

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS & CHILD CARE

Virginia's Self-Sufficiency Programs and the Availability and Affordability of Child Care, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

Co-locating Virginia Career Works staff at local social services departments ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to dedicate a portion of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act funding reserved by the governor for statewide workforce development initiatives to facilitate the co-location of Virginia Career Works staff at local departments of social services on a part-time basis. (Recommendation 4)

Interdisciplinary team to develop long-term service plans for clients ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the secretary of health and human resources and the secretary of labor to design and implement a pilot program for testing an alternative assessment and planning process for Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) clients that uses an interdisciplinary team of program and service providers to develop long-term service plans for clients that encourage progress toward self-sufficiency during and after the clients' participation in VIEW. (Recommendation 9)

Financial incentives for participation in education and training programs ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act to direct the Virginia Department of Social Services to establish a pilot program to assess whether the use of financial incentives would positively impact clients' participation in education and training programs. (Recommendation 10)

Federal grant program for TANF outcomes ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act directing the Virginia Department of Social Services to pursue participation in the outcome-based performance measure pilot program authorized under the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 and to provide quarterly updates to the Virginia Board of Social Services regarding the process for applying for and implementing a pilot program through this federal opportunity. (Recommendation 13)

Paying Child Care Subsidy vendor payments based on enrollment ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act that requires the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to issue payments to Child Care Subsidy Program vendors based on authorized enrollment, subject to the attendance threshold established by the Virginia Department of Education, on an ongoing basis. (Recommendation 15)

Limiting work search eligibility for child care subsidy ► The General Assembly may wish to consider including language in the Appropriation Act that limits the amount of time families are eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program while the parents or guardians search for work on a full-time basis to 90 days per job loss occurrence. (Recommendation 17)

POLICY OPTION

Requiring localities to offer SNAP E&T ► The General Assembly could amend § 63.2 of the Code of Virginia to require each local department of social services to offer SNAP Employment and Training. (Option 1)