

**VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
Grants Committee Meeting**

September 23rd, 2025

**CARITAS, 2220 Stockton Street,
Richmond VA 23224**

Trustee Committee Members Present: Abigail Wescott, Season Roberts, Nichele Carver

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

Opening: Trustee Wescott called the meeting to order at 9:23 AM.

Update on VDSS Procurement Support

- Nicole, Taylor, Michelle and Trustees Wescott and Roberts met with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) Procurement team.
 - Staff are working with the procurement team to develop a new process for FACT moving forward that is separate from VDSS.
 - For the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP), staff are developing an updated timeline and documents for the Grants Committee to review. The Board of Trustees would vote on the RFP in December with applications coming in at the beginning of 2026.

Review & Discussion of Ad Hoc Grants

- The Committee received 62 applications for the first round of ad hoc funding. The total amount of the requests is \$459,558.00.
 - The total budget for Fiscal Year 2026 is \$300,000, divided into \$150,000 per cycle.
 - There were 29 applications under the category of training and organizational capacity, totaling \$144,269.00
 - There were 33 applications under the direct service category, totaling \$315,290.00
- Based on the criteria set out in the application, the options for staying within budget include lowering the award amount for all applications or awarding only one of the two categories (direct service or training and organizational capacity).
- Due to the high demand of funding, the Grants Committee will meet again prior to the December Board meeting to discuss additional criteria for the February cycle of applications. This may include developing a separate pool of funding, like the previous Emergency Funds Project awards, and/or increasing the budget amount allocated to the ad hoc awards. Applicants would need to re-apply for the February round of funding.

Recommended Funding of Ad Hoc Grants

- **The recommendation of the Grants Committee for the current round of ad hoc applications is to fund all training and organizational capacity applications for a total of \$144,268.00.**

Next Steps

- The Committee will meet twice prior to the December Board meeting to discuss criteria and process for the next round of funding.
- Trustees Wescott and Roberts will develop language for the applicants who applied for direct service support who will not be awarded this round for Nicole to send to them.
- Staff will pull together information about the previous Emergency Funds Project grants to assist with discussions at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 AM.