2018 Special Session I

Budget Bill - HB5002 (Chapter 2)

Item 340	First Year - FY2019	Second Year - FY2020
Financial Assistance for Self-Sufficiency Programs and Services (45200)	**$267,327,852**	**$274,095,685**
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Cash Assistance (45201)	$65,706,200	$61,618,736
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Employment Services (45212)	$21,657,833	$21,657,833
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAPET) Services (45213)	$4,562,444	$1,017,741
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Child Care Subsidies (45214)	$57,807,905	$57,807,905
At-Risk Child Care Subsidies (45215)	$110,235,948	$124,635,948
Unemployed Parents Cash Assistance (45216)	$7,357,522	$7,357,522
Fund Sources:		
General	$81,518,741	$81,518,741
Federal Trust	$185,809,111	$192,576,944

Authority: Title 2.2, Chapter 54; Title 63.2, Chapters 1 through 7, Code of Virginia; Title VI, Subtitle B, P.L. 97-35, as amended; P.L. 103-252, as amended; P.L. 104-193, as amended, Federal Code.

A. It is hereby acknowledged that as of June 30, 2017 there existed with the federal government an unexpended balance of $123,754,882 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds which are available to the Commonwealth of Virginia to reimburse expenditures incurred in accordance with the adopted State Plan for the TANF program. Based on projected spending levels and appropriations in this act, the Commonwealth's accumulated balance for authorized federal TANF block grant funds is estimated at $117,664,697 on June 30, 2018; $106,277,367 on June 30, 2019; and $99,249,842 on June 30, 2020.

B. No less than 30 days prior to submitting any amendment to the federal government related to the State Plan for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services shall provide the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees as well as the Director, Department of Planning and Budget written documentation detailing the proposed policy changes. This documentation shall include an estimate of the fiscal impact of the proposed changes and information summarizing public comment that was received on the proposed changes.

C. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the Department of Social Services shall maintain a separate state program, as that term is defined by federal regulations governing the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, 45 C.F.R. § 260.30, for the purpose of providing welfare cash assistance payments to able-bodied two-parent families. The separate state program shall be funded by state funds and operated outside of the TANF program. Able-bodied two-parent families shall not be eligible for TANF cash assistance as defined at 45 C.F.R. § 260.31 (a)(1), but shall receive benefits under the separate state program provided for in this paragraph.

Although various conditions and eligibility requirements may be different under the separate state program, the basic benefit payment for which two-parent families are eligible under the separate state program shall not be less than what they would have received under TANF. The Department of Social Services shall establish regulations to govern this separate state program.

D. As a condition of this appropriation, the Department of Social Services shall disregard the value of one motor vehicle per assistance unit in determining eligibility for cash assistance in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and in the separate state program for able-bodied two-parent families.

E. The Department of Social Services, in collaboration with local departments of social services, shall maintain minimum performance standards for all local departments of social services participating in the Virginia Initiative for Employment, Not Welfare (VIEW) program. The department shall allocate VIEW funds to local departments of social services based on these performance standards and VIEW caseloads. The allocation formula shall be developed and revised in cooperation with the local social services departments and the Department of Planning and Budget.

F. A participant whose Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) financial assistance is terminated due to the receipt of 24 months of assistance as specified in § 63.2-612, Code of Virginia, or due to the closure of the TANF case prior to the completion of 24 months of TANF assistance, excluding cases closed with a sanction for noncompliance with the Virginia Initiative for Employment Not Welfare program, shall be eligible to receive employment and training assistance for up to 12 months after termination, if needed, in addition to other transitional services provided pursuant to § 63.2-611, Code of Virginia.

G. The Department of Social Services, in conjunction with the Department of Correctional Education, shall identify and apply for federal, private and faith-based grants for pre-release parenting programs for non-custodial incarcerated parent offenders committed to the Department of Corrections, including but not limited to the following grant programs: Promoting Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriages, State Child Access and Visitation Block Grant, Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Collaboration, Special Improvement Projects, § 1115 Social Security Demonstration Grants, and any new grant programs authorized under the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program.

H.1. Out of this appropriation, $10,703,748 the first year and $10,703,748 the second year from nongeneral funds is included for Head Start wraparound child care services.

2. Included in this Item is funding to carry out the former responsibilities of the Virginia Council on Child Day Care and Early Childhood Programs. Nongeneral fund appropriations allocated for uses associated with the Head Start program shall not be transferred for any other use until eligible Head Start families have been fully served. Any remaining funds may be used to provide services to enrolled low-income families in accordance with federal and state requirements. Families, who are working or in education and training programs, with income at or below the poverty level, whose children are enrolled in Head Start wraparound programs paid for with the federal block grant funding in this Item shall not be required to pay fees for these wraparound services.

I. Out of this appropriation, $2,647,305 the first year and $2,647,305 the second year from the general fund and $72,503,762 the first year and $72,503,762 the second year from federal funds shall be provided to support state child care programs which will be administered on a sliding scale basis to income eligible families. The sliding fee scale and eligibility criteria are to be set according to the rules and regulations of the State Board of Social Services, except that the income eligibility thresholds for child care assistance shall account for variations in the local cost of living index by metropolitan statistical areas. The Department of Social Services shall make the necessary amendments to the Child Care and Development Funds Plan to accomplish this intent. Funds shall be targeted to families who are most in need of assistance with child care costs. Localities may exceed the standards established by the state by supplementing state funds with local funds.

J. Out of this appropriation, $600,000 the first year and $600,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide scholarships to students in early childhood education and related majors who plan to work in the field, or already are working in the field, whether in public schools, child care or other early childhood programs, and who enroll in a state community college or a state supported senior institution of higher education.

K. Out of this appropriation, $505,000 the first year and $505,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide training of individuals in the field of early childhood education.

L. Out of this appropriation, $300,000 the first year and $300,000 the second year from nongeneral funds shall be used to provide child care assistance for children in homeless and domestic violence shelters.

M. Out of this appropriation, the Department of Social Services shall use $4,800,000 the first year and $4,800,000 the second year from the federal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) block grant to provide to each TANF recipient with two or more children in the assistance unit a monthly TANF supplement equal to the amount the Division of Child Support Enforcement collects up to $200, less the $100 disregard passed through to such recipient. The TANF child support supplement shall be paid within two months following collection of the child support payment or payments used to determine the amount of such supplement. For purposes of determining eligibility for medical assistance services, the TANF supplement described in this paragraph shall be disregarded. In the event there are sufficient federal TANF funds to provide all other assistance required by the TANF State Plan, the Commissioner may use unobligated federal TANF block grant funds in excess of this appropriation to provide the TANF supplement described in this paragraph.

N. The Board of Social Services shall combine Groups I and II for the purposes of Temporary Assistance to Needy Families cash benefits and use the Group II rates for the new group.

O. The Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the University of Virginia's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning, shall (i) develop a list of research-based, age-appropriate curricula to be available as a resource for child care providers participating in the child care subsidy program, and (ii) develop, publish and maintain a list of professional development courses and providers to be available as resources for child care professionals participating in the child care subsidy program.

P. The Department of Social Services shall submit a plan on the intended allocation and spending of additional federal Child Care and Development Fund monies to improve access to and quality of child day care in Virginia that are received pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018, PL 115-141. The plan shall be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees by September 1, 2018.

Q.1. Out of this appropriation $925,000 the first year and $325,000 the second year from the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) shall be provided to implement a pilot program in cooperation with the University of Virginia Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (UVA CASTL) to improve early childhood classrooms in faith-based and private child day care centers. The pilot program shall implement UVA CASTL developed curricula, professional development and coaching modules to improve Kindergarten readiness in these centers.

2. Out of the amounts provided in O.1., $525,000 the first year shall be used to implement the pilot program in 50 early childhood classrooms in faith-based and private child day care centers and $400,000 the first year from the federal CCDF shall be provided to develop a version of the Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program for the pilot program to use in assessing four-year-olds in these early childhood classrooms.

3. Out of the amounts provided in O.1., $325,000 the second year shall be used to implement an evaluation of the pilot program.