



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
COMMISSIONER

December 12, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia

Members, Virginia General Assembly

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

SUBJECT: Report on Two-Generation/Whole Family Pilot Project

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' report on the Two-Generation/Whole Family Pilot Project, prepared pursuant to Item 346 (4) of the 2019 Appropriation Act. If you have questions, please contact me.

SDS:kc
Attachment

**Report on Item 346 (4) of the 2019 Appropriation Act
Two Generation/Whole Family Pilot
November 2019**

Background & Report Mandate

Item 346 (4) of the 2019 Appropriation Act states:

“Out of this appropriation, \$1,125,000 the second year from the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant shall be provided for competitive grants to Community Action Agencies for a Two-Generation/Whole Family Pilot Project and for evaluation of the pilot project. Applicants selected for the pilot project shall provide a match of no less than 20 percent of the grant, including in-kind services. The Department of Social Services shall report to the General Assembly annually on the progress of the pilot project and shall complete a final report on the project no later than six years after the commencement of the project.”

Two-Generation/Whole Family approaches emphasize the provision of education, economic supports, social capital, and health and well-being to create a legacy of economic security that passes from one generation to the next. Implementing research that has been done through Aspen Ascend and other partners that understand that if you want to make tomorrow better for children, you have to make it better for their parents, and vice versa. Increasingly, lawmakers and other public officials throughout the country are turning their attention to the potential of Two-Generation/Whole Family policymaking across multiple domains – like safety net benefits, wage and workforce policies, high-quality child care and health care – to bring greater economic security to their constituents with low incomes. This shift is based on the recognition that children from families with low incomes are often caught up in their parents’ economic struggles, and consequently experience unmet needs, low-quality schools, and unstable circumstances. Likewise, parental education is closely related to the academic achievement of children who experience poverty. And as Aspen Ascend points out, policies aimed at improving family economic security and child well-being often do not consider the needs of parents and their children together. For example, state poverty amelioration and workforce development programs often do not accommodate the full needs of working families, such as access to services like high-quality child care and interim income support, while parents secure the education they need to make a family-supporting wage.

Status

Solicitation CVS-19-099 was issued and awarded for the National Community Action Partnership, under the direction of the Virginia Department of Social Services, to provide the following from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020:

- research and lead development of Two-Generation/Whole Family outcomes for the pilot project;

- develop and release an RFP; lead the review team that selects the agencies to be awarded funds;
- work with approximately five (5) Community Action Agencies to develop individual Program Designs that meet the expectations and criteria set forth in the RFP;
- train the selected agencies on the selected model for the project;
- lead group meetings with the selected agencies;
- receive and provide oversight and feedback for regular reporting;
- provide technical assistance to agencies (in person and through other means);
- provide reports to the CSBG Office, partners, funders;
- prepare an annual report on the progress of the project; and conduct an evaluation of the pilot project outcomes.

On September 25, 2019 RFA CVS 20-037 was issued to Virginia's Community Action Agencies for a Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach Pilot Project and for evaluation of the pilot project. The goal of this pilot project is to test and evaluate concepts and specific interventions that represent Two-Generation or Whole Family strategies to alleviate multi-generational poverty. The pilot project will accelerate the development of Two-Generation or Whole Family strategies that will move families out of poverty in a variety of communities throughout the Commonwealth. The Department of Social Services will evaluate these pilot programs and disseminate information about successful projects throughout the Commonwealth to promote adoption of effective Two-Generation or Whole Family strategies to alleviate multi-generational poverty. The Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach Pilot Project application and eventual implementation will include the use of the approach/models/research of: the Aspen Institute/ASCEND; Annie E. Casey Foundation; OPRE; Urban Institute). The purpose of the Two-Generation/Whole Family Approach Pilot Project is to implement Two Generation/Whole Family Initiatives through competitively selected Community Action Agencies of varied size/capacity/community/resources that achieve several results: selected/assessed families achieve self-sufficiency; selected agencies can document the ways in which their activities met specific outcomes for parents, children, and families; the costs and barriers to those outcomes, and best practices for achieving those outcomes; and the agencies advance towards becoming a Whole Family/Two-Generation agency that can replicate/improve/expand on the work of the Pilot Project moving forward to become a Whole Family agency. It is anticipated all contracts will be fully executed by December 1, 2019.