

General Assembly Building  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, Virginia, 23219

Dear Legislator,

I am writing you on behalf of the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT) Board of Trustees, to express their strong support for increased state funding for Virginia's Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in the current budget cycle.

CACs play a critical role for both the children who have been abused and the communities in which they serve. In addition to providing direct services central to the recovery from the trauma suffered by children who have been abused, they provide a foundational role in coordinating systems of responses to these cases. CACs are uniquely positioned to bring together multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) including law enforcement, CPS, medical, prosecution and mental health services to enhance responses to these cases which reduces further harm to the community at large.

FACT has been a longtime supporter of CACs through grant funding. Additionally, their consequential role has been noted in some of FACT's recent projects. [FACT's Foundational State Plan for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse](#) emphasizes the importance of coordinated, evidence-informed, and trauma-responsive systems to both prevent abuse and respond effectively when it occurs. CACs are outlined as a central component of that statewide framework. Their essential role is also identified in FACT's research on [System Responses to Child Fatalities](#) and [Improving Responses to Cases of Problematic Sexual Behavior](#) which both identify the critical need to increase communication and coordination to improve responses and prevent further harm.

In recent years, CACs have faced increasing demand alongside declining federal funding sources, creating significant strain on their ability to sustain core services. Increased state investment is essential to ensure that CACs across the Commonwealth—particularly in rural and underserved areas—can continue to meet the needs of children and families and remain strong partners in Virginia's child abuse prevention and response systems.

While the children and families served by CACs are not always visible in policy discussions, the impact of this work is profound. The FACT Board of Trustees strongly supports increased funding for Children's Advocacy Centers and urges you to prioritize this investment as part of Virginia's broader commitment to strengthen and protect children, families and communities in Virginia.

Thank you for your leadership and for your continued dedication to the safety and well-being of Virginia's children.

Sincerely,



Nicole Poulin, Executive Director