

September 7, 2004  
Title IV-E waiver Update

VDSS applied for a Title IV-E Waiver that included funds to provide intensive case management services for substance using parents of children involved in Virginia's drug courts. The grant will provide Intensive case management services for 12-18 months, with the goal of reunification, to birth parents and foster kinship care families that provide care for children of substance abusers. Intensive case management services to the birth parent(s) will include screening and assessment; regular contact with the Family Drug Court/case manager; regular court reviews; random urine screens; participant and family incentives; sanctions; individualized drug treatment and aftercare; parent education, and service plans designed to meet ASFA time lines for permanency.

If awarded, one intensive case management position will be allocated to each of Virginia's 3 family treatment drug courts (Richmond, Charlottesville, and Alexandria) in the first year of the grant enabling them to expand services. Over the 5 years of the waiver, up to 16 additional positions will be made available to VA's other Best practice courts so they may develop Family Treatment Courts and provide similar intensive case management services.

This application supports the goals, objectives, and deliverables identified in Virginia's federal strategic planning grant award from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW).

Virginia's "Safe Families in Recovery Project" (SFRP) through NCSACW is an interagency initiative between the Virginia Departments of Social Services, Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme court. The project goal is to create the necessary statewide infrastructure for improved coordination of systems on behalf of substance using families known to the child welfare system and courts. Key deliverables are to develop and implement an interagency strategic plan/memorandum of understanding including policies, best practices, training, and service initiatives that address the interagency management of these cases. VA's SFRP received an extension through December 2004 to address new project objectives.

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