

VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
(VA-FACT) Board of Trustees Grants Committee Meeting, October 13, 2021

Participation:

Trustees Present: Judy Kurtz (Committee Chair), Allison Lawrence, Jennifer Gillyard, Dominique Marsalek and Tiffany Garner

Staff Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director) and Taylor Davis (Senior Research Associate)

Opening: Chairperson Kurtz called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM

Overview of grant process:

- Two year grant cycle - (current cycle is August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2022)
- Nicole works with the staff from VDSS's Procurement Office and the Grants Committee to develop the Request for Proposal (RFP). After approval by FACT counsel, the Board votes on the RFP. VDSS Procurement Staff is responsible for posting the RFP, answering questions related to it and distributing the applications between grant teams to review.
- During the RFP process, prior to the pandemic, there were in person sessions to answer any questions that applicants may have. After the sessions, an FAQ document is released.
- After the applications come in, the review process begins with the Grants Committee and additional stakeholders. Procurement provides a scoring sheet and the reviewers are divided into groups to review a subset of the applications. Afterwards the groups come together to discuss.

Current Grants:

- This cycle all grants have gone to Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs) to align with the work of the Editorial and Planning Committee's issue brief series.
- Most are larger grants (around \$50,000) except for a small Southwest grant for less than \$8,000
- Site visits have ended due to COVID-19 but were previously conducted by staff and Board members
- Quarterly reports and invoices are submitted and reviewed and Nicole conducts virtual meetings with grantees
- Nicole and Taylor will send out more information about the TICN meetings/events so Board members can learn more about their work.

Next Steps:

- There was discussion on whether or not we feel ready to release an RFP in February or using this time to pause to learn more about the upcoming American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) TICN funding.

- There was discussion around continuing to support TICNs versus shifting towards other work now that the Editorial and Planning Committee series is coming to a close.
 - There was mention of potentially focusing on child-on-child abuse to align with the current Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) committee project.
- Prior to the next meeting, committee members agreed to review the CAN report, the current work of the TICNs around the state, and to refresh themselves on the root causes of family violence. Each committee member will bring two subject areas to the next meeting to present as potential focuses.
- The committee agreed to report out to the Board of Trustees in December that they will be pausing and strategizing until March to assess more of the current landscape and what to prioritize

Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm