

Empowering Communities to Serve Families

Did You Know...

The Children's Services Act provides various services to eligible youth and families, serving 133 cities and counties throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. With its combined state and local budget, the CSA is a significant contributor to supporting the system of care for youth and families.



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**Virginia
Office of
Children's
Services**

CSA

The Children's Services Act (CSA) is a law enacted in 1993 that establishes a single state pool of funds to purchase services for at-risk youth and their families. The state funds, combined with local community funds, are managed by local interagency teams who plan and oversee services to youth and families.

The CSA is a state supervised, locally administered program. The state establishes policies that provide guidance to localities on CSA program administration and the utilization of the state pool of funds.

The local CSA program establishes policies and procedures that work with state policy to guide the operations of the local program, which may differ across localities. The state agency that provides support to localities and community partners in the implementation of the CSA program and enactment of state policies is the Office of Children's Services.

Who We Are

The Office of Children's Services (OCS) is the administrative entity responsible for ensuring effective and efficient implementation of the Children's Services Act throughout Virginia.

The guiding principles of the OCS include:

- Child and family-directed care
- Equitable access to quality services
- Responsible and effective, use of public funds
- Support for effective, evidence-based practices
- Collaborative partnerships across state, local, public, and private stakeholders

Our values are strongly influenced by the *System of Care* philosophy to meet the needs of youth and families through coordinated care and multidisciplinary planning. This "wraparound" approach fosters a sense of community ownership and lessens the duplication of effort, resulting in the efficient use of resources and funding, as well creating a collective voice to address the needs of youth and families.



What We Do

We "Empower Communities to Serve Youth" by:

- Developing and implementing a robust training plan including providing customized on-site training/consultation to localities and a library of online courses
- Offering "real-time" technical assistance in response to specific questions from local and state partners, parents, service providers, and others
- Maintaining the CSA website with resources to address all aspects of CSA implementation
- Supporting the fiscal management and oversight of the CSA
- Providing actionable data for local program planning and quality improvement
- Operating an audit program to guide local program improvement and ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements

