



Summary of Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grantees in Cohorts 1 & 2

Cohort 1: FY 2017 and 2018

1.) City of Charlottesville & Albemarle County - Grantee: United Way - Thomas Jefferson Area

Grantee was awarded **\$250,000** to provide preschool services to **30 at-risk 4-year-olds** in the first year and **40 at-risk 4-year olds** in the second year in private child care centers. This pilot has been designed by a collaboration across both jurisdictions including the school divisions, human services agencies, and numerous private organizations and philanthropy to address concerns that VPI programs in both jurisdictions are at capacity, yet many at-risk 4-year olds remain unserved.

Mixed Delivery funds will purchase slots for 10 children (FY17) and 13 children (FY18) as well as coaching, professional development, and family engagement supports for all pilot classrooms; other revenue including VPI and philanthropic contributions will provide for the costs of the remaining preschoolers served in this pilot. Lead teachers in center classrooms will meet or exceed child care regulations set forth in 22VAC40-185-210 for program leaders, but not hold a bachelor degree with teacher license. The relevant child care centers participate in Virginia Quality or national accreditation, and will receive intensive on-site coaching services and professional development.

A strong family engagement component will support the participation of these families in neighborhoods of highest poverty. Innovations to be tested include decision-making by a collaboration across two school divisions, human service agencies, and philanthropy; and leveraging diverse revenue streams to create sustainable classroom cost models.

Waiver for qualifications of lead teachers was requested and granted.

2.) Harrisonburg - Grantee: James Madison University

Grantee was awarded **\$242,082** to serve up to **40 at-risk 4-year-olds** in child care centers. This pilot has been designed by a collaboration including Harrisonburg Public Schools, James Madison University, and numerous public and private community organizations to address concerns that many at-risk preschoolers, particularly those in families speaking languages other than English, are unserved by VPI because of lack of classroom space in schools.

In this pilot, VPI funds will be used to purchase slots; Mixed Delivery funds will be utilized not to pay for teacher salaries but to implement quality improvement activities for the centers and professional development for participating teachers. Lead teachers at the participating centers will meet or exceed requirements outlined in VA22C40-183-210 for program leaders, but will not hold a baccalaureate degree or teacher license.

Pilot funds will support purchase of curriculum used in HCPS along with training for participating centers, onsite coaching and professional development for center teachers through a pilot coordinator from JMU. Participating teachers will have access to a network of advisors supporting a teacher education pathway from coursework at Lord Fairfax Community College to James Madison University.

Innovations include partnership between higher education and public school division for delivery of high-quality preschool services; and creation of a “Center Director Roundtable,” a peer learning community for early childhood administrators hosted by JMU.

Waiver for qualifications of lead teachers was requested and granted.

3.) Roanoke City - Grantee: United Way Roanoke Valley

Grantee was awarded **\$250,000** to serve **36 at-risk 3- and 4-year olds** each year in classrooms at a private center which is located in proximity to two low-income housing developments with many families without access to high quality preschool. This pilot has been designed by a collaboration (including the school division, human services agencies, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, numerous private organizations and philanthropy) to address concerns that while all VPI slots are utilized, there remain many unserved VPI-eligible children.

Mixed Delivery funds will contribute to the salary of one teacher (among 4 teachers in private classrooms impacted by the grant), along with other revenues including philanthropic contributions. This lead teacher holds an Associate Degree in Early Childhood.

The center participates in Virginia Quality and will be supported through grant activities with intensive coaching, professional development alongside RCPS teachers, utilization of the evidence-based curriculum used in RCPS classrooms and an evidence-based tool to engage parents; and rigorous assessment strategies.

Partnership with a neighborhood-based private child care center will provide new access to preschool services for three- and four- year olds living in low-income housing communities, aligning with Roanoke City Public Schools for teacher training and consistent curriculum. Innovations include data sharing agreements across school division, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, and community agencies enabling longitudinal tracking of student progress into elementary school.

Waiver for qualifications of lead teachers was requested and granted.

4.) Spotsylvania & Stafford Counties - Grantee: Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area

Grantee was awarded **\$248,830** to serve **18 at-risk 4-year-olds** each year of the grant in 2 private for-profit centers (one in each county). This pilot has been designed by a collaboration among private partners to address concerns that working low-income parents do not have access to high quality preschool services; both school divisions utilize fewer than half their available VPI slots due to lack of school classroom space and local match.

No VPI funds will be used in this pilot. Mixed Delivery funds will purchase slots for 18 at-risk children to be served in these centers (9 children per center), creating classrooms serving children from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.

Both teachers exceed the requirements of VA22C40-183-210 for program leaders. The teacher at one center is bilingual and holds a BA in education, but not a teacher license. The teacher at the other center is an experienced Montessori-trained teacher with a CDA in education; the Educational Specialist at this center is bilingual and holds a Masters degree in Education.

Both centers participate in Virginia Quality; one is NAEYC accredited and the other is in an applicant for accreditation; grant activities will include professional development which supports a unique micro-credentialing initiative for early childhood practitioners through the University of Virginia, along with consistent onsite assessment and coaching.

Innovations include the piloting of a micro-credentialing program designed by UVA that focuses on specific skills for teachers in classrooms of children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Waiver for qualifications of lead teachers was requested and granted.

5.) Wythe County - Grantee: Wythe County Public Schools

Grantee was awarded **\$234,500** to enable **18-20 unserved at-risk 4-year-olds** each year to be placed in child care settings, and a consortium effort will support the quality enhancement of all classrooms in existing school programs and private care centers. Leveraging a partnership with a private foundation, a coordinated system of professional development and quality enhancement will elevate a culture of quality for all preschool providers in the county, both private and school-based.

A common evidence-based curriculum will be implemented in all partnering classrooms, as well as professional development and training on topics including addressing challenging behaviors. A certified teacher and aide will be placed in the Wytheville Child Development Center to serve students who have been on the wait list for the elementary school.

In year 1, salaries will be paid by the Wythe Bland Foundation; in year 2, salaries will be paid by WCPS. Intensive support and training, including a certified teacher mentor, will be provided for the child care centers serving eligible students.

Innovations include a community-wide commitment to consistent curriculum, teacher development, and a focus on quality improvement; and partnership between public school division and philanthropy.

Cohort 2: FY 2018 and 2019

1.) Chesterfield County - Grantee: Smart Beginnings of Greater Richmond (SBGR)

SBGR was awarded **\$314,022** to serve **32 4-year-olds** over two years in parts of Chesterfield County where the neighborhood elementary schools do not have VPI classrooms. There are pockets of poverty and families whose children are at risk in these neighborhoods, but no access to VPI. Chesterfield County Public Schools, a key partner of this project, currently uses 112 of the 935 VPI slots allotted to them.

Barriers to full use of VPI include inability to secure local VPI match, lack of space in some school buildings and lack of high-quality early childhood programs in those neighborhoods. Besides the school division, key partners in the project include: the local Department of Social Services, Virginia Child Care Aware, ChildSavers (the regional Virginia Quality provider) and three private child care providers.

The applicant team proposes to draw down an additional 16 VPI slots each year of the two-year Mixed Delivery project and place those slots in community early childhood programs that have demonstrated that they provide high-quality preschool services by achieving a level three or higher through Virginia Quality. The applicant team has assembled a cadre of CLASS-trained coaches who will provide enhanced professional development to participating programs. Lead teachers in mixed-delivery classrooms will become mentor teachers for the entire site where they work. Supplemental funds were added to enable the grantee to additionally pilot a quality improvement incentive for participating centers. SBGR will build upon their current data project which will use early-childhood and elementary-school level data to inform quality improvements.

In order to make this project possible, SBGR and team will request two waivers of current regulations: one of Virginia Department of Social Services child care subsidy regulations to increase income eligibility from 160% to 200% of Federal poverty levels, in line with VPI requirements; the other of Virginia Department of Education to waive the required local match for VPI.

2.) Craig County - Grantee: Total Action for Progress (TAP)

Grantee was awarded **\$250,000** to serve **24 4-year-olds** over two years at Craig County Child Care Center (CCCCC), the only licensed child care center in rural Craig County. Craig County is currently allotted no VPI slots. And, while TAP's Head Start program provides home visiting to preschoolers and collaborates with CCCCC to provide Early Head Start to infants and toddlers, they do not currently provide classroom-based Head Start services to preschoolers in Craig County.

Barriers the community experiences to being able to provide high-quality preschool to all at-risk children include the lack of consistently high-quality settings and coordination of early childhood services. Key partners in the project include Craig County Public Schools, CCCCC, Smart Beginning Greater Roanoke, the local Department of Social Services, Child Health Investment Partnership (CHIP), and Virginia Western Community College. CCCCC proposes to open two new preschool classrooms at the center, which, when paired with current Early Head Start classrooms, will give parents a continuum of quality care and education from birth through kindergarten entry. Preschool services

will be paid for by a combination of parent tuition, privately funded scholarships, child care subsidy, Head Start, and mixed-delivery funds.

TAP proposes significant quality improvements to the center, which include establishing high-quality environments and individualized professional development for each teacher and assistant, based on Head Start and Virginia Quality standards.

Teaching staff whose professional development participation leads to new credentials or degrees will receive small raises through this project. Families of enrolled children will work with a family advocate who will help them set and reach goals related to parenting, their children's school readiness and economic self-sufficiency.

TAP will build upon the larger community's current data project which uses early-childhood and elementary-school level data to inform quality improvements.

3.) Fairfax County - Grantee: Fairfax County Office for Children (OFC)

OFC was awarded **\$250,000** to serve **20 4-year-olds** each year in high-quality family child care programs in communities in Fairfax County with concentrated poverty. Fairfax County currently uses 70% of available VPI slots, leaving 676 slots unclaimed; 197 VPI-eligible four-year-olds are being served in family child care programs in the county.

Barriers to full use of VPI include the needs of working families to have full work-day and summer care and the capacity of the county to serve VPI-eligible children in family child care, but not being permitted to do so.

Key partners include: Child Care Assistance and Referral, Fairfax Futures (which invests in early childhood education), Head Start, Institute for Early Learning (professional development) and family child care providers who already serve VPI-eligible children.

During year one, OFC proposes to provide mentoring and workshops to support high-quality preschool services in a cohort of family child care programs, including creating engaging learning environments, promoting appropriate adult-child interactions, and providing family engagement opportunities for 20 children and their families.

Also during year one, OFC will identify a second cohort of family child care providers who are serving children who will qualify and be age-eligible for VPI during year two. This cohort will participate in professional development opportunities alongside the year one cohort.

Participating family child care providers will have a Child Development Associate credential or an Associate or Bachelor's degree. Enrolled children will qualify for both VPI and child care subsidy. OFC will braid grant funds with child care subsidy funding to provide full working-day care.

By the end of the Mixed Delivery period, OFC will request a waiver of VPI regulations to serve children in family child care programs with VPI funds.

4.) Fauquier County - Grantee: Fauquier County Public Schools (FCPS)

FCPS was awarded **\$250,000** to serve **15 4-year-olds** in a preschool program in high-needs southern Fauquier County which does not have space in its elementary school for VPI classrooms. All 50 of the VPI slots allotted to the county were used in 2016-17.

FCPS will use grant funds and privately funded scholarships to help pay for the 15 preschool slots. They will also develop a sliding-fee scale for families to contribute to the cost of high-quality preschool.

Barriers to provision of VPI-quality services to all at-risk four-year-olds in the county include lack of space in some elementary schools, the needs of working families to have full work-day and summer care, and ability to recruit families whose children would qualify for VPI in an area of the county that doesn't offer it.

Key partners include: Community Touch's Victory Transitional Housing Program and its Caring for Angels child care program, Virginia Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), Smart Beginnings Rappahannock Area, local Department of Social Services, local foundations and businesses, and community preschool and child care providers.

FCPS will use grant funding to hire and pay for a FCPS teacher and assistant and purchase curriculum for the classroom at Caring for Angels. FCPS will also hire a part-time certified teacher to coordinate the program and support teaching staff.

In order to increase the quality of child care and preschool providers outside of Caring for Angels, FCPS proposes to provide professional development modules to early educators across the county.

Faith-based providers in the community will participate in the professional development modules open to the whole community. Some faith-based providers plan to offer scholarships to income-eligible children, but faith-based organizations will not receive any public funds for preschool services through this project.

FCPS will also transform a school bus into a family engagement bus that will travel around the county to promote the importance of early childhood education and literacy and recruit children for the Mixed Delivery project.

5.) Southwest VA (Carroll, Russell and Tazewell Counties & City of Bristol) - Grantee: United Way of Southwest Virginia

United Way of Southwest Virginia (UWSWVA) was awarded **\$216,706** to significantly improve the quality of eight private child care and preschool providers who collectively serve **87 VPI-eligible 4-year-olds** in four rural jurisdictions in southwest Virginia.

The school divisions which serve these jurisdictions are all using 100% of their allocated VPI slots. VPI and Head Start programs serving these areas report significant waiting lists for their programs.

Barriers the community experiences to being able to provide high-quality preschool to all at-risk

children include the lack of consistently high-quality settings, professional development opportunities, funding for professional development and pathways to credentials, and inadequate access to health and dental care.

Key partners in the project include school divisions in all four participating jurisdictions and Wythe County Public Schools, Smart Beginnings Southwest Virginia, Rooftop of Virginia and Clinch Valley community action agencies, local Workforce Investment Boards, Lion's Club, local health districts and departments of social services, and the eight participating preschool and child care providers.

UWSWVA will address the communities' barriers by coordinating with Virginia Quality to provide high-quality professional development, including related to the Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning, and incentives to teachers to participate. This will include at least 20 hours of training for lead teachers and support staff as well as help with improving the quality of their curricula.

Teachers will receive stipends for participating in these professional development opportunities. UWSWVA will also increase access to comprehensive services for children through partnering with the Lions Club, Anthem, and other community partners to provide vision, hearing, dental, developmental, and other screenings and providing referrals, glasses, and hearing aids when necessary. They will work together to communicate screening results and the importance of good health in early childhood to parents.