

VA FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Grants Committee Meeting

November 12th, 2025

Families Forward- 8100 Three Chopt Road, Richmond VA

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

Trustee Committee Members Absent: Cherie Short

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

Opening: Trustee Wescott called the meeting to order at 10:43 AM.

Discussion of Revisions to FY 2026 Ad Hoc Grant Process

- Executive Director Poulin provided a copy of a previous Emergency Funds application to show an example of previous eligibility and programmatic criteria.
- There was further discussion on staff capacity to administer additional grants.
 - There are approximately 40 grants from last fiscal year still outstanding and the 29 ad hoc awards from the October round.
 - Staff indicated that they have the capacity to comfortably manage oversight for an additional 20 grants that are set up similarly to the previous Emergency Funds grants as first-come, first-served for all qualifying applications within a vote approved category to allow staff authority to distribute funding.
- There is approximately \$150,000 left in the current budget for this award cycle of ad hoc grants. An increase of \$50,000 in the current budget would allow for a total of 20 additional grants of up to \$10,000 each to be made.
 - Due to the high number of direct service applications and Board decision to only fund those focused on training and organizational capacity in the initial round of funding, the Committee concluded that the focus for this cycle be focused on direct services.
 - Awards could include both direct client support and staffing support for direct services. This is reflective of the need presented in the applications received in the initial round of funding.
- The Committee discussed various ways to ensure that the funding is available to a variety of organizations.
 - Establishing two separate cohort awards cycles determined by application due date could allow for lower capacity organizations to take additional time to develop applications if needed. The first cohort of \$10,000 awards to 10 agencies could be awarded in March and a second cohort awarded of \$10,000 awards to 10 agencies could be awarded in May. If less than 10 awards are made during the first cohort, those awards would become available to agencies in the second cohort.
 - FACT is limited in its capacity to provide thorough oversight and monitoring of programs to ensure funds are being spent appropriately.
 - Larger state agencies are able to conduct full scale monitoring and audits of local governments and nonprofits receiving their funding. Targeting FACT's awards limited to eligible programs that are currently receiving funding from state agencies would allow for a level of monitoring of organizational and financial capacity FACT is currently not able to provide.
 - Specifically, the Committee discussed limiting applicants to nonprofits and local

government who are currently receiving funding and monitoring from the Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

- The Committee discussed additional eligibility requirements to ensure organizational capacity to limit eligibility programs to those who have had an audit conducted within the last 3 years and non-profits who have filed a current 990 form.
- **A motion was made by Trustee Wescott for the Grants Committee to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the budget for ad hoc grants be increased by \$50,000 for a total of \$200,000 this round. Additionally, for the ad hoc process to be modified to:**
 - **First-come, first-served with two cohorts of funding split into \$100,000, for grants up to \$10,000 each for direct services in line with FACT's focus of preventing family violence across the life span.**
 - **Require eligibility to agencies who are currently receiving funding and monitoring from Department of Housing and Community Development, Virginia Department of Social Services, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, and the Department of Criminal Justice Services.**
 - **Require a 990 form and a recent audit, or equivalent, within the last three years.**

Discussion of FY 2027 Request for Proposals

- Previously the Grants Committee decided to develop a large Request for Proposal (RFP) for two-year grants, for up to \$200,000-\$300,000 per award, totaling \$1.5 million dollars.
 - Services supported through this grant funding will be broad in scope and prioritize the following:
 - Those focused across the family violence prevention spectrum - primordial/primary (universal), secondary (targeted toward vulnerable populations) and tertiary (intervention services to prevent further abuse)
 - Those focused across the lifespan- Child abuse, DV/SV, Abuse Against Elders
 - Those which support family violence prevention efforts across the 5 Regional VDSS Areas
- Staff have been working with VDSS Procurement Staff to develop an RFP process specific to FACT funding.
- Timeline
 - If the Board of Trustees approves the RFP at the December Board meeting, then the RFP would be released in January.
 - The Grants Committee, and additional partners, would then review applications through the procurement process and select proposals to recommend to the full Board of Trustees.
 - The Board of Trustees would then vote at the March meeting on the recommendation.
 - Services provided by the selected applicants would then begin on July 1, 2026.
- The Grants Committee discussed criteria they would like to include in the draft of the RFP.
 - A minimum organizational budget of \$750,000.
 - 70% of the funding (\$1,050,000) to support existing programs that have faced or anticipate facing (as indicated through federal or municipal budget cuts) a significant loss in funding to existing services and 30% (\$450,000) to support innovative pilot programming and expansion of current services.
 - 10% cap on administrative costs
 - Narrative criteria for existing programs:
 - What is the problem? Explain the loss of funding and services. How are these services unique? What is the current plan for sustainability of these services? (worth 30 points)
 - What is the community need? What does your community look like? How have

- funding cuts impacted the community at large? (worth 25 points)
- What does your collaboration with other organizations and community partners look like? Outside of letters of support, how are you collaborating day-to-day? How have you come together to minimize impact of funding losses? (worth 20 points)
- What is the anticipated impact of these services? Approximately how many individuals will your program be able to serve with this funding? What evaluation measures will be implemented to ensure quality of services? (worth 25 points)
- Narrative criteria for new/expansion programs:
 - What is the community need? What does your community look like? What specific issues does your community face? (worth 30 points)
 - What is the specific problem that these new or expanding services aim to address? How will the services minimize the problem? (worth 25 points)
 - What is the anticipated impact of these services? Approximately how many individuals could this project potentially serve/impact? What evaluation measures will be implemented to ensure quality of services? (worth 25 points)
 - What does your collaboration with other organizations and community partners look like? How will partners support this project? Outside of letters of support, how would you be collaborating day-to-day? Has community mapping been done to assess if these services are already provided by another organization? (worth 20 points)

Next Steps

- Staff will work on developing a draft for the RFP for the Committee to review prior to the next meeting.
- A virtual Grants Committee meeting will be held on December 8th, 3-5pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:31 PM.