

What's the issue with TANF funding for home visiting?

Virginia's home visiting programs are at risk of losing funding because of the decline in the TANF balance over the next two fiscal years. The projected TANF Balance as of 6/30/23 is \$46,316,648. By 6/30/24, the projected TANF Balance is \$4,185,257. Virginia needs to plan how it will continue supporting home visiting programs while managing this reduction in TANF spending.

What are alternative options?

A clear and direct option is to replace TANF funding with General Fund dollars, which will allow us to access additional federal funding that isn't possible using TANF funding.

What home visiting programs do TANF dollars currently fund?

Of the nearly \$20 million dollars in federal funding that supports community-based home visiting services in Virginia, more than half is legislatively directed TANF funding (about \$13.1 million). TANF supports Home Visiting Services to 4,574 children (3,970 families) in 123 Virginia communities. Local programs rely on TANF funding **to leverage an additional \$11,000,000** for direct services.

- CHIP of Virginia \$2,400,000
- Healthy Families \$9,035,501
- Resource Mothers \$1,000,000
- Early Impact Virginia \$600,000

What can local home visiting programs do now to help tackle this funding issue?

Right now, it's critical that home visiting programs remind their local governments, state legislators and state-office candidates of the critical value that home visiting creates in your communities. Many localities are developing their legislative agendas right now, and we need you to ensure home visiting funding needs are included in those agendas. This push is as much about elevating the value of home visiting for Virginia families and communities as it is about replacing a specific funding stream, so it's vital that all programs participate in this outreach.

What about Medicaid funding options?

A Medicaid reimbursement option for home visiting is still a long-term avenue to pursue, but will take years to implement after the benefit is approved and created, so it is not an option to replace current expected TANF funding shortfalls.

When will this affect my local home visiting budget?

Without alternative funding or General Fund replacement, TANF funding could be depleted as soon as state FY 2024-25, but the estimates are just that, meaning the TANF Balance could improve enough to push the deficit into later fiscal years. Regardless, TANF funding for home visiting was meant to be a short-term option that needs to be replaced with General Fund dollars sooner rather than later.

We are hopeful and preparing. We know our sites are doing such important work, and that work is appreciated by our local governments and state leaders. There also is legwork to do to keep educating leaders about the value of home visiting.

What about our staffing planning?

It's critical that programs continue fully serving children and families across Virginia because we all know that home visiting is a valuable and much-needed service. This is especially important as we continue to recover from the pandemic. Any program – no matter the service or industry – that is grant funded operates with the knowledge that the funding could be at risk in future years. This usually drives hiring, staffing and programming decisions, which is why being actively engaged in educating your legislative contacts about solutions is so important. While the funding is in jeopardy, and we will be working very hard to ensure that new funding meets our needs, we know that our state leaders are highly committed to ensuring that home visiting services continue uninterrupted with appropriate funding.

What if I'm not allowed to discuss funding with our legislators? What if I have a specific question not answered here?

You can speak with your TA/QA or state home visiting director, or you can reach out to our advocacy coordinator at AdvCoord@familiesforwardva.org. They can help with solutions.