

Abstract

1. **Applicant's Name:** Virginia Community College System (State Workforce Agency)
2. **Applicant City & State:** Richmond, Virginia
3. **Areas Served:** Statewide
4. **Project Name:** Virginia Implements the Working Families Success Network Model
5. **Funding Level Requested:** \$11,996,151

Project Costs: \$9,673,151

Evaluation Cost: \$2,323,000

6. **Project Type C:** Adapting or scaling proven ideas
7. **Description of the Proposed Project:** Virginia will implement the Working Families Success Network (WFSN) model of bundled service delivery to 1,800 randomly selected participants at up to six of Virginia's America's Job Centers (AJCs). The new WFSN model sites at AJCs will join the four pilot sites already in progress at community colleges in Virginia and over 130 other sites nationwide. Clients participate in services that are integrated and provided in a bundled approach, reinforcing one another and providing a multi-faceted strategy to supporting client needs. WFSN comprises three services: (1) **Workforce and education services resulting in career advancement:** education and training, employability skills, job placement; (2) **Income and work supports:** access to student financial aid, public benefits, free tax preparation; (3) **Financial services and asset building:** financial education, financial coaching. Outcomes to be measured include educational progression and attainment, employment, job retention, wages, net income, net worth, job advancement, income supports, and credit score. The long-range goal is for Virginians to have access to these bundled services, whether they are affiliated with community colleges, the federal reemployment network, or community non-profits (future

phase). Families will increase their earnings and income, reduce their financial transaction costs, and build wealth for themselves and their communities. Employers benefit from stable, well-qualified workers to fill in-demand job openings. Virginia will align the model from the state policy level to local operations, resulting in transformation of our workforce delivery system.

8. Description of the Proposed Evaluation Strategy: The evaluation addresses three areas: implementation, impact, and cost. In addition to providing useful insights about the outcomes of the WFSN model for VCCS and partners, the evaluation has the potential to inform state policy-makers and practitioners in other areas of the country and the USDOL. The impact evaluation will use a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to determine the participant outcomes and whether those are due to effects of the project interventions, using data from existing databases and a 1:1 ratio. An implementation evaluation will use qualitative and quantitative data collected through administrative records, interviews, site visits, surveys, and fidelity assessments to provide ongoing and summary information about how the project was developed and carried out over the grant period. The cost effectiveness assessment will build an understanding of the costs of this model and the relative value of this approach in terms of positive outcomes, as compared to the standard service delivery approach. Data sources for the evaluation include the Virginia Longitudinal Data System, recently enhanced by a USDOL Workforce Data Quality Initiative grant. This the federated data system includes participant-level records from secondary, postsecondary, WIA, TAA, Wagner-Peyser, TANF, SNAP, registered apprentice, adult education, rehabilitation services, UI benefits and earnings data. The evaluation plan also schedules regular opportunities for learning by the VCCS team.

9. Public Contact Information: Paula Scott Dehetre, pdehetre@vccs.edu