



Families Forward Virginia **advances** programs, practices and policies that **nurture** children, **empower** families and **support** communities.

IMPROVE FAMILY, MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH THROUGH FRCs & HOME VISITING

- **Funding for Family Resource Centers (FRCs)** to both support those centers now growing and serving in communities across Virginia as well as safety-net capacity-building for new FRCs.
▶ **OUR ASK:** \$2.2MM for FRCs for FY26
- **CHIP of Virginia Home Visiting Evidence Base Funding** - \$4.5MM over two years to serve more Virginia families while completing the evidence-based research that will then allow access to critical matching federal funding.
▶ **OUR ASK:** \$4.5MM for CHIP over the FY26/28 biennium
- **Ensure Virginia continues to contribute the Federal Matching Funds** amount for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, also known as MIECHV.
- **Support any identified state-level legislation** needed to implement the federal Supporting America's Children and Families Act (Title IV-B reauthorization beginning Oct. 2025 unless enabling legislation at the state level must first be passed).

INCREASE FAMILY SUPPORT, RESILIENCE & SUCCESS

- **Parenting Support:** Promote home visiting and parenting education, and support programs—such as Circle of Parents—to strengthen caregiver-child relationships.
- **Expand Services:** Address workforce needs and system growth per the Virginia Plan for Home Visiting.
- **Address Disparities:** Combat health inequities and systemic poverty while focusing on community centered practices to reduce maternal/infant health disparities.
- **Behavioral Health Services:** Expand access for parents and children, including funding for the Virginia Mental Health Access Program, also known as VMAP.

In every public policy agenda, we advocate for focused ways to promote safe, stable and nurturing relationships for all children to assure that they can reach their full potential.

Every family is filled with tremendous promise, and we have a shared obligation to foster their potential.



STRENGTHEN FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **Tax Relief:** Expand the Earned Income Tax Credit and establish a Child Tax Credit.
- **Paid Leave:** Advocate for Paid Sick and Family Leave to improve child health outcomes.
- **Childcare Accessibility:** Develop much-needed childcare subsidy programs and increase mixed-delivery funding.
- **Housing Policies:** Increase diverse housing options and promote walkable communities to support stable families.



REFORM THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM, FOCUSING ON CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

- **Prevent Foster Care Placements:** Expand Family Resource Centers and kinship caregiver resources.
- **Support Case Workers:** Increase child welfare case worker staffing and salaries to reduce turnover and caseloads.
- **Aid Trafficking Survivors:** Reform laws to support and protect survivors.
- **Strengthen Families' Rights:** Expand legal representation and include family voices in the child welfare system.

FAMILIES FORWARD VIRGINIA PROGRAMS



Together, we are planting seeds of possibility—and watching them grow.