

FACT Grants Committee Meeting Notes

March 5, 2019

VDSS Central Regional Office, 1604 Santa Rosa Ave, Richmond, Virginia

Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd, Burke, Virginia

Attending: Judy Kurtz, Nicole Poulin, Beverly Crowder, and Kay Kovacs attended at VDSS Central Regional Office, and Frank Blechman, Meghan Resler, Liliana Hernandez, and Jennifer Gillyard attended at Burke Center Library. The two groups joined on a conference call.

Review of Timeline: Committee Chair, Judy Kurtz, reviewed the timeline and noted that we will release the RFP in October of 2019 which is earlier than previous years in which the RFP was released in December. This will give organizations more time to plan and write their proposals given changes to the RFP from previous years. The committee agreed that FACT should send notice to our email list to notify our audience of this change.

Funding in Virginia Nicole Poulin overviewed the current landscape of family violence funding opportunities in Virginia:

- Funding for direct services has changed significantly over the years since FACT first began supporting direct service work. There has been general increases in federal and state support for a number of services that FACT has traditionally supported. In comparison to other existing support for services (VOCA, TANF, General Funds, etc.) FACT's support for these services has been small (less than \$13,000 annually) and therefore, often, less impactful.
- FACT's Board of Trustees has made a commitment to invest funding in innovative, collaborative projects that are focused on promoting the prevention and treatment of family violence through a "trauma-informed lens".
- FACT is the only entity in Virginia that is investing in the Trauma Informed Community Networks (TICNs) that are emerging in localities and regions throughout Virginia.
- During the last two legislative sessions, budget amendments have been proposed to allocate General Funds to FACT to be used to support these efforts. Although these amendments didn't pass, there is widespread support for them throughout Virginia. There are currently 19 TICNs and interest and support for them continues to grow.

Discussion around RFP structure: There was a brief discussion around RFP structure. Specifically, the committee would like to see changes or restructuring to some of the ways sections are weighted and the logic model. The committee will re-visit the structure of the RFP once funding priorities have been made, and make recommendations on changes at that time.

Discussion around funding priorities The committee discussed two options:

- 1- 60% of funds go to TICNs and 40% of funds go to direct services (3 TICN grants at 60K or 4 at 45K and 4 direct service grants at 30K),
- 2- 100% of funds go to TICNs (6 TICN grants at 50K).

The committee discussed the following topics:

- There was concern that some small organizations, especially in underserved rural communities, may fall through the cracks when it comes to accessing large federal grants such as VOCA. To address that concern, the committee had the idea of using FACT reserve funds to develop programming to provide technical assistance for grant writing to underserved and rural areas of Virginia.
- The importance of outreach, especially to underserved areas where we historically have not gotten as many grant proposals such as Southwest Virginia.
- The importance of outreach and education to communities who do not have a TICN, so they understand that the opportunity is available to them.
- The importance of community and organization buy in—organizations accessing these funds must match part of the funds to illustrate their community and organization commitment and buy in to a sustainable TICN. This can be an in-kind match especially for new and emerging TICNs
- Some TICNs include innovative direct service components in their programs; the committee would like to see bonus points in the RFP for this
- An established TICN providing TA across the state has been an important resource for the growth of new and emerging TICNs across the state. FACT should continue to provide a grant to support such efforts.

Committee Recommendations

Fact Grants:

Use 100% of FACT Grants to fund Trauma-Informed Community Networks.

- To receive FACT funding TICN's must have a match (amount of match to be determined; in kind matches are acceptable)
- Bonus points will be given to TICNs who include innovative direct service components in their proposal.
- One grant will be given to an established TICN to provide statewide technical assistance

Reserve Funds

Allocate money from reserve funds to provide technical assistance and education on grant writing and nonprofit management to underserved areas in the state. This will assist them in applying for the increasing amount of funding in Virginia for family violence direct services.