

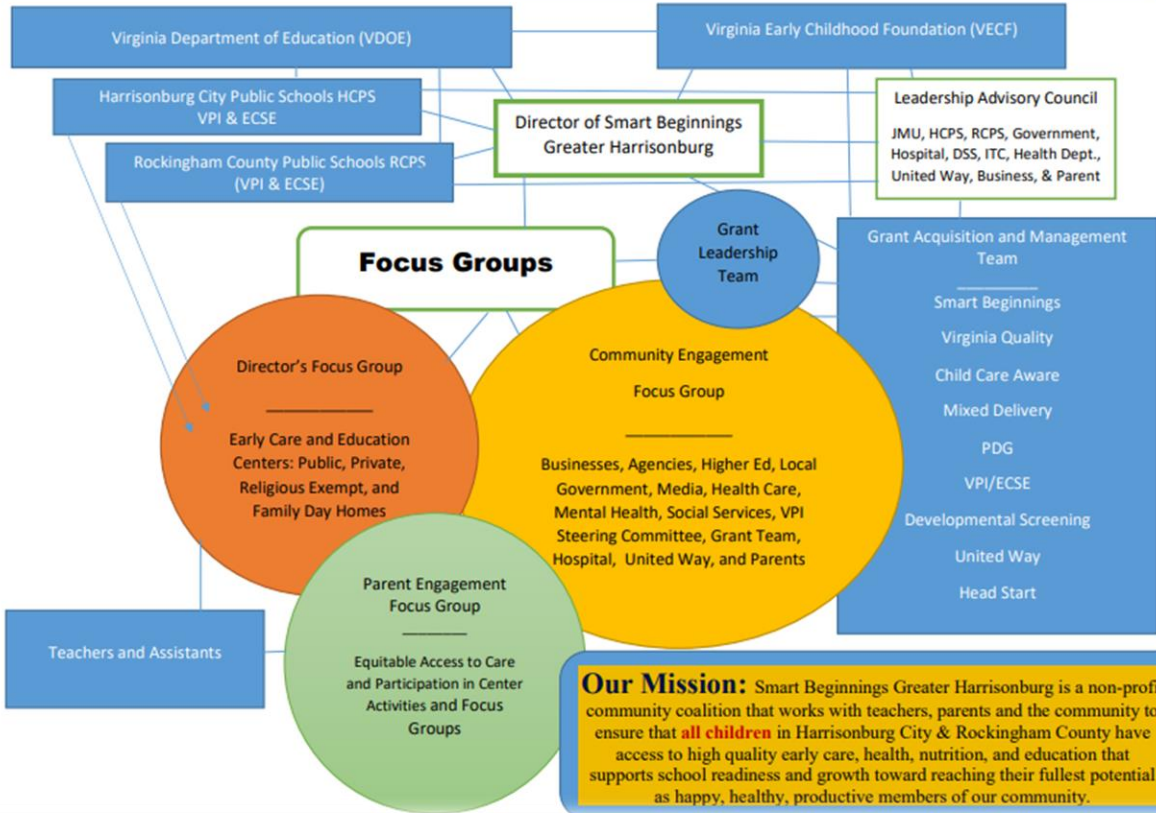


SMART Ready for School.
Ready for Life.
BEGINNINGS®
Greater Harrisonburg

Strategic WORKPLAN

**2020-2021
Fiscal Year**

Smart Beginnings Greater Harrisonburg
Serving and Advocating for
Harrisonburg City & Rockingham County Children Birth to 6



■ How do we ensure Smart Beginnings for Virginia's Children?



Our Community Mission

Smart Beginnings Greater Harrisonburg is a non-profit community coalition that works with parents, teachers, and the community to ensure that ALL children birth to 6 in Harrisonburg City & Rockingham County have access to high quality early care, health, nutrition, and education that supports school readiness and growth toward reaching their fullest potential as happy, healthy, productive members of our community.

SMART BEGINNINGS

What does it take to build healthy, educated individuals who perform well throughout school and become productive members of society and the workforce? It takes a smart beginning. Every child benefits from: • A healthy birth and healthy development • Supported and supportive families • Enriching early learning experiences

Adopted Values & Ideas

Virginia's Definition of School Readiness

“School readiness” describes the capabilities of children, their families, schools, and communities that will best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond. Each component – children, families, schools and communities – plays an essential role in the development of school readiness. No one component can stand on its own.

- **Ready Children:** A ready child is prepared socially, personally, physically, and intellectually within the developmental domains. Children develop holistically; growth and development in one area depends upon development in other areas.
- **Ready Families:** A ready family has adults who understand they are the most important people in the child's life and take responsibility for the child's school readiness through direct, frequent, and positive involvement and interest in the child. Adults recognize their role as the child's first and most important teacher, providing steady and supportive relationships, ensuring safe and consistent environments, promoting good health, and fostering curiosity, excitement about learning, determination, and self-control.
- **Ready Schools:** A ready school accepts all children and provides a seamless transition to a high-quality learning environment by engaging the whole community. A ready school welcomes all children with opportunities to enhance and build confidence in their skills, knowledge, and abilities. Children in ready schools are led by skilled teachers, who recognize, reinforce, and extend children's strengths and who are sensitive to cultural values and individual differences.
- **Ready Communities:** A ready community plays a crucial part in supporting families in their role as primary stewards of children's readiness. Ready communities, including businesses, faith-based organizations, early childhood service providers, community groups and local governments, work together to support children's school and long term success by providing families affordable access to information, services, high-quality child care, and early learning opportunities.

NAEYC Core Values

Core Values

- Appreciate childhood as a unique and valuable stage of the human life cycle.
- Base our work on knowledge of how children develop and learn.
- Appreciate and support the bond between the child and family.
- Recognize that children are best understood and supported in the context of family, culture, community, and society.
- Respect the dignity, worth, and uniqueness of each individual (child, family member, and colleague).
- Respect diversity in children, families, and colleagues.
- Recognize that children and adults achieve their full potential in the context of relationships that are based on trust and respect.

Smart Beginnings Greater Harrisonburg Strategic Priorities

- Ensure our programs and services support community needs and strengthen the capacity of local service providers.
- Build a strong multidisciplinary team that includes parents in decision making to deliver on our mission.
- Create a strategic and sustainable approach to fund development.
- Develop a comprehensive Developmental Screening System across our service area to build a continuum of developmental and behavioral care to reduce barriers and gaps and promote equity for all children and their families.

Strategies:

#1 Ensure our programs and services support community needs and strengthen the capacity of local service providers.

Data from community assessment, self-assessment, parent input, and state evidence drives service delivery.

Support Centers/Schools/Family Day Homes in efforts to meet developmentally appropriate practice, state mandates, licensing requirements, Virginia quality, and COVID restrictions.

#2 Build and maintain a strong organizational structure and multidisciplinary team that includes parents in decision making to deliver on our mission.

Leadership Teams are diverse and represent our community across disciplines.

Structures support and include all VECF grants, and state, local, and federal funding for early childhood effort in our community.

#3 Create & maintain a strategic and sustainable approach to fund development.

Secure local funding for Smart Beginnings Greater Harrisonburg.

Work collaboratively with community partners to secure innovative partnerships and grant funding to address identified needs.

#4 Develop a comprehensive Developmental Screening System across our service area to build a continuum of developmental and behavioral care to reduce barriers and gaps and promote equity for all children and their families.

Increase screening using a parent administered evidence-based screening tool

Coordinate among community systems to assure that timely assessment, referrals, and follow up occur

Provide messaging for families and community about the importance of ongoing screening, monitoring, referral, and follow-up of child development