



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

S. Duke Storen
Commissioner

July 1, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Ralph S. Northam
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Janet D. Howell, Chairperson
Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chairperson
House Appropriations Committee

Daniel Timberlake, Director
Department of Planning and Budget

FROM: S. Duke Storen

SUBJECT: Report on Wrap-Around Services for Low-Income Families

Pursuant to item 356 (T) of the 2020 Appropriation Act, attached is the report on the use of Temporary Assistance Program funds for United Community to offer services for low-income families. Please contact me with any questions.

SDS:kc
Attachment

Implementation of the Family Achievement Program by United Community

Report Mandate

Item 356 (T) of the 2020 Appropriation Act

T. Out of this appropriation, \$700,000 the first year and \$700,000 the second year from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant shall be provided to United Community to offer wrap-around services for low-income families. United Community shall report on annual program performance and outcome measures contained in the memorandum of understanding with the Department of Social Services. The department shall report on any performance and outcome data collected through the memorandum of understanding by July 1 of each year. This report shall be provided to the Governor, Director of the Department of Planning and Budget, and the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance committees.

Background

In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly, in Item 356 (T) of the budget bill, appropriated \$700,000 from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant to United Community for services to low-income families.

United Community is a human services non-profit agency in southeastern Fairfax County that strives to end multi-generational poverty in the community. United Community serves the “Route 1 Corridor” that has a high concentration of affordable housing, but few amenities, features, or supports to help residents improve their quality of life. 83% of their clients live at or below the federal poverty level.

Implementation

The contract for services with United Community was executed on November 23, 2020 to implement the Family Achievement Program. During the initial phase, activities were focused on program planning and design, hiring staff and outreach to community partners.

The following target areas summarize the first quarter activities and progress made on the Family Achievement Program, after the contract was executed on November 23, 2020:

- Recruitment for new positions.
 - Five new positions were created (intake coordinator, program director, and three case managers)
 - The three case manager positions and the intake coordinator position have been filled and training has been completed for the newly hired case managers on the Family Achievement Program service delivery model.
- Outreach to key community non-profit agencies as potential partners for the Family Achievement Program.

- Partnerships with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services, Neighborhood and Community Services, and Adult and Community Educations have been finalized with the development and execution of memorandums of understanding.
- Identification of potential participants for the Family Achievement Program.
 - Participants are referred from Fairfax County Coordinated Services Planning. Additionally, potential participants are identified from families currently receiving services from United Community that meet the basic eligibility requirements of this initiative (income requirements and a dependent child living in the home).
- Weekly food distribution to needy families including emergency food supplies.
 - United Community operates a food pantry, which they use to supply families with supplemental food.

Program expenditures through April 2021 totaled \$104,788.

Food Impact and Emergency Assistance provided:

- After the screening and assessment phase, eligible families received financial assistance, as necessary, to support self-sufficiency based upon their identified needs in the areas of employment, education, training, housing, transportation, medical, housing, and utilities. The financial assistance was paid to third parties and was not paid directly to the participants/families.
- United Community served 1,098 unduplicated households (3,914 individuals) with emergency food supplies through their food pantry.
- Rental and utility assistance was paid on behalf of over 100 families, which directly prevented eviction and the disconnection of utilities.