



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

**Child Care Quality Initiatives**  
**Presentation to the Commission on Youth**  
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# Child Care in Virginia

- ▶ Over 8,000 child care providers
  - Licensed child care centers (2,468)
  - Licensed family day homes (1,342)
  - Local ordinance providers (1,878)
  - Religiously exempt child care centers (996)
  - Voluntarily registered family day homes (903)
  - Unregulated subsidy providers (802)
  - Other (76)
- ▶ Capacity to serve over 360,000 children

# CCDF Program

- ▶ VDSS administers Virginia's Child Care & Development Fund (CCDF) Program
- ▶ Purpose - Increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care services
- ▶ Two-generation program

# CCDF Program

- ▶ Administered in conjunction with 119 local departments of social services
- ▶ Federal regulations require activities in several areas:
  - Child Care Subsidy
  - Quality Improvement
  - Professional Development
  - Consumer Education

# Child Care Subsidy

- ▶ Provide low-income families with the financial resources to find and afford quality child care for their children
- ▶ Parental choice
- ▶ 43,500 children served in FY 2013
- ▶ 82% served in licensed care
- ▶ Payment rates influence access to quality

# Quality Improvement

- ▶ Research-based standards provide a framework for quality improvement and professional development activities
  - Milestones of Child Development
  - Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals

# Quality Improvement Initiatives

## Quality

Virginia Star Quality Initiative

Local Quality Initiatives

## Professional Development

Child Care Provider Scholarships

Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Distance Learning

Early Childhood Mental Health

Endorsements

Tiered Reimbursement Study (SJR54)

Child Care Professional Development Registry

Training/Trainer Approval System



# Virginia Star Quality Initiative

- ▶ The Virginia Star Quality Initiative is Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
- ▶ Administered through a public-private partnership between the Virginia Department of Social Services and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
- ▶ Participation is voluntary



# Virginia Star Quality Initiative

- ▶ The Star Quality Initiative was designed with two primary purposes:
  - Helping families identify high quality child care and preschool options for their young children
  - Assisting child care and preschool programs in providing high quality early care and education and recognizing them for the services they provide



# Child Care Provider Scholarship Program

- ▶ For current/future child care teachers
- ▶ CDA credential, Career Studies Certificate, Associate/Bachelor Degree, etc.
- ▶ 1,360 students received awards for 2,195 courses in FY 2013
- ▶ As the cost of tuition rises, the number of students in the program decreases

# Distance Learning and Endorsements

- ▶ 54 VDSS Endorsement Program courses online
- ▶ 5 Endorsements: Infant and Toddler; Preschool; Creativity Series; Health, Safety and Nutrition Series; School-age
- ▶ Approximately 2,000 providers participated in FY 2013
- ▶ All courses are competency based; endorsements build step-by-step for CDA and align with college course content



# Infant and Toddler Specialist Network

- ▶ Statewide Network (15 specialists) that provides training and technical assistance to infant and toddler caregivers in homes and centers
- ▶ 1,630 on-site technical assistance events for 136 programs; 759 training sessions for nearly 7,000 participants in FY 2013
- ▶ Promotes Milestones of Child Development, Competencies for Early Childhood Professionals, Family Child Care Tool Kit

# Other DSS Early Childhood Activities

- ▶ Child Care licensure
- ▶ Head Start State Collaboration Office



# Challenges

- ▶ Quantity versus quality
- ▶ Length of time to demonstrate ROI
- ▶ Data fragmentation
- ▶ Private sector industry

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