

Building a Resilient Virginia

Trauma-Informed Community Networks promote healthy, resilient communities and break the cycle of family violence.



Virginia has taken the lead nationally in developing a statewide movement to align science, practice and policy to advance health and equity across communities and reduce and mitigate the impact of trauma and adversity experienced by thousands of citizens across the Commonwealth. Family & Children's Trust Fund (FACT) is the only organization in Virginia dedicated to funding and supporting Trauma-Informed Community Networks.

What are Trauma-Informed Community Networks?

Trauma-informed community networks (TICNs) are a group of residents and organizations or entities representing diverse perspectives across neighborhoods and sectors in a geographically-defined community that are leveraging the science of adverse childhood experiences and trauma to build relationships, convene regularly, and advance a common agenda around resilience. These networks are grounded in a unified approach to building healthier and more resilient communities and are uniquely structured to be responsive to the needs of their own diverse communities.

Why are TICN's Important?

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, have a negative impact on a child's well-being throughout their entire lifespan. The accumulation of multiple ACEs is associated with alcoholism, depression, cardiovascular, disease, drug use, and many other detrimental physical mental and social health outcomes later in life. Trauma and ACEs are complex issues, oftentimes inextricably linked to larger social conditions. Collaboration across key sectors rooted in the community is critical in helping target social determinants of health. TICNs have emerged as multifaceted, comprehensive structures that represent diverse thinking and expertise from a wide range of organizations and sectors – showing promise in achieving shared outcomes that result in measurable impact.

Why fund TICNs?

TICN's are characterized by multiple sectors, organizations, and individuals working together to create a resilient community, a model that does not align with many in-place funding mechanisms. Therefore, FACT is the only organization dedicated to funding and supporting TICNs across Virginia. In doing this FACT will leverage the collective ability across localities and regions of Virginia to address social, economic and structural challenges that impact health and equity. FACT's new approach to funding supports innovative partnerships and strategies that have the potential to contribute to sustainable systems and community change.

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Currently more than twenty communities across Virginia have emerging and existing Trauma-Informed Community Networks. Many of these networks cite their largest challenge as lack of available funding to build capacity. In its upcoming 2020-2022 grant cycle FACT will increase support from two TICNs to six. However, many more Virginia TICNs need FACT's support. Below are two examples of what FACT funded trauma-informed community networks have achieved.

Greater Richmond

Formed in 2012, the Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed Community Network (GRTICN) was the first TICN in Virginia. With over 350 members from more than 150 organizations representing a wide range of systems that include public, private, non-profit, state, and local government agencies the GRTICN is an excellent example of cross-sector collaboration to build a more trauma-informed and resilient community. Examples of this collaboration include:

- **The Richmond Police Department's Road to Resilience Project (RPD R2R)** is dedicated to helping the RPD cope with the daily stressors associated with being first responders by bringing awareness to the effects of trauma exposure, educating them on ways to improve their mental and physical wellbeing through self-care, and providing activities to promote resilience. Learn more about RPD R2R: bit.ly/35tmlvG
- With the **Trauma-Informed Health Systems Collaborative** CEOs of VCU Health, Bon Secours Richmond, and HCA Virginia committed to working together to create a regional trauma-informed health system that reduces the impacts of trauma and retraumatization while increasing resiliency of team members, patients, and families through clinical and organizational enhancements. Learn more about the Collaborative: bit.ly/2N8mDBQ

Greater Charlottesville

The first Greater Charlottesville Trauma-Informed Community Network (Cville Network) meeting was in September of 2016, since then over 400 people representing more than 70 agencies, have attended network meetings. Cville Network's mission is to improve trauma-informed care by educating professionals and the community on the impacts of trauma and by advocating for trauma-informed systems of care. Examples of Cville Network's achievements include:

- The **Trauma Informed Leadership Team (TILT)** creates regional systems change within the adult criminal justice system, the pediatric discipline and practice and with alternative education administrators so that they see the value of social emotional learning.
- A robust membership and community awareness through trainings and events.

Learn more about CvilleTICN on their website: cvillettcn.org

WHAT CAN TICN'S DO?

By integrating healing-centered, trauma-informed practices based on ACEs science,

a health clinic in Pueblo, Colorado, sees a 30% drop in visits to the emergency room.

a juvenile diversion program in Philadelphia reduces arrests from 1600 to 500 in three years.

the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation sees staff turnover decline from 21 to just 10%.