

Virginia First Cities Community Wealth Building Initiative

VA Department of Social Services Request for Application – Due May 22

- ✓ Applications solicited for **evidence-based innovative programs that** can help TANF recipients and individuals with incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty level **overcome barriers to becoming employed with the prospect of a career path and wage growth.**
- ✓ Objective of the initiative is to help individuals who face special issues and need extra preparation, have difficulty finding or keeping jobs, or can find only low wage employment.
- ✓ Total \$7.5 mil. available (\$2.5 mil. for ESO's). Applicants should be reasonable in their funding requests based on the scale of their program. No hard funding limits though. If the General Assembly approves future funding, up to four (4) 1 year renewals possible
- ✓ Applicants should be able to measure a reduction in poverty through their program over time. Expected outcomes include number participating in services and receiving employment; number of unique employers hiring, starting hourly wages, etc., number of certifications and higher education credentials, etc
- ✓ Program and services provided should be able to be maintained after the VDSS grant period ends.
- ✓ 25 percent local match can be provided from in-kind sources - but must be listed out.
- ✓ Primary strategy options to achieve employment objectives are broad-based, but child care should only be included in proposal if it supports a primary option. Examples on page 6 of RFA.
- ✓ “Best practices” options will be given more credence. Examples on page 7 of RFA.
- ✓ A lead agency (or local government) can apply with multiple partners. Committed community partnerships are vital. Applicants with existing and licensed staff and necessary certifications expected. Collaboration and letter of support with local VDSS offices also necessary.