



Public/Private Partnerships

What are public/private partnerships?

Public/private partnerships is a term that describes collaborative associations among the Virginia Department of Social Services, the private sector, and the community, including private foster care providers, businesses, nonprofits, and faith-based groups.

What are private foster care providers?

Private foster care providers contract with VDSS to recruit, train, and support foster care families. Many private providers specialize in youth who need a higher level of care and attention due to behavioral or medical issues, past traumatic experiences, or advanced age. This higher level of care—known as therapeutic foster care—provides the positive aspects of a nurturing and therapeutic family environment with active and structured treatment.

What are wraparound services?

According to Virginia Kids Belong, roughly 50% of foster care families quit within a year because they don't get the support they need. Kinship care families—relatives or friends who take in children in need to keep them out of the foster care system—receive even less support than foster families. Wraparound services describe the efforts of members of the community to support these caregivers in their day-to-day needs. Services can include respite care, donations of food and clothing, help with transportation to and from appointments, or simply being on-call to help caregivers succeed.

What is the Virginia Fosters campaign?

Virginia Fosters is a statewide campaign that empowers Virginians to be the solution for children, families, and social services workers in Virginia's foster care system. Launched in 2019 in partnership with Virginia Kids Belong, the campaign coordinates leaders in the government, faith, non-profit, business and creative communities and engages Virginians from all walks of life to address the challenges inherent in Virginia's foster care system. It also works to recruit and support foster families, adoptive families, and kinship families, and to ensure that social services workers have community support and adequate resources as they care for vulnerable children and families.

Virginia Kids Belong is a nonprofit organization that mobilizes government, faith-based, business and creative leaders around the goal of permanency and belonging for every child. Through innovated initiatives, it helps ensure that every child is in a loving home by: recruiting more foster and adoptive families, engaging wrap-around support for at-risk, foster & adoptive families along the way, and helping youth who have aged out without a family reach their full potential.