



City of Alexandria Early Childhood Fiscal Map
Overview
October 2017

Project

Designed to answer three questions:

- What federal, state, local, and private funds are currently being invested in early childhood (ages 0-5) in the City of Alexandria and how are these funds currently being allocated?
- Are these funds adequate to meet the needs and the goals of the Children and Youth Master Plan and the quality and access goals of the Common Agenda?
- How can we grow and/or optimize those resources to achieve our goals?

Methodology

- Identify and engage all the organizations involved in early childhood in Alexandria.
- 18 potential participants; 14 of these were successfully recruited.
- Fiscal information was sought from each organization via a survey instrument.
- Data collected likely represents greater than 90% of the services/funding directed towards children ages 0-5.

Participants

Organization Type	Organization	Contact Person
Government	Department of Community and Human Services	Kate Garvey Robin Crawley
	Alexandria Health Department	Debbie Bowers Dr. Stephen Haering
	Alexandria City Public Schools	Michelle Smith-Howard
	Department of Recreation Services	Laura Durham
Direct Service Providers	ALIVE!	Diane Charles
	The Campagna Center	Tammy Mann
	Center for Alexandria's Children	Giselle Pelaez
	Child and Family Networks	Lisa Carter
	Hopkins House	Glenn Hopkins
	Northern Virginia Family Services	Nancy Pedulla
Funders	The Reading Connection	Stephanie Berman
	Alexandria Community Trust	Brandi Yee
	Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation	Ellen Kennedy Folts
Did not participate	Kathy Wilson Foundation	Natalie Szemetylo
	Public Library	City Government
	Community Lodgings	Direct Service Provider
	Neighborhood Health	Direct Service Provider
	The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia	Funder

Data Qualifications & Limitations

- Private pre-school and child care providers were not asked to participate in this study.
- In-home family child care providers were not surveyed directly through this study even though they are an important part of the City early childhood delivery system.
- Some programs included in survey data do not exclusively serve either Alexandria residents or 0-5 year olds. For these programs, we asked respondents to give the percent of the target population that comprised their program and then we applied this percentage to the funding streams and staffing levels.
- All survey data submitted is from the organization's last completed fiscal year.

Findings

- Government is the largest funder of 0-5 programs by far.
- There is some private money coming in, but not enough to drive programming.
- Alexandria is doing well but there is still unmet need, especially in certain areas of the city and with certain populations.
- Most of the resources are focused on 4 and 5 year olds – but those resources are not adequate to cover cost of delivering programs.

Recommendations: State Level

- Consistently review current interpretations of state program eligibility requirements to ensure that programs are maximizing access to funds and streamlining processes.
- Advocate for VPI funds that are not drawn down to still be distributed to early childhood programs.
- Advocate for more funds for 0-3 populations.

Recommendations: Local Level

- Expand outreach, education, and support to enroll eligible participants in funded programs.
- Continue to support a systems approach to provision of early care and education, as outlined in the Common Agenda, ensuring aligned definitions and procedures across programs and administer funds accordingly. Continue to look across all funding streams to make sure priorities are being fulfilled.
- Develop a clear formula for how local funding for early childhood should be distributed across organizations.

Recommendations: Local Level

- Continue the **Glass Doors** initiative, which is working to make it a practice among all service providers to consider all potential services a child could be eligible for and provide more information on access.
- Evaluate the benefits of the public/private model on an ongoing basis and promote quality and equity across programs by putting more standardization in place.