

FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Too many children in Virginia live in families who struggle to meet their basic needs, such as food, housing, child care, and health care. While access to health care has improved, especially for parents, Virginia has more to do to help families achieve economic security.

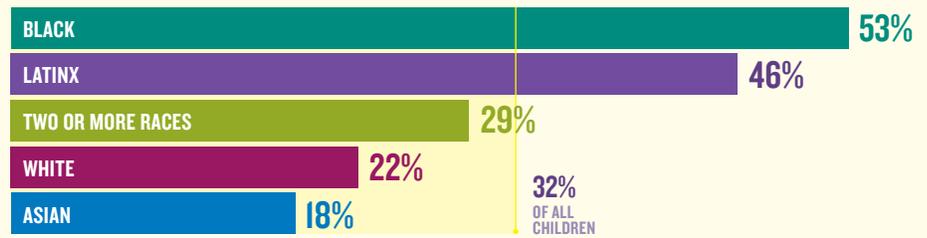
Virginia's rate of economically disadvantaged children has not changed since the great recession of 2008.



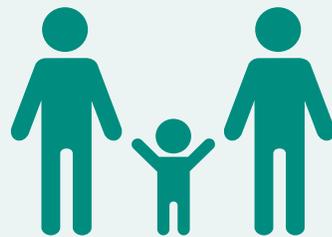
1 IN 3  children are economically disadvantaged in Virginia

Children of color have different starting points for opportunity and may need different policy solutions.

PERCENT OF ALL CHILDREN BY RACE WHO ARE ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED



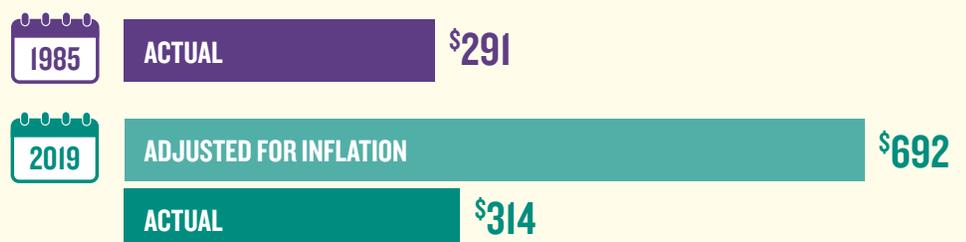
Expansion of Medicaid provides health and economic benefits to parents, which improves stability for Virginia's children.



35% of new Medicaid enrollees are parents

Low-income families depend on cash assistance programs, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Monthly TANF assistance for families has not kept pace with inflation



Questions for Candidates

#VAVotes4Kids

- 1 CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY:** Addressing economic security might take different approaches depending on the part of the state. There are higher rates of economically disadvantaged children in rural areas of the Southwest and the Eastern Shore, but there are more economically disadvantaged children in the highly populated Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads. **How should policymakers address these two differences regarding economic disadvantage?**
- 2 FEDERAL RESOURCES:** Virginia has accumulated a significant surplus in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), federal and state grant funds for low-income working families. **Given the significant needs of low-income families to cover basic expenses such as food, housing, and child care, how should these funds be spent to help families maintain employment and meet basic needs?**
- 3 TAX CREDITS:** Each year at tax time, many working families receive refunds through the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) but they do not get the same refundable tax credit from Virginia. Twenty-three states and D.C. have made the EITC refundable. **What do you believe the state should or should not offer in terms of tax credits or refunds?**
- 4 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Assistance programs such as public health insurance, food and cash assistance, and school lunch help meet the basic health care, nutrition, and housing needs for Virginia's families. **Would you take any steps to address participation in these programs?**
- 5 PAID LEAVE:** Guaranteed paid leave and paid sick days ensure that parents can meet their families' needs without jeopardizing their income. **What are some factors to consider about how the state might play a role in providing paid leave to families?**
- 6 THRIVING ECONOMY:** The unemployment rate in Virginia has continued to decline from 7.2% in 2010 to just 3% currently; however this ranges across the Commonwealth, from a 2.0% unemployment rate in Arlington County to a 5.1% unemployment rate in Danville and Emporia. **If elected, what would you do to encourage economic growth and stability for all families?**
- 7 EQUITY + INCOME:** The overall median household income in Virginia is just above of \$60,000. However, there is a large disparity between median income for White earners versus that of Black earners. In 2017, the median household income for White households was \$63,704, \$49,793 for Latinx households, and \$40,232 for Black households. **What would you do to lessen the gap and promote economic security for all?**

Source information available online: <https://vakids.org/take-action/elections>

