



JUST FUTURES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Voices for Virginia's Children

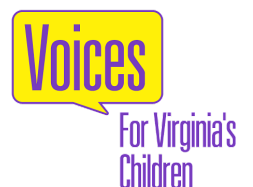
2022 Racial Truth & Reconciliation Policy Agenda

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Voices for Virginia's Children

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The pandemic as a trauma in parallel with the inadvertent impact of cultural, racial, and historical trauma creates collectively experienced compound trauma across generations.

Creating a sense of belonging and a just future for Virginia will require intersectional approaches, including equitable, trauma-informed, and just policies that dismantle systemic barriers so that all young people have access to leading long, healthy, and successful lives. According to [Voices for Virginia's Children's The State of Virginia's Children Data Snapshot of Children, Youth, and Families](#), racial and ethnic diversity of children and youth have increased in the state, where 1 in 4 children are immigrants or living in an immigrant family.

Informed Perspective:

Voices empowers children, youth, and families disproportionately impacted by inequitable outcomes as agents in the creation of policy solutions to ignite change in their communities. Through our advocacy and engagement efforts, including Racial Truth and Reconciliation Virginia and other networks and partnerships, Voices additionally embraces perspectives of direct-service professionals and policy professionals. It is our goal to create trauma-informed and healing centered spaces for advocates to share their truths and to reckon and reconcile trauma through systems change.

Voices for Virginia's Children is part of the following related coalitions and work groups:

- **Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia Coalition:** Voices serves as the hub for the Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia Coalition to empower historically marginalized communities in acknowledgement of truth to promote healing, reconciliation, and justice. The coalition does this through the work of the Racial Truth & Reconciliation Virginia Campaign to prioritize trauma-informed, equitable, and just policies. for young people, families, and communities.
- **Virginia's Trauma-Informed Community Networks:** The Virginia TICNs are a multi-sector coalition of networks throughout the state focused on building resilience and preventing and mitigating the impact of trauma in their communities and creating a more trauma-informed and resilient culture in Virginia. The VA TICNs work together with state partners to change practices, policies, systems within their regions and at the state level. Greater Richmond SCAN convenes bi-monthly meetings of the VA TICNs, provides support and technical assistance to the 26+ networks.



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Young people are Virginia's future but are often left outside of conversations and are not given an opportunity to exercise their voice when decisions are made on behalf of their everyday experiences. We believe that children's issues are bipartisan issues where all can come together on behalf of a just future for children and young people.

To Move Virginia Forward:

- **PRIORITIZE INVESTMENT IN THE GOVERNOR'S CHILDREN'S CABINET.**

The Governor's Children's Cabinet has led the charge in prioritizing the needs of children across administrations. We encourage Governor Youngkin's Administration and the Virginia Legislature to prioritize the investment in a Governor's Children's Cabinet.

Governor's Budget Items:

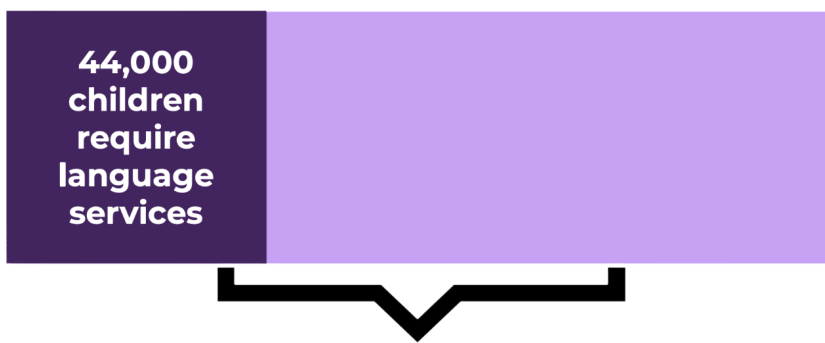
- **RACIAL RECONCILIATION EVENTS & PROGRAMMING:**

Provides funding for Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion event planning, marketing, contracting, and supplies for events such as Juneteenth, the First African Landing event at Fort Monroe, Racial Truth and Reconciliation week, potential crisis community conversations, and any other related Governor's Office events, \$15,000 the first year and \$15,000 the second year.



Language Equity & Access

According to **The State of Virginia's the Children: A Data Snapshot of Children, Youth, and Families**, 1 in 5 children in Virginia speak a language other than English, with 44,000 children requiring language access services. The languages most often spoken by speakers with limited English proficiency include Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Hindi, and Arabic. When the pandemic began, Virginia's lack of investments to prioritize adequate language access, including translation and interpretation services, was evident when agencies depended upon services, such as Google Translate, to provide guidance to services to populations that have historically had limited access to care across systems.



231,675 Virginia children speak a language other than English

Languages spoken most often by limited proficiency English speakers in VA include:

1. Spanish
2. Korean
3. Vietnamese
4. Chinese
5. Hindi
6. Arabic

To Move Virginia Forward:

- **LANGUAGE ACCESS & EQUITY.**

Three bills are introduced to support equitable language access across state agencies. Increased language access will support efforts to educate every family about their health care options. Each bill focuses on supporting language access for the following areas: All state agencies (services provision and administration), Dept. of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS), and medical debt. A separate DMAS bill specifically impacts Medicaid in Virginia's state code and will address that specific part of the code. In addition to language access, a medical debt bill includes critical provisions to ensure linguistically marginalized communities in Virginia (LMCs) understand their medical bills, know their rights to medical debt assistance, and receive essential information in-language.

Language Equity & Access

Governor's Budget Items:

- **LANGUAGE ACCESS:**

Provides GF funding to state agencies to facilitate and improve language access, \$7.9 the first year and \$2.9M the second year.

- **LANGUAGE ACCESS & OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION:**

Provides funding and four positions within the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) for a Deputy Diversity Officer for Immigrant Integration, an Assistant Director for Access/Functional Needs for People with Disabilities, and two American Sign Language interpreters to support the Office of the Governor and ODEI, \$543,036 4 FTE positions the first year and \$543,036 with 4 FTE positions the second year.

- **CREATES A BENEFIT NAVIGATOR PROGRAM :**

Funds a pilot program in the Office of New Americans that competitively award grants to immigrant- and refugee-serving organizations. These grants will provide intensive case management to limited English proficiency individuals to assist them with applying for critical public services. Grants also will be competitively awarded to refugee resettlement agencies to ensure that immigrants and refugees receive equitable services by expanding the agencies' capacity to provide legal services, case management, and assistance finding health care, housing, education, and employment. The budget includes a total of \$8M and two restricted positions are funded for the duration of the pilot to handle the administrative needs of the program.

Trauma Prevention & Mitigation

Families are experiencing many crises and challenges due to existing inequities and an ongoing pandemic. This results in economic, cultural, and racial trauma across a range of issues. Solutions require a continuum of care, intervention, and investments in services across systems.

Governor's Budget Items:

- **INTEGRATED E-REFERRAL SYSTEM:**

Provides appropriation to contract for an integrated e-referral system. The purpose of the system is to connect government agencies, health care providers, and community-based partners to enable participants in the system to refer patients to public health and social services, \$8M for the first year and \$8M for the second year.