

From: **Edwina Williams** <edwina.williams@dss.virginia.gov>
Date: Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 2:54 PM
Subject: Application Process for Qualified Residential Treatment Programs
To: <DSS_LICENSING@listserv.cov.virginia.gov>

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

October 21, 2019

To: Licensed Residential Treatment Programs for Children
Concerning: Application process to become a Qualified Residential Treatment Program

Dear Colleagues,

The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First) was passed by Congress on February 9, 2018, and includes historic reforms to child welfare financing streams by providing prevention services to families of children who are at imminent risk of entering foster care. It underscores the importance of children growing up in families and seeks to avoid the traumatic experience of children being separated from their families and entering foster care. It also aims to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by safely reducing placement of children in non-family like settings (e.g. residential treatment programs), and instead place children in the least restrictive, most family-like setting appropriate to their individual needs.

Family First created a specific non-family-based placement type, called a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) along with a structure around placing children in these types of programs. QRTPs serve children with specific short term out-of-home treatment needs. Upon implementation of Family First in Virginia, **Title IV-E funds can only be used for the treatment of these children if they are placed in a QRTP.**

VDSS will host a webinar on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, from 1:30-3:00pm for any program interested in learning more about the QRTP application process and requirements. To register please go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6230145546231125003>. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. The application to become a QRTP will be available on the Family First Virginia website (<http://familyfirstvirginia.com/>) on November 11, 2019. A link to the application will also be sent to everyone who registered for the webinar.

If you have any questions regarding this webinar opportunity, the QRTP designation or the application process, please email us at familyfirst@dss.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl E. Ayers".

Carl E. Ayers,
Director, Division of Family Services