

**VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND  
(VA-FACT) Grants Committee Meeting, May 28th, 2024**

**Libbie Mill Library Conference Room - 2100 Libbie Lake E St, Richmond, VA**

**Participation:**

Trustee Committee Members Present: Abigail Wescott, Season Roberts, Tavares Floyd (arrived 10:26am)

Trustee Committee Members Absent: Tyler Hart and Tarina Keene

Staff/Guests Present: Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Michelle L'Hommedieu (Office of Attorney General - FACT Counsel) – joining virtually and Taylor Hohle (Senior Research Associate) – joining virtually

**Opening:** Trustee Wescott called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. A quorum was not present until 10:26am. All motions were completed after 10:26am.

**Update on VDSS Procurement Support**

- Executive Director Poulin and FACT Counsel L'Hommedieu explained the procurement challenges that remain for larger projects. There are significant capacity issues faced by the VDSS Procurement Office. Smaller, \$10,000 or less, targeted projects don't require support from the VDSS Procurement so to avoid delays, Executive Director Poulin has suggested FACT continue to focus most of their funding on smaller grant projects.

**Review of Proposed Funding Initiatives**

- Executive Director Poulin drafted a document with recommendations on grant projects and sent it out to the Committee prior to the meeting. These recommendations include continuing and expanding on current projects, in addition to a few new proposed projects which are in-line with feedback from stakeholders provided over the last year.
- Executive Director Poulin reviewed her recommendations:
  1. Direct (Emergency) Assistance Funds Project- Initially established in 2020 for interested non-profits and local governments who are outlined by the FACT Board to be awarded funds to be used to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals and families to assist with critical needs.
    - a. Sexual and Domestic Violence Programs (Department of Criminal Justice Partnership)
      - i. Continuation of current project
      - ii. 20 awards of \$5000 - total \$100,000
    - b. Home Visiting Programs (Early Impact Virginia partnership)
      - i. Continuation of current project
      - ii. 20 awards of \$5000 - total \$100,000
    - c. Skyward Pilot (Department of Juvenile Justice partnership)
      - i. Continuation of current project
      - ii. 1 site @ \$10,000 / 2 Court Service Units
    - d. 2 Generation / Whole Family Community Action Pilot Sites (Virginia Department of Social Services Office of Economic Opportunity and Virginia Community Action Network partnership)

- i. This is a bi-partisan Pilot project funded through the General Assembly. Six Community Action Agencies (CAA's) were selected in 2020 to administer the pilot, utilizing intensive family coaching/mentoring. The six CAA's all have a family coach/mentor that works with 10-15 families at a time, conducting a Family Assessment that identifies the needs of all members of the family across multiple domains, and developing Family goals to address all the identified needs. A key to the project is the blending and braiding of multiple funding sources, as the needs of each family member vary greatly, and the restrictions/focus of any individual funding source make it harder to address the often-changing needs faced by families throughout their participation in the project. [www.vacap.org/2-gen-whole-family/](http://www.vacap.org/2-gen-whole-family/)
- ii. New project
- iii. 6 awards of \$5000 - total \$30,000

**Total Direct Assistance Funds - \$240,000 (47 mini contracts)**

- 2. Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
  - a. Hire a consultant to create a state plan, in partnership with the FACT Child Abuse and Neglect Advisory Committee, for the prevention of child sexual assault
    - i. 1 award of \$10,000 for consulting services
  - b. Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) Prevention Programs (CACs of Virginia Partnership)
    - i. Support best practice work at the local level to prevent child sexual abuse
    - ii. 10 awards of \$10,000 - total \$100,000

**Total Sexual Abuse Prevention Effort Support - \$110,000 (10 mini contracts + 1 contractor)**

- 3. Abuse Against People with Disabilities Prevention
  - a. The VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities to be awarded funds to expand the LEAP Program to Southwest (Roanoke) and Hampton Roads sites over two years through a partnership with The Arc of Virginia. Both sites would employ part-time staff dedicated to the LEAP Project with support from the VCU Partnership. Project activities would include:
    - i. Participate in two-day training workshop to become certified LEAP trainers
    - ii. Recruitment and scheduling sites LEAP trainings in their areas
    - iii. Providing transportation and support for trainers
    - iv. Conduction a minimum of 10 training sessions w/ 8-10 participants
    - v. Participate in training of at least four webinars which will reach a minimum of 85 disability support providers and family members focused on fostering healthy relationships
    - vi. Participate in leading online support groups for graduates of LEAP training who would like to continue conversations about healthy relationships
  - b. This project is estimated to reach approximately 350-400 people (people with intellectual disabilities, support staff, and families)
  - c. 1 two-year award for \$200,000

**Total Abuse Against People with Disabilities Prevention Support - \$200,000 (1 large contract)**

**Total Program Support Grant Allocation - \$550,000**

- Additional Ad Hoc Support Options:
  - FACT currently allocates 10 awards of \$3,000 to be used for events with statewide impact
  - Additional awards could be made available to support local efforts that align with FACT's mission.
  - **Total Ad Hoc Grant Allocation - \$60,000**
    - 10 awards of \$3000 for statewide impact efforts
    - 10 awards of \$3000 for local impact efforts
- **Total Proposed Grant Allocation for Fiscal Year 2025 - \$610,000**

### **Discussion of Proposed Funding Initiatives**

- The committee discussed amending the ad hoc grant amount to increase from \$3000 to \$5000 per award. The total allocation amount for ad hoc grants would increase from \$60,000 to \$100,000.
- There was discussion around FACT's capacity for implementing a state plan for child sexual abuse prevention. Executive Director Poulin mentioned multiple stakeholders who have expressed the need for such state plan in order to increase coordination and expand awareness and strategies based on up-to-date best practices. Trustee Wescott suggested a written agreement outlining a commitment to participate in implementation of the plan be signed by stakeholders who participate in it's development in order to ensure shared responsibility.
  - There was additional discussion around involving the First Lady of Virginia in this work as she is committed and dedicated to helping children.
- Executive Director Poulin discussed the potential for hiring a consultant to do marketing work for FACT to increase awareness. The contract would work similar to the current bookkeeper contract. This will be further discussed at the upcoming Board meeting.
- **Trustee Roberts made a motion that the committee recommend to the FACT Board, the reviewed grant projects with an amendment to the ad hoc grants increasing the amount per grant from \$3000 to \$5000. Trustee Floyd seconded.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00AM**