



Family &  
Children's  
Trust Fund  
OF VIRGINIA

**Biennial Report**  
**FY 21 - 22**

# Introduction

“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”  
- Coretta Scott King

Fiscal year 2021 began in July of 2020, during a global pandemic that was unprecedented in modern times. The world shifted with uncertainty and fear. External forces and internal historical struggles brought on great polarization within the nation, state, locally and even within some families and among friends. Divisions felt overwhelmingly heightened by the physical distancing brought by the public health crisis of covid. We learned who the true “essential workers” are and were reminded of how critical their jobs are to our survival. This unique phase of our lifetimes also highlighted and exacerbated the struggles faced by many already vulnerable populations.

During those challenging fiscal years of 2021 and 2022, FACT’s Board of Trustees chose to bring communities together for the greater good. They did so by investing in multi-sector coalitions of networks focused on building resilience and preventing and mitigating the impact of trauma. Through trainings, outreach events, financial assistance, and public awareness campaigns these Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs) worked throughout Virginia to create stronger, more trauma informed and resilient communities.

As the only organization in Virginia and one of the few organizations nationally that addresses family violence and trauma across the lifespan; FACT also worked to support trainings, research, collaboration across state programs and advise on policies focused on a broad scope of topics related to our mission of amplifying community programs and initiatives focused on the prevention and treatment of family violence and the protection of children through funding and awareness.

I invite you to learn more about FACT’s programs, accomplishments, and projects and organizations we fund to promote our vision of a world in which no one in Virginia experiences family violence and all children are safe.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Poulin , Executive Director

Pictured left to right:  
Allison Lawrence, Judy Kurtz, & Nicole Poulin



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## FACT Staff:

Nicole Poulin,  
Executive Director

Taylor Hohle,  
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### Vision:

FACT envisions a world in which no one in Virginia experiences family violence and all children are safe.

### Mission:

FACT will amplify community programs and initiatives focused on the prevention and treatment of family violence and the protection of children through funding and awareness.

# FACT 35th Anniversary

2021 marked 35 years since FACT was created by the General Assembly as a public-private partnership to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of family violence, including child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse and neglect.

For the last 35 years, FACT has provided funding for hundreds of programs focused on preventing and treating family violence through the power of direct donations from public and private sources, revenue from the sale of the KIDS FIRST license plates, and voluntary donations on state income tax returns. Since 2003, we have raised approximately \$5 MILLION to support local efforts across Virginia. Starting in 2012, FACT has been supporting the Trauma-Informed Community Network movement with financial and technical support.

To celebrate 35 years, FACT hosted a week full of virtual events including lunch & learns, impact videos, and a celebration award event. Awardees included Delegate Betsy Carr, Delegate Paul Krizek, Senator George Barker, former Delegate Chris Peace, and Senator Jennifer McClellan. You can find recordings of these events and community impact videos at [www.fact.virginia.gov/fact-35th-anniversary](http://www.fact.virginia.gov/fact-35th-anniversary)



Additionally, FACT gave out Community Resilience Awards of \$350 to Virginia Trauma-Informed Community Networks. The Hampton Roads TICN shared with us how they used their Community Resilience Award!

"Four members of the HRTICN went to Park Place elementary school, and provided a few social emotional activities with their 3rd to 5th graders. As part of the activity, we then asked the students to write stories about a person that encourages, supports or inspires them. One child from each grade went to our local PBS radio station and recorded their story. The children's recordings, along with a description of the project was played during and in honor of Resilience Week."

# Child Abuse & Neglect Committee

The CAN Committee is tasked with reviewing regulations and practices, communicating best practices related to efforts to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect, and making recommendations to the Departments of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Education, Health, Juvenile Justice, the Attorney General, and the Governor.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) mandates the establishment of citizen review panels (CRP) to examine child protective services policies and procedures. As one of the three citizen review panels in Virginia, the CAN Committee sends a yearly CAPTA report to the Virginia Department of Social Services. The following issues were discussed in the 2020-2022 CAPTA reports.

- The impacts of Covid on the child welfare system
- Staff shortages / workforce retention
- Statewide hotline response times
- Diversion practices
- Child victims of sex trafficking
- Substance exposed infants

Additionally, the CAN Committee recommended to the FACT Board send additional letters in support of establishing the Office of Children's Ombudsman and a permanent Children's Cabinet, as well as, support for the statewide hotline budget and 2022's Senate Bill 348 regarding child support enforcement.

## Problematic Sexual Behavior

Despite the gains in understanding of problematic sexual behavior (PSB), the issue is still one often not a uniformly or consistently responded to by public serving entities. This is particularly true in cases where the child exhibiting PSB against another child is under the age of 12 or is disabled. Many of these cases "fall between the cracks" of jurisdictional responses.

In partnership with Virginia Department of Health, FACT hired a consultant to do a comprehensive analysis of local, state and national laws, policies and protocols related to Problematic Sexual Behavior cases. In March 2023, we released a guidance document that includes concrete recommendations for localities and the Commonwealth as a whole to implement in order to improve tertiary prevention strategies to PSB cases resulting in the reduction of harm and future perpetration.

Recordings of CAN Committee panels discussing problematic sexual behavior can be found at: [www.fact.virginia.gov/psb-project](http://www.fact.virginia.gov/psb-project) along with the final guidance document.

# 2020-2022 FACT Grants

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. The movement, which is primarily driven by local and regionally-based Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs), is testing trauma-informed and resiliency approaches that promote safety and well-being across communities. 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.

In 2020, FACT became the only state level entity to support emerging and existing system wide TICNs across Virginia through two-year grants.

## United Way of Southwest Virginia

"FACT funding allowed UWSWVA to have a staff member dedicated to building and growing the TICN. The TICN grew from a small working group of less than 20 into a network of over 90 active members. Training events, community awareness, and toolkits for others to use in expanding Trauma Informed work were all made possible with FACT funding. Two years of FACT funding provided the foundation for this Network to become established and connected across SWVA, incorporating membership from school divisions, the faith based community, local law enforcement and juvenile justice, community health organizations, foster care and family services, community service boards, and many other partners who are now engaged in making the community more Trauma Aware and Responsive."

United Way of Southwest Virginia held Southwest VA Trauma Informed Community Network Meetings, participated in regional coalition and partner meetings, hosted and participated in trainings, and started the Trauma Informed Schools Initiative.

## **James Madison University - Healthy Families Page and Shenandoah**

"This grant provided opportunities to talk about and address trauma-informed care in the work of all partners in a more collaborative and holistic way. While many were providing TIC in their own services, this grant encouraged partners to think more broadly about how we could support each other in our work and offer even more impactful support for those impacted by generations of trauma in these rural communities.

This funding allowed our rural counties to address the impact of trauma on the daily lives of adults and children, including historical trauma related to families' displacement by the government when Shenandoah National Park was created. Poverty and the lack of available local services/resources increased our awareness of basic needs such as food and health care. Providing school, home and community-based services and education increased community member's trust of "agencies"."

## **Greater Richmond SCAN**

"Funding from FACT allowed Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) to increase staff capacity to help sustain our leadership and coordination of the GRTICN. This funding also helped us to provide leadership in Virginia through support of new and established networks throughout the state and convening statewide network meetings."

The Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed Community Network (GRTICN) held meetings (including a few in-person meetings during quarter four), film screenings, committee meetings (for schools, courts, healthcare, outcomes, and community resilience), and served as the statewide coordinator for all Virginia TICNs. Through the VA TICN network, they hosted three annual Resilience Weeks which were recognized by the Governor of Virginia. In 2022, they hosted the Building Resilient Communities virtual conference to highlight the work of Virginia's trauma-informed community networks.

## **Children's Trust of Roanoke Valley**

"During this quarter, the RVTICN began its relationship with Carilion, our largest hospital system in Roanoke. The RVTICN Coordinator began working with the Carilion Patient Experience Manager to create a "Trauma Basics" presentation with a healthcare focus. This process has grown to a Healthcare Committee with the involvement of both Human Resources and Marketing for the hospital system. The hope is to require incoming new employees to get "Trauma Basics" training, thereby benefiting hundreds if not thousands of patients."

The Roanoke Valley TICN trained approximately 100 community members in a basic understanding of trauma. They also strengthened partnerships and continued to grow their network with contacts in healthcare, law enforcement, and Spanish-speaking organizations.

## **Eastern Virginia Medical School**

"During the great COVID-19 pandemic, with its vicissitudes, isolation, and shortages of people, supplies and food, ESHC was a constant community support. We held regular meetings. We offered resilience and trauma learning opportunities, and more importantly, moments to reflect, heal, or rest.

Several individual partners found a home – a place to share and heal from their own personal trauma, and ten partner organizations made a commitment to begin the journey of becoming resilient and trauma-informed. Organizational commitments train and influence employees and we believe that spills over into employee families. FACT funding made this happen. We are most grateful."

The Resilient & Trauma-Informed Workgroup held **18** meetings, hosted a four-session training with **45** partners, and **nine** individuals participated in the train-the-trainer program. Throughout the grant period, they hosted **18** presentations featuring various speakers.



## Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Services

"Thanks to funding from FACT, we were able to support the development of 15 trauma-informed spaces through our mini-grant program. Prior to FACT funding, we were unable to offer financial support to partners who were not county government agencies due to restrictions that were in place with our existing funding source for this work (county funds). While we continued to fund county agency projects with county funds as part of the FACT grant match, FACT funds allowed us to fund projects at community-based agencies. This enabled us to build and strengthen relationships with external partners as they completed projects and used the consultation and technical support of the TICN to do so. Highlighting each project in a TICN meeting as it is completed has helped organizations involved in the network learn more about other agencies and their services while also gathering some inspiration for improving their own spaces."

The Fairfax TICN delivered free trainings, consultation, and technical support to agencies in the area on resilience and trauma. They also recruited a cohort of ACE Interface trainers who provided virtual presentations.

## Ad Hoc Grants

FACT provides ad hoc financial support to organizations that host statewide activities that improve the prevention, treatment, or public awareness of family violence.

During FY 21-22, FACT was able to provide assistance to the following organizations:

- ImPACT Virginia
- The Virginia Victim Assistance Network
- The Domestic Violence Action Team
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Virginia
- Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

# Emergency Funds Project

"One client who was assisted with these funds had a car payment that she needed assistance with. She was working a part-time job and had a new baby. She needed to get back and forth to her job and to the babysitter. Her husband was paying her car payment and he was arrested for domestic violence. Her husband knew by not paying her car payment, her car would be repossessed, and she would lose the only source of income that she had and would have to go back to him for support. By paying her car note, it allowed this client to continue her independence and be able to continue with her employment to be able to take care of herself and her young child." - Resilience Alexandria: Inform. Support. Elevate. (RAISE)

The Covid-19 public health crisis highlighted health and economic disparities throughout Virginia and beyond. We know that even before the pandemic and large increase in inflation, one unexpected expense could cause a critical crisis for vulnerable families. This is particularly true for those who have experienced trauma caused by family violence. The FACT Board of Trustees understands the interconnection of poverty and trauma and how it is more important than ever to support families in whatever way possible. That is why they established the FACT Emergency Fund. FACT recognizes that there has been substantial financial support provided by the federal government to states and localities to meet some of these needs, however those funds are restricted to specific issues like housing and food. The FACT Emergency Fund previously allowed established Trauma Informed Community Networks (TICNs) to apply for small financial awards to be distributed to families for the many financial crises that don't qualify for government support.

These funds have been critical to our communities across Virginia. They go towards many of the unexpected expenses families who live paycheck to paycheck face, that have increased during this public health crisis. We know that having to choose between covering the cost of a car or critical home repair, or paying a fee and expenses so your child can participate in an afterschool activity, can place a significant level of stress on families who are already struggling to survive. These funds can help to increase the resiliency for some of these families in Virginia. In 2023, FACT will be expanding this project to include domestic violence and homelessness intervention programs.



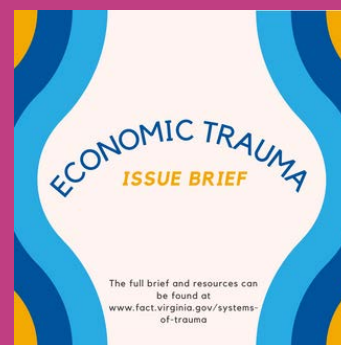
# Issue Briefs: Systems of Trauma

Trauma has an enormous impact on both individuals and society as a whole. FACT's last issue brief series explored how trauma affects individuals throughout the lifespan and how schools, homeless services, and those working with older adults can apply trauma-informed care to their work. This issue brief series (2019-2022) broadened its focus from the individual to the societal level and explored how societal injustices interconnect and exacerbate individual toxic stress caused by family violence. The series included an introduction and four issue briefs, the first on racial trauma, the second on economic trauma, the third on sexism-based trauma, and the last on LGBTQ+ trauma.

Each brief also includes a two-page summary version, as well as, additional resources. The Systems of Trauma issue brief series and corresponding resources can be found at: [www.fact.virginia.gov/systems-of-trauma/](http://www.fact.virginia.gov/systems-of-trauma/)

## FACT Social Media

Follow us on new Instagram page @fact\_va for easily shareable infographics based on our issue briefs and additional projects.



Like us on Facebook for more information about events, projects, and research. You can also find us on Twitter & LinkedIn under the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia.



# FACT Data Portal

FACT previously had established a data portal available through our website that provided information on 18 indicators (listed below) connected to family violence. The portal includes data on the scope of family violence in communities, overall community health and well-being, and how public organizations—such as local departments of social services and law enforcement agencies—prevent and respond to violence in families.

Organizations utilized these reports for grant applications, presentations, and as a tool to identify trends over time. Due to the removal of Tableau as a service available to FACT, the data portal has been inactive for the past few years. We have now reestablished the data portal to continue providing this valuable resource for organizations across the Commonwealth. We look forward to offering new features for the data portal as they become available.

You can access the data portal and step-by-step instructions on how to use the portal at: [www.fact.virginia.gov/dataportal](http://www.fact.virginia.gov/dataportal)

- Percentage of the Labor Force that is Unemployed
- Percentage of the Population Living Below the Poverty Line
- Arrests for Violation of a Protective Order
- Emergency Protective Orders Issued against Family or Household Members
- Number of Homeless Adults Who Report Having Experienced Domestic Violence
- Arrests of Adults for Drug- or Alcohol-related Offenses
- Arrests of Juveniles for Drug- or Alcohol-related Offenses
- Arrests of Adults for Non-sexual Violent Offenses against a Family-Member
- Arrests of Juveniles for Non-sexual Violent Offenses against a Family-Member
- Arrests of Adults for Violent Sexual Offenses Committed against a Family Member
- Arrests of Juveniles for Violent Sexual Offenses Committed against a Family Member
- Child Homicides Perpetrated by a Family Member or Caregiver
- Adult Homicides Perpetrated by a Family Member or Caregiver
- Elder Homicides Perpetrated by a Family Member or Caregiver
- Domestic Violence Emergency Shelter Provided to Individuals
- CPS Completed Family Assessments
- CPS Founded Investigations of Abuse and Neglect of Children by Family Members
- APS Substantiated Reports of Abuse, Neglect, or Exploitation of Elders and Incapacitated Adults

# Revenue & Support

## License Plates:

FACT receives the majority of its funding each year from the sale of KIDS FIRST license plates and Virginia FACT plates.

## State Income Tax Check-Off Program:

Virginia law allows taxpayers to voluntarily donate all or part of their income tax refund to FACT.

## Donations:

FACT receives donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations. FACT is a public-private partnership that receives administrative support from state government and has a gubernatorial appointed board to make funding decisions.

## What Your Donation Will Provide FACT funds are dispersed to:

- local service grants for family violence treatment, prevention and public awareness
- community wide system change grants for trauma-informed care
- production of family violence prevention publications and materials such as issue briefs, brochures, and info cards
- statewide trainings on best practices related to family violence

## Gaming Proceeds Fund

Beginning in FY 21, FACT receives a small portion of the Gaming Proceeds Fund. More information can be found at § 58.1-4125 in the Code of Virginia.

**To make a donation visit [www.fact.virginia.gov](http://www.fact.virginia.gov)**

**or send your contribution to:**

**Donations to FACT are 100 percent tax deductible.**

Family and Children's Trust Fund  
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