



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA


## OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

*Administering the Children's Services Act*

SCOTT REINER, M.S.  
Executive Director

### **CSA Administrative Memo #26-03**

**To:** CSA Coordinators  
CPMT Chairs

**From:** Scott Reiner, Executive Director 

**Re:** CSA Funding for Drug Testing – Foster Care and Foster Care Prevention

**Date:** March 23, 2026

The purpose of this Administrative Memo is to provide updated guidance on the use of Children's Services Act (CSA) state pool funds for drug testing expenditures in cases involving local departments of social services (LDSS). This guidance is as follows and supersedes any previous informal guidance provided by the Office of Children's Services (OCS).

CSA funds may be reimbursed for drug testing of parents, legal guardians, and youth as follows:

1. For cases that are eligible for CSA under the following Primary Mandate types:
  - Foster Care Abuse/Neglect – Prevention
  - Foster Care Abuse/Neglect – DSS Non-Custodial Agreement
  - Foster Care Abuse/Neglect – Entrustment/Custody
  - Foster Care Entrustment/Custody Court-Ordered for CHINS
  - Foster Care Entrustment/Custody Court-Ordered for Truancy
  - Foster Care Entrustment/Custody Court-Ordered for Delinquent Behaviors
  
2. Drug testing must be requested, recommended by the Family Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT), included on an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP), and approved by the Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) as with any other CSA service. The purpose of the testing must be documented, and FAPTs, in collaboration with the LDSS, should periodically review its use and effectiveness in

meeting the purpose. Optimally, the individuals for whom testing is requested will be engaged, as appropriate, in some form of substance use disorder or recovery program, whether CSA-funded or not, although this is not a requirement for testing to be funded.

3. To maximize the use of available funding, CSA should consult with the LDSS about the availability of dedicated funding for this purpose under the VDSS Budget Line BL830.

A VDSS-developed resource, “*Substance Screening: Guidelines and Recommendations*,” is included with the Administrative Memo and provides excellent information about this topic. CPMTs are encouraged to review and discuss this document.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the [OCS HelpDesk](#).

Cc: Rebecca Vinroot, Director, Division of Family Services, VDSS  
Kimberly Ayers, Chair, Child and Family Services Committee, Virginia League of Social Service Executives (for distribution to local DSS directors)