

January 15, 2015

Third Sector Capital Partners, Inc.
200 Clarendon St., 9th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Re: The Virginia Pay for Success Council application to develop pay for success capabilities in Virginia

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the members of The Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success, I am writing with our full support for the application submitted by the Virginia Pay for Success Council (the “VPS Council”) and the Virginia Department of Health (“VDH”) to Third Sector for technical assistance in exploring the potential for pay for success initiatives in Virginia. We look forward to working with Third Sector in studying the feasibility of these pay for success initiatives in Virginia.

The Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success (CCCS), which was created by Governor McAuliffe’s Executive Order and which I chair, is focused on improving the health, education, and well-being of our youngest children, from prenatal through age 8. The Council consists of representatives of the following entities: Department of Education; Department of Social Services; Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services; Department of Health; programs under part B, Section 619, and part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Virginia’s Head Start Collaboration; the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation; local educational agencies; institutions of higher education; local providers of education and child care; local Head Start programs; the business community; and bipartisan members of the legislature.

The Council and its workgroups are now in the process of developing recommendations for improving: 1) funding for preschool, 2) kindergarten readiness, 3) strategies to close the achievement gap in early elementary years, 4) the quality and accountability of child care programs and providers, and 5) coordination of services for at-risk families.

We support the study and feasibility assessment of the initial pilot project being proposed by VDH and the VPS Council: applying PFS financing to prenatal counseling for low-income expectant woman can improve the birth outcomes for those mothers and reduce health care costs for the mothers and their babies. It is an innovative approach that we believe relevant state agencies seeking to improve both the delivery of health care services as well as the financing of governmental services ought to fully explore.

We look forward to working with the VPS Council and Third Sector Partners to study the feasibility of PFS projects in Virginia.

Sincerely,