

# **Preschool Development Grant B-5 in Virginia**

*Presentation to School Readiness  
Committee – April 22, 2019*

# Objective and Agenda

*The objective is to provide overview, status update and next steps for key activities of Virginia's Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5).*

- Overview of Virginia's Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG B-5)
- Statewide Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan
- Community Models Ready to Scale
- A Stronger Foundation at the State Level
- Next Steps
- Appendix

\*Health and Human Services (HHS) has indicated that no-cost extensions may be possible.

# Virginia's Preschool Development Grant – Birth to Five (PDG B-5)

*Virginia is using \$9.9 million in new federal funding to help unify and strengthen early childhood care and education system with communities leading the way.*

- Virginia received 70% of what it applied for but will complete all key activities, using existing state activities to meet required 30% match.
- There are three key activities:
  1. A statewide vision, needs assessment and strategic plan
  2. Community models ready to scale
  3. A stronger foundation at the state level
- Nearly \$6 million is going to 11 pilot communities, including almost \$4 million to provide direct financial grants to sites and teachers.
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) and University of Virginia (UVA) are key partners in addition to 11 communities.
- Funding must be expended in calendar year 2019\*.
- This is only one year grant but renewal grants may become available.

\*Health and Human Services (HHS) has indicated that no-cost extensions may be possible.

# Statewide Strategic Plan and Needs Assessment

# Statewide Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan

*By 2020, Virginia has a vision, needs assessment and strategic plan for strengthening the early childhood care and education (ECCE) system that will improve outcomes including kindergarten readiness.*

Timeline	Activity
Now – Summer	Produce statewide needs assessment and strategic plan that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establishes key terms, vision, goals and success measures;</li><li>• Completes an unduplicated count;</li><li>• Synthesizes and build on what exists;</li><li>• Includes multiple stakeholder sessions; and</li><li>• Integrate additional fiscal and data system capacity analysis</li></ul>
Summer – Fall	Create brand and secure broad buy-in for vision and plan via statewide marketing strategy
Fall – Winter	Create a dashboard to track implementation progress

# Dual Process

*A Virginia consulting firm, Communitas Consulting, is leading both the needs assessment and strategic planning processes.*

States must complete both needs assessment and strategic plans to maximize funding and apply for additional grants. Virginia will address the following overarching questions:

Needs Assessment	Strategic Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ To what extent are Virginia's publicly funded ECCE programs serving families in Virginia with children ages 0 to 5?</li><li>▪ What are the strengths and weaknesses of Virginia's infrastructure supporting publicly-funded ECCE programs?</li><li>▪ What data do policymakers, state agency executive leadership, early childhood program providers, and families need to make informed decisions about early childhood programs and infrastructure? To what extent is that data available in Virginia?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ What actions would enable Virginia's publicly funded ECCE programs to better prepare all Virginia's children, especially those from under-resourced communities, for kindergarten?</li><li>▪ What changes to ECCE infrastructure would better enable all of Virginia's children ages 0 to 5, especially those from under-resourced communities, to access to publicly-funded ECCE programs that help prepare children for kindergarten?</li><li>▪ What measures should be used demonstrate progress and foster accountability for above actions/changes?</li><li>▪ What can we learn from Virginia's mixed delivery pilots' experience regarding what works well and where there are barriers?</li></ul>

# Impact Workgroup

*The Impact Workgroup informs the research, planning, and evaluation process and prepares for the full retreat of the School Readiness Committee on June 7, 2019.*

As indicated in the grant application, the Workgroup includes a diverse mix of School Readiness Committee members, outside experts and other key stakeholders.

The workgroup is:

- Advising the research and planning teams;
- Engaging key constituencies and open doors as needed;
- Participating in developing a draft set of strategies;
- Reviewing preliminary findings and reports; and
- Reviewing suggested indicators for measuring success.

Workgroup has met on March 19, April 17 and will meet again on May 22. Workgroup members will also participate in June 7 retreat.

# Status Update

*Communitas Consulting has analyzed secondary data and is now focused on gathering and analyzing primary data.*

## COMPLETE

### Needs Assessment

- Data Scan (Demographics, Public ECCE Capacity)
- Review of Virginia Reports, 2014-2019
- Selection of Smart Beginnings Partners for Interviews and Focus Groups

### Strategic Plan

- Mixed Delivery Focus Group
- Environmental Scans
- Synopsis of Smart Beginnings Plans

## UNDERWAY

- Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups
- Research on Facilities and Financing
- Family Engagement Environmental Scan



# Role of School Readiness Committee

*As the designated State Advisory Council, the School Readiness Committee will play an important advisory role.*

Timeline	Activity
Now - Spring	Impact Workgroup will convene and engage with planning consultant on key data, analysis and findings
Spring – Summer	Participate in retreat on June 7 to provide input on findings, insights and future direction
Fall	Support the release of strategic plan and needs assessment
Fall – Winter	Adopt dashboard and use it to help Virginia track progress against key goals in future years

# Community Models Ready to Scale

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*By 2020, eleven pilot regions/communities, representing Virginia's diversity, will demonstrate proof of concept with extensive funding and support from state.*

Timeline	Activity
Now – Fall	Pilots convene publicly-funded family day home, child care, Head Start and PreK providers and analyze community need in terms of <b>access</b> (e.g., child/site counts) and <b>quality</b> (e.g., quality inventory)
Now – Fall	Pilots provide training, technical assistance, materials and ongoing support to improve classroom quality (e.g., curriculum, competencies and CLASS observations)
Late Spring	UVA will conduct leader and teacher survey
Fall	UVA will conduct family survey
Fall - Winter	Pilots develop plan for strengthening access, enrollment and transitions
Now – End of Grant	State will register and reward leaders and teachers for efforts to improve quality with grants (\$500 per site; \$1500 per educator) to strengthen quality, improve implementation and reduce turnover

# Key Action Areas for Pilots

*Virginia plans to use lessons learned from the PDG B-5 pilots to inform policymaking and practice at the state level.*

**Participating communities will be asked to:**

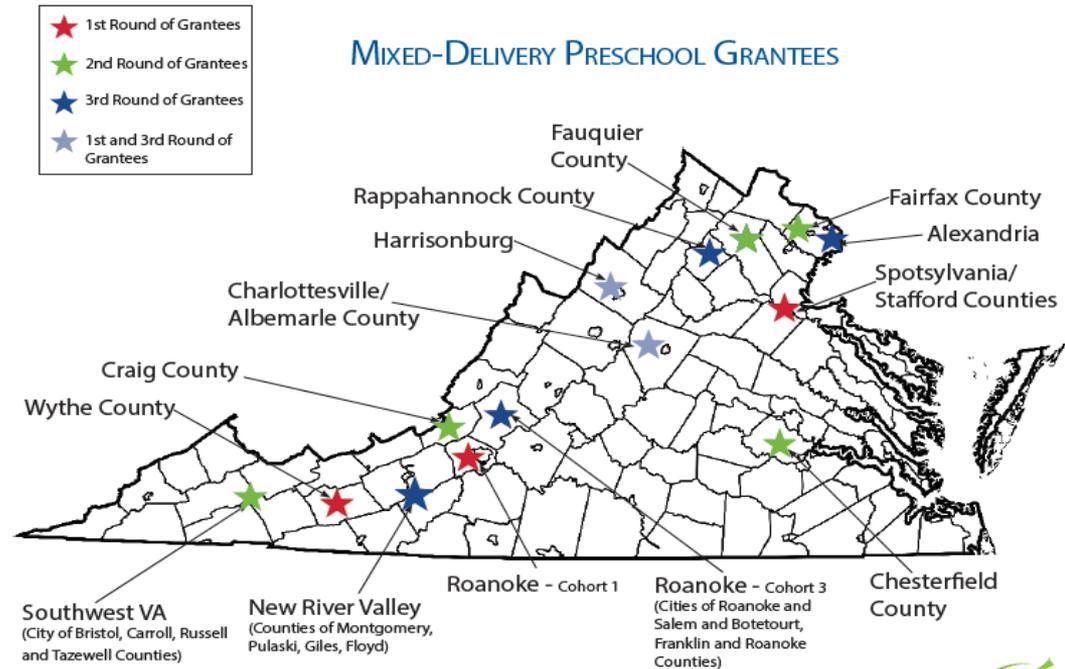
1. Build relationships with all publicly-funded partners, including schools, Head Start, and all registered subsidy providers;
2. Increase access; and
3. Strengthen quality.

Through these efforts, communities will not only strengthen their own systems but will establish models to be scaled to other communities. For more detail on activities, please see Appendix.

Note that communities are strongly encouraged to include other key partners including early intervention programs, home visiting programs, resource and referral, infant and toddler mental health and other professional development programs.

# Eleven Communities Leading the Way

*Eleven Virginia communities are participating, including nearly 600 sites and more than 2,300 teachers.*



# Highlights to Date

*All eligible communities opted in and have been working since February.*

## **Participating communities have already:**

- Conducted extensive outreach to engage family day home, child care, Head Start and school partners;
- Created roster of all publicly-funded ECCE sites with site, teacher and classroom estimates;
- Produced budget to ensure all classrooms can be observed and to complete all access and quality improvement activities; and
- Participated in extensive technical assistance and provided feedback that will inform statewide work going forward.



# A Stronger Foundation at the State Level

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*By 2020, Virginia will be positioned to scale the efforts of the pilots to other communities, having built the necessary capacity and infrastructure through the grant.*

Timeline	Activity
Now – Fall	Build a uniform data portal to capture important information about access and quality, enabling the state to create a “program profile” to engage and inform family choice
Spring – Fall	Build out and disseminate with UVA a suite of tools around kindergarten readiness which goes statewide in fall 2019
Fall – Winter	Develop community guide based on best practices and lessons learned from pilot communities that can be used to scale effort statewide
All Year	Design solution(s) to address early childhood data system needs and how systems can be connected to Virginia Longitudinal Data System

# “Proof of Concept” Data Portal

*Building a “proof of concept” data portal enables Virginia to determine what to build as well as how to support the ECCE field to use it.*

- The VDOE is working with UVA to build a new “proof of concept” data portal that leverages an existing data system (PALS).
- The portal will create a single place for unique counts of early care and education options in a community, classrooms within those sites, and educators within those classrooms.
- UVA will work with 11 pilot communities/regions to gather information from family day homes, child care centers, Head Start programs and schools at the classroom level.
- UVA will provide hands-on training and technical assistance to users, enabling the state to learn from as much from the onboarding process as from the data.

# Access and Quality Data Portal

*Capturing access and quality information from every classroom enables Virginia to measure and strengthen the early childhood system at all levels: classroom, community and state.*

Sample Access Elements	Sample Quality Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of Sites</li><li>• Number of Classrooms and Ages Served</li><li>• Kids served</li><li>• Available slots/seats</li><li>• Hours of operation</li><li>• Capacity</li><li>• Waitlist</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teacher education, credential and license</li><li>• Professional development and teacher supports</li><li>• Curriculum and assessment</li><li>• Ratio and group size</li><li>• Observational measure of teacher-child interactions and instruction (CLASS)</li></ul>

Note: This is only a subset of potential elements

# Next Steps

## Next Steps

*School Readiness Committee members are invited to participate in retreat on to June 7 as part of needs assessment and strategic planning process.*

- Session will be held on Friday June 7, from 10am - 3pm at Williams Mullen ([200 10th Street, Richmond VA](#)).
- Impact Workgroup participants will join retreat to share their insights and recommendations.
- Participants will receive materials in advance of session.
- Please let us know as soon as possible if you can participate.

# Appendix

# Community Pilots Timeline: February – August

	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Build Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain sign-off from all partners</li> <li>Design communication process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit spreadsheet of participating sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene kick-off meeting(s) (as needed)</li> <li>Ensure all teachers register for grant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support dissemination of teacher survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene quarterly meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help disseminate strategic plan and needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support training sessions on data system</li> <li>Data system goes live by 8/30</li> </ul>
Increase Access						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct enrollment self-assessment</li> </ul>	
Strengthen Quality		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess training and material needs of partners and complete PD budget/plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receive approval of plan/budget and begin training of leaders and teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete schedule for observing all classrooms using CLASS</li> <li>Begin local CLASS observations (OR wait until Sept)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First recognition payments go out</li> </ul>

# Community Pilots Timeline: September – April

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	January	Feb	March	April
Build Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene quarterly meeting</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support release of family survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene quarterly meeting</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convene quarterly meeting*</li> </ul>	
Increase Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct site, classroom and child count on September 30</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Validate and submit count to state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess unmet need</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete fiscal map, access and enrollment plan</li> </ul>				
Strengthen Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin third-party CLASS observations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct classroom quality inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second grant payments go out</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all classrooms have been observed 1x by 12/31</li> <li>Complete all grant-funded training activities*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete quality plan*</li> <li>Begin conducting spring CLASS observations*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third or lump sum grant payments go out</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure all classrooms have been observed 2x by 4/30*</li> </ul>