



Family &
Children's
Trust Fund

BIENNIAL IMPACT REPORT

Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 & 2025



Highlights

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- Prevention Spectrum Webpage
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act Reports
- Guidance on improving community response to problematic sexual behavior in children
- Informational webinars
- System Responses to Child Fatalities
- People with Disabilities Issue Brief

AD HOC

GRANT AWARDS

Provided up to \$5,000 awards to **26 programs** to support **education and training to over 3,000 total participants and innovative services for survivors of family violence**

GRANT COVERAGE FOR FY 24 & 25



EMERGENCY FUNDS GRANTS FOR FAMILIES

Awarded over \$300,000 in Emergency Funds to 44 programs to provide direct assistance to over 300 families across the Commonwealth

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT INVESTMENTS

- Expansion of Sexual Abuse Prevention Training for People with Disabilities
- Development of new training on effective community responses to problematic sexual behavior in children
- Facilitation of the first Child Sexual Abuse Prevention State Plan
- Increased training and capacity of Child Advocacy Centers



About FACT

The Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) was created in the code of Virginia in 1986 to support efforts to prevent family violence across the lifespan. As the only public-private partnership of its kind, FACT increases awareness, provides funding, coordinates across state agencies, and advises state leadership on policies and legislation.

WE BELIEVE...

FACT believes that capacity building and public understanding is key to preventing and treating the vast spectrum of child abuse, neglect, and family violence throughout Virginia. In order to effectively address these issues, we commit to support organizations, programs, and communities dedicated to treatment, prevention and intervention efforts, as well as serve as a central source of knowledge about child abuse, neglect, and family violence. This includes promoting collaboration, prioritizing innovation, and increasing awareness around family violence across the life span and the protection of children.

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.

VISION

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

A Message From Our Executive Director

"In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity." – Albert Einstein

It has been a few years since FACT last published a biennial report for fiscal years 2021-2022. There have been great things happening since then that have kept our "small but mighty" staff support of 1.7 positions and Board of Trustees very busy. One of the most exciting changes has been gaining a small percentage of Virginia's casino revenue, which has not only increased our ability to support local programs but also allowed FACT to take on a leadership role in supporting system level changes that could ultimately result in large improvements to the welfare and stability of children and families in Virginia.

FACT is a unique public-private state entity in the Commonwealth. In addition to the new income from the casino revenue, FACT's funding comes from individual donations and our "Kids First" license plate program. That money is held in an account in the Virginia Department of Treasury that is overseen by a Board of Trustees who are appointed by the Governor and both chambers of the General Assembly. The Virginia Department of Social Services provides administrative support to the Board through support of my position and that of our part-time Senior Research Analyst, Taylor Hohle.



FY 2026 Board of Trustees

Back row (left to right): Ian Danielsen, Joseph Van Name, Tyler Hart (Treasurer), Abigail Wescott (Vice Chair), Michelle L'Hommedieu (FACT Counsel), Carl Ayers (Deputy Commissioner) **Front row:** Amy Greear, Tiffany Garner (Secretary), Nichele Carver, Nicole Poulin (Executive Director), Maria Salgado, Season Roberts (Chair) **Not pictured:** Cindy Han, Cherie Short

Because of its unconventional structure and broad focus, FACT is well positioned to make creative investments in a variety of strategies to prevent the complex issue of family violence across the lifespan. During the almost 10 years since I began in this role, I have been overwhelmed by the support and dedication of so many of FACT's Board Members. They have championed our work and provided leadership to take on difficult and not often recognized but critical issues in the field of family violence prevention. In doing so, they have provided light on some of the darkest issues faced by children and families. We know that it is only by being brave enough to move forward in this way, will we ever be truly successful at strengthening families and ultimately communities across generations.

With gratitude,

Nicole



FY 2024 & 2025 Board of Trustees

FACT is administered by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Senate Committee on Rules.

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Strategic Plan 2023-2026

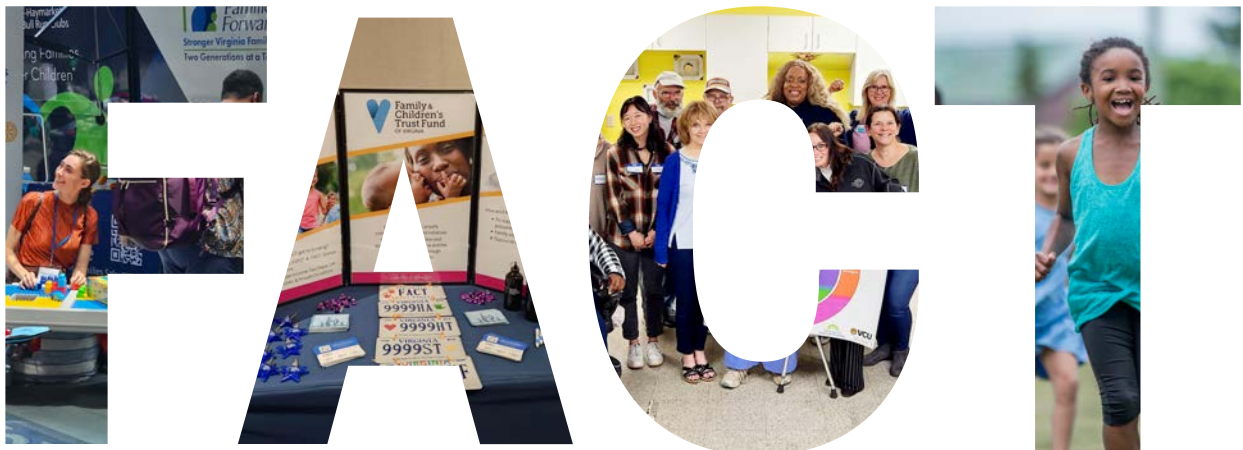
Building on the findings from the 2021 FACT Sustainability Report, FACT approved a new Strategic Plan outlining the following four goals:

FACT will focus its efforts on state and local systems that prevent, reduce, and treat family violence across the lifespan.

FACT will educate policymakers on ways to prevent and treat family violence.

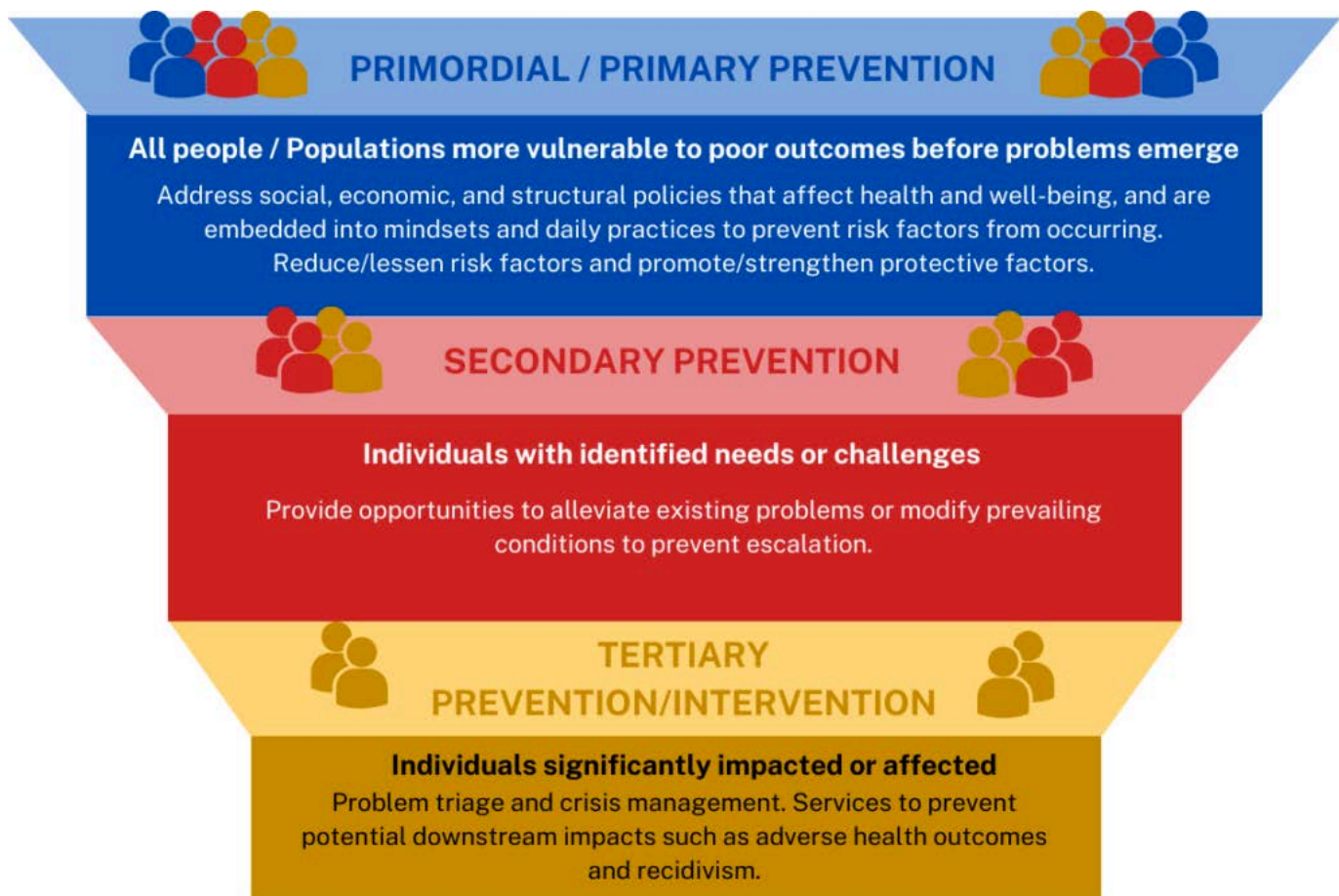
FACT will grow and leverage resources to address the prevention, reduction, and treatment of family violence.

FACT will seek changes in its governance, financial, and operational structures to enhance its effectiveness.



Violence Prevention Spectrum Webpage

To keep in line with the Strategic Plan, FACT released a new webpage to provide a framework for funding and raise awareness of the importance of and distinction between the different levels of prevention efforts related to family violence.



*adapted from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services "Advancing Primary Prevention in Human Services: Convening Findings" (2023)

Check out the new page for yourself at:
<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/violence-prevention-spectrum>

Child Abuse & Neglect Committee

The Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Advisory Committee was established in 2012 by legislation which consolidated the Governor's Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect (GAB) and FACT.

The Committee is **charged 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.

Additionally, one of the federal requirements for states to receive Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funding is the establishment of citizen review panels (CRPs) to examine child protective services within state departments of social services. The CAN Advisory Committee serves as one of the three CRPs in Virginia. That role requires the Committee to develop annual reports with recommendations to improve services to the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS). The following focus areas were included in the 2024 and 2025 CAPTA reports.

- **The ongoing need for accurate data**
- **More outcome information about VDSS's Family First child welfare response**
- **Increase support for the child welfare workforce**
- **Improve to child death review processes**





Problematic Sexual Behavior Project

Beginning in FY22, the CAN Advisory Committee noticed a lack of information and guidance for how to best respond to cases when one child harms another child in a sexual way, referred to as Problematic Sexual Behavior (PSB)

Currently, many of these cases “fall between the cracks” of the services designed to respond to child abuse. If the child who acted against another child in a sexual way is not identified as being in the role of a caretaker, such as a babysitter, at the time of the incident, Child Protective Services (CPS) has no authority to respond, leaving only law enforcement to do so.

It is widely understood that law enforcement action is not the best service to provide for most of these cases and may increase the harm for both children involved. Research shows that when children who display this behavior receive appropriate services, they are very unlikely to commit further harm against other children. These are complex cases that require careful responses that include working with both the children and families involved to ensure a safe outcome.

Want to learn more about PSB in Virginia and concrete recommendations for localities? Check out the PSB Guidance Document FACT released in 2023.

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/psb-project/>

In 2023 FACT hosted two webinars with subject matter experts to discuss the various challenges and responses to these cases in different localities. Those discussions led to FACT’s development of a guidance document that can be used by localities and state policy leaders to improve responses to these cases.

As a continuation of that work, the FACT Board **approved funding for a two-year project to develop a train-the-trainer model for the service providers who respond to these cases within localities.** Those providers work together through Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) in communities. These trainings will be piloted with local community MDTs across Virginia beginning in 2026.

System Responses to Child Fatalities

The topic of child fatalities is a difficult subject to discuss and even consider. However, responding to those cases appropriately is a community's last, most solemn obligation to our youngest and often most vulnerable population. No one agency or organization can tackle the complexities of child death and maltreatment.

A collaborative, multi system approach is necessary to ensure all contributing factors are thoroughly considered when investigating and reviewing the death of a child. When done effectively, child fatality review processes can provide critical information that is needed to develop prevention strategies to stop further deaths.

To learn more about this work in Virginia, in 2023 the CAN Advisory Committee hosted an informational webinar with multiple agencies involved with these processes. That discussion highlighted the need for further information on topic and led to the creation of a detailed report on the various agencies involved in these cases.

MEET THE SPEAKERS



Virginia "Ginny"
Powell
Office of the Chief
Medical Examiner
(Retired)



Carley Lansden
Virginia
Department of
Social Services



Judy Kurtz
Eastern Region
Child Fatality
Review Team



Heather Board
Virginia
Department of
Health



Ryan Diduk-Smith
Office of the Chief
Medical Examiner



Eric Reynolds
Office of the
Children's
Ombudsman

The webinar can be found at: www.fact.virginia.gov/webinar-recordings/



System Responses to Child Fatalities

What started as a reference document focused only on child fatality review processes, developed over two years into a **one-of-a-kind deep dive report on the intricacies and challenges Virginia faces in its response to child deaths at both the investigation and review stages** and the barriers to these processes that contribute to effectively preventing many of these cases.


The purpose of the report is fourfold:

- provide a central reference document outlining the current efforts for child fatality investigations and review in Virginia
- to highlight available data on these cases
- to identify where gaps in data exist and
- to provide points for consideration on ways to improve child fatality investigation and review processes to increase effective prevention strategies and protect our most vulnerable Virginians

The full report, as well as an executive summary, infographic, and additional resources can be found at:

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/child-fatalities/>

To support the development of the report, the CAN Advisory Committee created a **workgroup to conduct independent reviews of child fatalities investigated by local Departments of Social Services**. A summary report of these reviews will be released in the coming months.





Child Sexual Abuse Prevention State Plan

In FY25, with support from FACT, the CAN Advisory Committee worked in partnership with stakeholders and field experts to create a state plan for the prevention of child sexual assault. This plan is intended to be used as a framework for policy makers and advocates to keep children safe from sexual harm. **It provides a unified position on child sexual abuse prevention efforts across state partners and lays a strong foundation that can be built on for years to come.**

The Foundational State Plan for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Virginia: A Preliminary Framework for Collaboration can be found at:

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/state-plan-for-child-sexual-abuse-prevention/>

In order to support these prevention efforts on the local level, FACT established a grant program in FY25 that **provided \$10,000 grants to nine Child Advocacy Centers across Virginia** to increase child sexual abuse prevention efforts within localities.



**FACT awarded
\$90,000
to Child Advocacy Centers
across Virginia**

Abuse Prevention for People with Disabilities

Developed in collaboration between VCU's School of Social Work and the Partnership for People with Disabilities, Leadership for Empowerment and Abuse Prevention (LEAP) provides training on healthy relationships and information about preventing sexual abuse against adults with disabilities. The training takes place in four face-to-face 90-minute sessions that are taught by a trainer with a disability and a co-trainer. In the last few years, LEAP has been recognized nationally as **one of the only evidence-based training curriculum of its kind.**

FACT also released an issue brief focused on People with Disabilities and the heightened risk for family violence they face along with additional barriers accessing services.

<https://www.fact.virginia.gov/people-with-disabilities/>

In FY24, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health, FACT supported Richmond Residential Services Inc. and The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham to become LEAP Certified Centers for Abuse Prevention and Safety (C-CAPS). The C-CAPS had two staff members and two individuals with disabilities who utilize their services become LEAP trainers. These trainers continue to provide training to their communities and create an organizational culture of empowerment and abuse prevention.

In FY25 FACT increased their support for LEAP by providing a **\$200,000 award to the Partnership for People with Disabilities** to expand the training to Southwest Virginia and Hampton Roads.





Emergency Funds Project

FACT recognizes that economic support plays an important role in family stabilization and self-sufficiency for many individuals and families who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing family violence. The FACT Emergency Funds Project was established to provide flexible funding to organizations to assist families with some of these costs not covered by other funding sources.

In FY24, FACT provided \$5000 Emergency Fund Project Grants to:

- **15 Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence Agencies**
- **13 Home Visiting Agencies**


In FY25 FACT provided \$5000 Emergency Fund Project Grants to:

- **17 Domestic Violence/Sexual Violence Agencies**
- **19 Home Visiting Agencies**
- **2 Two-Generation/Whole Family Pilot Agencies**

Skyward Fund Pilot

In partnership with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), FACT of Virginia is piloting the Skyward Fund Project to help address the needs of DJJ involved youth and their families. This pilot project is an expansion of the FACT Emergency Funds Project

In FY24 & FY25, FACT awarded \$20,000 to the Greater Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (GRSCAN) serving Henrico and Chesterfield counties



Programs who received Emergency Funds said...

"During the past year, fewer local resources to meet the financial needs of our community have been available. Sometimes, individuals were ineligible for assistance. These funds helped fill the gaps that could have significantly interfered with survivors' efforts to move on from intimate partner violence."

"The flexibility of the funding makes such a big impact and we consider it to be an extremely helpful tool. We are so hopeful to continue having the resource. In fact, our agency has secured a match of \$5,000 from a private donor, who was deeply inspired by the impact of the FACT grant."

"These funds covered the cost of gas and hotels which allowed for one of our clients (a domestic violence survivor) and her children to escape her abuser by moving to Illinois live with her family."

"Other successes included helping families replace essential household items like a washing machine, which may seem small but made a huge difference in maintaining basic hygiene and dignity. These moments reminded our team of how even one-time assistance can transform daily life for a family facing financial hardship."

"One family got behind on rent when her car needed unexpected repairs and she was not able to work. Family members had helped mom in the past and she was receiving SNAP, Medicaid and energy assistance to help meet her basic needs. [These] funds allowed her to pay her car repairs and keep her and her children in stable housing"

Ad Hoc Grants

In FY24, FACT awarded nine ad hoc grants, totaling \$24,000, to support organizations hosting statewide activities that improve the prevention, treatment, or public awareness of family violence.

In FY25, the FACT Board expanded the ad hoc grant awards to include local activities, in addition to statewide events and increased the total amount that could be awarded from \$3,000 to \$5,000. **Thanks to this expansion, FACT awarded 17 ad hoc grants, totaling \$79,500, in FY25.**

This support allowed programs and communities to increase training, supported statewide conferences and provided critical funding for innovative services, such as therapeutic outdoor camps for children and adult survivors of family violence.



Connect with FACT



www.fact.virginia.gov



Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia (FACTVA)



Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia



@fact_va

**To make a donation, visit
www.fact.virginia.gov/donate
or send your contribution to:**

Family and Children's Trust Fund
5600 Cox Road
Glen Allen, VA 23060

Virginia allows taxpayers to voluntarily donate all or a portion of their income tax refund to FACT through the State Income Tax Check-Off Program.

What your donation will help FACT accomplish:

- grants for services of family violence treatment, prevention, and awareness
- innovative community wide system change grants
- local and statewide trainings on best practices related to family violence
- production of family violence prevention publications and educational materials such as issue briefs, webpages, and data explainers



Show your support for children's safety and wellbeing while you're on the go!
www.fact.virginia.gov/license-plates/

Donations to FACT are 100% tax deductible.