

## Hampton Roads Early Childhood Policy Agenda 2019

**A** strong start for Hampton Roads' youngest children is important in getting them ready for school and for life. Minus 9 to 5 is a community-led collective impact initiative grounded in a core principle of equity, with a vision that each family in Hampton Roads will be equipped and supported to raise children who are healthy, thriving, and ready to learn.

**T**hrough community education and building of public will in support of the importance of the early years, Minus 9 to 5's diverse community stakeholders advocate for policies, programs, and services that positively impact the needs of local families and their children.

### Minus 9 to 5 advocates for:

#### **Local and state-level early childhood system coordination**

- Support of state legislation outlining a cohesive, public-private, data-informed framework for early childhood in statute, including goals, principles, and targets
- Improving coordination and dissemination of community-level data that impacts early childhood outcomes

#### **Physical and emotional well-being of young children through prenatal and early childhood parent education and support programs**

- Development of a state-level, coordinated plan to integrate existing evidence-based home visiting programs into the early childhood system in collaboration with other local resources
- Improving coordination of existing regional home visiting programs to strategically leverage resources and expand home visiting capacity through federal, state and local funding opportunities
- Increasing access to family resources and parent education through an improved and coordinated resource data-base

#### **Access and availability of high-quality early care and education opportunities for all children**

- Increasing the number of regional child care providers participating in VA Quality: Incentivize participation in VA Quality and other quality improvement activities by linking child care subsidy reimbursement to demonstrated quality elements
- Expanding upon the recent Virginia Department of Social Services' increased reimbursement rates and family eligibility for child care assistance; Increase provider and family participation in child care subsidy program by identifying and addressing barriers
- Recruiting and better serving at-risk 4 year olds including year-round, full day options for working parents; serve more 3 year olds in Head Start to maximize 4 year old enrollment in Virginia Preschool Initiative

#### **Strengthening the business model of early child care and education programs**

- Developing a sustainable shared services model for early care and education programs that focuses on strengthening the business model and enhancing overall quality of these programs
- Strengthening the early care and education workforce pipeline focusing on increasing employee wages