



## EARLY CHILDHOOD

### Stabilize Children and Families

Building on the existing early childhood momentum at the regional and state levels (i.e. Smart Beginnings, Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success, VPI Plus Grant) the Office of Community Wealth Building (OCWB) in partnership with the COR Department of Human Services and Richmond Public Schools has launched the Richmond Early Childhood Cabinet.

Using a shared framework, the Cabinet will identify common early childhood indicators and develop metrics to track progress. The effort will serve as a permanent ongoing entity that embeds the work of the partnership.

**early childhood**



## **RICHMOND EARLY CHILDHOOD ACTION COUNCIL**

The Richmond Early Childhood Cabinet will embrace a wide group of community providers and stakeholders with the establishment of the Richmond Early Childhood Action Council designed to meet the needs of young children and their parents. While The Cabinet will serve as the overarching entity anchoring the shared framework, the Action Council will promote the shared vision growing out of The Cabinet's framework.

## **RECAP PILOT**

The Richmond Early Childhood Alignment Project (RECAP) will assist community organizations in creating one or more hubs for neighborhood-based early childhood and parent engagement in public housing communities. Programming will include a range of workshops and the development of peer support networks. RECAP will also develop a plan to incentivize participation and encourage successful first-year participants to become early childhood advocates in the community.

## **RVA READS**

OCWB partnered with the Richmond Public Library and RPS on the RVA Reads program - a pilot program where RPS' pre-Kindergarten students received a book a month over a four month period to encourage reading at home. In some homes, this is the first time books have been in the home. To introduce the books to the children, community volunteers visit pre-K classrooms to lead fun, interactive readings. The response to the program has shown significant success, and the initiative is slated for expansion to become year-round in future school years.