



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Office of the Commissioner

Danny TK Avula MD, MPH
Commissioner


January 11, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Glenn Youngkin
Governor of Virginia

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

The Honorable Barry D. Knight, Chairperson
House Appropriations Committee

FROM: Danny TK Avula MD, MPH 

SUBJECT: Annual Report on VA Sexual & Domestic Violence Prevention Fund

This report is submitted in compliance with § 63.2-2300. B. and C., which state:

B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special non-reverting fund to be known as the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (the Fund). The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the Fund, and received from any other sources, public or private, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Commissioner. Up to five percent of the Fund may be used to pay the expenses necessary for administration of the Fund by the Department.

C. 6. The Department shall produce an annual report on the expenditures and activities

associated with the Fund and provide such report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 30 each year.

Please contact me should you have questions at (804) 726-7017.

DA:kc

Attachment

cc: The Honorable John Littel, Secretary of Health and Human Resources

SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND

Fiscal Year 2022 Report to the General Assembly

Report Mandate

Section 63.2-2300. B. and C.6. of the Code of Virginia provide:

“B. There is hereby created in the state treasury a special non-reverting fund to be known as the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (the Fund). The Fund shall be established on the books of the Comptroller. All moneys appropriated by the General Assembly for the Fund, and received from any other sources, public or private, shall be paid into the state treasury and credited to the Fund. Interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall remain in the Fund and be credited to it. Any moneys remaining in the Fund, including interest thereon, at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall remain in the Fund. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrants issued by the Comptroller upon written request signed by the Commissioner. Up to five percent of the Fund may be used to pay the expenses necessary for administration of the Fund by the Department.

C. 6. The Department shall produce an annual report on the expenditures and activities associated with the Fund and provide such report to the Governor and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations by November 30 each year.

History and Overview

The Virginia General Assembly established a special, non-reverting fund in 2019 to decrease the negative effects sexual and domestic violence have on communities in the Commonwealth. The Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (the Fund) is established in Section 63.2-2300 of the Code of Virginia. The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is responsible for administration of the Fund. In collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (the Action Alliance), VDSS developed a plan for the distribution of 85% of the funds through grants for the provision of local sexual and domestic violence prevention initiatives. VDSS is also responsible for the development of a sub-grant for the provision of training and technical assistance to those implementing prevention programs.

Expenditures

In FY 2022, the Fund was located in the VDH budget section of the Appropriation Act. Funds were allotted in the amount of \$100,000 for the first year (FY 2021) and \$650,000 for the second year (FY 2022).

Budget language was added, directing VDH to use the Fund to continue the financial support to a number of local agencies previously supported through the federal funding

stream of Rape Prevention and Education (RPE) funds. Subsequently, VDH initiated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contracts with six sexual and domestic violence organizations and awarded funds in the amount of \$496,725.00 for the period of November 2021 through September 2022. The table below details the organizations and the award amounts:

Organization	MOU Funding Allocation
The Collins Center	\$56,367.00
The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc.	\$45,328.00
City of Alexandria	\$84,300.00
Women's Resource Center of New River Valley	\$89,678.00
The Laurel Center	\$103,881.00
Sexual Assault Resource Center	\$117,173.00

As of September 2022, 50% of the allocated funding directed to the six local sexual and domestic violence agencies had been billed to VDH for reimbursement. Final invoices are due October 15, 2022. Any remaining funds of the total distribution (\$496,725.00) that have not been invoiced for reimbursement by the six local sexual and domestic violence organizations will be rolled back into the Fund.

During the 2022 Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly, several changes were made to the Fund. The budget language was moved from the VDH section to the VDSS section and language was added directing VDSS, notwithstanding Virginia Code § 63.2-2300, to administer the Fund. The Fund was also increased significantly from \$650,000 to \$2,650,000, creating the opportunity for up to 20 local agencies to begin or expand primary prevention programming.

Activities

Sexual and Domestic Violence Organization Activities

The following self-reported information is provided from the six funded sexual and domestic violence organizations allocated with monies through the Fund during the current reporting period. Responses are entered by organizations into the VDH REDCap reporting system on an annual basis. The data below represents the final report of all activities conducted during the reporting period. It is important to note that this report is a general overall summary of all six organizational activities and does not represent individual organization activities.

Strategy	Level of Social Ecology	Approach	Activity	Total Number of people Reached by all organizations
Promote Social Norms that Protect Against Violence	Individual	Bystander approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Individual and group student meetings/focus groups to gauge buy in and conduct recruitment --Faculty chats --Bystander training for faculty and staff --Development of bystander prevention toolkit --Parent Council/Bystander Outreach Event --Ten Men Listening Sessions and media planning --Billboard campaign disseminated within area jurisdictions to increase visibility of prevention --Local church bystander prevention outreach service presentation 	1,149,420
Teach Skills to Prevent Sexual Violence	Individual	Social-emotional learning Teaching healthy, safe dating and intimate relationship skills to adolescents Promoting healthy relationships Empowerment-based training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Implementation of Safe Dates Curriculum cohorts in partnership with Youth Empowerment Programs --Support for Peer Advocate leadership training --Peer healthy life choices training --Social Media Outreach plan creation --Peaceline --4 year university student consent training --Candlelight Vigil for National Victim's Rights 	1,314

			Week hosting at 4 year university --Centering training --DO YOU training in promotion of creative expression and youth resilience	
Provide Opportunities to Empower and Support Girls and Women	Individual	Strengthening leadership and opportunities for girls at the individual level	--Youth Leadership Conference designation and preparation planning	40
Create Protective Environments	Individual/ community	Improving safety and monitoring in schools	--Community: Children and Youth Community Plan 2025 city-wide development --Individual: Safe Church --Individual: Safe church Policy and Dynamics of Child on Child Abuse to graduate students --Individual: Vicarious trauma for SART, MDT, medical providers, advocates, and educators -- Individual-Justice 3D training -- Individual-Trauma Informed Care Services training for safety net medical clinic providers --Individual-Social Media Navigation with kids presentation to local middle school	636
Support Victims/Survivors to Lessen Harms	Individual/ community	Victim-centered services	--Assistance to local organizations to create more trauma-informed practices	25
Total reached: 1,151,435				

Funding Plan Development

VDSS worked in coordination with VDH and the Action Alliance, forming a workgroup, to

develop a plan for the distribution of the monies in the Fund. The workgroup met in FY 2021 and developed a framework for the Funding Distribution Plan that addressed the full spectrum of considerations. The workgroup paused their ongoing meetings in FY 22, as budget language directed VDH to use the Fund in a specific manner. The previous work will continue to guide the future distribution of funds. The Funding Distribution Plan is a living document that will change with the available levels of funding and will reflect current research, literature, and the opinions of local prevention experts. The framework of the Funding Distribution Plan states the funding priorities of 1) equal support for sexual violence prevention and domestic violence prevention, 2) a dedication of 50% of available funds to support brand new initiatives, and 3) a required focus of every funded project on underserved populations.

The final component of the Funding Distribution Plan is the requirement that all funded initiatives adhere to one of the supported strategies listed below:

1. Developing social and emotional skills
2. Teaching/ promoting healthy norms about relationships
3. Fostering healthy peer relationships/supporting youth leadership
4. Programs to bolster parenting & adult/youth mentoring
5. Creating protective schools, workplaces, & organizations
6. Supporting community connectedness
7. Strengthen local and state economic supports for families

Budget Implications

During the 2022 Virginia General Assembly Special Session, a budget amendment was introduced and included in the Appropriation Act that eliminated the language directing VDH to continue funding the six agencies by transferring to VDSS \$650,000 each year from the general fund for the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund. A separate budget amendment was also introduced and included in the Appropriation Act that appropriated all the funding directly to VDSS. Item 344 (3)(G) in the 2022 Appropriation Act allotted \$2,650,000 for FY23 and \$2,650,000 for FY24 and directed VDSS to solicit applications. Language was added to the budget to direct VDSS to administer the funds, notwithstanding Virginia Code § 63.2-2300, and solicit applications for funding by August 1 of each year and award the funds no later than October 1 of each year. VDSS was not able to meet these target dates due to the late budget approval and the length of time required to both produce a request for proposals (RFP) and follow the subsequent procurement process. The solicitation to support local sexual and domestic violence primary prevention efforts, as described in the Distribution Plan section above, has been posted on eVA. The new awards will begin on February 1, 2023 and last for an initial 18-month period of performance, in order to align with the October 1st date for all renewal periods moving forward. Annual 12-month renewals will begin prior to October 1, 2024, as directed in the Appropriation Act.