

Virginia Family Impact Seminar (VaFIS)

Ann Nichols-Casebolt, Mary Secret & Janet Hutchinson,
co-directors





Background on Family Impact Seminars (FIS)

- Virginia 1 of 25 sites in network of states conducting Seminars for policy-makers
- VA joined network in Fall 2007
- The Family Impact Institute provides technical assistance
 - Based in Madison, Wisconsin
 - Currently funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation; William T. Grant Foundation; and Annie E. Casey Foundation



The FIS model

- Obtain input from key state legislators and other policy-makers to identify family related state-level issues, on an annual basis
- Locate nonpartisan, solution-oriented research and research experts on the policy issue
- Bring in national research experts to conduct one-day seminar with briefing reports and discussion sessions on the identified policy issue



Virginia Family Impact Seminars

- Partnered with the Commission on Youth
- Conducted seminars on truancy, substance abuse, workforce development and military families
- Received funding from the Governor's Office on Substance Abuse Prevention (GOSAP), and the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program in the VA Department of Veterans Services



Some Seminar Feedback Data

- Average attendance between 70 and 100
- Participants consistently report that they
 - Know more about all items after the seminar than before
 - Find the seminar information to be very useful to their particular role, have high educational value, and be very relevant to their needs and interests.

www.familyimpactseminars.org



Using Research to Build Better Public Policy for Families

 **Policymakers**

Designed specifically for busy policymakers and government staff, this scaled-down version of our website includes:

- State Seminars
- Publications
- Family Data
- Family Impact

[Enter Site Here](#)

 **Professionals**

Designed for researchers, instructors, Extension faculty, students, and others, this portal includes everything on the Policymaker Portal, plus:

- Teaching Family Policy
- Skill Building
- Policy Links

[Enter Site Here](#)

The Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars aims to strengthen family policy by connecting state policymakers with research knowledge and researchers with policy knowledge. The Institute provides nonpartisan, solution-oriented research and a family impact and racial equity lens on issues being debated in state legislatures. We provide technical assistance to and facilitate dialogue among professionals conducting Family Impact Seminars in 26 sites across the country. If you are a PINFIS Affiliate, please [click here](#) to login.



The Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars is currently funded by the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), the [W. K. Kellogg Foundation](#), and the [William T. Grant Foundation](#). Past supporters include the [David and Lucile Packard Foundation](#).

Copyright © 1993-2014, Policy Institute for Family Impact Seminars. All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#).

Wisconsin capitol photo courtesy of Jeff Miller, UW-Madison University Communications, ©2002.





