



## Federal Support for Early Learning in Virginia

### Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)

Description: Over \$7 million in annual funding to the state of Virginia for at-risk families with young children to have a home visitor that serves as health resource and parenting mentor.

Communities: Accomack, Bristol, Campbell, Danville, Emporia, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Greensville, Hampton, Lynchburg, Montgomery, Newport News, Norfolk, Northampton, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Radford, Richmond, Roanoke City, Southampton, Suffolk, Sussex, Warren, Williamsburg, and Winchester

### Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships and Early Head Start Expansion

Description: Over \$8.4 million in competitive grants awarded to communities to expand access to high quality preschool for low-income infants and toddlers. New funds were allocated to encourage partnerships between private providers and Head Start agencies to encourage mixed delivery of high quality child care.

Communities: Alexandria, Culpeper, Fairfax, Oakton, Orange, Roanoke, Verona, and West Point

### Preschool Expansion Grant

Description: The state of Virginia was awarded a competitive grant to expand access to high quality preschool for at-risk 4 year-olds. Virginia will use over \$17 million annually to expand access to preschool building on the existing Virginia Preschool Initiative program by piloting innovative approaches to improving quality and access.

Communities: Brunswick, Chesterfield, Fairfax, Giles, Henrico, Norfolk, Petersburg, Prince William, Richmond, Sussex, and Winchester

### Head Start

Over 15,000 low-income three and four year olds have the opportunity to attend preschool through Head Start each year. Children who attend Head Start are more likely to be prepared for kindergarten and success in school.

### Child Care and Development Block Grant

Over 23,000 economically disadvantaged families in Virginia can access financial assistance to afford child care through the Child Care and Development Fund. With the average cost of child care in Virginia higher than college tuition, many families need help to find affordable care so that they can work and contribute to the economy.

### Building Early Childhood Systems

To tie these initiatives together Virginia needs high-level leadership and infrastructure for collaboration across state agencies and federal programs. With high level leadership in place state leaders can make these individual programs more effective by monitoring progress, tracking outcomes and aligning efforts around common goals. Virginia did not receive Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge funds, thus the burden lies on state policy makers to develop and support this infrastructure. ***Congressional leaders should weigh in with state policy makers to support the development of high-level leadership for early learning that will help make federal investments more effective.***

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