Why?

• All Virginia children are capable of and deserve to enter school ready. Yet more than 38,000 children entered Virginia kindergarten classrooms this fall not ready to fulfil their potential.

• According to the 2019 Virginia Kindergarten Readiness Program (VKRP), 44% of Virginia children started school without the key literacy, math, and social-emotional skills needed to be successful in school. Most concerning is that 55% of children from economically disadvantaged families and 66% of children with special needs did not enter school fully prepared for success.

• Virginia ranks 33rd nationally in preschool funding; as a result, 1 in 4 economically disadvantaged four-year-olds and 3 out of 4 economically disadvantaged three-year-olds lack access to quality preschool.

• 75% of Virginia’s early childhood programs that receive public funding do not participate in the state’s voluntary quality measurement system; vulnerable families as well as policymakers, practitioners and community leaders do not have uniform information on quality.

• Virginia ranks 37th nationally in early childhood governance and lacks a uniform oversight and regulatory framework, making it difficult for communities to strengthen their local systems.
Opportunities Ahead for Virginia Communities: PDG and MDG

• Participation in high quality early childhood programs can effectively support the school readiness of at-risk children. In order to help communities representing one or more localities increase the opportunities for young children and their families to benefit, VECF will offer opportunities for communities to apply to participate in PDG and/or Mixed Delivery Grants.

• Virginia has been awarded a 3-year federal grant for PDG B-5. The Mixed Delivery opportunity described here is pending current state legislative/budget decisions.

• Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due to VECF no later than March 20, 2020, 5:00 pm.
Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five (PDG)

• Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG), with a focus on building infrastructure: Through PDG, communities have the opportunity to build, expand, and sustain a birth-to-age 5 (B-5) system that supports school readiness for Virginia’s children served in publicly funded early childhood education and care (ECCE) classrooms.**

• These efforts will help build the foundation for a new uniform measurement and improvement system required for all publicly-funded programs currently proposed in legislation.

• VECF anticipates awarding approximately ten PDG grants for FY21. Of the approximately $11 million awarded to Virginia for PDG, up to $3 million will be used to support new communities’ capacity to coordinate activities. Approximately $5 million will be used to fund incentives for community-based teachers who participate.

**Publicly-funded ECCE classrooms include those in schools, Head Start programs, and publicly subsidized ECCE in family day homes, child care centers, and private preschools.
Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five (PDG)

• PDG funding will support new communities in convening community stakeholders and engaging them in assessing and improving access to and quality of all publicly funded ECCE for children B-5 by:
  – *building relationships*, including communicating with and coordinating PDG activities with all publicly funded ECCE partners;
  – *increasing access*, including by assessing current program enrollment practices, analyzing needs data, and beginning to implement coordinated enrollment activities;
  – *improving quality*, including through providing CLASS observations and related quality improvement support in all publicly funded classrooms; and
  – *engaging families* in communication and decision making.
Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG)

• PDG Communities will work closely with VECF, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the University of Virginia to complete activities and strengthen their local systems as indicated above.

• Note that all Virginia communities will ultimately be expected to build this infrastructure, so PDG enables ready communities to start this important work now. It should also be noted that PDG **cannot** be used to pay for slots.
Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five (PDG) –
TENTATIVE Process for Current Grantees

• To indicate their interest/agreement to continue into the FY21 “expand” year of PDG activities in their current PDG footprint, current PDG pilots (those with signed SOWS for activity through June 30, 2020) will not need to submit a formal LOI for PDG.

• Current grantees will be asked to complete a simple form (provided by VECF) by March 2 and due back to VECF by March 25 to indicate their intention to continue.

• Formal MOUs, similar to first year, will be provided by VECF and fully executed between the pilot lead agency and VECF by early May.
Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG) – TENTATIVE Process for Current Grantees

• To indicate their interest in expanding their footprint in FY21, or merging with other PDG pilot communities for PDG activities in FY21, current PDG pilots will not need to submit a formal LOI for PDG.

• Current grantees will be asked to complete a simple form (provided by VECF) by early May to indicate their intention to expand.

• Formal MOUs will be provided by VECF and fully executed among the pilot lead agency, specific representatives from the localities that will be added to the current PDG pilot footprint, and VECF by early May.
Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five (PDG) –
TENTATIVE Process for Current Grantees

• To indicate their interest in apply for Mixed Delivery grants, current PDG pilots will need to submit a formal LOI for MD and follow the process outlined in this webinar for interested communities to apply for the Opportunities Ahead initiatives.
Mixed Delivery Grants (MDG)

• With a focus on increasing the number of slots: Communities face structural barriers to providing sufficient access to high-quality ECCE experiences including financial and capacity challenges and limited partnerships between public and private organizations.

• The Governor’s proposed budget* includes funding that will support communities’ efforts to address these barriers and prepare more children for success in school.

• Initial funding will be for a one-year term; with satisfactory performance, the grants will be extended for one additional year.

* As a reminder, the MDG opportunity is pending current state legislative/ budget decisions.
Mixed Delivery Grants (MDG)

• Mixed Delivery Grants will support public/private systems of preschool delivery with a focus on expanding the number of at-risk 3- and/or 4-year-old children served in high-quality private/community-based ECCE by:
  – *building relationships* to ensure coordinated community decision-making and effective use of resources;
  – *increasing access* to high quality ECCE in private/community-based (non-school-based) settings for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds;
  – *improving quality*, including through providing CLASS observations and related quality improvement support in publicly funded classrooms; and
  – *engaging families* in communication and decision making

• Mixed Delivery Grants are intended to increase the capacity of communities to serve at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds who currently are unserved in a publicly-funded ECCE program (e.g., VPI; Head Start; or subsidized child care in centers, homes, or preschools).
Potentially eligible applicants:

- Applying entities and fiscal agents must have proven experience and capacity to administer grants of complex nature and represent coalitions of community partners committed to the success of the initiatives.
- It is anticipated that potential applicants may represent school divisions, local governments, human service agencies, United Way agencies, community action agencies, Smart Beginnings initiatives, chambers of commerce, and/or community-based organizations or associations.
- Current MDG and PDG grantees are eligible to apply for new Mixed Delivery Grants and/or to expand their current service area.
- Communities may elect to submit Letters of Intent to apply for either PDG or MDG or for both. However, communities should seriously consider whether they have the capacity to start and implement both initiatives simultaneously.
- Up to one 2020 MDG and up to one PDG grant will be funded for each community.
Letter of Intent (LOI)

• The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation invites letters of intent from communities that would like to be considered for Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five (PDG) or Mixed Delivery Grant (MDG) funding in 2020-2021.

• This letter of intent is required for communities interested in the opportunity to submit full applications for PDG or MDG. In developing responses to this LOI request, communities may choose to submit an LOI for PDG only, MDG only, or for both.

• A panel of reviewers will use information provided in the LOI to determine which communities will be invited to submit PDG and MDG applications. VECF will also use information provided in LOIs to plan for provision of technical assistance for communities as needed during the application process.
Letter of Intent (LOI), continued.

- Successful applicants for these funding opportunities will represent strong collaborations of organizations at the community level, and only one application per service area will be funded.
- VECF encourages interested communities to develop a coordinated vision for their community and work collaboratively to apply. Only one Letter of Intent (LOI) per service area will be considered.
- To submit an LOI through VECF’s online grants management system, those who have applied for or received funding from VECF before should use their established user name and password; applicants new to the VECF grant process will need to click the “Create new account” button. After you are logged in, click on “Apply” in red letters at the top of screen. If you have any questions about accessing the online LOI, please contact angela@vecf.org.
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for all Applicants

Project Name

LOI Contact Person:
Please identify the main contact for your Letter of Intent. This will be the person VECF will follow up with regarding these grant opportunities.

- First name
- Last name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Position title
- Organization name
- Organization street, city, state, and zip code
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for All Applicants

Key Decision Makers

• VECF expects that organizations and key decision makers from those organizations have been involved in making decisions about applying for funding under these opportunities.

• In the area below, please identify up to 8 key agencies/organizations and the name and job title of the key decision maker who is involved in making these decisions from each organization.
  – Agency/Organization
  – Key representative (name and title) from organization

There are spaces for communities to list up to eight key partners.
Our community would like to be considered for the opportunity:

• To apply for PDG only
• To apply for MDG only
• To apply for either PDG or MDG
• To apply for both PDG and MDG
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for Communities Interested in PDG

Communities interested in being considered for the opportunity to submit a full application for PDG must reply to the following two questions:

– Who will be the lead applicant/fiscal agency for your application?

– What jurisdiction(s) do you expect your PDG initiative will serve?
Communities interested in being considered for the opportunity to submit a **full application for MDG** must reply to the following eight questions.

– Who will be the lead applicant/fiscal agent for your application for a Mixed Delivery Grant?
– What jurisdiction(s) do you expect your MDG initiative will serve?
– List the names and street addresses of the potential regulated private/community-based (non-school-based) providers/sites that will serve 3- and 4-year-old children through this initiative?
– Please note the data points and sources your community used to determine the need for MDG (e.g., VPI usage rates, VKRP results, wait lists, etc.).
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for Communities Interested in MDG

- The MDG opportunity is intended to increase the capacity of communities to serve at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds who currently are not enrolled in a VPI, Head Start, child care centers, family child care homes, or preschools. How will your community assure that recruitment will target children who are as yet unserved?

- We expect that interested communities could serve a significant number of children. How many children does your community expect to serve through the MDG initiative?

- We expect that interested communities will need to work with community and ECCE partners to leverage and integrate other funding to cover costs of ECCE services, such as child care subsidy, VPI, Head Start, etc. How will your community identify and integrate additional funding?

- We encourage communities to start serving children by September 2020. If you don’t expect to be able to place children in all proposed slots by September 2020, please explain why.
Letter of Intent (LOI): Questions for All Applicants

• What questions do you have that may be answered through published responses to FAQs or during an upcoming informational/technical assistance session?
• Is there any additional information that you would like VECF to know?

VECF intends to extend invitations to submit full applications to selected communities no later than March 31, 2020.
Important Dates

- February 21 - LOI Released
- February 24, 2pm - [LOI Informational Webinar](#)
- February 28 - May 15 - [PDG/MD Weekly Q&A Sessions](#) (Fridays at 9am)
- March 2 - March 11 - [One-on-One Calls Available by Appointment](#)
- March 4, 3pm - [TA Session](#)
- TBD - Additional TA opportunities, as needed
- March 20 - LOIs Due by 5pm
- March 20 - March 31 - LOI Evaluation Process
- March 31 - Notification of Invitation to Apply
- April 1 - Applications Released
- May 20 - Applications Due by 5pm
- First week of June - PDG and MD grants announced
- July 1 - Grant funding begins

Technical assistance in the form of webinars, FAQs, and phone calls will be provided throughout the application period. Please stay tuned to VECF social media and website for updates.
Recommended activities for interested applicants:

• Review materials related to the two opportunities (as well as for VDOE’s VPI expansion opportunity) on VECF’s website;
• Review and use as a guide the At-A-Glance Comparison Chart for Virginia’s Early Childhood Opportunities 2020-21, included on the VECF website;
• Start or restart conversations with community partners about how this opportunity may help you measure and increase access to and quality of ECCE for at-risk children in your community;
• Gather data that will help describe the need in your community; and
• Submit the required LOI to VECF no later than March 20, 2020 at 5pm.
Keeping Informed

• To receive information and details about PDG and MDG opportunities, 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.

• Comments and questions, please send inquiries to info@vecf.org. Questions will not receive individual responses, but they will inform regularly updated FAQs.
QUESTIONS