



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

Danny TK Avula MD, MPH  
Commissioner

January 30, 2024

**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 provides:

*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

**Virginia Department of Social Services  
Annual Report on Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund  
November 2023**

**Report Mandate**

Title 63.2-2300 established the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund. Sections 63.2-2300.C.6. provides:

*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.*

**Background**

The Virginia General Assembly established a special, non-reverting fund in 2019 to decrease the negative effects that sexual and domestic violence (SDV) have on communities in the Commonwealth. The Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund (the Fund) is the only dedicated state funding for the primary prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is responsible for the administration of the Fund. In 2021, in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Action Alliance, VDSS developed a plan for the distribution of 85% of the funds through grants for the provision of local SDV 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.

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

**Fiscal Year 2023 Activities**

VDSS issued a Request for Proposals on October 6, 2022 to fund local organizations with an initial 18-month contract period for the delivery of SDV primary prevention services. The contracts are eligible for three annual renewals. Twenty-eight applications were received from local SDV agencies requesting over \$5 million.

The grants for the primary prevention of SDV were awarded in March 2023 to fourteen agencies, totaling \$2,053,861. Of the fourteen funded agencies, seven are expanding their current, existing prevention efforts, and seven are either brand new to primary prevention or have never received grant funding for their primary prevention efforts.

Agencies proposed initiatives that utilize the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM), a model the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention describes as one that “*considers the complex*

*interplay between individual, relational, community, and societal factors. It allows us to understand the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence”.*<sup>1</sup> The strategies used address the root causes of violence on all levels and identifies the preventative approaches, skills, tools, and policies to address individual, relational, community, and societal changes to improve outcomes.

VDSS issued a second Request for Proposals, FAM-23-040, for training and technical assistance services on April 20, 2023. Services were to be provided to the 14 organizations receiving SDV Primary Prevention funding listed in Table 1. Three applications were submitted and reviewed. The funding decision resulted in the Action Alliance being awarded a contract on August 22, 2023, for \$135,000. The contract is renewable for three subsequent years.

The VDSS Office of Family Violence convened the first Prevention Education Gathering in August 2023, bringing together all the local SDV primary prevention agencies, and will continue to facilitate these monthly virtual sessions. The sessions provide opportunities for grant-funded agency staff to network, problem-solve, and share resources, challenges, and program highlights as they work to lead the efforts to prevent sexual and domestic violence in their communities.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/about/social-ecologicalmodel.html>.

**Fiscal Year 2023 Expenditures**

Awards for the SDV primary prevention initiatives were effective March 1, 2023 (See Table 1). No grant funding was expended during FY2023. Invoices will be paid throughout FY2024. Utilizing the 5% administrative costs, VDSS set aside \$132,500 in the Fund for a full time Contract Administrator and other operational expenses. The Contract Administrator position was filled in February 2023 to provide organizational support and to ensure programmatic and fiscal accountability with the grantee agencies.

*Table 1: Agencies 1 – 7 Funding Allocations for March 1, 2023- August 31, 2024*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contract Funding Allocation</b>	<b>New or Expanded</b>	<b>SEM Level</b>	<b>Name of Initiative</b>
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	\$153,124.49	Expanded	Community	Safe Church Training, Do You
Collins Center, The	\$162,859.25	Expanded	Individual Relational Community	Do You, Care for Kids, Social Media Campaign, Safe Churches
Doorways for Women and Families	\$135,279.16	Expanded	Individual Relational	Do You, Coaching Boys to Men, Askable Adult, You + Me =We
Empowerhouse	\$143,532.94	New	Individual Community	Do You, Do Something
Fairfax County Department of Family Services - Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	\$200,000.00	New	Individual Relationship	HYPE. Make a Scene Media Teen Advocates
Genieve Shelter, The	\$100,000.00	New	Individual Relationship	Do You
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	\$123,194.48	New	Individual Relationship	One Love Curriculum Choices and Changes

*Table 1(continued): Agencies 8 – 14 Funding Allocations for March 1, 2023- August 31, 2024*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Contract Funding Allocation</b>	<b>New or Expanded</b>	<b>SEM Level</b>	<b>Name of Initiative</b>
Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center	\$159,927.30	New	Individual Relationship	Stewards of Children
Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice (Loudoun Abused Women’s Shelter)	\$169,706.46	Expanded	Individual Relationship	Coaching Boys into Men, Safe Bars
Response, Inc.	\$120,582.25	New	Individual Relationship	The 4th R, Nurturing Parenting curriculum, Where We Live curriculum
Samaritan House	\$152,978.77	Expanded	Individual Relationship Community	Bystander Mixtape: Transforming Men from Bystanders to Interventionists, Coaching Boys into Men
Shelter for Help in Emergency	\$102,107.96	Expanded	Individual Relationship Community	Do You, Green Dot, Coaching Boys to Men, Amaze
Total Action Against Poverty	\$122,148.44	New	Individual Relationship Community	Transforming Relationships, Seamos Honesto
Women's Resource Center of New River Valley	\$208,419.46	Expanded	Individual Relationship	Peaceline, Do You

**Conclusion**

Through the distribution of monies in the Fund, the VDSS Office of Family Violence has successfully begun the first state funded SDV primary prevention initiative, equipping 14 grantees with the first full round of funding. The establishment of primary prevention grants with these 14 communities will help to dismantle the root causes of violence and build the capacity to improve outcomes based on established strategies for prevention. The Sexual Domestic Violence Training and Technical Assistance Grant will ensure that agencies have the tools and expertise needed to decrease the negative effects that sexual and domestic violence have on communities in the state.

VDSS will reach out during the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 to VDH and the Action Alliance to develop strategies to promote research and evaluation of prevention initiatives. The three agencies will work to create a plan to measure SDV primary prevention program effectiveness

and to encourage continuous quality improvement and evaluation of prevention strategies and goals.