

## **Agency Summary: Richmond County DSS**

**Region:** Central

**Class Size:**

**Director:** Claudette C. Henderson

**Early Prevention Contact Person:** Elizabeth Smith (elizabeth.m.smith@dss.virginia.gov)

### **Description of Early Prevention Services (prior to a current, valid CPS report)**

Richmond County Department of Social Services provides a system of services to individual families. Richmond County does not utilize volunteers to provide prevention services. However, the staff facilitates alternate living arrangements with relatives or non-relatives for a child at risk of removal and entering foster care (Foster Care Diversion). They also directly provide services to any of the 'diversion families' and/or birth families involved after they have facilitated an informal out of home alternative living arrangement

Richmond County Department of Social Services does not have specific staff devoted primarily to prevention. Nevertheless, they provide early prevention services to individual families.

### **Specific information about Richmond County Department of Social Services for each type of Early Prevention Services provided**

**1. Universal Early Prevention Services (Public Education and Awareness to the General Public)**

None

**2. Early Prevention Services to High Risk Groups**

- **High Risk Groups Targeted:**

- Parenting teens
- Low-income families

**3. Early Prevention Services to Individual Families**

- Early Prevention Services Provided to Individual Families:
  - Information and referral
  - Transportation
  - LDSS funded home repair
  - Finding relatives and other individuals to enhance parent support
  - Advocacy on behalf of the family within the community to secure services and support
  - Financial assistance to individual families used for prevention
  - LDSS funded child care
- Funding for Services to Individual Families:

- Grant funding
- Medicaid
- Budget line item 829-Family Preservation (SSGB)
- 100% local only funds
- Community block grants
- Community resources (e.g., churches, Salvation Army, etc.)
- Staff that Provide Early Prevention Services to Individual Families:
  - Generic worker
  - Supervisor
- Volunteers used: None

**4. Community based resources to which the agency refers**

- Healthy Families Providers
- Head Start (3 to 5 years old)
- Virginia Cooperative Extension Programs (including 4-H)
- Parent Support group providers
  - Mental health based support groups for any parent
- Workshops and trainings provided by community groups for specific targeted groups, including:
  - General public
  - Families where abuse and neglect have occurred
  - Families where domestic violence is present or suspected
  - Families whose children have been removed
  - Foster families
- Intensive in-home service providers
- Public health providers
- Private health providers
- Public mental health providers (e.g., community service boards)
- Private mental health providers
- Schools
- Churches
- Mentoring program providers
- Domestic violence prevention providers
- Sexual Assault Centers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Stop Child Abuse Now