



**VACo
Education
Steering
Committee
Meeting**

October 28, 2020



Early Education = Child Care = Workforce & Economic Development

Recent Progress in Virginia

Consolidated governance (School Readiness Act of 2020)

Increased investment (\$85 million in FY21-FY22 biennial budget)

Improved VPI policies (expansion to 3s, reallocation, community add-on)

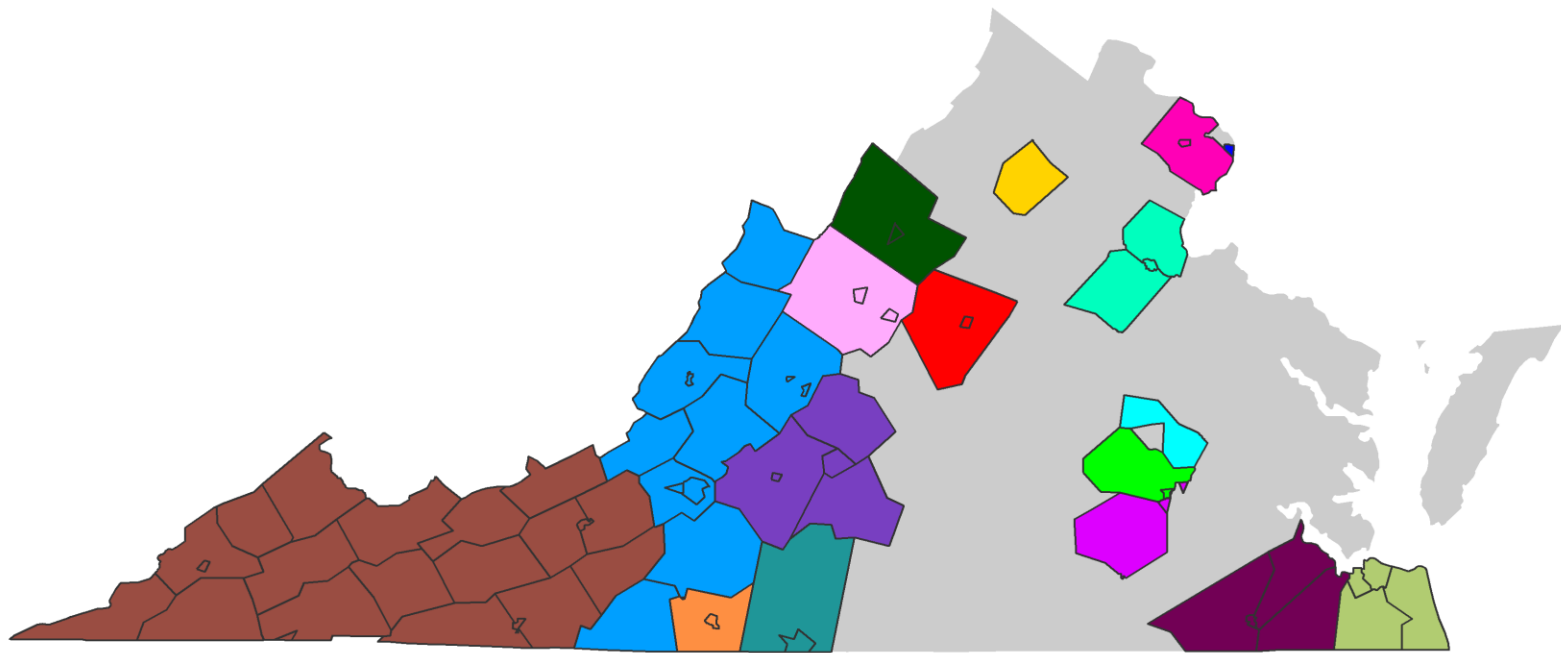
Mixed Delivery preschool (expansion to 3s, focus on access)


















Growing Community Partnerships (PDG B-5)

Support for EC Workforce (Project Pathfinders)

Local Systems Building Opportunities: PDG B-5

PDG B5 Communities



- | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
|  C1 - Alexandria |  C1 - Harrisonburg-Rockingham |  C1 - Spotsylvania-Stafford |  C2 - Hampton Roads |  C2 - Western Tidewater |
|  C1 - Charlottesville-Albemarle |  C1 - Rappahannock |  C2 - Central Virginia |  C2 - Henrico | |
|  C1 - Chesterfield |  C1 - Roanoke |  C2 - Danville-Pittsylvania |  C2 - Martinsville-Henry | |
|  C1 - Fairfax |  C1 - Southwest-New River Valley |  C2 - Greater Augusta |  C2 - Southeast | |

C1 refers to communities in PDG Cohort 1; C2 refers to communities in PDG Cohort 2

Evolving Early Childhood Landscape

- As of 10/19/2020,
 - 66% of Virginia’s 6000+ child care programs are open
 - 2000 programs are closed – **a loss of in capacity of 148,000 slots**
- At the end of July, almost 1 in 3 mothers ages 25-44 reported they weren’t working because of pandemic-related child care issues, compared to around 1 in 10 fathers.
- **Child care is a critical workforce facilitator and foundational to Virginia’s healthy economy.**
- The child care industry is fragile with a challenging cost structure, operating on thin margins, leaving these small businesses especially vulnerable to the cascading economic impact of the pandemic.

What does this mean for localities?

How can Virginia ensure communities are ready to support the healthy development and potential for success of every child?

Short Term Solution: Emergency network of regional collaborations **to build supply of safe learning spaces** for ages 0-12 given schools' virtual format.

- Partner with diverse leaders
- Create emergency services in alternative spaces
- Forge consensus among diverse stakeholders; broker regulatory approvals, etc.
- Address inequities

Long Term Solution: Durable and equitable state/local early childhood system

Back to Work Virginia Task Force

- Recognition of challenges in the early childhood education/child care “system”
- New awareness of dual value of child care – critical infrastructure
- **Impact and implications of child care for Virginia’s workforce and economic productivity and quality of life**
- Key constituencies/responsible sectors
 - Government
 - Business and Economic Development
 - Philanthropy
 - **Communities**

Back to Work Virginia Task Force

1) Embrace a bold goal and vision.

- All Virginia families can access quality child care by 2030 regardless of their income
- Virginia will be #1 state in the nation for optimizing human capacity across the lifespan

2) Develop a strategic business plan for innovations and investments to get there.

- Cost-benefit analysis
- Business plan/timeline for building system to support the goal by 2030
- Identify portfolio of innovative financing strategies and policy/governance efficiencies
- Strengthen the health, capacity, and stability of the child care industry

Back to Work Virginia Task Force

3) Create structures to sustain focus, commitment, and urgency.

- Strategic leadership and stewardship, aligning commitments of roles and responsibilities for stakeholders
- Expert coordination of all aspects of the business plan development and implementation
- Advocacy and communications undergirding success

Back to Work Virginia:
Child Care Recovery and Renaissance
Task Force



What does this mean for localities?

- 1. Child Care is essential infrastructure – There is no recovery without it**
- 2. Make sure your community is READY - Seize the opportunity to build strong local and regional early childhood systems through funded opportunities like PDG B-5 & Mixed Delivery**
- 3. Be part of the solution – We need community leaders like you to help us reach Virginia’s bold goal of quality child care for all by 2030**

“If Virginia is going to accelerate its economy and be more successful in attracting business and building talent, we’ve got to more seriously consider and invest in how we develop our most valuable resource, our human capacity. Ensuring access to high quality early childhood is a critical first step.”

– Stephen Moret, President & CEO Virginia Economic Development Partnership

THANK YOU!

