



FY27 Ready Together VA Funding Announcement

September 15, 2026

Ready Together VA is a new program that helps employers and the Commonwealth of Virginia share the cost of child care with working families. It was created through passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2026 ([§ 22.1-289.05:2](#)). It is administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). The goal is to see how state funding and employer contributions can work together to expand access to affordable child care in Virginia. passed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2026 ([§ 22.1-289.05:2](#)). It is administered by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF). The goal is to see how state funding and employer contributions can work together to expand access to affordable child care in Virginia.

Eligible Applicants

In fiscal year 2027 (7/1/26 - 6/30/27), Ready Region lead agencies will be the designated and only authorized applicants to coordinate Ready Together VA in their regions. They will work with other regional leaders, including Ready Region shared governance bodies, Family Councils, and Virginia Business Roundtable for Early Education (VBREE) regional delegations, employers and early childhood care and education (ECCE) providers, to plan and implement Ready Together VA within their regions. Ready Region lead agencies may also engage other regional leaders from areas such as philanthropy, local government, economic development, social service agencies, Head Start, Early Head Start, Virginia Preschool Initiative, etc.

Coordination will include 1) engaging interested employers, 2) engaging eligible ECCE sites, 3) supporting the recruitment and enrollment of eligible employees and their children, 4) serving as the third-party administrator that executes employer agreements and receives, holds, and disburses employer and state contributions to ECCE sites, and 5) participating in data collection, verification, and reporting activities.

Anticipated FY27 Ready Together VA Funding

Virginia's 2026-2028 biennium budget signed by the Governor on June 29, 2026, included \$25,000,000 for Ready Together VA through fiscal year 2030 ([Budget Item 126 G](#)). In fiscal year 2027, VECF will award funding to up to three Ready Regions for Implementation Phase I. The budget includes up to \$100,000 in funding for program coordination in each region with additional funding for tuition (number of slots) at the Mixed Delivery estimated cost of quality rate (by Ready Region and child age).

Ready Regions that indicate that they intend to submit an application for Implementation Phase I, will be provided with a stipend of \$50,000* for fiscal year 2027 to conduct preliminary planning, including engaging employers, gathering input from regional VBREE delegations, Family Councils, and shared governance bodies. A preliminary planning scope of work will be provided to Ready Regions as part of the stipend agreement.

**Ready Regions not planning to submit an application will be provided with a stipend of \$25,000 to conduct preliminary planning in preparation for future implementation.*

Application Process

All Ready Region lead agencies interested in being awarded Implementation Phase I funding will complete a **required** application. Only one application for each Ready Region, reflecting coordination among stakeholders, will be accepted. If an employer crosses regional boundaries, Ready Region lead agencies should collaborate on outreach.

The Implementation Phase I application will give Ready Region lead agencies the opportunity to describe how they plan to implement Ready Together VA in their regions in fiscal year 2027. Applications will include responses related to shared decision-making with key stakeholder groups, parent demand, program design, and staffing. Letters of commitment from employers and ECCE providers will not be required; however, Ready Regions will be encouraged to include letters of interest as supporting documentation to strengthen an application.

As part of the application, Ready Region lead agencies will need to demonstrate that their regions are committed to fully engaging in Implementation Phase I and serving working families. Ready Together VA is intended to align closely with the Mixed Delivery program. Ready Regions may request waivers for specific Mixed Delivery requirements. However, all Ready Together VA ECCE sites will participate in VQB5 and all Ready Together VA classrooms must use state-approved non-faith-based curricula. All participating sites must also commit to using the Mixed Delivery Data Portal.

One-on-one and group technical assistance sessions will be available to Ready Region lead agencies during the application period. VECF will also communicate any additional requirements or priorities that are identified during the application period.

Important Dates

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates. Note that some dates may be subject to change, and any changes will be communicated as soon as possible:

- No later than 9/30/26: RRs indicate whether they intend to apply (email to ta@vecf.org)
- 11/30/26: Application released
- 12/4/26: Application webinar, 9:00-10:00am, [webinar link](#)
- 2/5/27: Applications due at 11:59pm
- Late-February 2027: Awards announced
- March 2027: Implementation Phase I begins (continuing into FY28)
- May 2027: Implementation Phase I enrollment begins (continuing into FY28)

For comments and questions, please send inquiries to ta@vecf.org