



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

S. Duke Storen  
Commissioner

August 31, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

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

The Honorable Janet D. Howell  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable Luke E. Torian  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee

Daniel Timberlake, Director  
Department of Planning and Budget

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

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report on Adoption of Special Needs Children from Foster Care

I am pleased to submit the Department of Social Services' annual report on the use and effectiveness of funding for adoption of special needs children adopted from foster care. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me.

SDS:kc  
Attachment

**Department of Social Services  
Annual Report on Adoption Contracts  
June 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020**

**Report Mandate and Background**

Items 344(F.1) and (F.2) of the 2019 Appropriation Act provides:

- (1) “Out of this appropriation, \$1,500,000 the first year from federal funds and \$1,500,000 the second year from the general fund shall be provided to implement pilot programs that increase the number of foster care children adopted.”
  
- (2) “Beginning July 1, 2017, the department shall provide an annual report, not later than 45 days after the end of the state fiscal year, on the use and effectiveness of this funding including, but not limited to, the additional number of special needs children adopted from foster care as a result of this effort and the types of ongoing supportive services provided, to the Governor, Chairmen of House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees, and the Director, Department of Planning and Budget.”

**Extreme Recruitment® - FAM-15-093 & FAM-20-003**

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

Number of Foster Care Youth Served	29
Number of Foster Care Children Connected with Adoptive Parents	16
Number of Finalized Adoptions	8

Future of the services:

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)-supported Extreme Recruitment® project ended on June 30, 2020. VDSS intended to contract with the Foster & Adoptive Care Coalition to implement the 30 Days to Family® intervention, which is an approach that searches for relatives and kin within the first 30 days of the child entering foster care, rather than waiting until the child has been in care for an extended period of time. This permits permanency options such as adoption to be achieved as soon as it becomes apparent that the child cannot return home. Unfortunately,

due to the economic effects of COVID-19 and the subsequent un-allotment by the Governor of new discretionary spending for SFY21, this project is on hold. VDSS still intends to implement the 30 Days to Family® intervention should funds be made available.

**Post Adoption Services – FAM-15-083**

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

Ongoing supportive services provided by contractors this reporting period

Family and individual counseling, case management, and crisis intervention	179 adopted youth
Training for Adoption Competency (TAC) to mental health professionals	18 therapists

Future of the services:

Direct service post-adoption contracts ended on June 30, 2020. VDSS will use Reinvestment of Adoption General Fund Savings to continue providing critical post-adoption services and supports throughout the Commonwealth in SFY21.