



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

### *Office of the Commissioner*

James Hunter Williams  
Commissioner

January 6, 2025

#### **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Glenn Youngkin  
Governor of Virginia

The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chairperson  
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas, Chairperson  
Senate Finance & Appropriations Committee

**FROM:** James H. Williams *James Williams*

**SUBJECT:** Annual Report on Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Prevention Fund

This report is submitted in compliance with § 63.2-2300. B. and C.6., which states:

*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. 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 if you have questions at (804) 726-7011.

JW:kc

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Janet V. Kelly, Secretary of Health and Human Resources



# Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund Annual Report

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# SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND

A Report for the Virginia General Assembly

November 30, 2024

## 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.*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Through the distribution of monies in the Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund, the VDSS Office of Family Violence successfully established the Commonwealth's first state-funded sexual and domestic violence primary prevention initiative, equipping 14 grantees with the first full round of funding.

Establishing primary prevention grants will help 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.



**8,333 people participated in primary prevention initiatives at grantee agencies across 78 localities in the Commonwealth.**

### About VDSS and OFV

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) partners with local departments of social services and community organizations, to promote the well-being of children and families across the Commonwealth. We proudly serve alongside nearly 13,000 state and local human services professionals throughout the Social Services System, who ensure that thousands of Virginia's most vulnerable citizens have access to the best services and benefits available to them.

Together, we work each day to serve, empower, and create opportunities for brighter futures.

The VDSS Office of Family Violence, administers Federal and State funding to support local non-profit and public SDV agencies for their provision of shelter, advocacy and related support services to survivors and their children. Primary prevention strategies are offered by some, but not all grantee agencies.

## DEFINITIONS

### *Sexual and Domestic Violence*

Sexual violence is any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors used by one individual intended to exert power and control over another individual in the context of an intimate or family relationship.

### *Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance*

The Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance (the Action Alliance) is the state sexual and domestic violence coalition, a non-profit network of survivors, service-providing agencies, and allies working to strengthen how communities across Virginia respond to and prevent sexual and intimate partner violence.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Office of Family Violence coordinates the administration of over \$22 million in federal and state funding to support local non-profit and public domestic violence agencies that provide services for survivors of domestic violence and their children. Services often include emergency shelter, adult and child advocacy, legal advocacy, counseling, accompaniment to court and hospital appointments, coordination of services, transportation, 24-hour hotline, and information and referrals, as well as programming for a broader audience such as public awareness, community education, and primary prevention.

## CONTACTS

### AUTHOR

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# Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund Annual Report

## SECTION 1 – BACKGROUND

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

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 from \$650,000 to \$2,650,000, which opened the door for up to 20 local agencies to begin or expand primary prevention programming.

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. Fourteen agencies received awards for the SDV primary prevention initiatives effective March 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, totaling \$2,053,861.

## SECTION 2 – FISCAL YEAR 2024 ACTIVITIES

The fourteen agencies that were awarded 18-months of funding to provide SDV primary prevention services in 2023 continued to be supported and monitored throughout FY 2024. The seven agencies with previous experience providing primary prevention were able to quickly expand current program models and consider adding new community partners. The seven new agencies had a slower start as they had to recruit, hire, train staff, and build community support before prevention services began.

An informal monthly meeting of grantees was developed into an established group now named Prevention Collaborative VA (Collaborative). The Collaborative has helped new agencies and experienced agencies alike to use a peer-to-peer experience to improve and expand their programming. The goals of the Collaborative are to build a high-trust network of providers, who share knowledge and tools for violence prevention, practice social and emotional healthy skills, and encourage each other to lead and learn with respect and empathy. To meet a request for language access, the Collaborative began providing simultaneous English to Spanish interpretation in all meetings for Limited English Proficiency and non-English-speaking colleagues.

VDSS issued a second Request for Proposals, FAM-23-040, for training and technical assistance services on April 20, 2023, for FY 2024. These services were to be provided to the 14 funded agencies, 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 Action Alliance provided capacity assessments and technical assistance to the 14 agencies to increase their ability to plan, implement, and evaluate primary prevention strategies, provided training on Principles of Primary Prevention, DO YOU Facilitator training, and participation in the Prevention Collaborative.



## PREVENTION STRATEGY PARTICIPANTS, TABLE 1

Table 1 lists the funded agencies, the number of participants impacted by the presentation of primary prevention strategies, and the localities served by each agency.

Agency Name	# of Participants	Localities Served
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	97	Page, Shenandoah
The Collins Center	1,013	Harrisonburg, Rockingham
Doorways for Women and Families	457	Arlington County
Empowerhouse	175	Caroline, Fredericksburg, George, King, Spotsylvania, Stafford
Fairfax County Department of Family Services - Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	112	Fairfax, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Town of Clifton, Town of Herndon, Town of Vienna
The Genieve Shelter	34	City of Franklin, City of Smithfield, City of Suffolk, Isle of Wight, Southampton, Surry
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	211	Hanover, Town of Ashland
Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center	101	Charles City, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie, Franklin City, Gloucester, Goochland, Hampton, Hanover, Henrico, Hopewell, Isle of Wight, James City, King William, Mathews, New Kent, Newport News, Norfolk, Petersburg, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Powhatan, Prince George, Richmond City, Southampton, Suffolk, Sussex, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, and York
Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter)	73	Leesburg, Loudoun
Response, Inc.	118	Shenandoah County, Town of Edinburg, Town of Mount Jackson, Town of New Market, Town of Strasburg, Town of Woodstock
Samaritan House	295	Virginia Beach
Shelter for Help in Emergency	212	Albemarle, Charlottesville, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson
Total Action Against Poverty	465	Botetourt, Craig, Roanoke, Roanoke County, Salem, Town of Vinton
Women's Resource Center of New River Valley	4,970	Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski, Radford

## **APPENDIX A: § 63.2-2300.C.6**

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.