

# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEMAND, ENROLLMENT AND WAITLISTS

Virginia Commission on Early  
Childhood Care and Education

September 11, 2024



**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# TODAY'S PRESENTATION

## Objective:

Provide a point-in-time update on parental demand, enrollment and waitlists for state-funded early childhood care and education (ECCE)

## Areas Covered:

- Historic Investments in ECCE: Overview of State-Funded ECCE
- Key Shifts from 2024 General Assembly
  - How Virginia Budget and Law Help Evolve ECCE Framework
- Detail by Program
  1. Child Care Subsidy Program
  2. Mixed Delivery
  3. Virginia Preschool Initiative

# Overview and Key Shifts

# VA'S HISTORIC INVESTMENTS IN ECCE

- For Fy25-26, Virginia will invest more than \$1.1 billion towards 3 public-private ECCE programs to support ~75,000 birth to five Virginia children and their families annually:
  1. Child Care Subsidy Program
  2. Mixed Delivery Program
  3. Virginia Preschool Initiative
- Each public-private program varies across the following:
  - Number of slots
  - Settings
  - Age of children served
  - Eligibility criteria (income and/or parental work/school/training)
  - Duration (e.g., academic year, academic hours vs. full day, full year)

*(See Appendices for more detail)*
- Virginia's budget now also includes new language re: funding, slots, policy expectations and other key details in a discrete early childhood section (125.10).

# INVESTMENTS EVOLVE ECCE FRAMEWORK

Section 125.10 of the FY25-26 Biennial Budget establishes:

1. Total funding including federal and state funds for each program.
2. Number of slots for Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery.
  - Note that slots are based on FY24 actuals as of June 30, 2024.
  - Any growth (new families, new children, new sites) would depend on attrition.
3. Requirements that all programs (Child Care Subsidy, Mixed Delivery, VPI) establish waitlists if there are more eligible families that want slots than are available.
4. Policy directives on eligibility, work requirements and parent copayments for Child Care Subsidy and Mixed Delivery.

New state law (SB54/HB419) requires the Virginia Department of Education, along with partners, to:

- Follow a specific timeline for allocation of slots for all programs; and
- Establish a process for reallocation if there are funds available based on family preference.

# GREATER DEMAND FROM WORKING FAMILIES

- As of September 1, there appears to be unmet parental demand for all 3 state-funded programs for all ages and in all areas of the state.
- Actual data from CCSP and MD waitlists suggests that greater demand from working families for full-day, full-year options in private ECCE settings such as child care or family child care.
- VPI programs report a large number of children on waitlists but this may not reflect actual families in need now. Actual VPI enrollment data, which is available in November, is needed to better understand unmet demand.
- Comparing per-capita impact (waitlist numbers as a % of demand) across regions suggests that there were different growth rates for parental demand prior to July 1.

Program	CCSP	MD	VPI
Total Demand (Slots + Waitlists or Requests)	50,385	4,634	28,239
Setting	Private (Child Care or Family Child Care) 66%		Public (School)* 34%

# Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP)

# CCSP – DETAIL ON FUNDING AND SLOTS IN FY25

The Biennial Budget, along with new law:

- Provides \$391M for the Child Care Subsidy Program for FY25:
  - \$169.8M – State General Funds (SGF)
  - \$129.9M – Federal Child Care and Development Funds (CCDF)
  - \$64M – ARPA State and Local Recovery Funds (SLRF)
  - \$26.9M – State General Funds from TANF VIEW and Fee (Via VDSS)
- Requires the VDOE to establish annual slot levels by May 15 at the local level for the number of children that may be served with available funding.
  - FY25 – 42,719 slots
  - FY26 – 45,159 slots
- Requires VDOE to finalize slots by June 30 based on actual enrollment.
- Requires each locality to establish and maintain a waitlist as of July 1 if family demand exceeds the slots at any point in the year.
- Maintains family copayment rates and parental work and job search requirements with those in effect at the beginning of fiscal year 2024.



# CCSP – DETAIL ON WAITLISTS (1 OF 2)

- Localities (Local Departments of Social Services) began establishing waitlists as of July 1.
- As of Sept. 1, there are 7,666 children on CCSP waitlists. This is 15% of demand (slots+waitlists).

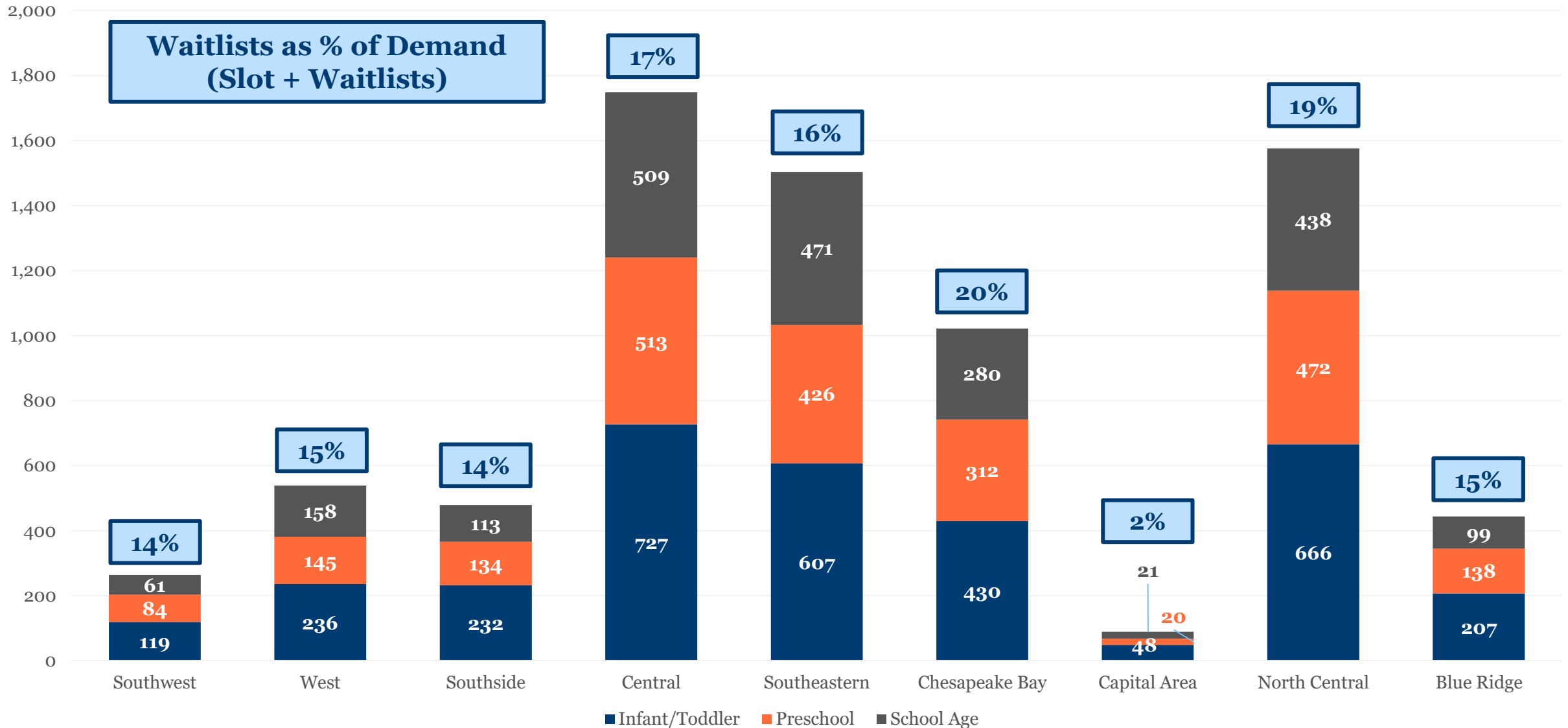
Age	Children on Waitlists	As % of Waitlist	As % of Demand (42,719+Waitlist)
Infant/Toddler	3,272	43%	7%
Preschool	2,244	29%	5%
School Age	2,150	28%	5%

- Waitlists are maintained at the local level and 78% (93 of 120) localities have a waitlist.
  - If a locality does not have any available slots, families are placed on a locality waitlist. Families on the waitlist are prioritized based on specific criteria, and when slots become available within that locality via attrition, they are moved off the waitlist in order of priority.
  - Localities are expected to actively maintain waitlists, ensuring eligibility and confirming interest.
  - Prior to COVID, localities had to maintain waitlists for CCSP and most localities did. Many other states also have waitlists for their CCSP.

# CCSP – DETAIL ON WAITLISTS (2 OF 2)

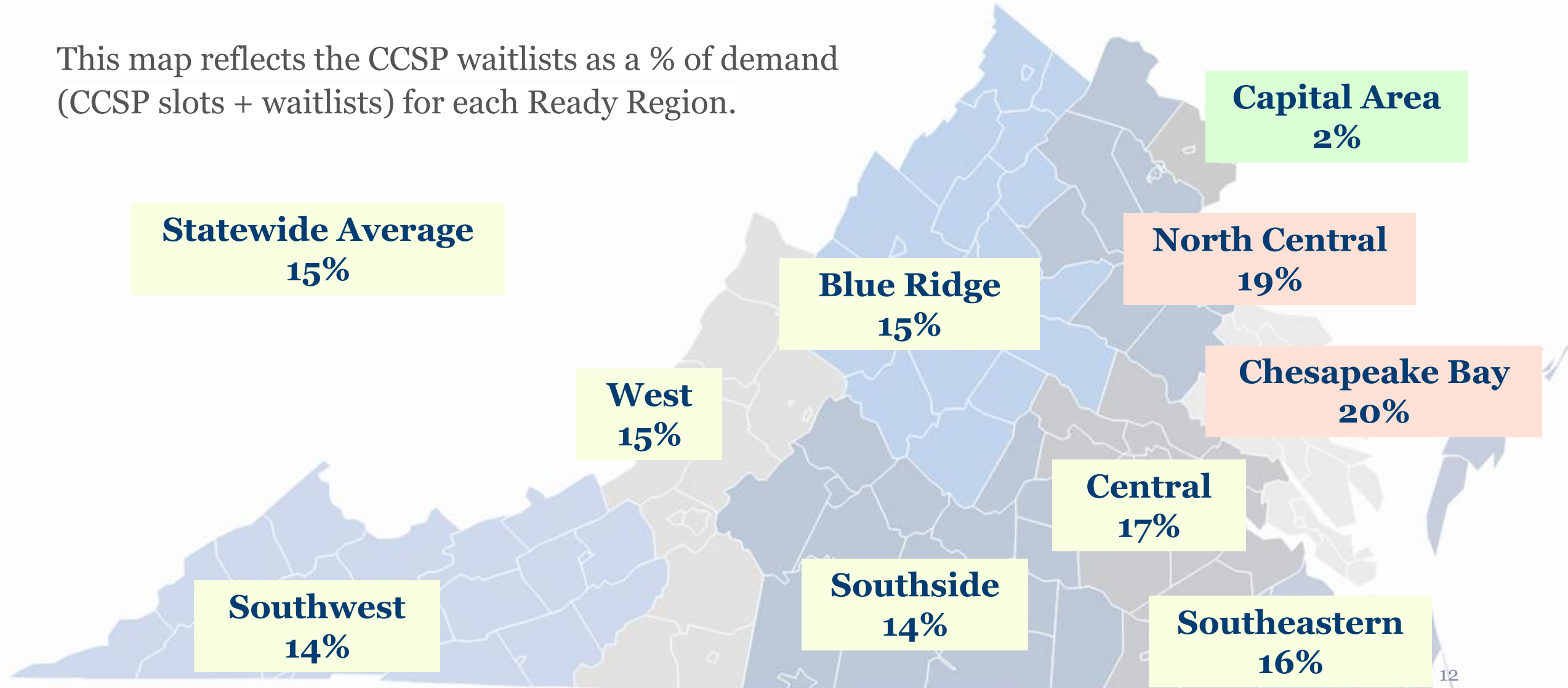
- Waitlist numbers vary based on family demand and attrition and are highly dynamic.
  - Cases are typically processed in 30 days so there can be a “lag” between when a slot becomes available and when the next family/child enrolls. This means that the waitlist numbers can change on a daily basis, especially as localities work to move children off the waitlist as quickly as possible.
  - While CCSP has had waitlists before, there is not yet good data on attrition rates.
  - VDOE and VDSS are collaborating to compile waitlist data on a regular basis. The goal is to provide monthly updates, depending on availability and stability of data. We continue to hear from providers, families and stakeholders about waitlists.
  - It’s important to understand that a waitlist is an actual eligible child and family. These are not hypothetical cases but actual families who have completed paperwork and need ECCE now. Otherwise, they cannot work, attend school or job training.
  - Similarly, private providers typically cannot hold spots for children that are waitlisted. They need revenue to cover costs, especially payroll.

# CCSP WAITLISTS IN EVERY REGION, EVERY AGE

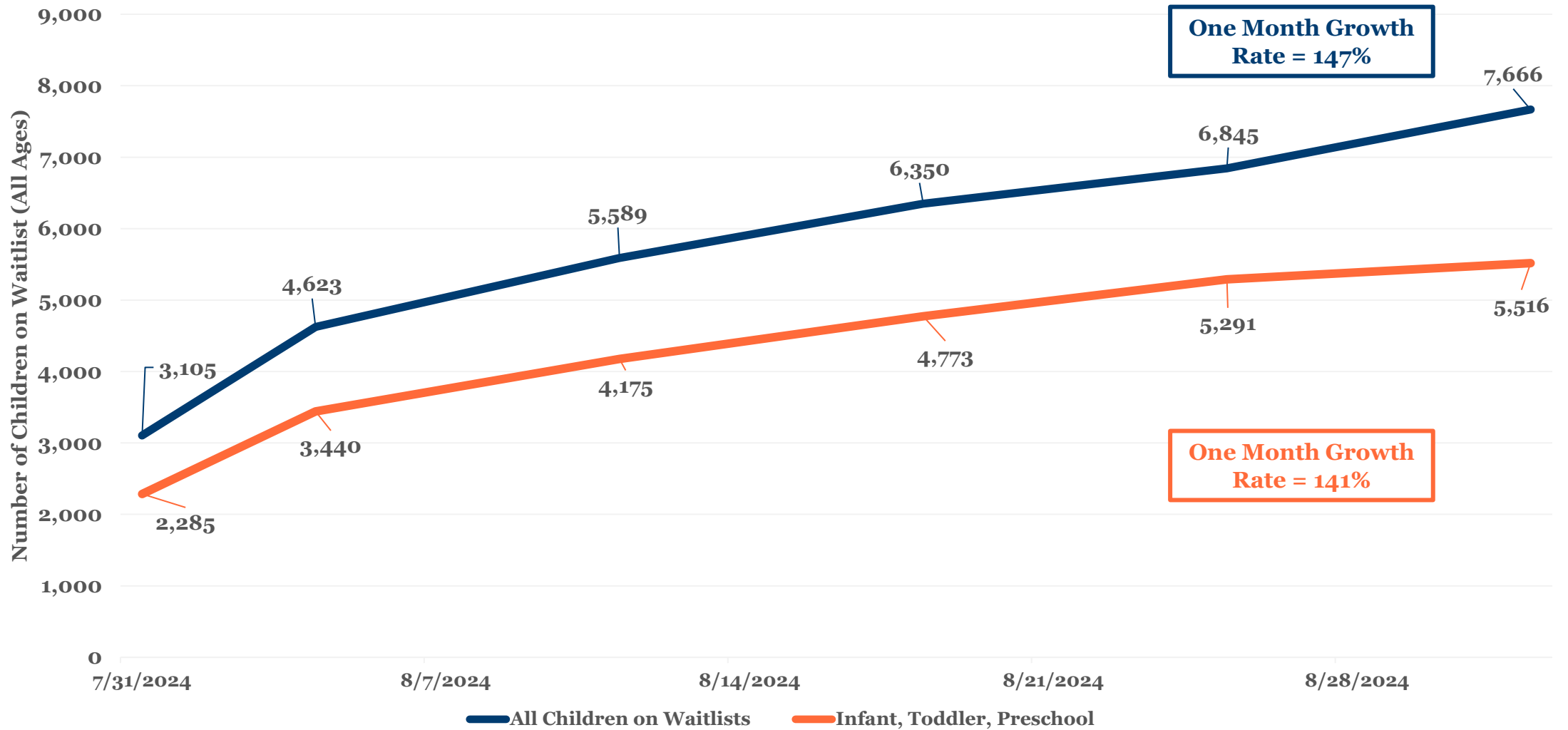


# PER-CAPITA IMPACT VARIES BY REGION

This map reflects the CCSP waitlists as a % of demand (CCSP slots + waitlists) for each Ready Region.



# CCSP WAITLISTS GROW WEEKLY



# Mixed Delivery Program (MD)

# MD – FUNDING AND SLOTS IN FY25

The Biennial Budget, along with new law:

- Provides \$38.8M for Mixed Delivery for FY25:
  - Additional \$2.2M of federal CCDF supports program administration
- Funds 2,530 slots, roughly the actual number of children served in FY2024
- Requires the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF) to run a competitive process in which Ready Regions apply for slots based on need by May 15.
  - Ready Regions then create contracts with identified private child care and family day homes for allocated slots.
- Requires VECF, in partnership with VDOE, to finalize slots by June 30.
- Requires each Ready Region to establish and maintain a waitlist if family demand exceeds the slots as of July 1.
- Requires new family copayment rates and parental work and job search requirements that align with those of the Child Care Subsidy Program.

# MD – DETAIL ON WAITLISTS

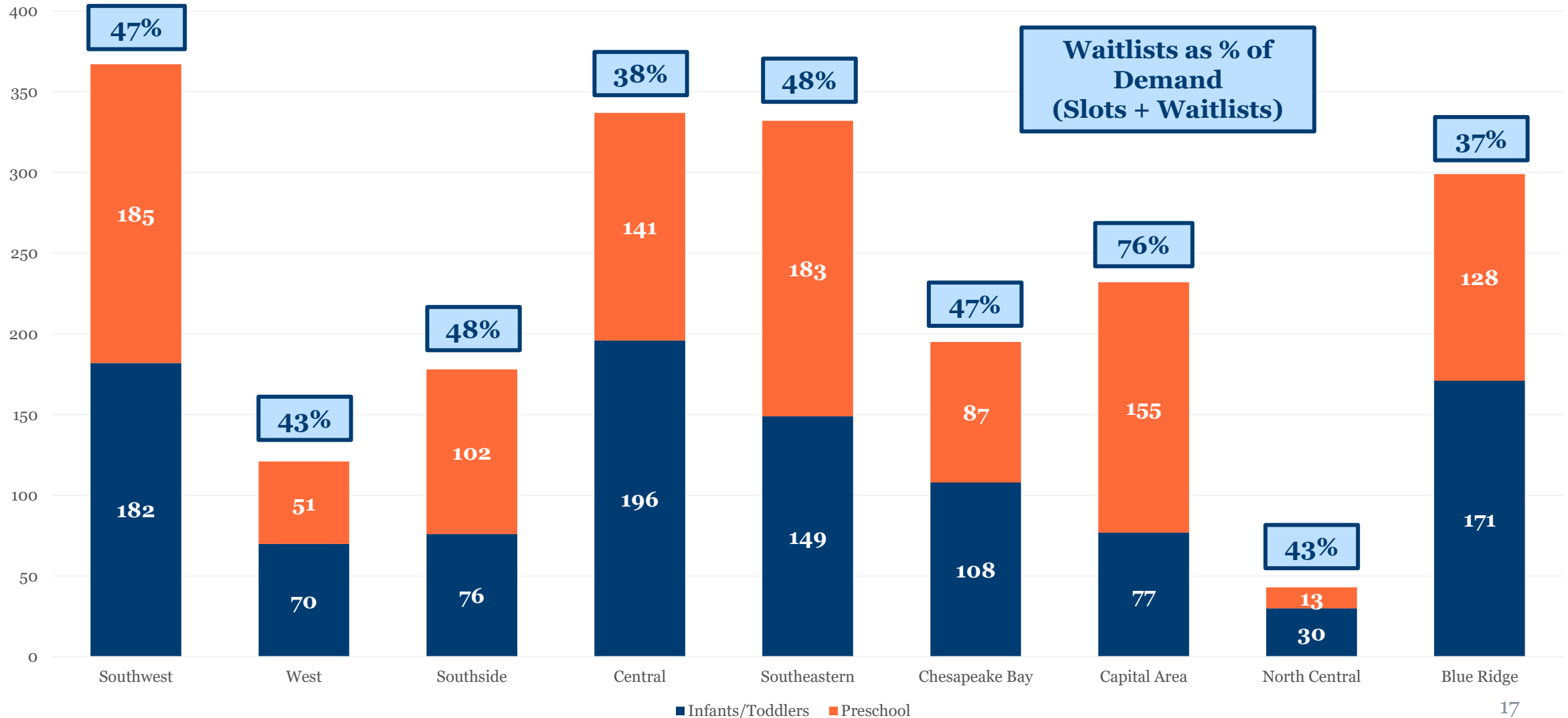
- Ready Regions began establishing waitlists as of July 1.
  - Waitlists may be maintained by participating programs or Ready Regions.
- As of September 1, all 9 Regions have waitlists with a total of 2,104 children on waitlists:

Age	Children on Waitlists	As % of Waitlists	As % of Demand (2,530+Waitlist)
Infant/Toddler	1,059	50%	30%
Preschool	1,045	50%	29%

- This represents 45% of total MD demand (slots + waitlists).
- Ready Regions and Mixed Delivery Sites complete monthly reporting throughout the year including current child enrollment, vacancies, and waitlist for Mixed Delivery slots.
  - Vacancies are filled within 30 days, or they may be reallocated to another site
  - Each family on the waitlist must complete screening to ensure eligibility.
  - Sites also report the current waitlist for all children at their site 3 times a year.

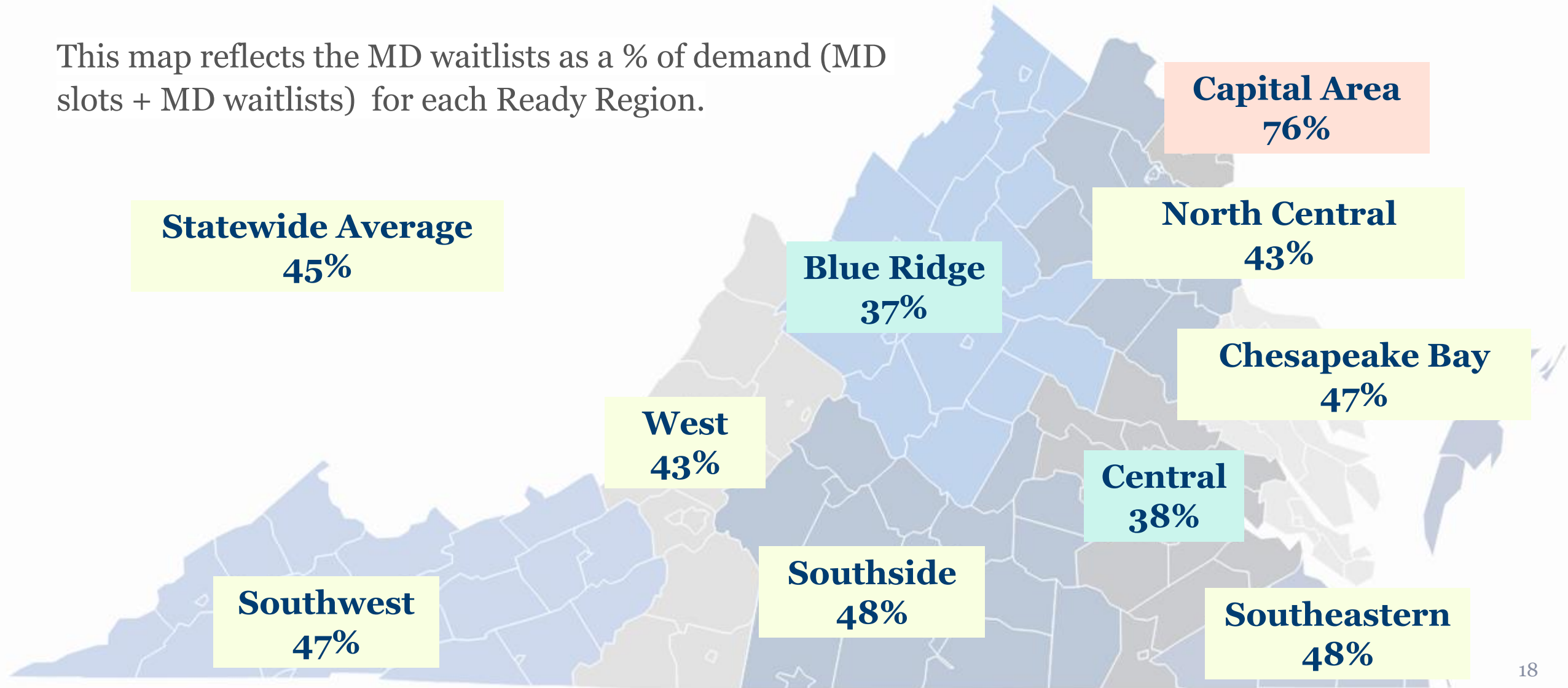


# MD WAITLISTS IN EVERY REGION, EVERY AGE



# PER-CAPITA IMPACT VARIES BY REGION

This map reflects the MD waitlists as a % of demand (MD slots + MD waitlists) for each Ready Region.



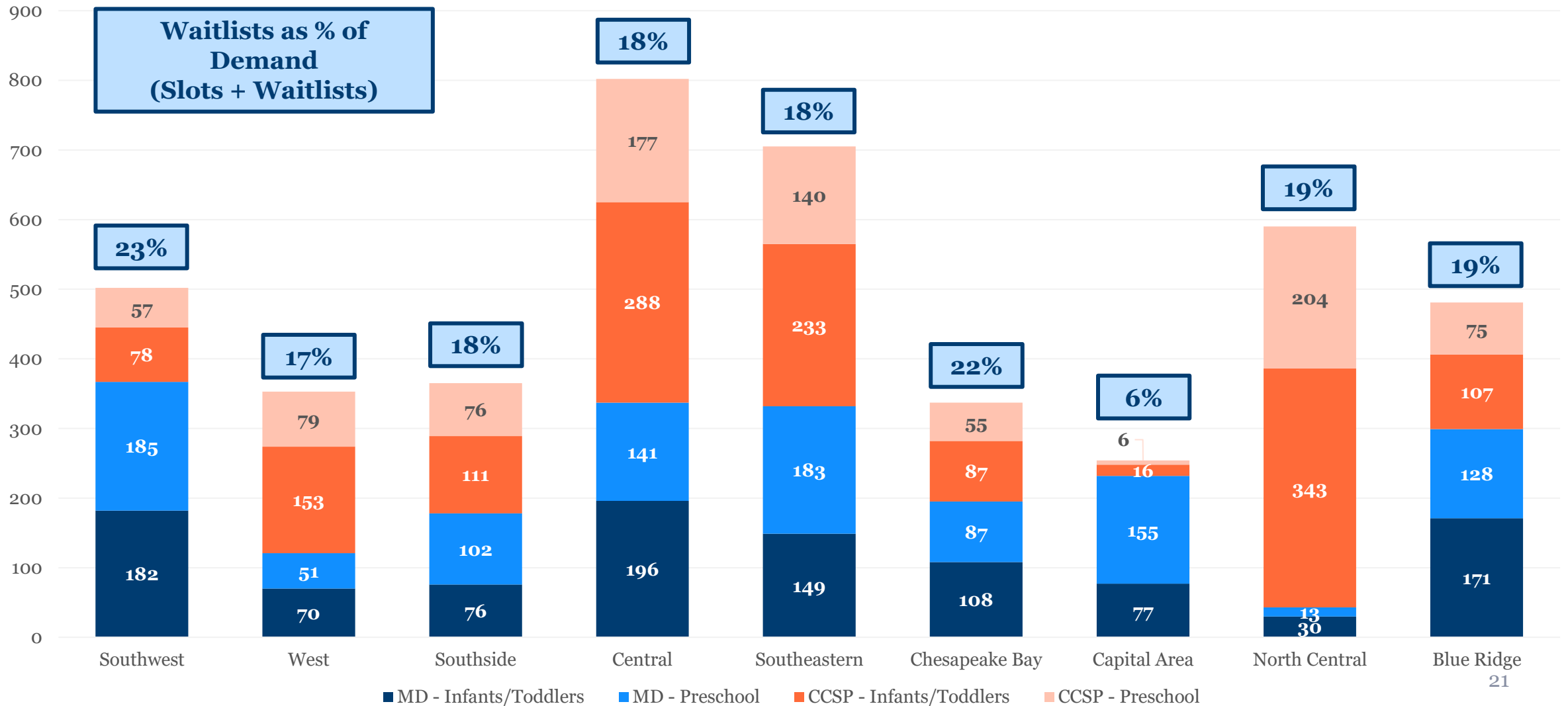
# Combined Demand for Working Families – CCSP and MD

# COMBINED DEMAND FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Snapshot provides a statewide point-in-time measurement of demand for CCSP and MD – which represents those Virginia families who are working and require up to full-day, full-year ECCE and school age care. These families want to use public funds to choose private settings.

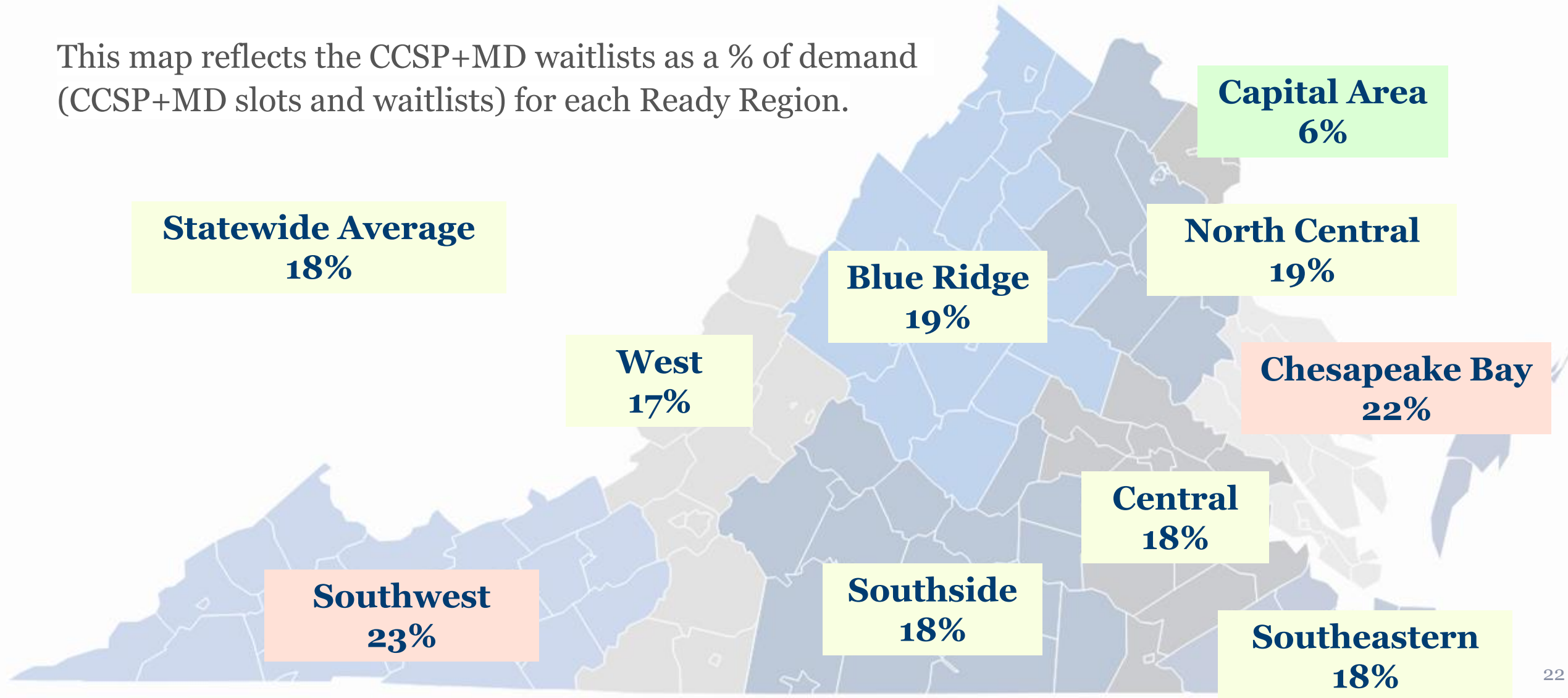
	Slots	Actual Enrollment	Waitlists	Demand
CCSP	42,719	45,539 31,117 (Birth to 5) 14,422 (School Age)	7,666 5,516 (Birth to 5) 2,150 (School Age)	50,385
Mixed Delivery	2,530	2,482	2,104	4,634
Total	45,249	48,021 33,599 (Birth to 5) 14,422 (School Age)	9,770 7,620 (Birth to 5) 2,150 (School Age)	55,019
<i>Slots are what is listed in the Biennial Budget. Actual Enrollment is enrollment as of September 1, 2024. Waitlists is all waitlist totals across ages as of September 1, 2024. Demand is Slots + Waitlists.</i>				

# COMBINED WAITLISTS IN EVERY REGION, EVERY AGE



# PER-CAPITA IMPACT VARIES BY REGION

This map reflects the CCSP+MD waitlists as a % of demand (CCSP+MD slots and waitlists) for each Ready Region.



# Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)

# VPI— FUNDING AND SLOTS IN FY25

The Biennial Budget, along with new law:

- Provides \$124.5M for 4 year olds and \$33.1M in Expansion funds:
- Does not specify the number of slots.
- Funding is formula-based, calculated each biennium and reduced for nonparticipation.
  - *Projected Kindergarten Enrollment x Reported Division Free and Reduced Lunch Percentage - Previous Year Local Head Start 4 Year Old Enrollment*
- Requires each division to request slots by May 15, including slots for 3 year olds and additional slots based on waitlists.
- Requires VDOE to reallocate and finalize slots by June 30.
- Requires each Division to establish and maintain a waitlist if family demand exceeds the slots as of July 1.
- Allows Divisions to enroll children through December 31 (Fall Enrollment is September 30).
- Does not have any work requirements or parental copayments.



# VPI – REQUESTS AND WAITLISTS

There are two different ways to consider unmet demand for VPI:

## *1) Requests for Additional Slots*

- Divisions can request more 4 year old slots than formula as well as 3 year old slots.
- Up until FY25, there was sufficient funding to grant all requests. Yet divisions only used 80% of what they requested, resulting in \$20m-\$30M going unused.

## *2) Reported Waitlists*

- Localities are required to keep waitlists for their programs.
  - Waitlists are to be used to quickly fill slots that may open during the year
- VDOE conducted a survey in Summer 2024 to better understand this data.
  - 100% of localities responded, including those who do not currently have VPI programs
  - 8,975 students were on VPI waitlists as of July 1, 2024.
  - Additional 952 families with 3 year olds expressed interest
  - 5 areas account for 52% (Fairfax, Virginia Beach, Prince William, Petersburg, Harrisonburg)
- Top three barriers: physical space, eligibility requirements, and staffing challenges
- Across 85 localities, 945 eligible families turned down a VPI slot. Top reasons for were enrollment in another program or program location/hours did not meet their needs.

# VPI – QUANTIFYING UNMET DEMAND

Unmet requests is a more likely indicator of actual unmet demand for VPI than reported waitlists.

	<b>Formula Slots</b>	<b>Reallocated Slots</b>	<b>Unmet Requests</b>	<b>As % of Demand (Slots+Unmet Requests)</b>	<b>Actual Enrollment</b>	<b>Waitlists</b>
FY2023	27,797	26,181	0	0%	22,444	NA
FY2024	27,578	26,923	0	0%	23,038	NA
FY2025	29,400	24,842	3,397	12%	TBD	8,975

*Formula Slots is all slots based on initial allocation of formula and only includes 4 year olds.*

*Reallocated slots is all slots that were granted each year as of July.*

*Unmet requests is the difference between what divisions requested by May 15 and what they were reallocated.*

*Actual enrollment is enrollment as of September 30 + late enrollment.*

*Waitlists are reported by divisions.*

QUESTIONS?

# APPENDIX

# CHILD CARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

<b>Fund source</b>	Federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) and State General Fund
<b>Ages served</b>	Children ages 6 weeks through 12 years old (18 years with a disability)
<b>Family eligibility characteristics</b>	<p>Families must meet income requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 85% state median income for families with young children</li><li>• Between 150-250% FPG for families with school-age children only, depending on locality</li></ul> <p>Parents or guardians must be working, looking for work, or in school or job training</p>
<b>Settings</b>	Child care centers and family day homes
<b>Duration</b>	<p>Families are approved for care based on parents' school or work schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Care may be full-day/full-year or wrap around another program</li></ul>
<b>How families enroll</b>	Families can apply online or at their local department of social services

# MIXED DELIVERY PROGRAM

<b>Fund source</b>	State General Fund and Federal CCDF Funds
<b>Ages served</b>	Children ages birth – kindergarten (Mostly 3- and 4-years-old; added infants and toddlers in FY23)
<b>Family eligibility characteristics</b>	Very similar to VPI <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under 200% FPL</li><li>• Experiencing Homelessness</li><li>• Parents did not complete High School</li><li>• Student with a disability</li><li>• Up to 15% enrolled slots can be filled by local criteria eligibility</li></ul>
<b>Settings</b>	Child care centers and family day homes
<b>Duration</b>	Full day (at least 10 hours), Full year (at least 240 days)
<b>How families enroll</b>	Apply directly with participating local providers

# VIRGINIA PRESCHOOL INITIATIVE

<b>Fund source</b>	<p>State General Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Per pupil funding is split into a state share and local match</li> <li>• Local Match is based on Local Composite Index (LCI) but is capped at 50%</li> </ul>
<b>Ages served</b>	<p>Children ages 3- and 4-years-old</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• limited exceptions for 5-year-olds</li> </ul>
<b>Family eligibility characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under 200% FPL</li> <li>• Experiencing Homelessness</li> <li>• Parents did not complete High School</li> <li>• Student with a disability (Individualized Education Program)</li> <li>• Up to 15% enrolled slots can be filled by local criteria eligibility</li> </ul>
<b>Settings</b>	<p>Primarily public schools, with some served in Community Provider settings</p>
<b>Duration</b>	<p>School day (5.5 hours full day, 3.5 hours half day), School year (180 days)</p>
<b>How families enroll</b>	<p>Apply with local school division</p>

# CCSP WAITLISTS BY LOCALITY

## (TOTAL=7,666)

Locality	B-5	School Age
Albemarle County (003)	13	4
Amelia County (007)	8	3
Amherst County (009)	21	10
Appomattox County (011)	9	2
Arlington County (013)	68	21
Augusta County (015)	44	8
Bath County (017)	2	0
Bedford County (019)	34	14
Bland County (021)	4	3
Botetourt County (023)	12	5
Bristol City (520)	16	8
Buckingham County (029)	4	2
Campbell County (031)	17	3
Carroll County (035)	14	5
Charlotte County (037)	2	0
Chesapeake City (550)	256	127
Chesterfield County (041)	164	51
Colonial Heights City (570)	8	0
Culpeper County (047)	62	27
Danville City (590)	72	21
Dinwiddie County (053)	15	4
Emporia City (595)	9	5
Fauquier County (061)	24	15
Fluvanna County (065)	8	0
Franklin County (067)	38	15
Frederick County (069)	50	11
Fredericksburg City (630)	33	20
Galax City (640)	10	0
Gloucester County (073)	16	6
Goochland County (075)	6	3

Locality	B-5	School Age
Greensville County (081)	12	1
Hampton City (650)	230	78
Hanover County (085)	40	27
Harrisonburg City (660)	17	0
Henrico County (087)	508	251
Henry County (089)	57	30
Hopewell City (670)	46	10
James City County (095)	26	11
King William County (101)	16	1
Lancaster County (103)	10	0
Lexington City (678)	3	0
Loudoun County (107)	251	104
Louisa County (109)	21	4
Lynchburg City (680)	124	29
Manassas City (683)	49	18
Manassas Park City (685)	23	5
Martinsville City (690)	14	4
Mecklenburg County (117)	28	9
Montgomery County (121)	35	17
New Kent County (127)	9	4
Newport News City (700)	367	147
Norfolk City (710)	332	160
Northampton County (131)	2	0
Northumberland County (133)	13	1
Norton City (720)	1	0
Nottoway County (135)	2	1
Orange County (137)	13	4
Patrick County (141)	8	0
Petersburg City (730)	13	8
Pittsylvania County (143)	28	15

Locality	B-5	School Age
Pittsylvania County (143)	28	15
Poquoson City (735)	5	3
Portsmouth City (740)	192	77
Powhatan County (145)	1	1
Prince Edward County (147)	21	6
Prince George County (149)	16	8
Prince William County (153)	446	153
Pulaski County (155)	27	8
Radford City (750)	8	1
Richmond City (760)	381	134
Roanoke City (770)	134	50
Roanoke County (161)	109	53
Rockbridge County (163)	4	1
Rockingham County (165)	36	15
Russell County (167)	13	4
Shenandoah County (171)	19	4
Smyth County (173)	11	1
Southampton County (175)	5	1
Spotsylvania County (177)	135	52
Stafford County (179)	115	44
Staunton City (790)	30	10
Suffolk City (800)	103	44
Sussex County (183)	12	2
Virginia Beach City (810)	143	62
Warren County (187)	31	16
Washington County (191)	40	11
Waynesboro City (820)	26	11
Westmoreland County (193)	13	5
Williamsburg City (830)	5	2
Winchester City (840)	33	10
Wise County (195)	16	2
Wythe County (197)	8	1
York County (199)	41	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,516</b>	<b>2,150</b>



# MD WAITLISTS BY REGION (TOTAL=2,104)

Region	Infants/Toddlers	Preschool	Total
Region 1 - Southwest	182	185	367
Region 2 - West	70	51	121
Region 3 - Southside	76	102	178
Region 4 - Central	196	141	337
Region 5 – Southeastern	149	183	332
Region 6 - Chesapeake Bay	108	87	195
Region 7 - Capital Area	77	155	232
Region 8 - North Central	30	13	43
Region 9 - Blue Ridge	171	128	299
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>2,104</b>

# VPI WAITLISTS/DEMAND BY DIVISION

Locality	Waitlist	Unmet Requests	Locality	Waitlist	Unmet Requests	Locality	Waitlist	Unmet Requests	Locality	Waitlist	Unmet Requests	Locality	Waitlist	Unmet Requests
Accomack County	9	8	Danville City	0	12	King and Queen County	0	1	Portsmouth City	0	47	Westmoreland County	5	8
Albemarle County	30	14	Dickenson County	0	0	King George County	7	6	Powhatan County	69	0	Williamsburg City	32	4
Alexandria City	19	106	Dinwiddie County	7	3	King William County	11	3	Prince Edward County	0	0	Winchester City	8	14
Alleghany County	0	10	Emporia City	0	6	Lancaster County	0	29	Prince George County	20	0	Wise County	85	0
Amelia County	14	0	Essex County	11	1	Lee County	0	0	Prince William County	922	188	Wythe County	0	14
Amherst County	17	3	Fairfax City	0	32	Lexington City	0	0	Pulaski County	27	13	York County	73	65.5
Appomattox County	39	12.5	Fairfax County	1,743	929	Loudoun County	19	21	Radford City	0	1	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,975</b>	<b>3396.5</b>
Arlington County	88	52	Falls Church City	8	3	Louisa County	62	0	Rappahannock County	0	6			
Augusta County	162	0	Fauquier County	0	9	Lunenburg County	3	0	Richmond City	40	47			
Bath County	11	0	Floyd County	9	0	Lynchburg City	201	3	Richmond County	10	4			
Bedford County	65	8	Fluvanna County	37	1	Madison County	0	1	Roanoke City	83	122			
Bland County	0	4	Franklin City	15	1	Manassas City	70	10	Roanoke County	75	142			
Botetourt County	20	24.5	Franklin County	113	2	Manassas Park City	0	15	Rockbridge County	34	9			
Bristol City	20	12	Frederick County	61	0	Martinsville City	0	10	Rockingham County	109	10			
Brunswick County	6	-1	Fredericksburg City	0	1	Mathews County	0	6	Russell County	0	12			
Buchanan County	0	0	Galax City	27	4	Mecklenburg County	0	-20	Salem City	60	0			
Buckingham County	17	-27	Giles County	45	21	Middlesex County	10	0	Scott County	17	12			
Buena Vista City	0	1	Gloucester County	62	4	Montgomery County	72	25	Shenandoah County	69	36			
Campbell County	28	11	Goochland County	23	1	Nelson County	7	0	Smyth County	9	3			
Caroline County	30	12	Grayson County	0	4	New Kent County	146	0	Southampton County	9	1			
Carroll County	17	1	Greene County	13	2	Newport News City	95	213	Spotsylvania County	71	20.5			
Charles City County	0	3	Greensville County	10	0	Norfolk City	299	419	Stafford County	60	15.5			
Charlotte County	0	0	Halifax County	10	6	Northampton County	0	0	Staunton City	19	2			
Charlottesville City	17	13	Hampton City	0	14	Northumberland County	0	0	Suffolk City	99	0			
Chesapeake City	182	0	Hanover County	19	56	Norton City	0	0	Surry County	2	0			
Chesterfield County	201	14	Harrisonburg City	440	0	Nottoway County	0	0	Sussex County	0	3			
Clarke County	17	6	Henrico County	209	154	Orange County	13	2	Tazewell County	0	13			
Colonial Beach	0	3	Henry County	24	47	Page County	17	0	Virginia Beach City	964	0			
Colonial Heights City	13	14	Highland County	0	0	Patrick County	8	15	Warren County	41	21			
Craig County	18	1	Hopewell City	12	0	Petersburg City	556	46	Washington County	25	11			
Culpeper County	35	7	Isle of Wight County	52	3	Pittsylvania County	85	48	Waynesboro City	213	21			
Cumberland County	11	0	James City County	0	40	Poquoson City	4	0	West Point	4	10			