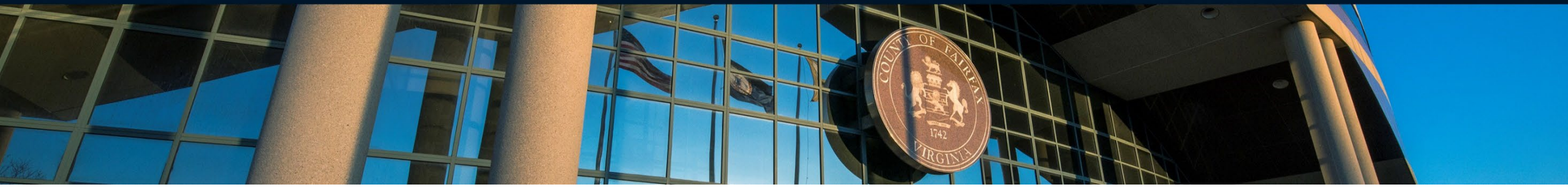
FAIRFAX COUNTY
VIRGINIA




# Early Childhood Update

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January 28, 2025



# Agenda

- Early Childhood System
- Ready Region Capital Area
- Early Childhood Program Supply
- Looking Ahead

# Comprehensive Vision of the Early Childhood System




Visual from Early Childhood Systems (ECS) Collective Impact Project: Voices from the Field

# Early Childhood Experiences



**Centers**

- Early childhood programs in public or private settings (community, county & FCPS)

**Regulated Family Child Care**

- County permitted or state licensed family child care educators

**In-home Options**

- Trusted Family member/neighbor who provides experiences

# Expanding and Increasing Access

**6,529**

Number of children served in the Child Care Assistance and Referral program (CCAR).

**$2.3M**

In grant disbursement to early childhood programs

**71%**

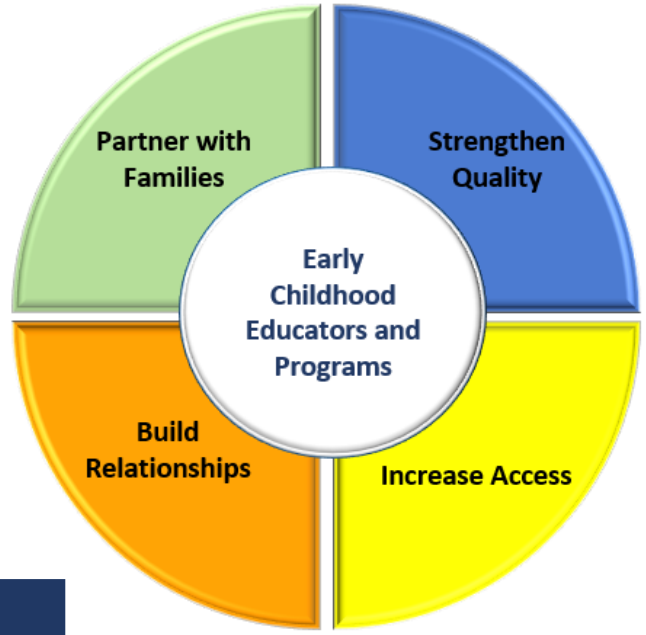
71% of CCAR families sampled (42%), maintained or increased their income from FY23 to FY24

**4,707** Observations
completed for VQB5 in Capital Area*

With 794 early childhood programs participating

## Unified Early Childhood System

- Regional early childhood systems building and coordination of early childhood care and education services to prepare children and families for success.
- **Virginia Quality Birth to Five (VQB5) and RecognizeB5**

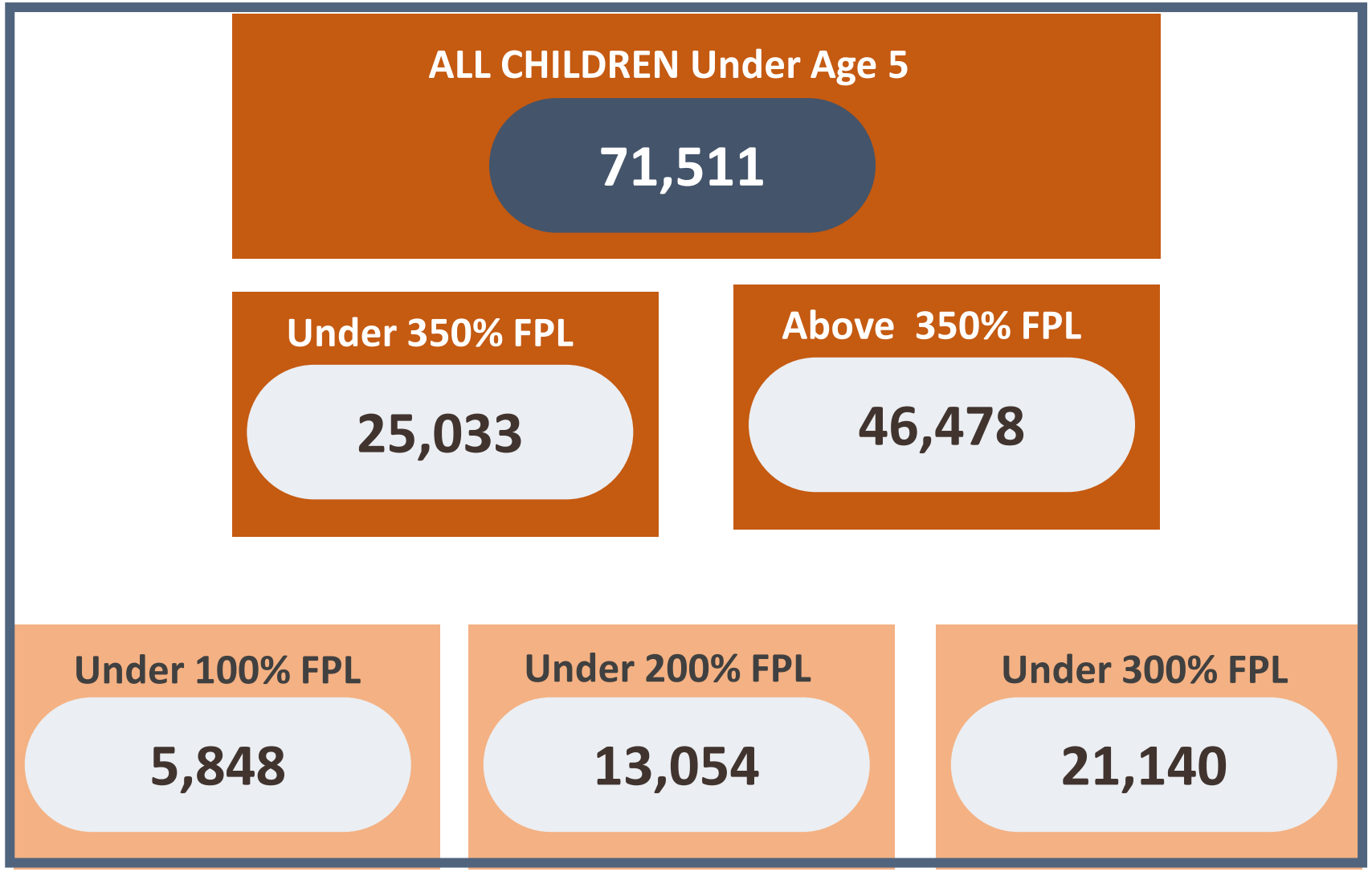



| Interactions | Curriculum |
|---|---|
| Measure teacher-child interactions and instruction with developmentally appropriate practices using the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (**CLASS**) | Measure the use of approved curricula that are aligned with the Virginia Early Learning & Development Standards Birth-Five |
| **Research shows that stimulating and supportive interactions between teachers and children and effective use of quality curricula promote children's holistic learning and development, resulting in improved school readiness.** | |

READY REGION Capital Area

## Early Childhood Program Supply

# Children Under Age Five in Fairfax County*




*ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates raw data (PUMS)

# Publicly Funded Programs

| | |
|---|---|
| Child Care Subsidy | • Fairfax County, City of Fairfax and Falls Church with State funding<br>• Additional local funds ($16.3M) to provide subsidy in Fairfax County |
| Mixed Delivery | • State funding<br>• Rates vary by region, number of slots and by age group |
| Virginia Preschool Initiative | • VPI funding is based on per child amount. $5,350 per child from state and 50% local match.<br>• Community based programs receive a community add-on of $2,500 per child |
| Head Start/Early Head Start | • Federal funding with a local match<br>• Total of over 650 federal slots in FCPS, Family child care and Center based |

*Updated October 2024*



# Looking Ahead

- Early Childhood Capital Improvement Projects

| Project Site | Projected Child Capacity | Projected Completion Date |
|---|---|---|
| **Kingstowne Complex** | 78 | September 2025 |
| **Original Mount Vernon High School Early Childhood Development Center** | 172 | October 2026 |
| **Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center** | 124 | November 2028 |
| **Hybla Valley Community Center** | 86 | Winter 2028 |

- Early Childhood Strategic Plan Spring 2025
- Early Childhood Bond FY26
  - Feasibility Study: Cross-System Collaboration