



VECF 2018-2020 Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grant Program Opportunity

Participation in high quality preschool programs can effectively support the school readiness of at-risk children. Yet for several reasons, the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) has not enrolled or served all children who are eligible based on family income and other risk factors. Barriers to the success of full, effective deployment of VPI are structural and include financial challenges and limited partnerships between public and private preschool and child care programs.

In order to overcome these barriers and explore the benefits from community-driven, public/private preschool system strategies, VECF is awarding, through a competitive RFP process, mixed-delivery public/private grants over a term of 2018-20. In each of the last two years, VECF awarded five community grants for two-year terms each. This year, VECF will again encourage Virginia communities to design robust public/private mixed-delivery preschool programs and submit proposals for consideration through a competitive process. Successful grant recipients will implement replicable field tests of innovative strategies and evidence-based practices that support a robust mixed-delivery system of preschool services.

Number and Range of Intended Grant Awards:

VECF anticipates awarding up to six grants for approximately \$250,000 each for an approximately 2 to 2 ½ year project period. Each project will include both planning and implementation periods.

Potentially eligible applicants:

Applying entities and fiscal agents must have proven experience and capacity to administer grants of this nature and represent coalitions of community partners committed to the success of the pilots. It is anticipated that potential applicants may represent school divisions, local governments, human service agencies, for-profit or non-profit child care providers, United Way agencies, Smart Beginnings initiatives, faith-based organizations, chambers of commerce, and/or community-based organizations or associations. Entities who have a current Mixed-Delivery Preschool Grant Program grant for 2017-2019 are not eligible to apply.

Priority will be given to communities who do not fully utilize their VPI allocation and/or can document unmet need for services for at-risk preschoolers and who propose innovative ideas for overcoming barriers. However, all communities who can develop projects that address the RFP components are encouraged to apply. Only one application per service area will be awarded, and regional distribution of the grants overall will be prioritized.

Background for the initiative:

Initial funding for this pilot was included in Governor McAuliffe's FY17-18 biennial budget and approved by the 2016 General Assembly. Continued funding for this initiative was provided in the FY19-20 biennial budget. Legislation creating the [Mixed Delivery Preschool Fund and Grant Program](#) which outlines details of the pilot, including the following priorities for pilots that:

1. Commit to pursuing models of local governance that promote successful mixed delivery of preschool services;
2. Compare classroom and child outcomes among teachers with different credentials and qualifications;
3. Utilize incentives to encourage participation; and
4. Utilize strategic assessment to discern student outcomes.



Recommended activities for interested applicants:

- Review materials related to developing a robust system for public/private preschool delivery on [VECF's website](#);
- Gather data that will help describe the need in your community;
- Follow VECF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SmartBeginnings) or Twitter (@SB_VECF) in order to receive the most up-to-date information about the grant program including application requirements, deadlines, and FAQs.

To receive information and details about the grant program, application requirements, and deadlines, please follow VECF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SmartBeginnings) or Twitter (@SB_VECF).

Visit [our website](#) for the most up-to-date information. For comments and questions, please send inquiries to mixeddelivery@vecf.org. Individual questions will not receive responses, but they will inform regularly updated FAQs.