

**VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND
(VA-FACT) Grants Committee Meeting**

October 28th, 2025, Microsoft Teams

Trustee Committee Members Present: Abigail Wescott, Nichele Carver, Tiffany Garner, Cherie Short, Season Roberts (arrived at 3pm)

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

Opening: Trustee Wescott called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Overview of Past Emergency Fund Grants Processes

- The Emergency Funds were started in 2020 to provide flexible funding to agencies to assist families in crisis when other funding is not available. These funds have been used previously to cover costs such as infant formula during the shortage, paying for parking tickets to help an individual get a commercial driving license, and travel costs for fleeing domestic violence survivors.
- Executive Director Poulin reviewed the previous Emergency Fund Grants from Fiscal Year (FY) 2025
 - These awards were open to domestic violence/sexual violence agencies that receive Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, home visiting agencies registered with the state agency Early Impact, and the Two Generation/Whole Families Pilot agencies. The selection of these groups was due to the oversight that is already provided by state/federal partners.
 - The Board of Trustees budgeted a total of \$240,000 in FY25 for these awards. A total of \$200,000 was awarded.

Overview of Current FY2026 Ad Hoc Process

- During the September ad hoc cycle, the Board approved funding for the 29 training and organizational capacity applications at \$144,268.
- There was discussion on the next round of funding in February focusing on direct service applications up to \$10,000. A suggestion was made by staff to consider pools of applicants that have oversight by another agency as FACT as done in the past.
- FACT Counsel provided information on how the Board of Trustees can allow the Executive Director to award funding by removing any discretion in the application process. This is how the Emergency Funds functioned on a first-come, first-served basis.
 - There was a discussion of staff capacity for additional grant contracts. An additional 15-20 grants would be manageable by staff.
- The current approved budget for the ad hoc awards is \$300,000, leaving approximately \$150,000 left for the next cycle. There was discussion on recommending to the Board that the ad hoc budget be increased to allow for additional awards.
- Criteria for the next round of funding and what “direct service” covers will be discussed and finalized at the next committee meeting.

Next Steps

- Staff will send out an email about extending the next meeting to allow time to discuss final recommendations on the ad hoc grant process.
- The next meeting will be in-person on November 12th and will discuss the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.