



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Office of the Commissioner

Kevin Erskine
Commissioner

January 5, 2026

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: Kevin Erskine 

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

KE: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, 2025

REPORT MANDATE

Title 63.2-2300 established the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Fund. Section 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

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.

Through the distribution of monies in the Fund, the VDSS Office of Family Violence (OFV) successfully continued the state-funded SDV primary prevention initiative, equipping 14 grantees with renewed funding. Continued support for these primary prevention grants helps dismantle the root causes of violence and builds local capacity to improve outcomes based on established strategies for prevention. The Sexual and Domestic Violence Training and Technical Assistance Grant ensures that agencies have the tools and expertise needed to decrease the negative effects that sexual and domestic violence have on communities in the state.

About VDSS and the Office of Family Violence

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 OFV, 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 agencies that provide services for survivors of sexual and domestic violence and their children. Services often include emergency shelter, adult and child advocacy, legal advocacy, counseling, accompaniment to court/hospital/appointments, case management, 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.

CONTACT

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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) 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 up to 85% of the funds through grants for the provision of local SDV prevention initiatives. Adhering to § 63.2-2300, VDSS also designates at least 5% of the Fund for a grant for the provision of training and technical assistance to those implementing prevention programs; 5% is retained with VDSS for administrative purposes, and the remaining 5% remains in the Fund for ongoing growth.

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 also increased significantly from \$650,000 to \$2,650,000, which opens the door for up to 20 local SDV 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 their initial awards for the SDV primary prevention initiatives effective March 1, 2023, to August 31, 2024, totaling \$2,053,861.

SECTION 2 – FISCAL YEAR 2025 ACTIVITIES

The fourteen agencies that were originally awarded grant funding to provide SDV primary prevention services in 2023 have continued to be supported and monitored throughout FY 2024. All grantees were offered and accepted a renewal of their contracts for the period of September 1, 2024, through August 30, 2025. The single contract with the Action Alliance for training and technical assistance was renewed for FY 2025.

The OFV coordinated monthly Prevention Collaborative VA meetings with local agencies doing primary prevention work. All funded grantees, as well as other unfunded agencies doing similar work, are invited to participate. The opportunity to gather and share information has grown to be a valued commitment with an average of 30 prevention educators participating in each session. Participants rotate in presenting details of their programming to their peers, allowing for questions and discussion. Some of the FY 2025 topics included creating partnerships with schools, curriculum based multi-session initiatives, mentorship academies, healthy relationships, community partnerships, working with diverse community leaders, and social media platforms.

Through the Training and Technical Assistance grant, local prevention programs had the opportunity to gather in-person at two events. These gatherings focused on meeting the needs of the local grantees and addressing the current and upcoming topics that could enhance their ability to deepen their prevention work. The first session focused on fair access to resources and what that means for violence prevention. The second session addressed innovation and new ways of delivering prevention programming; it also addressed the current state of social media norms. The Action Alliance also developed a 6-hour training course to assist agency leadership and prevention staff to create community/agency focused logic models. Six virtual events were held, focusing on the new prevention Guidelines, “Getting to the Root”, intended to deepen their knowledge of prevention strategies and to build a peer learning/connection/support space. Five virtual learning modules were also created on the following topics: understanding logic models; ways to use leftover funds; including staff in decision making; onboarding preventionists; and growing healthy communities.

GRANTEES AND PREVENTION STRATEGIES

VDSS renewed contracts with the 14 originally funded agencies and with the Action Alliance for their provision of Training and Technical Assistance. Table 1 includes the list of grant-funded organizations, their funding levels and their service areas.

Local grantees focused their efforts on all levels of the social ecological model, although work centered primarily at the individual and relationship levels. Table 2 below lists the curricula selected to be used to reach children, youth, and adults in the diverse local implementation of primary prevention initiatives.

GRANTEE FUNDING AND SERVICE AREAS, TABLE 1

Agency Name	FY 2025 SDV Prev Funding	Localities Served
Choices, Council on Domestic Violence for Page County	117,082.99	Page, Shenandoah
The Collins Center	123,572.83	Harrisonburg, Rockingham
Doorways for Women and Families	105,186.11	Arlington County
Empowerhouse	110,688.63	Fredericksburg, Caroline, King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford
Fairfax County Department of Family Services - Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	148,333.33	Fairfax, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Towns of Clifton, Herndon, Vienna
The Genieve Shelter	81,666.67	Isle of Wight, Smithfield, Southampton, Suffolk, Surry, City of Franklin
Hanover Safe Place (Hanover Domestic Violence Task Force)	97,129.65	Hanover, Town of Ashland
Latinos In Virginia Empowerment Center	121,618.20	Statewide With offices in North Chesterfield and Virginia Beach
Loudoun Citizens for Social Justice (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter)	128,137.64	Loudoun, Leesburg
Response, Inc.	95,388.17	Shenandoah County, Towns of Strasburg, Edinburg, Mount Jackson, New Market, Woodstock
Samaritan House	116,985.85	Virginia Beach
Shelter for Help in Emergency	83,071.97	Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson
Total Action Against Poverty	96,432.29	Roanoke, Salem, Roanoke County, Botetourt, Craig, Town of Vinton
Women's Resource Center of New River Valley	153,946.31	Radford, Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, Pulaski
Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance	154,874.91	Statewide
TOTAL	\$1,734,115.55	

Grant funding provided in FY 2025

GRANTEE PREVENTION STRATEGIES, TABLE 2

Curricula Used	Partici- pants	# of Ses- sions
Peaceline	5262	534
DO YOU	571	230
Little Spot of Emotion	320	107
Healthy Relationships Week	310	14
One Love	225	50
Action Alliance's Teen Dating Violence Prevention Facilitator's Guide	187	129
PILAS/HYPE for Hispanic Youth	131	42
Doorways Digital Safety	88	12
Doorways Healthy Relationships	85	31
Red Flag Campaign	56	3
We Care Elementary	53	42
Nurturing Parenting Program	48	18
Coaching Boys into Men	39	1
Fourth R	35	35
SAFE-T	32	47
Applied Table Top Role Playing Program - One World	26	35
Esperanza United Curriculum	24	30
Primary Prevention	17	17
Care for Kids	15	12
KidsWatch	13	17
Own Curriculum	12	8
CREW Curriculum	12	4
Rights, Respect, Responsibility (3Rs)	9	8
You+Me=We	6	4
Sexual Health Education 5 part	5	5
Doorways Self Love	3	2
TOTAL	7,584	1,437

Curricula used by Grantees in Multisession Educational Programs- Source VAdat (9/15/2025)

APPENDIX A LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

SECTION 63.2-2300.C.6.

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.