

Voices for Virginia's Children Child Care Rally November 30, 2016

AGENDA

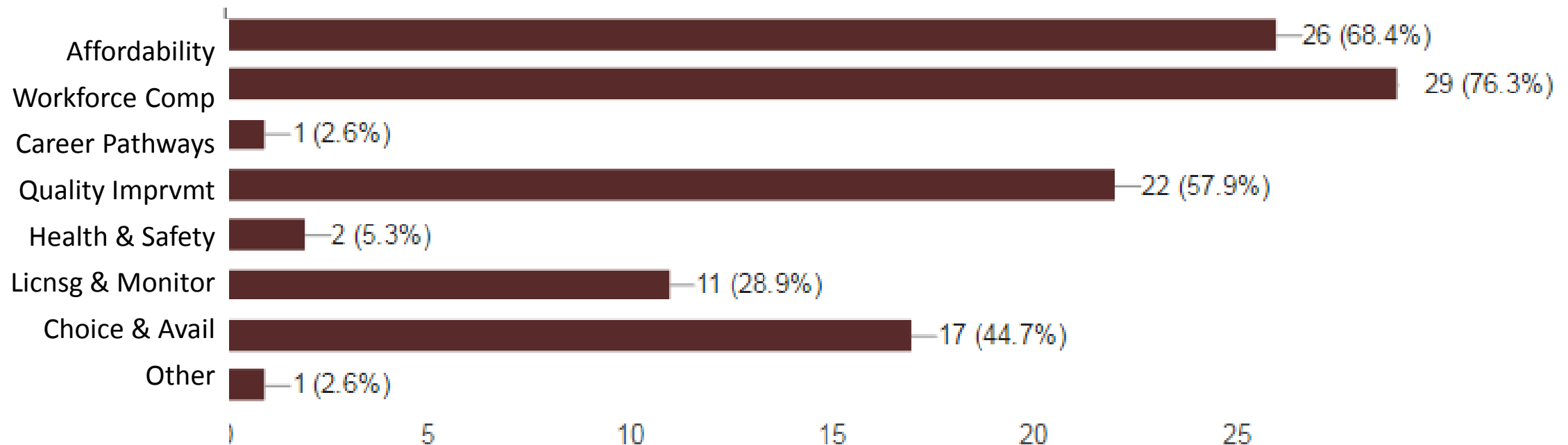
- Decision time on child care in Virginia
- The state of child care
 - “the squeeze”
 - Current reach of the child care assistance program funded by CCDBG
 - More changes coming
- Timeline for action
- First action opportunity: your stories!
- Next steps and your feedback



Feedback from Participants

What do you think are the biggest challenges/opportunities facing child care in Virginia? (choose top 3)

(38 responses)



“The Squeeze”- The impact of our choices about child care subsidy given limited resources

- 1. Squeeze on The Family Budget-** What families are able to afford for child care on a limited budget. Do parents go to work or opt out?
- 2. Are Families Squeezed Out?** If costs per child increase which families will receive assistance? Who will not that is receiving it now? What will the care be like that they *are* able to afford?
- 3. How Do We Get the Best Juice?-** knowing that 0-3 time frame is critical for early development, but difficult to find high quality care, how do we get bigger bang? How can we leverage other funding streams of VPI and Head Start to access quality programs?

Decision Time: compliance with CCDBG and choices with (limited) child care funds

DSS will decide:

- How are funds are allocated to communities?
- What is the local role in supports?
- How will monitoring be conducted?
- Should CCDBG provisions apply to providers only accepting subsidy or to all providers?
- What professional development activities are required of providers? Will they link to our workforce improvement goals?
- How funds can be used to “afford” higher quality programs?
- How can implementing 12 month continuous eligibility for families and gradual phase can strengthen our child care system and supports for families?



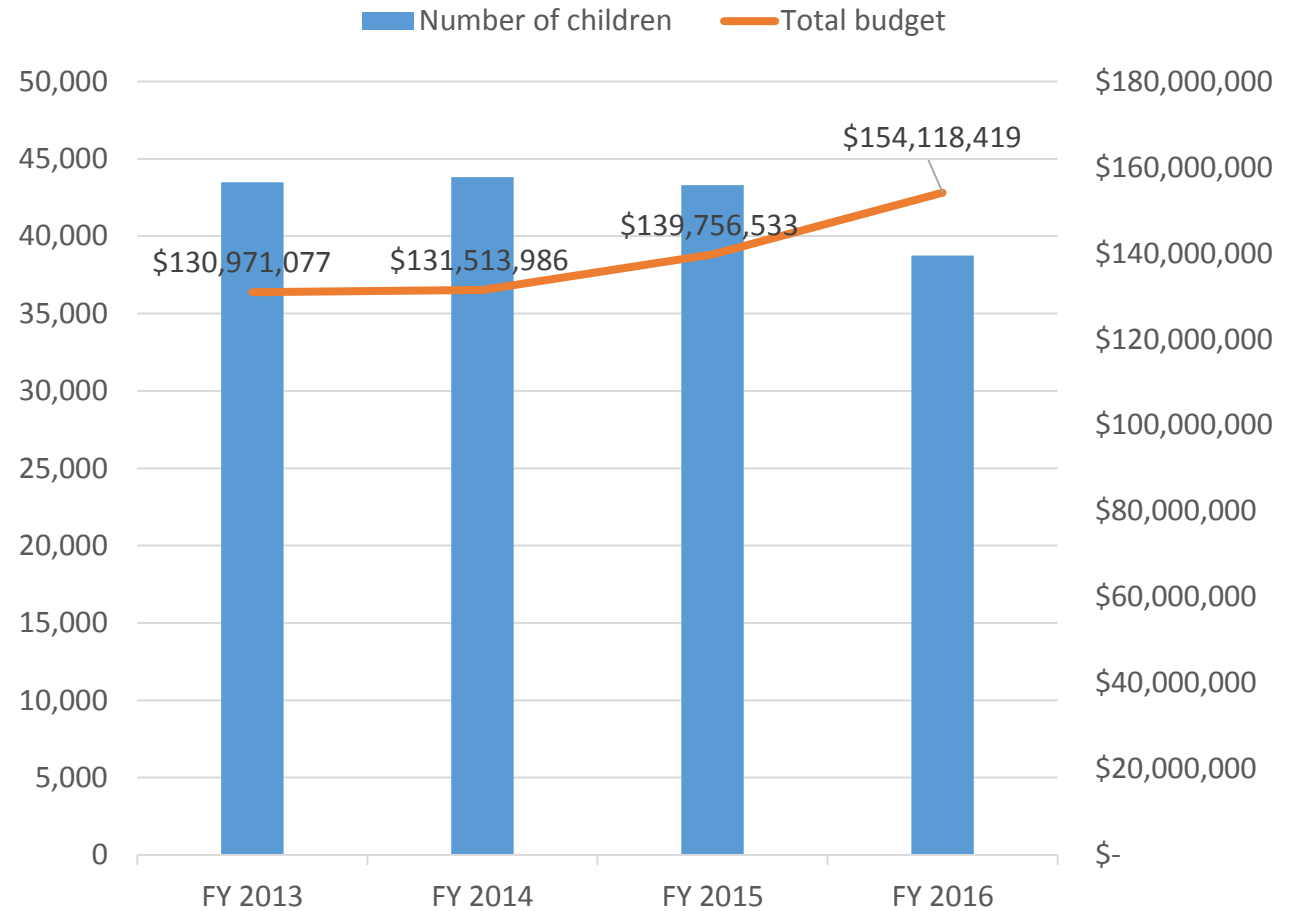
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Stalled participation in subsidy then decrease FY15 to FY16 of 4,500 fewer children in Virginia receiving child care subsidy

Possible explanations for decrease:

- Improvements to reimbursement rates and parent co-payment rates in the last 3 years could have resulted in higher costs per child resulting in fewer overall served.
- FY15 & FY16 included accounting procedural changes around allocating and encumbering funds.

Children Receiving Subsidy Decreases Despite Budget Increase

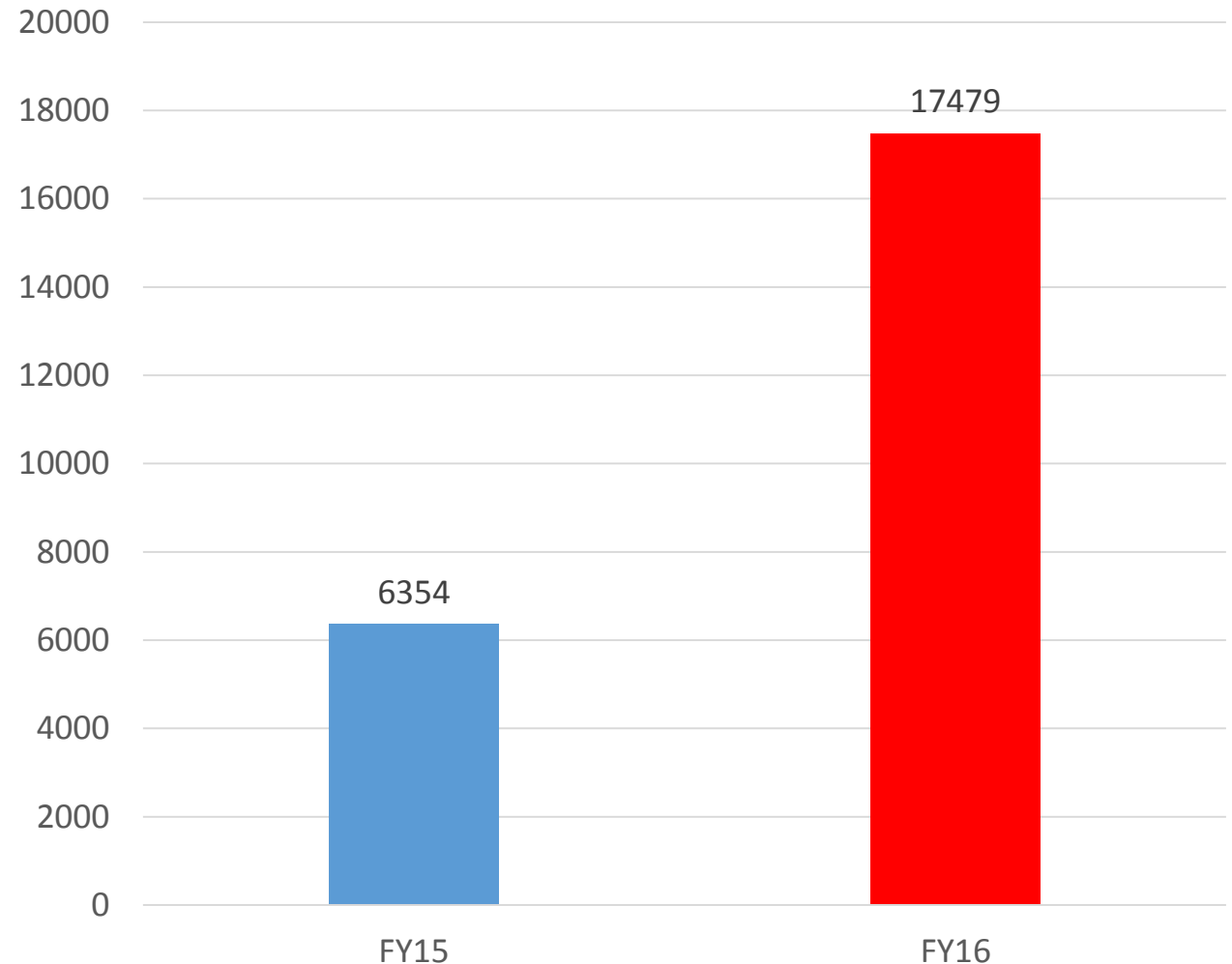


The number of children on the waiting list for subsidy is an all-time high

The waiting list is “scrubbed” two times per year to take families off who no longer need child care assistance.

Local DSS offices report that the requirement to participate in child support enforcement has dismayed some families from participating.

Number of children on the waiting list for subsidy as of the end of the Fiscal Year



Current participation in Child Care Assistance Presents Need for Innovation

- **Infants and toddlers are significantly underrepresented in participation.**
- Child care subsidy participation by age in FY16:

- 46% are 3s & 4s,
- 42% are school age (5-13),
- 6% are 1s & 2s,
- 5% are <12 mos

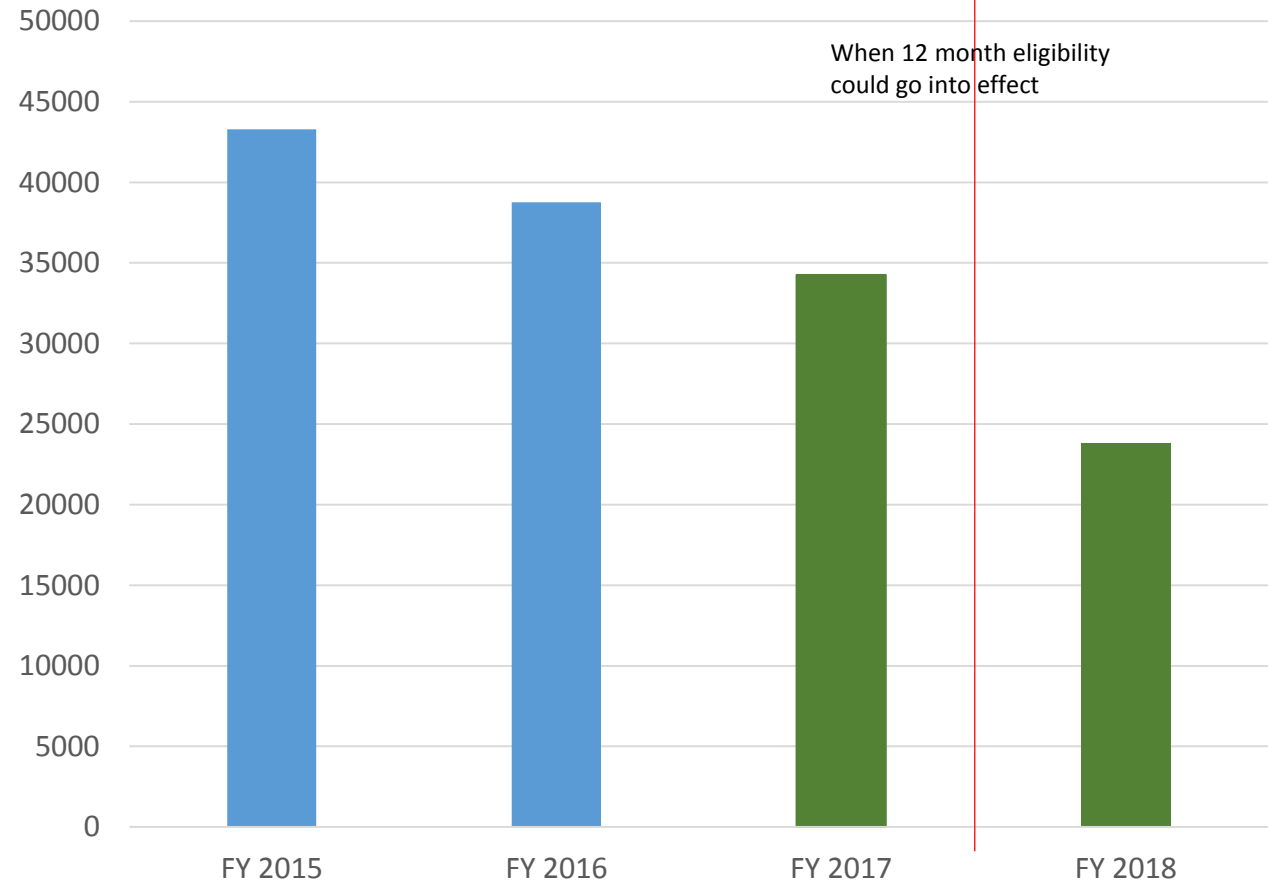
There are 40 communities where fewer than 20 children under age 5 receive subsidy in a year

- Little participation in some communities demonstrates that many communities might not have access to providers accepting subsidy or access to benefit.
- How to get more providers in the subsidy system? How to build supply of child care?
- What else is going on in these communities?

Most dramatic change to access is 12 month continuous eligibility and gradual phase out of eligibility

- Currently families only receive subsidy for about 6-8 months before eligibility ends (due to changes in income, work schedule, care availability, etc.)
- Continuous care is better for children to have continuity and to enable parents to keep care if job changes.
- Continuous care makes it easier to improve the quality of care for providers.
- Virginia is 1 of 3 states that currently does not allow a parent to keep care if they lose their job.
- Virginia has received a waiver from implementing these provisions for one year (2016-2017).

Number of Children Receiving Subsidy When 12-month Eligibility Goes into Effect (FY17 & 18 projected)



MAJOR CHANGES IN CCDF FEDERAL RULE AND PROGRESS IN VIRGINIA

Background Checks

- Requires fingerprint background checks for all providers operating in the state- NEEDS LEGISLATION WITH EFFECTIVE DATE BY SEPT 2017

Annual Inspections

- Annual monitoring visit for any facility receiving CCDF funds- PASSED LEGISLATION IN 2015; IN PLACE IN VENDOR AGREEMENT

Health & Safety Training

- Pre-service orientation for staff of any provider receiving CCDF funds on 10 topics related to health & safety including first aid, CPR, safe sleep and prevention of child abuse. IN PLACE IN VENDOR AGREEMENT; PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE IN REGULATION
- Maintains and updates health and safety training on on-going basis.
- Add child development basics to requirement for pre-service training.

On-going Professional Development

- Asks Lead Agency to define professional development pathways in state plan in conjunction with SAC. TBD BY VDSS & SRC
- Set minimum on-going training requirement; should be credit bearing coursework to the extent practicable and linked to progression of professional development. PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE IN REGULATION

Continuity in Eligibility

- Redetermination of eligibility can happen no sooner than 12 months and eligibility continues during temporary changes in parental employment. WAIVER OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR 1 YEAR- *Implemented through regulation*
- Gradual phase out in eligibility for families earning above state income eligibility but below 85% of SMI. During phase out states may gradually increase co-payment. WAIVER of IMPLEMENTATION FOR 1 Year- *Implemented through regulation*

Given the opportunity to make changes- how do we approach this moment?

Unifying Goals:

- All children in VA deserve safe care.
- The workforce is the essential element of quality care.
- Low-income children participating in subsidy have much to benefit from access to the highest quality care.
- The care that children participating in subsidy receive should not be subpar, limited in choice, or in a parallel system.
- We should marry the goals of quality improvement and CCDBG compliance.

Calendar	State Action	Local Action	Child Care Regulatory Action
December	Governor proposes FY18 state budget		?
January	General Assembly Session begins		
February	General Assembly session ends	City/County budgets proposed	?
March			
April		City/County budget hearings	
May			?
June			
July	FY18 begins; budget decisions become real		

February (not December):
 Regs introduced to board and details available to us

Then:
 Review by Office of Attorney General
 Review by Dept. of Budget & Planning (45 Days)
 Review by Cabinet Secretary (14 Days)
 Review by Governor (no deadline)

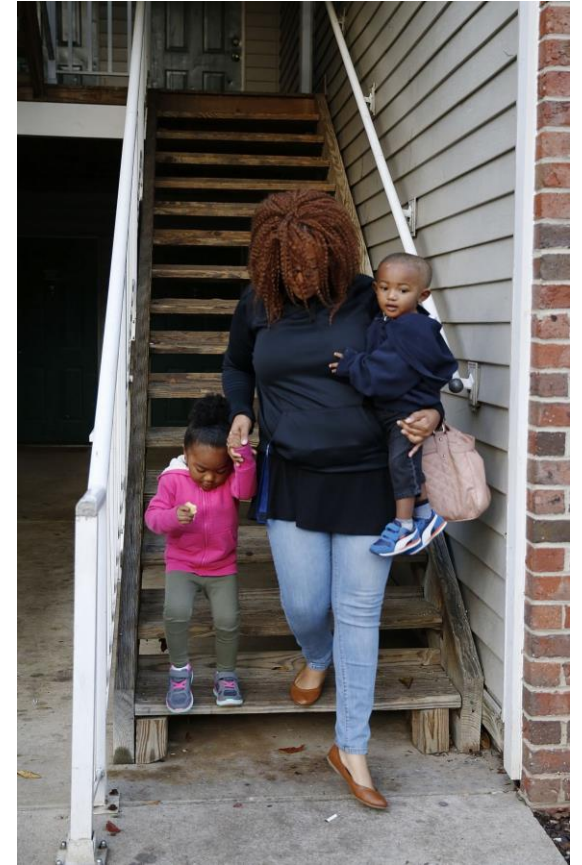
Then:
 Open for 60 Day Comment Period on Town Hall

Goal: get approval for compliance by October

Policy makers need the stories

- Real stories of families:
 - On the waiting list to receive subsidy or recently lost their subsidy
 - Affording a high quality program
 - Impacted by time limits
 - Unable to find a provider to meet their needs
 - Success stories too – what it means to have reliable child care
- Real stories of child care programs:
 - Doing their best to meet needs of families
 - Striving for quality with insufficient funds
 - Success stories – healthy, child development in your care
- Submit them on Voices' website: www.vakids.org
- Example from Fredericksburg- Brittany Gilbert

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/education/the-cost-of-care-for-workforce-development-child-care-counts/article_ba14eee2-db45-584d-9dc9-eaca34684dcd.html



Voices

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Are we up to the challenge and opportunity?!

What do we still need to know?

Save the Date:
Voices 2017 General Assembly Legislative Priorities Call
Tuesday, December 20th 10:00 AM
Online Meeting Link: <https://join.startmeeting.com/emily536>

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