



Virginia Department of Social Services

people helping people

**Child Care /
Birth to Four in
Virginia**

Presentation to the Joint
Subcommittee on VPI

October 7, 2015

TODAY WE WILL TALK ABOUT...

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- Child Care Landscape
- Child Care Subsidy
- Improving Quality
- Professional Development
- Child Care & Development Block Grant Act of 2014
- Home Visiting



- Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)
 - Child care licensing
 - Child care subsidy
 - Quality improvement
 - Professional development for the child care workforce
 - Head Start State Collaboration Office



Young Children in Virginia	
Children birth – 4 years	511,268
Children birth – 4 years in poverty	89,900
Children age 5 - 11	729,388
Families in poverty	130,497
Children, 2-parent families, both parents in labor force	238,515
Children, single parent families, parent in labor force	155,464
Children under age 6 potentially needing child care	393,979

Source: Child Care in the State of Virginia, Child Care Aware of America, May 2015



EARLY CARE LANDSCAPE

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Child Care Providers in Virginia	Number	Capacity
Licensed Child Day Center	2,463	248,070
Licensed Child Day Center – short term camp	79	9,203
Religious Exempt Child Day Center	998	80,803
Certified Pre-School	7	655
Licensed Family Day Home	1,246	12,829
Voluntarily Registered Family Day Home	884	4,420
Licensed Family Day System	1	475
Subtotal in Licensing System	5,668	356,455
Other Subsidy Providers	1,247	Not Known
Total	6,915	

Source: VDSS Divisions of Licensing Programs and Child Care and Early Childhood Development



- **Head Start/Early Head Start**

- Not typically regarded as “child care,” but another important option for low-income parents
- Promotes school readiness of young children from low-income families through agencies in the local community
- In addition to education services, programs provide children and their families with health, nutrition, social and other services
- No charge to family to participate
- 52 programs in Virginia serve about 16,600 children



- Head Start Eligibility
 - Early Head Start: Pregnant women and children birth through 36 months
 - Head Start: 3 – 5 years old through Kindergarten entry
 - Income at or below Federal Poverty Level
 - Categorical eligibility: Eligible for public assistance, Homeless, Foster Care
- Apply at local program site



- **Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)**
 - Another option for 4-year olds, offered by the Department of Education
 - State- and locally-funded preschool program for children from low-income families
 - No charge to family to participate
 - Eligibility
 - 4 years old before September 30
 - Family meets eligibility guidelines
 - Over 18,000 children in 118 school districts are expected to be served in 2015-16



- Provides low-income families with financial assistance for child care
- Eligibility
 - Families must demonstrate need for child care to support employment, to support approved education/training, or receive Child Protective Services
 - Child under 13 years of age, Under 18 if physically or mentally incapable of caring for self
 - Income below 150 – 250% of Federal Poverty Level, depending upon locality
 - Child must be U.S. citizen or qualified alien
- Families apply through local department of social services or on-line through CommonHelp



- Participation in FY 2015
 - 43,160 children
 - Infants (0 – 15 months) 2,924
 - Toddlers (16 – 23 months) 3,132
 - Preschool (24 – 60 months) 20,226
 - School Age (over 60 months) 16,878
 - 23,344 families
 - About 4,000 providers
- Average subsidy payment/child – About \$460/month
- Some families have a copayment of 5 – 10% of monthly income
- 14,888 children on waiting list (10/1/15)



- Virginia Quality

- Voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System

- Define, measure and improve the level of quality in child care and preschool programs
- Jointly administered by VDSS and VECF

- Goals

- Help families identify high quality child care & preschool options
- Assist child care and preschool programs in providing high quality early care & education
- Recognize high quality programs for the services they provide

- Standards

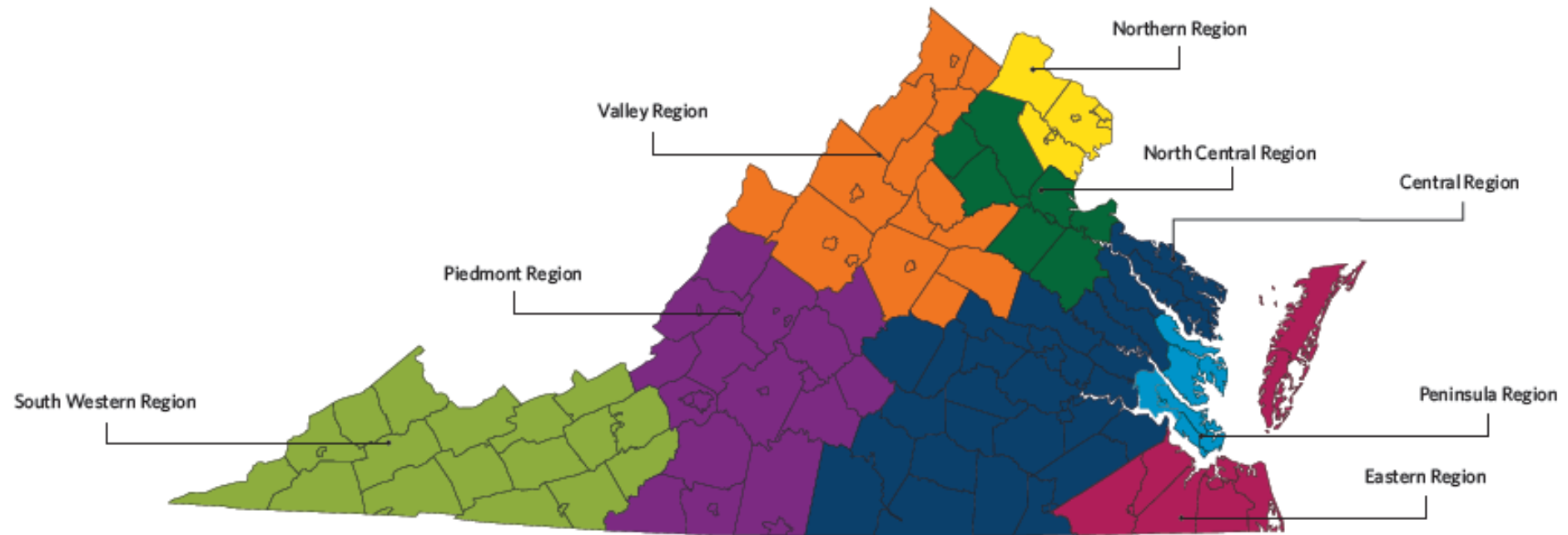
- Basic Health & Safety (Compliance with regulating authority)
- Education & Qualifications
- Curriculum & Assessments
- Environment & Interactions

- 558 Participating programs

- Center-based 465
- Family day homes 93



Virginia Quality – Implemented through 8 regions



- **Infant & Toddler Specialist Network**
 - Provides services to improve the education and skills of providers caring for infants and toddlers.
 - Statewide services, implemented by 8 regional offices
 - On-site consultation, mentoring, and support for programs using quality improvement plans
 - Training & technical assistance
 - Resources and linkages to professional development
- **Project SEED Virginia** (Social Emotional Education & Development)
 - Early childhood mental health focused training and coaching for providers caring for infants and toddlers.
 - Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) training
 - Ages and Stages Questionnaire training & coaching
 - Endorsement through VAIMH (Virginia Association of Infant Mental Health)
- **Low Interest Loan Program** - Assists child care providers in meeting health and safety standards and implementing quality enhancements



- Child care training requirements vary
 - Licensed centers – 16 annual hours
 - Licensed family day homes – 16 annual hours
 - Subsidy providers – 4 annual hours skills training, CPR, First Aid
 - Religious exempt centers – 0 annual hours
 - Voluntarily Registered FDH – 0 annual hours



Child Care Professional Development

Quality

- Virginia Quality
- Infant and Toddler Specialist Network
- Early Childhood Mental Health Virginia

Professional Development

- Child Care Provider Scholarship Program
- Self-Paced Learning
- Endorsements
- Director's Toolbox
- Family Child Care Provider Tool Kit
- Other

Child Care Professional
Development Registry

Career
Pathways

Training/Trainer
Approval System



- Child care training content is evidence-based and aligned with the following standards:
 - *Milestones of Early Childhood Development*
 - *Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals*
 - Trainer Qualifications
 - Technical Assistance Provider Qualifications
 - National CDA Credential
 - Community College EC Coursework



- In addition to quality offerings, professional development includes
 - 54 online courses through CCWA
 - Other self-paced, distance learning opportunities
 - Endorsements in 5 areas that can be combined for Child Development Associate
 - Provider Scholarship Program – 1,670 scholarships used in FY 2014



- Professional Development Registry
 - Voluntary for child care providers, trainers, mentors, coaches
 - Tracks documented formal and informal education
 - Provides Professional Development Certificate with Career Pathways Level indicated
 - All PD housed in one secure, online location
 - Will link to qualified trainers/trainings



- New federal Child Care and Development Block Grant Act signed into law in November 2014
- Law reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program for the first time in 18 years; In effect through 2020
- CCDF is the primary Federal funding source devoted to:
 - Providing low-income families that are working or participating in education and training with help paying for child care, and
 - Improving the quality of child care for all children
- Makes many changes and increases emphasis on health, safety and quality



Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies

- Establishes a **12-month eligibility re-determination period** for CCDF families with graduated phase-out
- Allows States the option to **terminate assistance** prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment, however assistance must be continued for at least 3 months to allow for **job search**



Provider Requirements

- States to establish **health and safety requirements** in 10 areas for providers participating in CCDF (e.g., building & physical premises safety, emergency preparedness planning, handling & storage of hazardous materials)
- Requires States to conduct **inspections** of licensed and license-exempt CCDF providers
- Providers must receive pre-service and ongoing **training** on these topics
- States to conduct **FBI fingerprint criminal background checks** for all child care staff
- Requires **emergency preparedness** planning and statewide disaster plans for child care



Consumer and Provider Education

- States must have a **website** describing processes for licensing/monitoring child care providers, processes for criminal background checks, offenses that prevent individuals from being providers, and inspection results
- A **hotline** for parents to report complaints must also be available



Improving the Quality of Care

- Phases-in increase in minimum **quality set-aside** from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period. In addition, requires States to spend minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for **infants and toddlers**
- Requires States to spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified **quality activities**, which include tiered quality rating systems and supporting statewide resource and referral services
- Requires establishment of **professional development** and training requirements with ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers



Other Areas

- **Social-emotional health:** Includes provisions on **social-emotional health** of children, including providing consumer and provider education about policies regarding expulsions of children from early care and education programs and developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays
- **Supply-building:** States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants/contracts



- A strategy for strengthening family functioning, improving maternal and child health, and promoting child development and school readiness
- Programs are well defined, based on best practice, and designed to improve early childhood outcomes
- May differ in:
 - target population (prenatal through child age 5 years)
 - the curriculum/activities used in the home setting
- Voluntary service delivery occurs in the family's home, reaching families in a comfortable and predictable environment



- The Home Visiting Consortium serves as an umbrella organization to coordinate home visiting services available through state and private agencies
- There are 7 home visiting programs in Virginia
 - CHIP of Virginia
 - Early Head Start
 - Healthy Families America
 - Healthy Start/Loving Steps
 - Nurse-Family Partnership
 - Parents As Teachers
 - Resource Mothers
- State funding for FY 2016 - \$7.3 million



Benefits of Home Visiting

- Improves Family Health and Well-Being
 - Better birth outcomes
 - More efficient use of health care
 - Enhanced parent-child relationships
 - Prevention of child abuse and neglect
- Improves School Readiness and Success
 - Early detection of developmental delays
 - Better school performance
 - Fewer behavior problems
 - Reduced grade retention
- Improves Family functioning
 - Increased high school or GED completion
 - Greater rates of employment
- Reduces Costs
 - Returns of more than \$41,000 per family served



- 9,066 families served in 110 communities – FY 2014
- Examples of CHIP of Virginia outcomes:
 - 44% fewer in-patient days compared to control
 - Half as many NICU days compared to control
 - 95.8% of children with primary care provider after 1 year of service (88.6%)
 - 50% increase in number of families with one or both parents employed after 1 year of service
- Virginia Home Visiting Consortium,
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