

## Family Update

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By: Wanda Pruett, State Family Representative

- Families across Virginia are excited about the progress with the statewide Ability To Pay System, though there is widespread concern about the lack of commitment on drawing down extra funds to offset the effect of the new fee system. The staff of the Family Involvement Project will be working with the Ability to Pay Workgroup and the Part C Office to gather family feedback on the new fee system.
- There has been much interest in the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia Parent To Parent program. Two parent partner trainings have taken place and two more are being scheduled for January. Direct matching of parents has begun!
- The membership of the ArcFIP Listserv, hosted by the Family Involvement Project of Virginia, just passed 100! The membership is approx. 90% parents and 10% providers from Virginia's early intervention system. Members share information about resources for families and opportunities for family involvement.
- The mailing list of the Family Involvement Project exceeds 120, approx. 40 % providers and 60% parents.
- The Family Involvement Project will be working with the state MIMS Consultants to recruit and train parents for the State Review Teams as well as serve on State Review Teams for the next round of site visits.