Opportunity
GAP'S
in Early Care and Education
Over the past 5 years, Virginia has seen an disappointing trend in Early Care and Education - families’ needs are increasing while funding and service levels are staying the same.
For a complete Early Care and Education system, Virginia will need to close the gaps in the number of young children accessing these early learning opportunities:

- Home visitation
- High quality, affordable child care
- Preschool
Children under 6 represent over 600,000 future members of Virginia’s workforce.

200,000 are disadvantaged, below 200% poverty.
Gap in Home Visiting Services: Funding Decreases While Need Increases

Number of families served each year is decreasing while number of families targeted for services increases.

State funding down by ~ $2.5 mil
Gap in Preschool Opportunities for At Risk 4 Year Olds

43,780 at-risk 4 year olds do not have access to public preschool. 45% of at-risk 4 year olds (living in families below 185% poverty) do not have access to public preschool.

- 4 year olds enrolled in Head Start: 5,000
- 4 year olds enrolled in VPI: 15,000
- No public preschool: 23,780
Gap in Funded VPI Opportunities vs. Utilized VPI Opportunities

Number of Slots in Allocated in State Formula

Number of VPI Slots Offered

6,825 VPI slots not utilized

Status quo VPI opportunities

Gaps in Early Care & Education – Voices for Virginia’s Children - 2012
Gap Child Care Assistance: Need of Low-income Working Families Increases

Although the need for child care assistance has steadily increased, the number of children served has stayed relatively the same.
Provider Reimbursement Rate Misses Mark

Gap in Child Care Assistance:

Providers serving children receiving child care assistance were reimbursed about two thirds of the market rate.

*Each locality has a slightly different reimbursement rate, in this example we used Henrico Co. which is close to the median reimbursement rate.
About 1 out 3 Children Under 6 is At-Risk, and Only 1 Out 3 of Those Children Have Access to Early Care & Education Opportunities

- 10,000 children under 6
- 26,000 with access to child care assistance
- 22,000 with access to VPI
- 16,000 enrolled in Head Start
- 5,200 with access to evidence based home visiting

200,000 at-risk children under 6
Virginia must close the opportunity gap that begins in early childhood.

Our future workforce depends on the preparation and skills being developed now in early care and education.