



Linking Systems of Care  
for Children and Youth  
Virginia

# Linking Systems of Care (LSC) Project Newsletter Winter 2020

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## State-Level Support for the LSC Project

Since January 2015, the Linking Systems of Care (LSC) State Demonstration Project has been supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime. Virginia was tasked with conducting a variety of data gathering activities to assess needs and then, based on findings, developing, piloting, and implementing policies and practices to enhance and coordinate the services of the various systems that serve children, youth, and families who have been impacted by crime victimization and associated trauma.

Federal funding for the project will continue through March 31, 2021. Project staff, therefore approached the initiative with a goal of developing a model of service delivery and supporting toolkit by the Spring of 2020 and then promoting the project's sustainability by "rolling" it out statewide for the final year of the grant via full-day trainings for Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs) and other multi-disciplinary teams and workshops at professional conferences.

As planned, the LSC toolkit should be complete and available to service providers and communities throughout the state in the next few months, and a number of communities and systems have already requested or confirmed dates to receive training, which demonstrates how eager providers are to better coordinate care and services for children and youth. Fueled by this excitement, project staff and stakeholders began to appreciate how great the impact could be if the project were sustained and there was funding to support implementation of and fidelity to the LSC model long term.

Therefore, prompted largely by the merge of the LSC work into other state-level work around trauma (the Governor's Trauma Informed Leadership Team and the Children's Cabinet's Trauma-Informed Care Work Group), the Virginia Department of Social Services requested state-level funding to support sustainability for the LSC project after the grant ends. In December, it was included in Governor Northam's budget for VDSS; and the request successfully made it through the General Assembly's 2020 budget approval process. We are very excited to have the ability to provide ongoing technical assistance to communities and service providers and to facilitate the future evolution of the project in Virginia.

# Pilot of the Virginia Victimization Screen Concludes

One of the objectives for the LSC project was to create a brief screening tool that could be administered to children and youth across systems to identify a wide range of victimization types. The Virginia Victimization Screen (VVS) was created with guidance and input from a large number of service providers and national experts. From 2017-2020, the VVS was piloted in three separate waves in five diverse communities (Washington County, Charlottesville/Albemarle, Hampton/Newport News, Alexandria, and Richmond).

On January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, data collection for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final wave concluded! The Principal Investigator at Virginia Commonwealth University's Psychology Department is now conducting analysis and writing a final report. When the report is complete, final modifications to the VVS will be made, and the tool (and training on how to administer it) will be made available statewide. LSC staff would like to thank all service providers who participated in the pilot.

## Resilience Week in Virginia

Trauma-Informed Community Networks (TICNs) throughout Virginia are hosting a variety of activities and events to build and promote resilience in Virginia's first annual Resilience Week May 3-9, 2020. Greater Richmond Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) has created themed Resilience Week flyers you can share throughout your networks. See links below to digitally share, print, and post in your communities!

[Flyers with GRTICN logo](#)

[Coast](#) | [Dogwood](#) | [Field](#) | [Forest](#) | [Mountains](#) | [Richmond](#)

[Flyers with statewide VA TICNs logo](#)

[Coast](#) | [Dogwood](#) | [Field](#) | [Forest](#) | [Mountains](#) | [Richmond](#)

Greater Richmond SCAN has also created an infographic with themes for each day of the week to help guide participation. Each day has its own two-page handout with ideas for 50 ways to celebrate. For more information, visit the [Resilience Week website](#).

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**RESILIENCE WEEK VIRGINIA**  
MAY 3-9, 2020

**SANCTUARY SUNDAY**  
sanc-tu-ar-y (saNGk(t)SHa,werē)  
noun: a place of refuge or safety  
Where do you find sanctuary individually? Where do you find sanctuary with others? Find ideas [HERE](#)

**MINDFUL MONDAY**  
mind-ful-ness ('min(d)f(ə)lnəs)  
noun: a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings, thoughts, and bodily sensations.  
Find ideas [HERE](#)

**TRAUMA-INFORMED TUESDAY**  
trau-ma (troumā, trōmā) - in-formed (in'fōrmd)  
adjective: becoming "trauma-informed" means recognizing that people often have many different types of trauma in their lives. People who have been traumatized need support and understanding from those around them. Find ideas [HERE](#)

**WHIMSICAL WEDNESDAY**  
whim-si-cal ('(h)wimzik(ə)l)  
adjective: playfully quaint or fanciful, especially in an appealing and amusing way. Today is all about play, creating fun art and humor. Find ideas [HERE](#)

**TRANQUILITY THURSDAY**  
tran-qui-li-ty (traNG'kwilədə)  
noun: the quality or state of being tranquil; calm. Where do you find tranquility? Create or find a calming space to practice tranquility. Find ideas [HERE](#)

**FRIENDLY FRIDAY**  
friend-ly ('fren(d)lē)  
adjective: kind and pleasant.  
Find opportunities today to be friendly to others and practice random acts of kindness. Find ideas [HERE](#)

**SELF-CARE SATURDAY**  
self-care (self'ker)  
noun: the practice of taking an active role in protecting one's own well-being and happiness, in particular during periods of stress. Find ideas [HERE](#)

