint Subcommittee for Health and Human Resources Oversight by October 1, 2019.

# Appendix B - Program Assessments

## **Domestic Violence Services**

Outcomes were measured by surveying recipients of domestic violence services. Survey results are shown below:

- Because of services received, they know more about sexual and/or domestic violence and its impact – 96%
- Because of services received, they know more about community resources – 95%
- Because of services received, they know more ways to plan for their safety – 96%
- They felt welcomed and respected - 92%
- Because of services received, they know how to take their next steps – 95%
- They could accept or not accept the services offered to them – 99%
- Because of services received, their children know that it's okay to talk about their experiences with violence – 90%
- Because of services received, they feel that their children are having more positive interactions with others – 91%
- They learned new information or acquired a new skill and/or resource they can use to promote healthy relationships and counteract factors that support violence - 97%
- Reported an increased awareness of community resources - 97%
- They learned new information that will help them identify and respond to sexual and/or domestic violence - 97%
- Reported an increased knowledge of factors that promote healthy relationships and/or factors that perpetuate sexual and/or domestic violence - 97%
- They learned new information or acquired a new skill and/or resource that they can use to promote healthy relationships and counteract factors that support violence - 97%
- They know more ways to plan for their safety - 96%
- They received some or all of the help they wanted with the impact of violence on relationships with family and friends - 98%
- They are more hopeful about their life – 97%
- They received some or all of the help they wanted addressing their emotional needs – 98%
- They received some or all of the help they wanted meeting basic financial needs – 93%
- They received some or all of the help they wanted finding safe and affordable housing – 87%
- They received some or all of the help they wanted accessing healthcare services. – 92%
- Their children know that it's okay to talk about their experiences with violence – 90%
- They feel that their children are having more positive interactions with others – 91%

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## Appendix B - Program Assessments *cont'd*

### **Community Action Agencies**

Services and strategies provided by the Virginia community action network resulted in over 186,000 performance outcomes for participants and communities with low incomes. These outcomes include:

- 69,000 Child and Family Development- outcomes in which infants, children, youth, parents and other adults participated in developmental or enrichment programs facilitated by the Virginia network and achieved program goals.
- 34,000 Emergency Assistance- Individuals and families with low incomes received emergency assistance from the Virginia network.
- 22,000 Employment- Participants with low incomes obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to initial or continuous employment, acquired a job, increased their incomes, or achieved living wage employment and benefits.
- 19,000 Family Stability- Participants with low incomes obtained supports which reduced or eliminated barriers to family stability.
- 19,000 Independent- Living for Vulnerable Populations with Low Incomes Vulnerable individuals with low incomes received services and secured or maintained an independent living situation as a result.
- 12,000 Economic Asset Enhancement and Utilization- Households with low incomes increased their financial assets and/or financial skills.
- 11,000 Community Empowerment- Community members and people with low incomes mobilized to engage in activities that support and promote their own well-being and that of their community through maximum feasible participation.
- 500 Community Opportunities and Resources- Community opportunities or resources were improved or expanded for people with low incomes as a result of community action projects or initiatives, or partnerships with other private and public agencies.

These anti-poverty outcomes all partially included the use of TANF funds. Seventy-three percent of families served in VA by the CSBG Network lived below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, and 41% of families served in VA were in severe poverty (below 50% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines). So these TANF funds were spent on serious issues of poverty across the Commonwealth. Community Action agencies continue to work at increasing their capacity to develop new program approaches, such as whole family/two-generation as well, and the current year outcomes on those agency initiatives will include additional information on families that have been lifted out of poverty.

### **Earned Income Tax Credit/Virginia Cash Campaign**

During the January-April 2018 tax filing season:

- \$185,725 in EITC grant funds were distributed to coalitions serving taxpayers across the Commonwealth (Central Virginia, Tidewater, Northern Virginia, Piedmont and Western Virginia)
- Over 33,500 federal and state tax returns filed (electronic, paper and self-assisted) with clients obtaining almost \$35 million in federal and state tax refunds
- Almost \$12 million in Earned Income Tax Credit refunds were generated to Virginia taxpayers
- The average federal tax refund was \$1,214 with an average income of about \$21,500

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- Over \$6.7 million saved by taxpayers not using a paid preparer with clients able to keep 100% of their refunds
- Community outreach efforts include almost 5 million taxpayers across Virginia through:
  - » Public Service Announcements
  - » Newspaper articles and Op-Ed pieces
  - » Billboards advertising free tax preparation
  - » Press releases
  - » Free tax preparation flyers
  - » Social media postings
  - » Live TV and radio
  - » Financial education and asset building opportunities
- Over 1,200 volunteers gave over 50,000 hours to the VITA program (training and volunteering as preparers and educators). The VITA program depends on their commitment and dedication as they give back to their communities. Independent Sector values volunteer time in Virginia at \$26.75 per hour. The volunteer value is well over \$1.6 million.

### Child Abuse and Neglect Advocacy Projects

These programs provide services to victims of child abuse including forensic interviewing, victim support and advocacy services, medical evaluations, mental health counseling, individual and group therapy, crisis hotlines, and other support services. In SFY 2018, there were 5,703 new child cases served, 4,893 forensic interviews conducted, 20,655 multidisciplinary team case reviews and 22,280 other victim services provided.

Currently, there are eighteen (18) local CAC sites funded by TANF within Virginia. The sites and geographic area served include:

Program Name	Area Served
Arlington County	Arlington Co
Center for Alexandria's Children	Alexandria City
Highland CSB - Bristol	Bristol, Counties of Washington, Smyth
Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters	Norfolk, Va. Beach, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Portsmouth
Children's Trust Foundation	Cities of Roanoke, Salem, Radford, Counties of Roanoke, Pulaski, Montgomery, Carroll, Botetourt, Bedford
ChildSafe Center	Winchester, Shenandoah County
Collins Center	Harrisonburg, Rockingham Co.
Foothills	Charlottesville, Counties of Albemarle, Nelson, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Greene, Madison
Greater Richmond SCAN	City of Richmond, Counties of Prince George, Louisa, Cumberland, New Kent, Henrico, Charles City County
Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice	Loudoun, Leesburg
Mountain Empire Older Citizens	Lee, Scott, Wise Dickerson Counties, Cities of Norton, Big Stone Gap
Safe Harbor	Fredericksburg, Counties of Caroline, Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George

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## Appendix B - Program Assessments *cont'd*

Program Name	Area Served
Safespot	Fairfax County and City
Southern Virginia	Cities of Rocky Mount, Martinsville, Counties of Franklin, Patrick, Henry
Valley	Cities of Staunton, Waynesboro, Lexington, Buena Vista Counties of Augusta, Rockbridge
City of Emporia	City of Emporia, Greenville County
Davis Center- Chesterfield	Chesterfield Co. Colonial Heights
CARES	Tazewell, Buchanan, Russell

### CHIP of Virginia

Following is a summary of data for July 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019:

- 17,328 home visits;
- 191 office visits;
- 791 transports;
- 1,704 face-to-face contacts;
- 4,441 telephone calls;
- 4,313 other contacts on behalf of the family;
- 7,111 other non-face-to-face contacts;
- 1,722 families served;
- 93.4% of families receiving home visits;
- 2,962 school, head start or education service referrals;
- 1,621 referrals to social services;
- 1,745 referrals to mental health and substance abuse services;
- 819 referrals to Medicaid/FAMIS/FAMIS Plus or HMO;
- 715 referrals to WIC;
- 1,053 referrals to employment services;
- 1,290 referrals to housing services;
- 799 referrals to emergency resources such as food banks;
- 679 referrals to school or education services;
- 1,090 referrals to community action programs;
- 605 referrals to court services and legal aid;
- 539 referrals to child protective services;
- 278 referrals to early childhood special education;
- 138 referrals to the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- 2,555 family needs assessments;
- 3,792 developmental assessments/screening;
- 12,885 parenting education;
- 2,436 health and dental assessments;

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- 6,542 health education;
- 14,994 community service referrals;
- 15,966 case management services – family; and
- 5,188 case management services-health.

### Healthy Families

Based on reports from all sites, but recognizing some sites may have reported on all served by the program rather than those served by TANF funding alone, 17,673 parents and 9,880 children were served during SFY 18.

The program serves 93 cities and counties in Virginia. Localities served by Healthy Families are listed below:

Alexandria	Arlington County	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	Clarke 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	Halifax County	Page County	South Boston
Roanoke City	Roanoke County	Salem	Botetourt County
Craig County			

Healthy Families Virginia (HFV) 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 College of William & Mary and Huntington Associates, Ltd. have completed annual Healthy Families Virginia evaluation reports for the Healthy Families Virginia Initiative and Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.

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## Appendix B - Program Assessments *cont'd*

The SFY 2014 - 2018 draft Statewide Evaluation Report provides the results of the outcome evaluation of 37 Healthy Families sites. The summary is based on outcome evaluations of two groups of sites, those that participate in the HFV statewide evaluation project and collect data using the Program Information Management System (PIMS), and data from the sites that do not use PIMS or participate directly in the statewide evaluation project. The following bullet items are notable outcomes abstracted from the report:

- **Child Abuse and Neglect:** The founded rate for SFY 2018 was 0.9% based on 1619 searches of the Child Protective Services Central Registry. This rate is very low, especially considering the high-risk characteristics of the participants and given that many participating mothers reported that they had been abused as children.
- **Healthy Birth Weight:** In SFY 2018 91% of the babies born to the 1,150 prenatal enrollees were within the healthy birth weight range, surpassing the state criterion of 85% of prenatal enrollees delivering babies weighing at least 2500 grams.
- **Connection to Medical Care Providers:** In SFY 2018, 93% of the babies born to enrolled HFV mothers were connected to a primary medical care provider within two months of enrollment which far exceeds the HFV criteria of 85%.
- **Immunizations:** In SFY 2018, over 92% of the children enrolled received 100% of the 16 scheduled immunizations that are recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Virginia Department of Health. This level of performance surpasses the statewide objective of 80% of enrolled children receiving 100% of the scheduled immunizations.
- **Child Development:** Healthy Families programs succeeded in ensuring the referral of children with suspected delays to early intervention services and followed children to ensure the receipt of services. Approximately 94% of the target children were appropriately screened for developmental delays in SFY 2018. Ninety-two percent of the children with suspected delays were referred for further developmental assessment and services as warranted. The 8% of children with suspected delays who were not referred was a result of parents leaving the program before the process was complete or declining to have their child referred.
- **Parent-Child Interaction:** In SFY 2018, of the 1969 parent-child interactions assessed using the Nursing Child Assessment Teaching Scale, 91% were within normal limits. This result surpassed the statewide criterion that at least 85% of participants demonstrate acceptable levels of parent-child interaction or experience improvement after one year of participation. Additionally, 1,689 families participated long enough to evaluate the home environment. Ninety-four percent of these families' assessments were within normal limits, again surpassing the statewide criterion of 85%. Overall, Healthy Families participants displayed greater sensitivity to their children's cues, increased understanding of their children's development, less overall stress, and greater knowledge of alternative methods of discipline.

### **Boys and Girls Club**

Clubs offer the following programs:

#### **Academic Success**

- **Project Learn:** Education programming for youth ages 6-18 that reinforces and supports the skills and knowledge kids are learning in school. Project Learn uses a comprehensive strategy of academic support and incentives, including: 1) High-yield learning activities; 2) Daily homework help and tutoring; 3) School collaboration to track youth progress and develop individualized plans for youth in need of extra support; 4) Parental involvement; and 5) Providing incentives - rewards and acknowledgements -for academic effort and achievement.
- **Power Hour:** Homework help, tutoring, and high-yield activities for youth ages 6- 18.

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### **Workforce Development**

- **Junior Staff:** The newly revamped Junior Staff program is aimed at cultivating the next generation of leaders. This practical, small group program assists teens ages 13-18 in exploring a career in youth development and other human services and provides teens with age-appropriate skill-building opportunities and hands-on club work experience in career development, apprenticeship, customer service, and community service.
- **Career Launch:** Career preparation for teens ages 13-18. Sponsored by the Gap Foundation, teens explore careers, learn to make sound educational decisions and find success in the world of work. The program, sponsored by Gap Foundation, contains 22 competency-based, small-group activities.
- **Money Matters:** Basic money management skills for Club members ages 13-18 including managing a checking account, budgeting, saving and investing, learning about starting small businesses and paying for college.
- **Community Service:** BGCA encourages good character and appreciation for citizenship and provides every Club member with opportunities to serve in year round Club and community-based volunteer service experiences. BGCA encourages Clubs and provides resources to help them engage every member in at least one hour of service each year. Members may also have the opportunity to participate, throughout the year, in the eight Signature Service Opportunities- times when the entire Boys & Girls Club Movement comes together around important, nationwide service projects for greater impact.

### **Healthy Lifestyles**

- **SMART Moves** - This is a prevention programming to help young people develop skills to resist drug use, alcohol, tobacco, as well as premature sexual activity. Related gender specific programming will include:
- **SMART Girls** - SMART Girls is a small-group health, fitness, prevention/education and self-esteem enhancement program designed to meet the developmental needs of girls ages 8-12 and 13-17. Through dynamic sessions, highly participatory activities, field trips and mentoring opportunities with adult women, Club girls explore their own and societal attitudes and values as they build skills for eating right, staying physically fit, getting good health care and developing positive relationships with peers and adults.
- **Passport to Manhood** - Passport to Manhood promotes and teaches responsibility in Club boys ages 11-14. Passport to Manhood consists of 14 sessions, each of which concentrates on a specific aspect of manhood through highly interactive activities. Each Club participant receives his own "passport" to underscore the notion that he is on a personal journey of maturation and growth. Passport to Manhood represents a targeted effort to engage young boys in discussions and activities that reinforce positive behavior.
- **Family Engagement** - In order to encourage parental participation and family engagement, Clubs provide activities for the entire family. Typical activities include family fun nights for parents, teachers and children; cookouts and game tournaments; basketball games for adults and teens; and guest speakers/panelists to discuss college and other post-high school opportunities. Knowing families better also assists Club staff in identifying other needs and/or services government or otherwise - that could be offered to benefit the family as a whole. The Alliance proposes to engage 375 parents in family engagement activities/events.
- **Triple Play:** A comprehensive health and wellness program developed by BGCA in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, designed to be incorporated into multiple aspects of youth experiences at the Club to improve the overall health of young people ages 6 - 18 by increasing their daily physical activity, teaching them good nutrition, and helping them to develop and sustain positive relationships with others.

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## Appendix B – Program Assessments *cont'd*

### Resource Mothers

Results for FY18:

- 459 teens served
- 164 infants served
- 164 live births (of all deliveries, 96.95% were live births; 3.0% were fetal deaths, 0 infant deaths, 0% infant mortality)
- 9037.15 total home visiting contact hours were delivered;
- 167 new pregnant teens enrolled, 270 teen client referrals received
- 2 teens were receiving TANF benefits at enrollment
- 160 prenatal enrollment
- 7 postpartum enrollment
- 695 referrals to local community resources
- 62 without health insurance coverage at enrollment
- Number of low birthweight infants 11 (6.7%)
- Smoking at conception 74
- Smoking at delivery 18
- Attending school 223

### Virginia Early Childhood Foundation School Readiness

Technical assistance included:

- updates (calls, webinars, briefings, email newsletters);
- webinars (Early Childhood Data Inventory Survey, Introduction to Early Childhood Fiscal Mapping, fiscal mapping series, series on efficacy and partnership among Virginia Quality and Smart Beginnings coordinators/leads; orientation for new Smart Beginnings staff);
- onsite consultation and facilitation;
- Smart Beginnings Annual Meeting and a post-conference highlighting a shared services alliance;
- Executive Institute – a leadership development course for new Smart Beginnings' executive-level staff;
- Integrated financing for early childhood programs two-day training; and
- individual/targeted technical assistance.

VECF continued to lead the implementation of a shared services alliance in the East End of Richmond, which was highlighted by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation in their nationally distributed "Leading the Way: A Guide for Business Engagement in Early Education." Technical assistance and funds were also provided to explore the launch of a shared services alliance in Hampton Roads.

At the state level, VECF:

- worked with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce to co-host the 4th Annual Executive Briefing on the Economics of Early Childhood, release Blueprint 2025, and launch the Early Childhood Business Alliance (a

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small group of business executives focused on championing a strategic business plan for Virginia's early childhood system);

- facilitated the School Readiness Committee including three subcommittees (updating Virginia's professional standards; exploring early childhood governance options; and studying potential strategies to address early childhood financing and appropriate compensation for early childhood educators);
- provided resources for the work of the Joint Subcommittee on VPI (Virginia Preschool Initiative) reform;
- conducted and published the Virginia Early Childhood Workforce Survey;
- published Virginia's Children's Budget 2017 (identifying all revenue lines in Virginia's budget that are tied to services for children from birth to age 5);
- co-led Virginia's quality rating and improvement system;
- convened the Virginia Early Childhood Integrated Financing Symposium;
- worked to advance support and collaboration around a shared vision for an early childhood integrated data system;
- developed strategies to increase access to healthy meals and snacks through greater enrollment in the Child and Adult Care Food Program;
- convened an early childhood articulation group to develop and sustain a more cohesive system of education and professional development for early educators; and
- Along with Smart Beginnings partners, helped raise \$33.1 million for school readiness purposes in Virginia (state fiscal year), a 27:1 leverage of the \$1.25 million in TANF funds for the Smart Beginnings initiative.

### **FACETS**

For FY 17, the following services were provided:

- Hypothermia prevention – 274 individuals were given overnight shelter and meals during the coldest winter months;
- Hot meals program – delivered nearly 25,000 hot meals to people in need;
- Housing and homelessness prevention – served over 1,000 individuals
- Supportive housing – manages and operates supporting housing for 59 single adults and 2 families who were chronically homeless;
- Education and Community Development – operates four centers serving over 800 households living in four affordable housing communities;
- Volunteer and in-kind leverage – leveraged an extensive volunteer network to provide 50,880 volunteer hours

### **Community Employment and Training**

The following programs are funded through the appropriation for Community Employment and Training:

- Career Support System, Inc. – The purpose of this project is to expand the implementation of a successful service delivery model that has a proven record of community-based employment supports for individuals with complex challenges to employment. The current program will be expanded to underserved areas of the State; deliver fee-for-service employment supports to low-income participants; and deliver comprehensive

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## Appendix B – Program Assessments *cont'd*

advocacy and support to bolster employment outcomes and expand levels of interagency coordination, collaboration, and integration of systems and services.

- City of Charlottesville – Expands its Growing Opportunities (GO) program providing training to unemployed and underemployed low-income residents of Charlottesville to facilitate employment in industries earning a living wage leading to self-sufficiency.
- City of Hampton – Resources will be leveraged to minimize or remove barriers to employment. Staff will support the customer's specific needs, including a career path and service plan that includes assessments and education focused on employment. A team of customer-centered, outcome focused and community-based staff will utilize all systems available to operate a care approach to service delivery.
- City of Lynchburg – Funds are being used to expand the Wealth Building Program which provides a direct link between low-income job seekers and middle/high skill employers. The TechHire model consists of a job seeker being provided with wrap-around services through, for example, a case worker; identifying career aptitude and interests; and placing them in a full-time job with a partner employer.
- City of Martinsville – The goal of the program is to connect low-income participants with resources that improve employment attainment, wages, and retention. Working with numerous community based organizations with significant experience in helping low-income families, participants will be connected with services that will result in improved employment and outcomes. On the job training, support services and job skills training will be offered.
- City of Norfolk – Led by the Community Services Board (NCSB) partnering with the Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA), Norfolk Works will provide targeted services to residents of NRHA public housing who are facing behavioral health disorders resulting in employment barriers. An employment support team will be added to the project.
- City of Williamsburg – Working with a partnership between the local departments of social services in Williamsburg, James City County, and York-Poquoson; Virginia Career Works; and Thomas Nelson Community College, training/skills building needs and job retention abilities will be addressed through assessment; a Customer Services Academy (CSA) relevant to all jobs; assistance with training, job placement and job retention; the acquisition of certificates for the CSA; job search support and access to adult education and special education support, as needed.
- Danville Community College – The purpose of the program is to provide participants with enhanced workplace essential skills with an emphasis on a career pathway leading to a living wage. Low-income individuals will be provided high quality workforce credentials and other services and activities to stabilize the individual and enable the person to complete for higher wages and benefits.
- Louise W. Eggleston Center – Funding will support the Collaborative Community Connections (C3) program in the city of Portsmouth. This program provides homeless individuals with support services to obtain and maintain employment. Help is offered with applications for employment, preparation for interviews, and elimination of barriers to employment. Resources and soft skills training are offered.
- Job Assistance Center, Inc. – Working with local Department of Social Services on the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck, services will be offered to prepare participants for entry into employment with the prospect of maintaining employment that can lead to a career path. Comprehensive assessments, work readiness and life skills training, occupational training and career advancement, job placement and enhanced job retention services are available to eligible clients.

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- Literary Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV) – Through its Destination Workforce Program, the LCNV will work with participants in Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church to obtain English language literacy and job skills to enter or advance in the workplace. Targeted, intensive, and customized workforce readiness instruction is offered to help participants get on a fast track to employment.
- Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Inc. – In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), local social services agencies and others, this project will provide employment services to Prince William County's eligible participants with disabilities. The program will replicate one offered in Arlington and Alexandria to help screen, identify and provide wrap-around supports to persons of differing abilities. Intensive case management/barrier resolution; employment readiness/life skills training/positive self-esteem development; job placement/follow-up; educational/vocational skills training opportunities; SSI/SSDI application support; and crisis intervention are included.
- MVLE Inc. – Through MVLE Rise Services, three potential tracks have been developed for use in Loudoun County. Participant tracks are determined on information gathered during outreach, intake, screening or assessment. Employment and Training is offered to those job ready, and those requiring vocational/career assessment and/or training services. Medical Case Management is for those requiring assessment and referral to medical services prior to, or instead of, employment. Benefits Planning and SSI Application Support is for those requiring help with SSI/SSDI applications.
- Newport News – Through the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center (BCIOC) flexible and customized education and training services, appropriate assessment, and wrap-around support services will be offered, as needed. Emphasis is placed on obtaining credentials, higher education certificates, and/or degrees that will lead to gainful employment.
- Northern Virginia Family Services – Provides transportation assistance through dependable, road-ready vehicles. Transportation is an essential commodity for families to obtain and maintain employment. Vehicles for Change will manage the acquisition and maintenance, delivery and repair warranty of vehicles. Northern Virginia Family Services will screen prospective recipients of a vehicle. The award will be used to pay the difference in the cost of the vehicles and what the family is asked to pay.
- NW Works, Inc. – NW Works will provide person-centered, intense case management and employment support to address the unemployment needs in Northern Shenandoah Valley. Referrals will be made by partner agencies and these agencies will assist in providing wrap-around services
- Service Source, Inc. – With its partners, Service Source will provide situational assessments; soft-skills development; job skills training; job analysis; job placement; employment outreach, job development, and expanding access to better jobs; job coaching; internships, practicums, work-studies, and apprenticeships; job follow-up; and job follow along.
- SkillSource Group, Inc. – Funding will be utilized for employment and training services for two targeted populations in Fairfax and Prince William Counties. Adult jobseekers with a disability and returning citizens are being targeted. Services include career and diagnostic assessments, soft skills training, vocational/ educational skills training; subsidized and unsubsidized work experience, job development, placement and retention services.
- The Choice Group – Training, placement and post-employment follow-up services to support greater employment retention will be provided. The Choice Group will work with any eligible participant; however, as the largest Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) vendor of Supported Employment

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## Appendix B – Program Assessments *cont'd*

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services, they will support individuals with the most significant disabilities and help them find competitive employment.

- Worksource Enterprises – Project will continue and expand the successful joint efforts in working with low-income participants with a particular emphasis on employment that will lead to wage growth and career paths. Partners include the local departments of social service and DARS.

As of December 31, 2018, at the end of the 6th quarter, all projects were fully staffed and operational. Those with experience in operating these types of grants continue to outpace those with little or no experience. However, all have increased participation and success stories are common.

The following organizations and agencies received grants in 2018:

- City of Charlottesville, Office of Economic Development – The Growing Opportunities (GO) training program is designed to provide training to unemployed and underemployed residents of Charlottesville to help them obtain employment in various industries earning a living wage.
- Career Support Systems, Inc. – Designed to expand, in underserved areas of the state, existing successful, flexible, and portable funding and service delivery that has been proven to promote individuals with complex challenges to employment.
- City of Lynchburg – Through its TechHire model, willing and able job seekers with existing wrap around support such as a case worker will be identified; their career aptitude and interests explored; and they will be placed in full-time employment with a local employer who is willing to spend 6-8 weeks training the participant in technical skills. All jobs offer opportunities for career advancement.
- City of Norfolk – Targets qualifying individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders receiving Community Service Board and/or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services to assist them with services to overcome barriers to employment.
- City of Richmond Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) – The purpose of the program is to reduce poverty in Richmond by preparing participants to work in occupations that are both in demand and offer self-sufficient wages. The Center for Workforce Innovation in OCWB is the primary engine to move people out of poverty through direct services.
- Danville Community College – The SCALE UP Program is designed to provide short term in demand industry credentials, interpersonal skills training, and employment search support to ameliorate regional unemployment and underemployment.
- Goodwill of Central and Coastal Virginia – Designed to build on the success of the Transition and Employment (TIE) Program by increasing engagement in skill-building work experiences and building career pathways leading to increased wages and promotions.
- Learn to Earn, Inc. – Through its Career Transition Skills Program, Learn to Earn will utilize a partnership network of businesses, education and training providers, and workforce services to increase the number of low-income individuals who are experiencing problems in finding employment due to multiple barriers.
- Melwood Horticultural Training Center, Inc. – To expand services to TANF recipients with significant barriers to employment residing in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Specifically, participants with long-term unemployment, poor job retention, and/or those with 6 months or less remaining before benefits end will be targeted with the ultimate goal of placement in livable wage employment.

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- People Inc. of Virginia – The purpose is to aid the most at-risk individuals to overcome barriers that prevent employment. Training, support and access to resource will be provided to help the participant find a job on a career path.
- Portsmouth Department of Social Services – The goal of the “A Step Ahead” program is to address barriers such as poor job retention, low education levels and limited access to the transportation system. An intensive job readiness component will be employed including soft skills training, and job placement. The goal is for the participant to become employment for more than 6 months at wages that are 10% above the current minimum wage.
- Rappahannock Community College – The goal is an increase in skills and credential attainment, employment and employment retention, reduction in poverty, and the entry into a career pathway. Goals will be accomplished by enrollment and retention in the program; educational assessment and gain; Career Pathways identification and goal setting; skills development and credential attainment; and employment placement and advancement.
- Rehabilitative Services and Vocational Placement, Inc. – The goal of this program is to provide a collection of services including GED completion; career readiness training; post-secondary educational opportunities; and supported employment services. Vocational Assessment and Vocational Evaluation/Testing will be used to assess skills and abilities, and to develop individual career planning.
- Shenandoah Valley Social Services the Medical Outreach and Financial Independence Program (MOFIP) goals are to address medical and mental health needs to help move participants towards employment; to assist with applications for SSI/SSDI, when necessary; and to provide financial literacy programs to assist participants in gaining tools needed to understand economic independence. In addition, community medical and mental health providers will be educated about the program.
- The Improvement Association – Will assist participants from Southside Virginia with pre-employment (soft skills development) and job skills training and/or basic education leading to a GED. Other barriers to employment will also be addressed including transportation and childcare.
- The SkillSource Group, Inc. – Expansion of an existing program that will serve participants in Fairfax with others coming from Prince William and other areas of the region. SkillSource will provide subsidized and unsubsidized employment opportunities resulting in increased skills and increased self-sufficiency through employment. In addition, specific emphasis will be on job placement with a focus on increasing educational attainment and credentials leading to a reduction of dependency on public assistance.

As part of the grant requirements, organizations are required to complete a quarterly report with certain components identified.

The following chart represents the combined results of all grantees reporting through the first six quarters of the project, July 1, 2017-December 31, 2018. Not all individual components were reported by all grantees.

<b>Component</b>	1st-6th Quarter	Ending 12/31/18	% Achieved
	Planned	Actual	
# Participants	1138	1119	98%
# Entered Employment	680	641	94%
# Unique Employers	273	309	113%

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## Appendix B - Program Assessments *cont'd*

Component	1st-6th Quarter	Ending 12/31/18	% Achieved
	Planned	Actual	
Average Hourly Starting Wage	\$9.90	\$11.79	119%
# With Benefits	221	174	79%
# Employed Part Time	296	287	97%
# Employed Full Time	387	354	92%
Average Wage Increase	\$.78	\$2.34	300%
# Obtaining Wage Increase	147	127	86%
#Jobs in a Career Pathway	272	239	88%

### LARC

This report includes preliminary results for the first six months of program implementation from October 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. Table 1 lists the number of devices, insertions, and removals provided to patients during this reporting period. The LARC Initiative has reimbursed providers for 973 patient encounters across the Commonwealth, including 772 insertions/reinsertions, 767 devices, and 201 removals. Four patients were diagnosed with substance use disorder at the time of their visit.

Table 1.

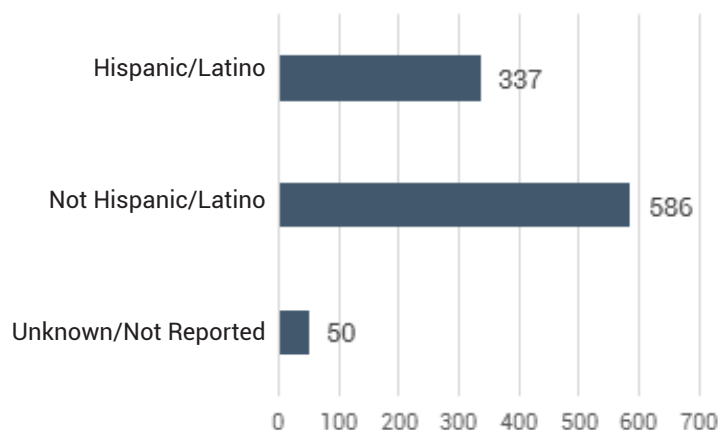
	Anticipated Encounters 2018-2020	Cumulative Encounters	Cumulative Insertions*	Cumulative Removals**	Cumulative Removals + Reinsertions at Same Visit	Cumulative Devices Purchased
Total	6,071	973	688	201	84	767

\*Includes attempted insertions

\*\*Includes attempted removals

Tables 2, 3, and 4 show the number of encounters by ethnicity, race, and income. Since its inception, the LARC Initiative has met the needs of some of the most vulnerable Virginians, with 65% of patients being at or below the FPL.

Table 2. Number of Encounters by Ethnicity



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Table 3. Number of Encounters by Race

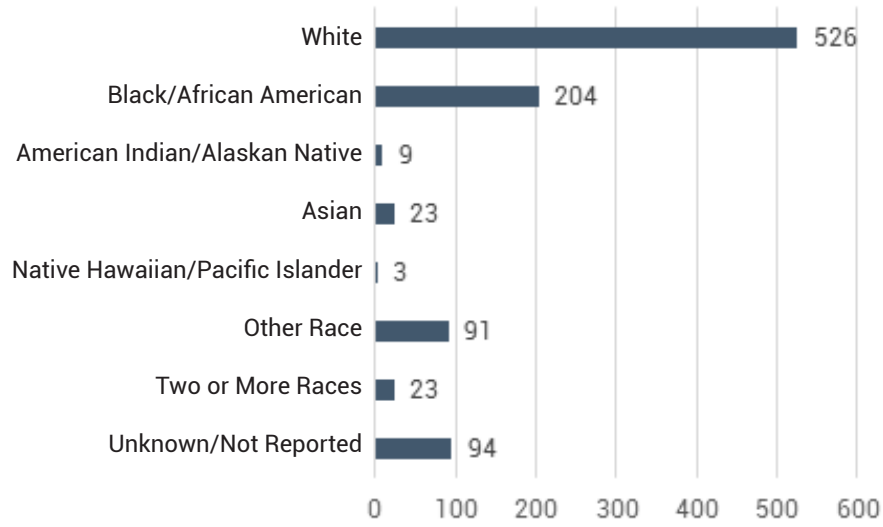
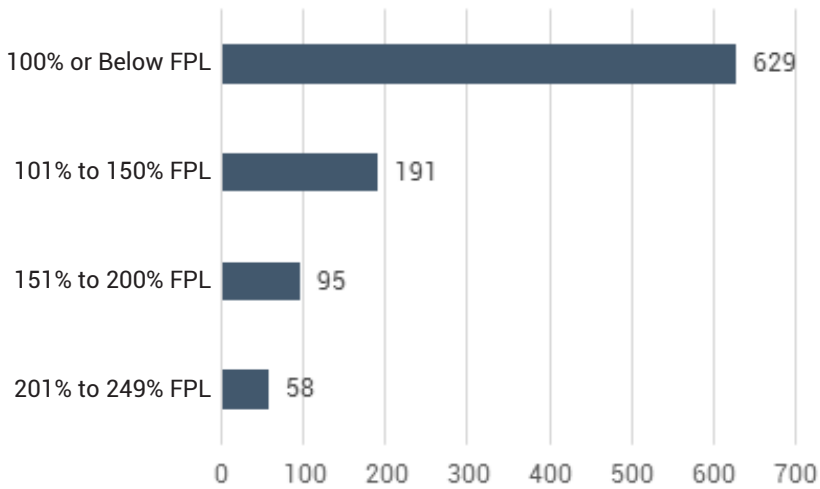


Table 4. Number of Encounters by Income

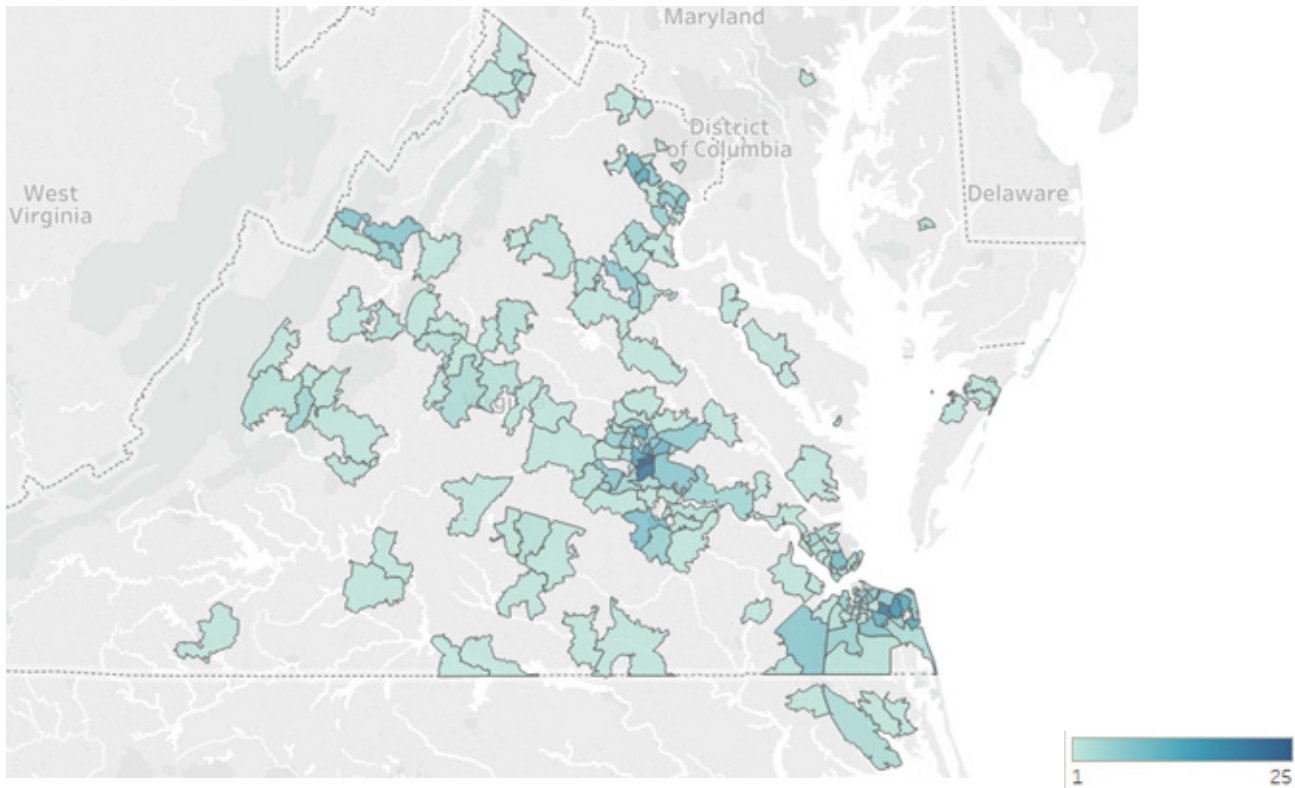


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## Appendix B - Program Assessments *cont'd*

Image 2 illustrates patient distribution according to residence. During this reporting period, the majority of patients resided in the Richmond and Hampton Roads metropolitan areas. Program participation was also significant in rural Central and Northwest Virginia counties.

*Image 2. Number of Patients by Patient Zip Code*



### *Metrics Used to Measure Results*

The Virginia LARC Initiative will conclude at the end of state fiscal year 2020 (June 30, 2020), with contracts officially ending on May 31, 2020. The full impact of this pilot program will not be apparent until well after its conclusion, given that data concerning unintended pregnancy, teen pregnancy, and abortion rates are released on a two-year delay. After the pilot program ends, VDH will continue monitoring this data through its Office of Information Management and Division of Population Health Data. VDH anticipates lower teen pregnancy and abortion rates among areas with a high concentration of patients served through the Virginia LARC Initiative. In the meantime, VDH intends to track and report the following information:

- Demographic information about patients served, including race, ethnicity, and income;
- Number of patients served with a substance use diagnosis;
- Geographic analysis of patient residence and provider zip codes; and
- Patient satisfaction.

The Virginia LARC Initiative is becoming an important safety net provider for low-income women, making contraceptive services available to nearly 1,000 women during its first year of implementation. Through strong collaborations with eighteen health providers and DMAS, VDH is working to ensure that the most effective methods of contraception are available to women, regardless of ability to pay. By administering the Virginia LARC Initiative, VDH will continue its efforts to reduce unintended pregnancies and improve maternal and child health outcomes during the upcoming fiscal year.