

# Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan

## Birth to Eight

### Implementation Framework

December 2017

#### Strategies:

1. Establish meaningful partnerships with families to grow school readiness opportunities in all communities and support children's optimal development in all settings.
2. Provide equitable offerings of high-quality early development and learning experiences and related school readiness supports throughout the county.
3. Foster quality and effective professional learning in all early childhood programs and services.
4. Promote equity-focused planning and decision making, as well as shared accountability, through use of data.
5. Nurture a whole community commitment to school success for all children.

Actions	Activities	Responsible	Funding Request
<b>S-1 Action 3</b> - Involve families as partners with other school readiness stakeholders (educators, principals, policy makers, etc.) in data analysis and review, action planning, decision making, implementation, and evaluation.	Bring the Equitable School Readiness Strategic Plan to the community for ongoing input and decision-making.	Office for Children, Opportunity Neighborhood, Department of Housing and Community Development, Fairfax County Public Schools and Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children	Existing
<b>S-1 Action 5, A</b> - Partner with families to support children's executive function skills through Mind in the Making and other initiatives and strategies.	Create additional parent-child play groups in Fairfax County Public Schools that support children's social and emotional competencies.	Fairfax County Public Schools	\$10,000
<b>S-1 Action 5, B</b> - Partner with families to support children's executive function skills through Mind in the Making and other initiatives and strategies.	Bring Mind in the Making to RestON by providing a parent workshop series on the Seven Essential Life Skills to two neighborhoods and hosting a community-wide Mind in the Making awareness event.	Office for Children, Cornerstones/RestON, and Fairfax County Public Schools	Existing

Actions	Activities	Responsible	Funding Request
<b>S-2 Action 1</b> - Implement the Early Developmental Instrument (EDI) to understand the quality and availability of school readiness supports and services. A) Pilot the EDI in identified low child opportunity neighborhoods and use the results to expand the supply and affordability of quality early childhood programs, family strengthening, preventative health, mental health, dental health, and early intervention programs and services. B) Adopt lessons learned from the pilot in county-wide practices.	Pilot the EDI in an identified neighborhood to obtain population level data on percentages of children who are developmentally vulnerable and utilize data to inform equitable decision-making regarding the provision of school readiness supports and services.	Fairfax County Public Schools and the Office for Children	\$76,000
<b>S-2 Action 2</b> - Increase the supply, access and affordability of quality early childhood programs.	<p>Serve approximately 149 additional young children in high quality, comprehensive early childhood programs in community-based settings and FCPS classrooms (54 children in community-based settings, approximately 95 children in existing FCPS classrooms.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligible children will participate in a full-day early childhood program.</li> <li>• Programs will partner with families to support children's success.</li> <li>• Health, mental health, and developmental screenings will identify any need for early identification.</li> </ul>	Office for Children, community early childhood programs and Fairfax County Public Schools	<p>County: \$810,000</p> <p>FCPS: \$231,000</p>
<b>S-2 Action 5</b> - Increase awareness of and access to early intervention programs and services, including existing and new programs and supports that address identified needs.	Expand Nurse Family Partnership by two nurse home visitors to address inequities in maternal child outcomes in the Herndon-Reston area, serving 50 additional families.	Health Department	\$248,000
<b>S-2 Action 6</b> - Expand and promote the use of developmental and social emotional screeners (e.g., ASQ-3, ASQ-SE, AEPS, DECA, ACES, etc.) among all early childhood programs, and use screener data to inform the provision of services for individual children and families.	Promote the use of the ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE developmental and social emotional screener throughout the county to increase early identification and intervention.	Health Department, Infant Toddler Connection, Fairfax County Public Schools, and Office for Children	Existing
<b>S-2 Action 7</b> - Create an equity-focused culture among stakeholders and the public to include using an equity tool to guide decision-making for all early childhood programs, services, and policies.	Engage and support community, FCPS and county partners in using the School Readiness Equity Tool.	Office for Children, Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children	Existing

Actions	Activities	Responsible	Funding Request
<b>S-2 Action 9</b> - Create a system for prevention-focused early childhood mental health consultation services to support children's successful participation in early childhood education programs and eliminate expulsion and suspension practices.	Develop an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation System for community early childhood programs to increase capacity of programs and competencies of educators to support children's successful social and emotional development and executive functioning skills. Approximately 50 early childhood programs will participate over the course of one year.	Office for Children, Healthy Minds Fairfax, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, and Fairfax County Public Schools	\$170,000
<b>S-3 Action 1</b> - Establish a countywide early childhood professional learning coordinating council to support professional learning and alignment with quality indicators within the early childhood community.	Identify and convene professional learning partners and stakeholders to support early childhood educators in obtaining competencies to provide developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive experiences for young children and their families.	Office for Children, Fairfax County Public Schools, Northern Virginia Association for the Education of Young Children, higher education, and community stakeholders.	Existing
<b>S-3 Action 6</b> - Pursue strategies that link competencies and effective practices to higher compensation, including benefits.	Continue county participation in The Washington Region Early Care & Education Workforce Network which focuses on mapping competency-based career pathways that are linked to quality and compensation and can be used across the region.	Fairfax County Office for Children, and Fairfax Futures	Existing
<b>S-5 Action 4</b> – Partner with families, businesses, faith-based organizations, early childhood professionals, community groups, libraries, schools, government and others to collectively develop strategies and structures that build community, social connections, and the sense of belonging and support for all Fairfax County families (e.g., learning about child development via social interactions at parks, malls, schools, etc.)	Inform land use and development policy and practice to support the creation of the Master Development Plan for the redevelopment of Original Mount Vernon High School and surrounding area to provide an early childhood education system responsive to community needs.	Department of Public Works and Environmental Services	Existing
<b>Total \$1,545,000</b>			