

# Virginia Early Childhood Foundation

## Achievements

In 2007 the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation entered its 1st year of operations:

- Promoting statewide goals by investing in local solutions, the Foundation awarded 16 Smart Beginnings grants to community coalitions.
- With an emphasis on evaluation and accountability, the Foundation provided technical assistance and forums to share best practices.
- In 2007, Smart Beginnings grants totaled \$2.45 million. The 2006 Appropriations Bill included \$2.5 million dollars in funding for the Foundation.
- With this \$2.45 million, local communities have been able to leverage approximately \$10 million:
  - \$1.9 million = cash match (grant requirement)
  - \$7.3 million = additional funds raised
  - \$.7 million = in-kind contributions
- The Foundation raised \$.8 million in private sector funds (as of Dec. 2007).
- The Foundation funded a pilot Quality Rating and Improvement System.
- An additional \$500,000 in federal funds was put to work, strengthening initiatives for children ages 0-3.
- Representative of a true public-private partnership, a diverse 26 member Board of Directors has been assembled.
- At both the state and local level, leadership bought expertise from the government, education, community healthcare and business sectors.



In 2007, the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation awarded 16 Smart Beginnings grants across the state of Virginia. These grants support high quality early care and education initiatives in 47 cities, towns and counties in the Commonwealth.

In Virginia, 1 in 5 children arrives in kindergarten without the basic skills to succeed. The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation provides the collaborative leadership needed to foster **Smart Beginnings** for all young children in Virginia and through them a vital future for the Commonwealth.

## The Plan 2009-2010

With a \$5 million investment from the General Fund, the Foundation will:

- Reinvest funds in intelligent, measurable and results-oriented approaches towards improving school readiness:
  - 7 grants would target new communities, as they assess community need and strategically plan for future.
  - 15 grants would provide support for existing partners, allowing for growth and greater long-term financial independence.
- Use \$5 million from General Fund to leverage greater private sector investments. At a minimum, funds would generate \$10 million.

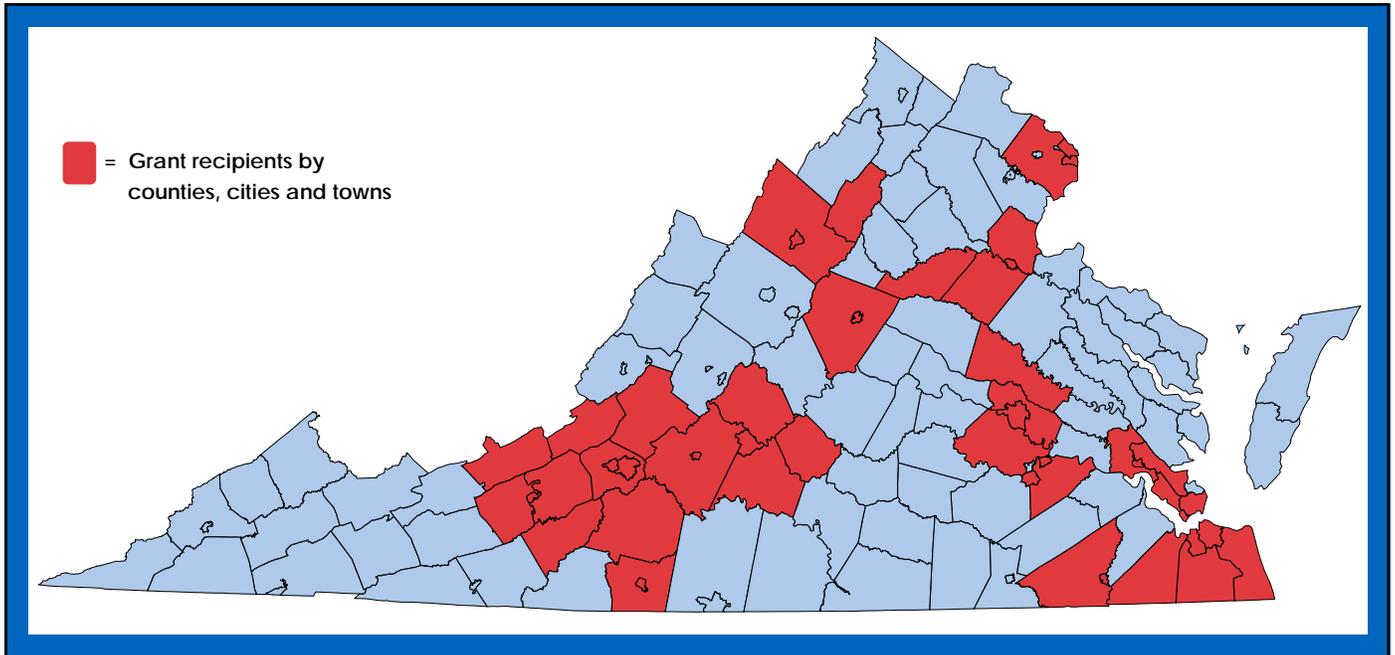


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# Smart Beginnings Grant Awards



## Partnership Grants (\$1.7 million)

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### **Charlottesville Area: \$400,000**

Serving Charlottesville City and Albemarle County

### **Harrisonburg Area: \$400,000**

Serving Harrisonburg City and Rockingham and Page Counties

### **Roanoke Area: \$400,000**

Serving Roanoke and Salem City, the Town of Vinton and Roanoke, Botetourt, Craig and Franklin Counties

### **Richmond Area: \$500,000**

Serving Richmond and Petersburg Cities along with Henrico, Hanover and Chesterfield Counties

## Planning Grants (\$450,000) Each location receiving \$50,000

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### **Alexandria and Arlington Region**

Hopewell and Prince George

Orange County

Newport News and Hampton

Martinsville and Henry County

Franklin City and Southampton

**New River Valley Area** (Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Pulaski and Radford)

**Lynchburg Area** (Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Bedford City, Campbell and Lynchburg)

**Fredericksburg Area** (Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, and Stafford)

## Sustaining Grants (\$300,000) Each location \$100,000

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Fairfax County

South Hampton Roads

Williamsburg, James City County and York County