

Childcare Crisis and Opportunities

Childcare is a critical workforce facilitator and foundational to Virginia's health and economy. While long recognized by Virginia's business community, this has never been more evident than during the current health and economic crisis.

The Virginia Early Childhood Foundation is committed to facilitating Virginia's successful rapid response, recovery, and transformation of childcare solutions. Our efforts include:

- Supporting principled planning, decisions, and action: See [VECF's Priorities and Position Statement](#).
- Convening Smart Beginnings [COVID-19 Collaboratives](#) to address emergency child care by identifying localized strategies to match supply (available child care slots) with demand (preferences of essential workers needing safe child care for their children).
- Providing regular briefings for two-way information among state officials and early childhood stakeholders statewide. Recordings of past briefings may be found [here](#). Please email info@vecf.org to receive emails about upcoming webinars.
- Advising and assisting state officials, community collaboratives, and child care businesses with tools, insights and resources to address health and economic implications from COVID-19 (e.g., resources to help child care operators navigate decisions about continuing operations vs. closure and potential options for economic/disaster aid.)

Virginia's leaders in government, business, philanthropy, and the nonprofit sector must recognize the critical role that child care serves both in the current COVID-19 crisis (to support and sustain provision of first responder/essential worker services) and in the future. As Virginia begins to think about economic recovery in the days and months ahead, childcare will be vital to ensuring families can return to work. With crisis comes opportunity: We must collectively and collaboratively seize the opportunity for a strengthened and more equitable childcare system for Virginia's bright future.

[Read more about Child Care Crisis and Opportunities](#)