

gotta have **CHILD CARE**

## Quality, affordable child care impacts children, families and our communities.

Over the last few years, Virginia has made significant progress in expanding childcare access and choice. However, temporary federal funding will end in the coming year, and without further action, tens of thousands of children and families will lose access to child care. With increased state investment in quality childcare services, Virginia can support school-ready children, work-ready parents, and thriving communities and economy.

### THE #GOTTAHAVECHILDCARE SOLUTION

To fully realize the potential of Virginia's children, families, and economy, policymakers must invest \$275 million in FY25 and \$325 million in FY26 to maintain and support current and growing parent demand for affordable, quality childcare services for working families.

#### THE IMPACT OF INSUFFICIENCY

- **40% of Children Aren't Ready By Kindergarten**

In 2022-23, 40% of kindergarteners (56% of students from low-income households) did not meet benchmarks as they started the school year.

- **\$3.1 Billion Lost Annually in Virginia**

The lack of accessible and affordable infant and toddler care in Virginia costs \$3.1 billion annually in lost wages and productivity, and unrealized tax revenue.

#### THE IMPACT OF INACTION

Without further action from policymakers, Virginia's children, families, and our communities will be impacted.

- **35,600 Children Lose Care**

Without intervention from Virginia's policymakers, 35,600 children could lose childcare.

- **37,300 Parents Experience Job Disruptions**

As a result of reduced access to child care, 37,300 parents could experience job disruptions.

## gotta have **CHILD CARE**

### THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION

From birth to age five, a child's brain grows and develops more than at any other time in life. Quality childcare experiences bolster healthy cognitive, social-emotional, and physical development – preparing a child for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Unlike K-12, all eligible children are not guaranteed to be served with early childhood education, and in nearly every region of Virginia, it costs more to send one child to child care than to earn a bachelor's degree from a local public university.

### PARENT VOICES

"I need to work. [Child care] is important for [my son] to develop skills. It allows me to provide, do things I'm passionate about and help others as well." – Albemarle County Parent

"Child care is important to me because my children are important to me. I want them to have the best experiences, I want them to be the happiest, strongest, and smartest versions of themselves. Having child care that engages them, gives them experiences, and sets them up for success in life at their earliest ages is my top priority." – Staunton Parent

## gotta have **CHILD CARE**

### PROVEN BENEFITS OF CHILD CARE INVESTMENTS

- Increased school readiness for children
- Increased parental workforce participation
- Children lifted from poverty
- Increased family disposable income
- Reduced grade repetition and special education costs

### THE BOTTOM LINE

**"Getting kids into quality child care, getting them ready at kindergarten, ready to succeed, ready to learn – it's critical for the future of the Commonwealth and for the country."**  
– Mike Chinn, Endicott Capital, Partner

### GET INVOLVED

Visit [www.gottahavechildcare.org](http://www.gottahavechildcare.org) to learn more and to voice your opinion to your legislator:  
**#GottaHaveChildcare.**