

Virginia Child Welfare Training Program

Mission Statement: The Virginia Child Welfare Training Program is a partnership that provides comprehensive, competency based training that equips agency staff with knowledge and skills to deliver child-centered, family-driven services that make a positive impact on the lives of children and families in Virginia.

The Virginia Child Welfare Training Program is a collaborative effort through the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Virginia Commonwealth University's Virginia Institute of Social Services Training Activities (VCU-VISSTA), five Area Training Centers (ATCs), the Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE), and the Virginia Alliance of Social Work Practitioners (VASWP). Led by a Steering Committee, members meet on a monthly basis to coordinate and manage the activities and developmental aspects of a competency-based child welfare training system. The Steering Committee is responsible for:

- Setting priorities for child welfare training including the establishment of training requirements for front-line and supervisory staff;
- Establishing core competencies and core curricula for all targeted job functions that will support assessed needs as well as broaden the base of knowledge and skills for all child welfare staff;
- Ensuring ongoing training opportunities for experienced staff and supervisors to enhance managerial skills in the work force and to facilitate transfer of learning;
- Establishing a process and standards for identification of subject matter experts to develop and deliver workshops for in-service trainings based on regionally assessed needs;
- Assessing and evaluating the training system to address both individual and system needs; and
- Ensuring the delivery of pre-service and in-service training for resource families.

VCWTP's Collaborating Organizations:

The **Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)** co-chairs the Steering Committee and manages the VCWTP's contracts and funding.

The **Virginia Institute of Social Services Training Activities (VISSTA)**, the State Training Coordinator, develops training curricula, trainers and other resources.

The five **Area Training Centers (ATCs)** coordinate training activities and identify and address the training needs of local departments of social services (LDSS) staff.

The **Virginia League of Social Services Executives (VLSSE)** co-chairs the Steering Committee and advocates for the needs of LDSS.

The **Virginia Alliance of Social Work Practitioners (VASWP)** advocates for the needs of LDSS.