



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Commission on Youth

# **Review of Virginia's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program**

September 20, 2016

Amy M. Atkinson

# Study Mandate



- During the 2016 General Assembly Session, Senator Barbara Favola introduced Senate Joint Resolution 95. The resolution directed the Commission on Youth to:
  - evaluate the Department of Social Services' administration of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program and identify the amount of and reasoning for unused TANF funds;
  - determine whether TANF funds are being used for the intended purposes of the TANF Program or whether such funds are being diverted to other programs or non-TANF purposes;
  - determine whether and how TANF funds can be better used to stabilize families economically, help provide educational opportunities, and provide parenting classes and identify other support services that could be made available through TANF funding to strengthen families; and
  - consult with all relevant stakeholders.
- COY is to report recommendations prior to the 2017 General Assembly Session.

# Study Activities



- Research and review federal law, requirements and allowances
- Review and analyze Virginia laws, policies, procedures, and programs
  - *Code of Virginia* Recent budget amendment and legislative bill proposals for use of TANF funds
  - Virginia's Initiative for Employment not Welfare (VIEW)
- Review programs receiving TANF Funding

# Study Activities



- Conduct extensive background and literature reviews
  - National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
  - Congressional Research Service reports
  - Other states' statutes, regulations, studies, and activities
- Convene an advisory group of stakeholders
  - Virginia Department of Social Services
  - Local Departments of Social Services
  - Virginia Department of Health
  - House Appropriations Committee Staff
  - Senate Finance Committee Staff
  - Virginia League of Social Services Executives – Employment/TANF Committee
  - Advocacy Organizations

# Study Mandate



## Advisory Group Meetings

August 1, 2016

- I. Study Overview
- II. Overview of the TANF Program
- III. Overview of the Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)
- IV. Advisory Group Discussion – Discussion on Surplus Options

September 6 2016

- I. TANF and Eligibility for Virginia's Benefit Programs
- II. Overview of Virginia's Child Care Subsidy Program
- III. Virginia's Child Care Subsidy Program and Barriers to Access – A Local Perspective
- IV. Expanded Services/Discretionary Activities Funded by TANF
- V. Advisory Group Discussion

# Study Mandate



## Advisory Group Membership

**Tonia Alexander**

Charlottesville Department of Social Services

**The Honorable Barbara A. Favola**

Senate of Virginia, District 31

**The Honorable T. Scott Garrett**

Virginia House of Delegates, District 23

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Legislative Analyst  
Senate Finance Committee

**Emily Griffey**

Voices for Virginia's Children

# TANF Background



- TANF replaced the Aid to Families with Dependent Children Program with the passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.
- It changed the program from an entitlement program with very strong federal oversight to a block grant with maximum state flexibility.

# TANF Goal



- To maximize opportunities for TANF recipients to gain the training and job skills they need to become self-sufficient by providing supportive services and a benefit that meet the subsistence needs of the family.



# TANF Overview



- TANF programs must meet one of four federal requirements:
  1. Provide assistance to needy families so children can be cared for in their own homes or homes of relatives;
  2. End dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage;
  3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies; and
  4. Encourage the formation of two-parent families.
    - Services under the first two purposes are means-tested and activate work requirements and time limits.

# TANF Overview



- Provides cash and other assistance to eligible needy families with children.
- Funded through an annual \$158.2 million federal block grant.
- The state has flexibility to design/fund programs that address the needs of Virginia's low-income families.
- Virginia is required to spend \$128 million annually in state general funds known as Maintenance of Effort (MOE.)
  - This represents 75% of the amount the state spent on welfare spending in 1994.

# TANF Overview



- There are two sets of requirements; eligibility requirements and work requirements.
- Eligibility for TANF depends upon one's income and the total number of dependents in the household.
- The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) establishes the Standard of Need as the amount needed monthly to provide for the basic needs of a family for its size and locality.
  - Payment levels are called the Standards of Assistance.
- Gross income is screened at 185% of the Standard of Need.
  - Approximately 37% of the Federal Poverty Limit (\$662 for a family of 3).
- The average monthly payment is approximately 20% of the Federal Poverty Limit (\$336 for a family of 3).
- There is a 60-month federal lifetime limit on receipt of cash assistance; 2-year state limit.
- Virginia has eliminated its asset limits for eligibility determination.

# TANF Overview



- Monthly TANF assistance payments are based on a variety of factors including the number of eligible persons in the assistance unit and the locality group in which the family resides.
- Locality groupings are the placement of a locality or municipality into either Group I, Group II, or Group III, which in turn, helps determine the TANF eligibility and payment levels for families residing in that locality.
- Because of wide variation in shelter cost within the Commonwealth, these groups of standards have been established.
- A family of 3 in a locality designated:
  - Group I – receives a standard of assistance of \$307.
  - Group II – receives a standard of assistance of \$336.
  - Group III – receives a standard of assistance of \$409.

# TANF Overview



## Locality Groupings in Virginia – Group I

### Counties

Accomack  
Alleghany  
Amelia  
Amherst  
Appomattox  
Bath  
Bedford  
Bland  
Botetourt  
Brunswick  
Buchanan  
Buckingham  
Campbell  
Carroll  
Charles City  
Charlotte  
Clarke  
Craig  
Culpeper  
Cumberland  
Dickenson

### Counties

Dinwiddie  
Essex  
Floyd  
Fluvanna  
Franklin  
Frederick  
Giles  
Gloucester  
Goochland  
Grayson  
Greene  
Greensville  
Halifax  
Hanover  
Henry  
Highland  
Isle of Wight  
King & Queen  
King William

### Counties

Lancaster  
Lee  
Louisa  
Lunenburg  
Madison  
Mathews  
Mecklenburg  
Middlesex  
Nelson  
New Kent  
Northampton  
Northumberland  
Nottoway  
Orange  
Page  
Patrick  
Pittsylvania  
Powhatan  
Prince Edward

### Counties

Prince George  
Pulaski  
Rappahannock  
Richmond County  
Rockbridge  
Russell  
Scott  
Shenandoah  
Smyth  
Southampton  
Surry  
Sussex  
Tazewell  
Washington  
Westmoreland  
Wise  
Wythe

### Cities

Bristol  
Buena Vista  
Clifton Forge  
Danville  
Emporia  
Franklin  
Galax  
Norton  
Suffolk

# TANF Overview



## Locality Groupings in Virginia – Group II

### Counties

Albemarle

Chesterfield

Henrico

Loudoun

Roanoke

Rockingham

Warren

### Cities

Chesapeake

Covington

Harrisonburg

Hopewell

Lexington

Lynchburg

Martinsville

Norfolk

Petersburg

### Cities

Portsmouth

Radford

Richmond

Roanoke

Virginia Beach

Williamsburg

Winchester

# TANF Overview



## Locality Groupings in Virginia – Group III

### Counties

Arlington

Augusta

Caroline

Fairfax

Fauquier

James City

King George

Montgomery

Prince William

Spotsylvania

Stafford

York

### Cities

Alexandria

Charlottesville

Colonial Heights

Falls Church

Fredericksburg

Hampton

Manassas

Manassas Park

Newport News

Poquoson

Staunton

Waynesboro

# The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)



- VIEW is the work-related portion of Virginia's TANF program that requires participants to be employed or engaged in a work activity.
- TANF recipients who are in VIEW are allowed to receive 24-months of cash benefits, plus a year of transitional benefits.
- After this time period, they must wait two years before they can again qualify for TANF.
- Upon entry into VIEW, the participant signs an Agreement of Personal Responsibility outlining the responsibilities of the client and agency.
- Local Department of Social Services' (LDSS) staff conduct an employability assessment looking at work history, education history, job skills, functional literacy level, and job readiness skills.
- LDSS staff and the participant develop an Activity and Service Plan which indicates the activities the participant will engage in to obtain employment.



# The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)



## Work Activities

- Job search
- Job readiness
- Unsubsidized employment
- Subsidized employment
- Community work experience program (CWEP)
- Public Service
- On-the-Job Training
- Vocational Education
- Job Skills Training
- English as a Second Language
- Adult Basic Education (ABE) and the General Equivalence Diploma (GED)

# The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)



## Exemptions to VIEW participation

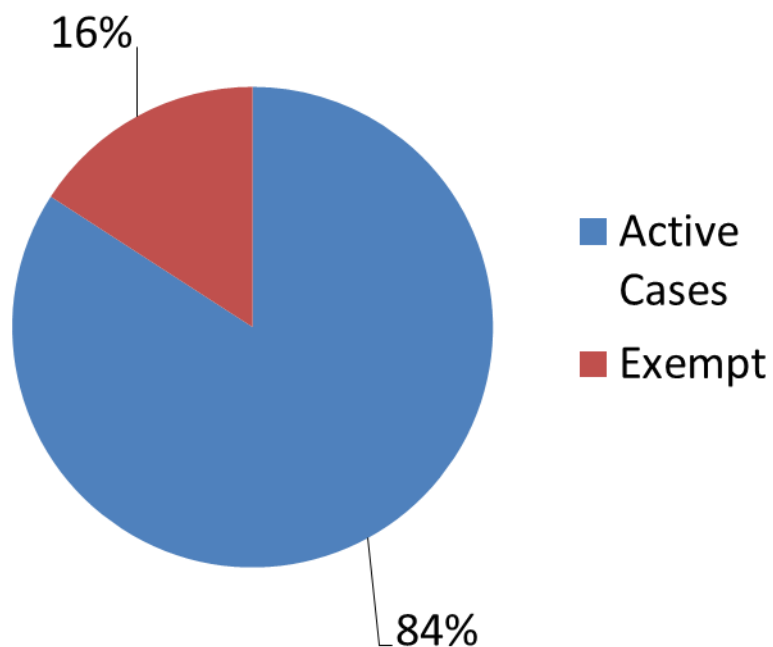
- Caring for child under 12 months (limited to 12 months in a lifetime)
- A temporary medical condition that prevents participation
- Under 18 or over 60 years of age
- Needed to care for incapacitated household member



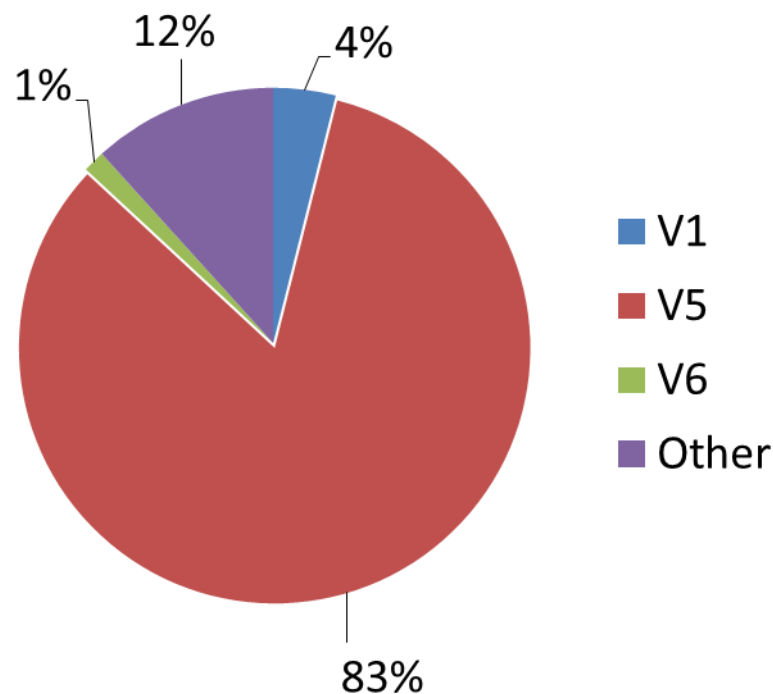
# Active vs. Exempt VIEW Cases as of April 2016

- Active Cases – 10,887
- Exempt Cases – 1,727
- V1 – Caring for Child <1 – 68
- V5 – Temporary Medical Condition – 1,433
- V6 – Permanent Incapacity - 24

### TANF/VIEW



### Exempt Cases



# The Virginia Initiative for Employment not Welfare Program (VIEW)



- Since 1995:
  - 251,499 participants
  - Participated in a work activity – 240,356
  - Entered employment – 169,366
- For FY 16
  - 21,041 participants
  - Participated in an activity – 19,084
  - Number entered employment – 12,939
- Average monthly earnings - \$1,192

# TANF & Eligibility for Virginia's Benefit Programs



## Services Received by TANF Recipients

<b>TANF Only</b>	1,138	2.54%
<b>TANF and SNAP Only</b>	5,742	12.83%
<b>TANF and Medicaid Only</b>	5,983	13.37%
<b>TANF, SNAP and Medicaid</b>	31,897	71.26%

# TANF & Eligibility for Virginia's Benefit Programs



## Other Services Available to TANF Recipients

- Energy Assistance
  - 3 components: Fuel assistance provides winter heating assistance; Crisis provides for equipment replacement and repair as well as primary fuel when the individual has a cut-off notice; and Cooling Assistance assists with electric bills in the summer.
- Child Care
  - Recipients of TANF (VIEW and non-VIEW) are considered income eligible for Child Care Subsidy and services without a determination of the family's income eligibility.
- Women's Infants and Children (WIC)
  - WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support, supplemental nutritious foods, counseling at WIC clinics, and screening and referrals to other health, welfare, and social services. WIC vouchers allow participants to purchase limited food items.
- National School Breakfast/Lunch Programs
  - The National School Lunch Program – Children that receive TANF are automatically certified to receive free school lunch.
  - The School Breakfast Program – Children in families between 130% and 185% of poverty may receive reduced price breakfasts for which they pay no more than 30 cents.

# TANF & Eligibility for Virginia's Benefit Programs



## Other Services Available to TANF Recipients

- Housing Assistance – Two types
  - Public Housing - Housing Authorities use income limits developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Income limits vary from locality; therefore, eligibility may vary by locality.
  - Housing Vouchers (Section 8) - The income eligibility threshold for the housing voucher program is 50% of the median income of the county or metropolitan area in which the recipient resides. By law, a public housing authority must provide 75% of its vouchers to applicants whose incomes do not exceed 30% of the area median income.

# TANF & Eligibility for Virginia's Benefit Programs



## Other Services Available to TANF Recipients

### ■ Transitional Services

- A participant, whose TANF financial assistance is terminated either voluntarily or involuntarily, may be eligible to receive the following services for up to twelve months after termination, if needed:
  - Assistance with child care if such assistance enables the individual to work;
  - Assistance with transportation, if such transportation enables the individual to work;
  - Medical assistance, including transitional medical assistance for families with a working parent who becomes ineligible for TANF financial assistance because of increased earnings.
  - Financial assistance of \$50 per month, if the participant is employed and is working at least 30 hours per week or more at the time of TANF closure and remains employed and continues to work at least 30 hours per week or more.
  - The Department or local departments may purchase or otherwise acquire motor vehicles from the centralized fleet of motor vehicles controlled by the Commissioner of Highways and sell or otherwise transfer such vehicles to TANF recipients or former recipients.



# TANF Uses



- While a sizeable portion (\$74.9M) of TANF funds go to direct services to families (cash assistance, employment services, child care), TANF funds are also used for program administration:
  - State and Local Staff and Operations (\$53.6M)
  - Reserve for new eligibility system (\$2M)
  - Expanded services/discretionary programs (\$21.2M)
  - Other spending/cost avoidance (\$33.9M)

# TANF Uses/Child Care



- Virginia's Child Care Subsidy program, which is administered by VDSS and 120 local departments of social services (LDSS), provides low-income families with financial assistance for child care.
- The subsidy is broken down into mandated services and non-mandated services.
- TANF families are income-eligible for Child Care Subsidy;
  - Subsidy is available to all working TANF recipients who apply for assistance
  - VIEW participants do not have to file a separate application for the Subsidy
  - TANF recipients do not have a Child Care co-payment for the Subsidy

# TANF Uses/Child Care



- Mandated Services (17,361 children FY 2016)
  - TANF Working
  - Transitional
  - VIEW
  - SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Employment and Training
- Non-Mandated Services (21,394 children FY 2016)
  - Fee Child Care
  - Head Start Wrap-Around Child Care
- Subsidy for recipients (non-VIEW) who participate in education or training programs
  - Receive services based on available funding
  - May be placed on a waiting list

# TANF Uses/Child Care



- When Subsidy recipients move:
  - Child Care services in the original locality close and the family reapplies in the new locality
  - TANF recipient notifies new locality of their need for Child Care
  - Services are initiated in the new locality for VIEW and TANF non-VIEW families who are employed
- New federal Child Care law calls for states to maintain a family's authorization for services if they move within the state
- A workgroup is currently working on the transfer process
  - TANF will migrate into the Virginia Case Management System this fall
  - Both programs will be in the same case management system for the first time

# TANF Uses/Child Care



- Child Care Subsidy Wait List (8-29-16)
  - 11,877 families
  - 19,055 children
- TANF working families and VIEW participants are not put on wait lists for Child Care Subsidy

# Average Cost of Child Care

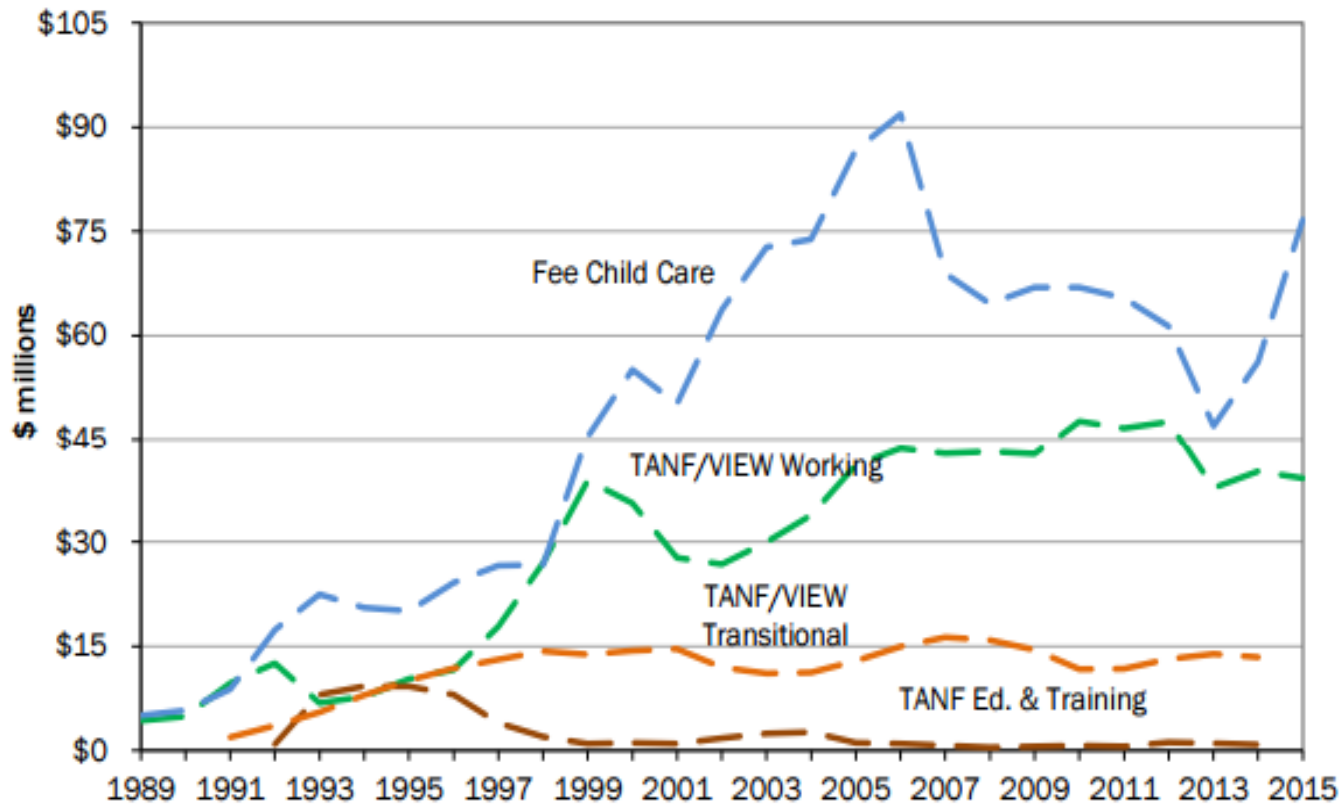


	Annual Cost of 1 Child in Child Care Center in Virginia in 2014
Infant	\$10,458
Four Year Old	\$7,957
School Aged Child	\$3,399

# TANF Uses/Child Care



**Child Care Expenditures**  
**Total Child Care Expenditures by Program**



# TANF Uses/Transfers



- States may also transfer up to 30% of the block grant for programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant and Social Services Block Grant:
  - CCDF for At-Risk child care – (\$15.6M)
  - CCDF for Head Start – (\$2.5M)
  - SSBG for local staff support – (\$6.4M)
  - SSBG for CSA – (\$9.4M)



# TANF Uses/Expanded Programs



- States may also use TANF to fund a variety of programs and services.
- The General Assembly spent \$21.2 million on eligible activities including:
  - Healthy Families (\$9.0M)
  - Comprehensive Health Investment Project (\$2.4M)
  - Resource Mothers (\$1M)
  - Domestic Violence (\$3.3M)
  - Community Action Agencies (\$4.25M)
  - Boys and Girls Clubs (\$1M)
  - EITC Grants (\$186K)

Expanded Services Subtotal (\$21.2M)

# TANF Uses/Expanded Programs



## ■ **Healthy Families (\$9.0M)**

- Healthy Families is a nationally recognized home visiting program that targets families assessed as being at-risk for child abuse/neglect.
- New or expectant parents are screened for services, which are offered voluntarily.
- There are 32 sites in Virginia.
- Eligible Families – There is not an income determination for Healthy Families; however, this program targets at-risk families.
- VDSS monitors 32 contracts and all sites submit quarterly/annual reports to VDSS.

## ■ **Comprehensive Health Investment Project (CHIP) (\$2.4M)**

- CHIP of VA programs are local public/private partnerships that provide comprehensive care coordination, family support, and referral to medical and dental services for low-income at-risk children.
- There are 6 sites serving 26 localities across the Commonwealth.
- Eligible Families – Any family 1) expecting a child or having minor children under age 6 in the home, 2) with an income level at or below 200% of FPL, 3) living within any locality with a CHIP of VA program.
- There is an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between VDSS and VDH with VDSS overseeing statewide administration and financing of the 6 CHIP sites and VDH acting as the public health agency partner.

# TANF Uses/Expanded Programs



## ■ Resource Mothers (\$1M)

- Resource Mothers is a home-visiting program providing a combination of social support, education and practical assistance to first-time pregnant teens ages 19 and under and help them to make the transition to parenthood.
- In FY 2015 the Resource Mothers Program contractors included 8 health district offices and 5 private contractors.
- Eligibility – There is not an income determination, any pregnant teen is eligible.
- There is an MOA between VDSS and VDH with VDSS overseeing statewide administration and financing.
- VDH is the public health agency partner. VDH maintains documentation of expenditures. Reimbursement requests and cumulative performance and outcome results are submitted to VDSS quarterly.

# TANF Uses/Expanded Programs



## ■ Domestic Violence (\$3.3M)

- Domestic Violence services are provided as a grant to local domestic violence programs for purchase of crisis and core services for victims of domestic violence, including 24-hour hotlines, emergency shelter, emergency transportation, and other crisis services as a first priority.
- Domestic violence programs are statewide; each individual program has an area that it serves.
- Eligible Families – Families do not have to be receiving TANF cash assistance in order to qualify for housing services. Due to the correlation between parenting, poverty and domestic violence, most shelter residents are TANF eligible.
- TANF funds make up a portion of the total funds awarded to local domestic violence programs.
- VDSS administers the funds and monitors performance for each of the 50 grantees (30 of which serve TANF recipients), all sites report semiannually and annually to VDSS, and grantees are required to include an evaluation component.

## ■ Community Action Agencies (\$4.25M)

- Community Action Agencies support a variety of programs that help individuals and families manage the conditions of poverty, overcome the causes of poverty, and ultimately move towards self-sufficiency.
- There are 28 local and 3 statewide agencies.
- Eligible Families – All clients served using TANF funds must be at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
- VDSS administers the funds and monitors performance. Federal law requires the monitoring of each local Community Action Agency at least once every 3 years to ensure sub-recipients are meeting performance goals, administrative standards, financial management requirements, and other requirements (VDSS strives to do this at least annually). There is an annual funding application, quarterly reporting requirements, as well as annual performance results for outputs and outcomes.

# TANF Uses/Expanded Programs



## ■ **Boys and Girls Clubs (\$1M)**

- In FY 17 and FY 18, the Virginia Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs received TANF funding to expand community-based prevention and mentoring services across the Commonwealth.
- The Virginia Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs proposes to serve 1,500 young people between the ages of 6 and 18 with Club programming across the following priority program areas:
  - academic success,
  - workforce development, and
  - healthy lifestyles.
- The Alliance intends that all eligible clubs will participate in the funding opportunity, providing Club programming to young people statewide.
- New appropriation for FY 17 and FY 18, VDSS administers the funds and monitors performance for the programs.

## ■ **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Grants (\$186K)**

- The Virginia Community Action Partnership (VACAP) supports community groups and local coalitions throughout the Commonwealth that provide free tax preparation services to low-income working individuals and families.
- 25 coalitions working with community volunteers received funding from the EITC Grant
- Eligible Families – Families do not have to be receiving TANF cash assistance in order to qualify.
- The mission is raise awareness of EITC among all eligible taxpayers and to educate workers, employees, clients, and customers of the importance of obtaining all tax credits to which they are entitled.
- VDSS administers the funds and contracts with VACAP. VACAP is charged with reporting annually to the Governor and General Assembly expenditures, subcontractors, and numbers of individuals assisted.

# TANF Budgetary Actions FY 2017/2018



- \$21.2 million on expanded services
- \$2.2 million in FY 2017 and \$2.4 million in FY 2018 to increase the TANF cash benefit by 2.5% on July 1, 2016
- \$4.8 million in FY 2018 for a child support supplement up to \$100 per month for TANF families with more than one child
- \$2.0 million each year for workforce training for TANF recipients at community colleges
  - Expands the employment advancement program from 3 to 5 additional community colleges
- \$5.0 million increase of transfers to the Child Care and Development Fund of \$5.0 million in FY 2016 and an additional \$2.8 million in each year of the 2016-18 biennium for at-risk child care subsidies

# TANF Surplus/Savings



- TANF funds not spent in any given year can be carried forward to following year.
- The block grant is a set amount and does not increase or decrease based on caseloads.
- FY 16 closed with a TANF surplus of \$70.5M.
- There remains a structural imbalance in TANF funding; each year we are appropriating more than we receive in the block grant funding.
- Projected surpluses/savings:
  - \$48.1M FY 2017 (\$180.6M Appropriated)
  - \$20.7M FY 2018 (\$185.7M Appropriated)

# TANF Surplus/Savings



- At the height of the recession, October 2011, Virginia was serving over 37,000 households per month (\$116M per year.)
- Virginia is now serving 22,500 per month (\$73M FY 2016.)
- In FY 16 alone, Virginia spent nearly \$43M less in TANF cash assistance than in FY 12.



# TANF Challenges



- The challenge with the TANF surplus/savings is making long-term commitments that may not be sustainable.
- If caseloads start to increase, Virginia must ensure that there is sufficient funding to meet the primary purpose of TANF – financial assistance and supportive services to needy eligible families and children.

# TANF Budget Outlook



## TANF Budget Adjusted for Chapter 780

	FY 2016 Adopted	FY 2017 Adopted	FY 2018 Adopted
<b>TANF Program (Mandated Services)</b>			
Income Benefits	\$40,152,840	\$44,083,831	\$49,105,498
VIEW Employment Services	\$11,612,144	\$13,612,144	\$13,612,144
VIEW Child Care Services	\$12,197,804	\$12,197,804	\$12,197,804
Caseload Reserve	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
TANF State/Local Operations	\$54,068,212	\$53,568,212	\$53,568,212
<b>Mandated Services Subtotal</b>	<b>\$119,031,000</b>	<b>\$125,461,991</b>	<b>\$130,483,658</b>
<b>Expanded Services (Discretionary Activities)</b>			
Healthy Families/Health Start	\$4,285,501	\$9,035,501	\$9,035,501
Community Action Agencies	\$2,000,000	\$4,250,000	\$4,250,000
Domestic Violence Grants	\$2,346,792	\$3,346,792	\$3,346,792
EITC Grants	\$185,725	\$185,725	\$185,725
Comprehensive Health Investment Project	\$1,400,000	\$2,400,000	\$2,400,000
Boys and Girls Clubs	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Resource Mothers	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Visions of Truth Ministries	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Zion Innovative Opportunities Network	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Expanded Services Subtotal</b>	<b>\$10,268,018</b>	<b>\$21,218,018</b>	<b>\$21,218,018</b>
<b>Other Spending (Cost Avoidance)</b>			
At-Risk Child Care	\$12,872,884	\$15,672,884	\$15,672,884
Head Start Wraparound	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Local Staff Support	\$6,405,502	\$6,405,502	\$6,405,502
Comprehensive Services Act Transfer	\$9,419,998	\$9,419,998	\$9,419,998
<b>Other Spending Subtotal</b>	<b>\$31,198,384</b>	<b>\$33,998,384</b>	<b>\$33,998,384</b>
<b>Total TANF Budget</b>	<b>\$160,497,402</b>	<b>\$180,678,393</b>	<b>\$185,700,060</b>
Annual Grant	\$158,285,172	\$158,285,172	\$158,285,172
Prior Year Balance	\$72,735,005	\$70,522,775	\$48,129,554
<b>Annual Balance/Shortfall</b>	<b>\$70,522,775</b>	<b>\$48,129,554</b>	<b>\$20,714,666</b>
<b>Structural Balance/Shortfall</b>	<b>(\$2,212,230)</b>	<b>(\$22,393,221)</b>	<b>(\$27,414,888)</b>

# Draft Recommendations



Finding #1 – TANF Recipients are not automatically guaranteed housing assistance.

1. *Request the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), with input from local housing authorities; evaluate the feasibility of prioritizing housing services for Virginia's TANF recipients. Such an evaluation will assess the barriers to providing housing assistance to TANF recipients including the time limitations of TANF and any other housing assistance program participation requirements. Request VHDA report findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2018 General Assembly Session.*
2. *Take no action.*
3. *Other options?*

# Draft Recommendations



Finding #2 – Access to child care is essential for TANF families and those transitioning from TANF to the workforce.

- 1. Support the Virginia Department of Social Services' (VDSS) efforts to include a component within the Virginia Case Management System (VaCMS) that allows the seamless transition of the TANF Child Care Subsidy from one LDSS to another LDSS.*
- 2. Introduce a budget amendment to increase funds for child care subsidies to the working poor.*
- 3. Support continued efforts to provide market-based subsidies to make quality child care a reality for vulnerable families.*
- 4. Provide resources to assist families in identifying and accessing child care to meet their needs such as non-traditional hours of care, children's special needs or other considerations.*
- 5. Take no action.*
- 6. Other options?*

# Draft Recommendations



Finding #3 – Virginia's VIEW recipients receive a comprehensive array of supportive and transitional services which help them to maintain employment and achieve self-sufficiency.

1. *a. Introduce legislation/budget amendment to extend transitional services available to Virginia's VIEW recipients from 12 months to 18 months. Virginia's TANF funds appropriated for expanded/discretionary services may be utilized to fund this expansion.*
- or -
1. *b. Request VDSS to assess the feasibility and fiscal impact of extending transitional services available to Virginia's VIEW recipients from 12 months to 18 months. Request that VDSS report findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2018 General Assembly Session.*
2. *Request VDSS to assess the feasibility and fiscal impact of increasing Virginia's TANF income eligibility threshold for VIEW participants. Request that VDSS report findings and recommendations to the Commission on Youth prior to the 2018 General Assembly Session.*
3. *Introduce legislation/budgetary language for VDSS develop policies for an improved temporary medical exemption determination process and the transition of TANF cases which are exempt due to a temporary medical condition. Such policies shall have the goal of expeditiously transitioning TANF's medically exempt cases to VIEW or facilitate their application to appropriate disability benefits and similar to the Veterans' Administrations' Stabilization Compensation Grant.*
4. *Introduce legislation/budgetary language to fund designated staff to work with the TANF population that are exempt from VIEW due to a temporary medical condition to either transition them to VIEW, facilitate approval of disability benefits, or otherwise resolve medical issues.*
5. *Provide funding for training for LDSS workers who work with TANF recipients to fulfill the goals of self-sufficiency.*
6. *Request a presentation from the Secretary of Technology and Finance and the Commonwealth's Chief Information Officer on Executive Directive 7 on increasing the use of shared data and analytics among Virginia agencies with focus on enhancing government transparency, increasing operational efficiency and effectiveness, and minimizing duplication with particular emphasis on addressing Virginia's welfare and health and human services' programs for children and families.*
7. *Take no action.*
8. *Other options?*

# Draft Recommendations



Finding #4 – Virginia’s locality groupings need to be re-assessed to ensure they are keeping up with current costs of living.

- 1. Request the Virginia Board of Social Services to review the statewide locality groupings utilized by LDSS determining TANF payment amounts and assess the feasibility and fiscal impact of combining Locality Groupings I and II for the purposes of TANF cash benefits and using the Group II rates for the new group.*
- 2. Take no action.*
- 3. Other options?*

# Draft Recommendations



Finding #5 – There is a structural imbalance in TANF funding.

1. *Support the General Assembly's efforts which ensure that Virginia's TANF program is adequately funded and ensure that the primary purposes of TANF are maintained.*
2. *Take no action.*
3. *Other options?*



# Questions/Comments?

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