



November 29, 2023

The Honorable Glenn Youngkin,
Governor of Virginia
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Youngkin,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee¹ of the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACT), to urge you and your administration to continue supporting Virginia's home visiting programs in your next biennial budget proposal. These programs were largely funded with federal funds through the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program following the 2008 economic recession. These funding reserves are now depleted; however, the need for these services remains critical to support Virginia's children and their families.

Home visiting is the most effective practice for strengthening families, which is central to addressing community and interpersonal violence, school readiness, healthy child development, and, ultimately, workforce capacity. The Children's Bureau at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services summarizes the effectiveness of these programs in this way:

Home visits are recognized as a cost-effective means of promoting infant and child health, preventing maltreatment, and improving family functioning. Home-based programs provide new and expectant parents with support to build their basic caregiving skills and assist parents and other primary caregivers in bonding with children to encourage healthy child development and a positive home environment. They address issues such as maternal and child health, positive parenting practices, safe home environments, and access to services.²

In Fiscal Year 2022, Virginia's home visiting programs completed 63,454 home visits, serving 6,700 families, 7,245 children, and 1,404 pregnant women. And these visits work. In a Feasibility Study conducted by the Virginia Department of Health in 2018, retrospective analysis found a 40% reduction in preterm births among Virginia women who had home visiting services versus a comparison group that did not. This reduction was estimated to save an average of \$30,000 per birth.³

¹ <https://www.fact.virginia.gov/child-abuse-neglect-advisory-committee/> Members of the Committee who are affiliated with or part of government abstained from voting on the recommendations and requests in this letter to avoid any potential appearance of impropriety or conflict. See minutes].

² <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/prevention-programs/homevisit/homevisitprog/>

³ <https://www.earlyimpactva.org/>

We therefore support Early Impact Virginia's⁴ request for funds to ensure Virginia's current level of home visiting services, for increased funding to offset inflation and support the continued growth and improvement of these programs into the future, and for your administration to work with Early Impact Virginia to develop a plan for sustained funding and program viability into the future.

We thank you for your leadership in the Commonwealth and your attention to this matter. And thank you for your efforts and your consideration of this request.



Jeanine Harper
Executive Director
Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN)
Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Co-Chair



Virginia Powell, PhD
Board of Trustees Member, Family and Children's Trust
Child Abuse and Neglect Committee Co-Chair

c: The Honorable George L. Barker, Co-chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Janet Howell, Co-chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee
Mike Tweedy, Senior Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Barry D. Knight, Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Susan E. Massart, Legislative Fiscal Analyst, House Appropriations Committee

⁴ <https://www.earlyimpactva.org/>