



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

IMPROVE FAMILY, MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH THROUGH FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS AND HOME VISITING

- **Funding for Family Resource Centers** to both support those now growing and serving in communities across Virginia as well as capacity-building for new FRCs - \$2.2MM for fiscal year 2025-26
- **CHIP of Virginia Home Visiting Evidence Base funding** - \$4.5MM over two years to serve more families while completing the project that will then allow access to matching federal funding
- **Medicaid Study Bill** to explore creating a Medicaid benefit for home visiting programs in Virginia

INCREASE FAMILY RESILIENCE AND SUCCESS

- **Parenting Support:** Promote Home Visiting and Parenting Education 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, systemic poverty and racism to reduce maternal/infant health disparities.
- **Behavioral Health Services:** Expand access for parents and children, including funding for the Virginia Mental Health Access Program (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:** Make COVID-era childcare subsidy changes permanent and increase mixed-delivery funding.
- **Housing Policies:** Increase diverse housing options and promote walkable communities to support stable families.

REFORM THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

- **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



8100 Three Chopt Rd., Suite 212
 Richmond, VA 23229
 804.359.6166
 info@familiesforwardva.org
familiesforwardva.org

