EARLY CARE & EDUCATION IN ALEXANDRIA
RISK & REACH STUDY

Early Care & Education Workgroup
Study Consultant – Real Change Strategies

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES COLLABORATIVE COMMISSION
EARLY CARE & EDUCATION WORKGROUP

• **Convener: ACT for Alexandria**
  – Brandi Yee, Chief Program Officer

• **Alexandria City Public Schools**
  – GwenCarol Holmes, Chief Academic Officer
  – Stacey Joyner, Coordinator of Citywide Early Childhood Programs

• **Alexandria Health Department**
  – Stephen Haering, Director
  – Joanna Hemmat, Public Health Nursing Supervisor

• **Children, Youth & Families Collaborative Commission**
  – Tammy Mann, Immediate Past Chair

• **City of Alexandria**
  – Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
  – Deborah Warren, Deputy Director of the Center for Children and Families, DCHS

• **Private Funder: Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation**
  – Lori Morris, President
  – Ellen Kennedy Folts, Executive Director

OVERVIEW OF STUDY

• Launched as a supplement to the Children and Youth Master Planning process to develop a deeper understanding of Alexandria’s 0-5 population
• Scope included review of currently available data to develop an understanding of Alexandria’s children: who and where they are, what risks they face, and how they are currently being served
• Data provides insight into gaps in existing services, areas to prioritize, and areas needing further investigation
• Ultimate goal is for findings to support the development of a comprehensive Early Care & Education strategy to support the City of Alexandria’s Children and Youth Master Plan
NOTES ABOUT DATA PRESENTED

• Different data sources track data differently.
• Different data sources define “low income” differently.
• Race and ethnicity data is also tracked inconsistently across sources. We used the US Census standard whenever possible.
• Data included here is for most recent year available. Data over time is included where data collection has been consistent over time.
• Where possible, external evaluation benchmarks are presented.
• The data presented here is, in some areas, accurate but not precise. However, the data is directionally correct and facilitates a conversation about where to go from where we are today.
STUDY APPROACH

Demographics
- Who are the children in Alexandria ages 0-5?
  - How many are there?
  - Where do they live?
  - What is their background?

Risks
- What risks are experienced by our children ages 0-5?
  - Which socioeconomic, health, and education risks are most prominent across the city?
  - Which children are most at risk?

Service Capacity
- What services are available to our children ages 0-5?
  - Do we have sufficient services?
  - Are the services matched to the need?
  - Have we accessed all available funding for services?
  - Are services coordinated effectively?

Looking Forward
- Based on the information gathered, what might we achieve as a community?

SOURCES CONSULTED
- ACT for Alexandria
- Alexandria Department of Community and Human Services
- Alexandria Health Department
- Alexandria City Public Schools
- Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation
- Campagna Center
- Center for Alexandria’s Children
- The Child and Family Network Centers
- Healthy Families Alexandria
- Northern Virginia Family Services
- Virginia Board of Medicine
- Virginia Department of Education
- Virginia Department of Health
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Department of Medical Assistance
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation
- US Census Bureau
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

• **Demographics**
  – Alexandria has a growing and diverse population of young children that need the best possible start for their future
  – The population under age 5 totals around 11,000. Those at highest risk reside in as few as 500 families.
  – Developing a comprehensive early care & education strategy for our children most at risk is an achievable goal.

• **Risk Indicators**
  – While Alexandria has notable strengths such as low unemployment and overall infant health, there are patterns of risk among our children that should be addressed
  – Children in Arlandria and West End neighborhoods demonstrate higher numbers of risk factors, as do children of Black and Hispanic ethnicities.
  – High numbers of risk factors dramatically increase the likelihood of negative outcomes

• **Service Capacity**
  – It is unclear whether existing service capacity meets the needs of Alexandria's children
  – Better data tracking and measurement are essential to fitting the puzzle pieces together: to provide the right services to the right children in a quality way
Looking Forward

While further study is needed in some areas, data suggests potential near-term actions that could be taken to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children:

- Ensure that high quality early care & education programs are both geographically and culturally accessible
- Ensure that children who are eligible for services are actually enrolled and receiving them
- Strengthen coordination across agencies serving young children and families

Longer term solutions around funding and systems creation will require community-wide commitment and effort.

The difficulty experienced in collecting comprehensive, reliable and meaningful data suggests the need to identify shared measures to collect and analyze on an ongoing basis to understand and evaluate the effectiveness of our programs.
DETAILED STUDY FINDINGS

Who are the children in Alexandria ages 0-5?
• How many are there?
• Where do they live?
• What is their background?

What risks are experienced by our children ages 0-5?
• Which socioeconomic, health, and education risks are most prominent across the city?
• Which children are most at risk?

What services are available to our children ages 0-5?
• Do we have sufficient services?
• Are the services matched to the need?
• Have we accessed all available funding for services?
• Are services coordinated effectively?

Based on the information gathered, what might we achieve as a community?
OVERVIEW OF DEMOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

- Alexandria’s population of children five and under totals approximately 11,400 and is growing at almost triple the rate of the population overall.
- There is a higher percentage of racial and ethnic diversity in children five and under than in the city as a whole. Many come from families of immigrants bringing language and cultural diversity to our city.
- More than 50% of our children under five live in the West End.
- Rapid growth in the number of children, particularly in the West End, is likely to continue given current birth rates.
MAP OF ALEXANDRIA BY ZIP CODE

City of Alexandria Zip Code Map

Legend:
- Do Codes
- Metro Tracks
- Post Office
- Railroads
- Water

West End
John Adams ES
Charles Barrett ES
James K Polk ES
William Ramsay ES
Patricia Henry ES
Samuel Tucker ES

Del Ray/Rosemont
George Mason ES
MaArthur ES
Douglas ES

Old Town
Jefferspn Houston ES
Matthew Maury ES
Lyles Crouch ES

Arlandria/Beverly Hills
Cora Kelly ES
Mount Vernon ES

Mount Vernon ES

The map was produced by the City of Alexandria's Department of Planning & Zoning, Old City Planning Office.

THE BRUHN-MORRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION
RELATIVE POPULATION GROWTH RATES

Source: 2000 and 2010 Census Summary Files

Children Under Five
- 2000: 7,962
- 2010: 9,964
- 25% Growth

Total Population
- 2000: 128,283
- 2010: 139,996
- 9% Growth
ALEXANDRIA’S CHILDREN BY ZIP CODE

Number of Children Ages 0-5

- Del Ray/Rosemont: 932
- Arlandria: 1,096
- Braddock Heights: 1,412
- Old Town: 1,542
- West End: 3,069
- 22301: 3,069
- 22305: 2,271
- 22302: 1,177
- 22314: 788
- 22304: 597
- 22311: 1,758

Number of Births - 2011

- Del Ray/Arlandia: 1,758
- Braddock Heights/Old Town: 788
- West End: 597

RELATIVE RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Children Under Five (n=9,964)
- Hispanic: 23%
- Asian: 5%
- Black: 21%
- Other: 1%
- Two or more races: 6%

Total Population (n=139,996)
- Hispanic: 16%
- Asian: 6%
- Black: 21%
- Other: 1%
- Two or more races: 3%

Source: 2010 Census Summary Files

THE BRUHN-MORRIS FAMILY FOUNDATION
KINDERGARTNER HOME LANGUAGE DIVERSITY

Number of Home Languages Spoken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>Del Ray/Rosemont</th>
<th>Arlandria</th>
<th>Braddock Heights</th>
<th>Old Town</th>
<th>West End</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22301</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22305</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22302</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22314</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage by Home Language Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zip Code</th>
<th>English</th>
<th>Spanish</th>
<th>Middle</th>
<th>African</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22301</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22305</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22302</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22314</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22304</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22311</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22312</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Alexandria City Public Schools. Zip codes refer to the home zip code of children attending Kindergarten.
DETAILED STUDY FINDINGS

**Demographics**
Who are the children in Alexandria ages 0-5?
- How many are there?
- Where do they live?
- What is their background?

**Risks**
What risks are experienced by our children ages 0-5?
- Which socioeconomic, health, and education risks are most prominent across the city?
- Which children are most at risk?

**Service Capacity**
What services are available to our children ages 0-5?
- Do we have sufficient services?
- Are the services matched to the need?
- Have we accessed all available funding for services?
- Are services coordinated effectively?

**Looking Forward**
Based on the information gathered, what might we achieve as a community?
OVERVIEW OF RISK FINDINGS

• **Overall importance of risk factors**
  – Each additional risk factor exponentially increases the odds of negative outcomes

• **Socioeconomic indicators**
  – Poverty, maternal education level, single motherhood, and teen motherhood put children at risk for negative outcomes such as poor physical health, poor mental health, behavior problems, and poor academic performance
  – Child poverty is growing even though the City's unemployment rate is low, suggesting underemployment and low wages may be issues
  – Socioeconomic risk indicators are most elevated in West End and Arlandria neighborhoods
OVERVIEW OF RISK FINDINGS

• **Health**
  – Overall infant health outcomes are quite good even though many mothers aren’t receiving early prenatal care
  – Infants of Black ethnicity are more at risk for poor health outcomes than White or Hispanic infants
  – We lack data on health outcomes for children beyond infancy
  – That data is essential for identifying and improving long term health outcomes

• **Education**
  – One in four children fails the third grade reading SOL, a huge indicator of future success in school and beyond
  – One in three kindergartners qualifies for English Language Learner (ELL) support, which is more than twice the Virginia average
  – Arlandria and West End children again face the most risk factors
CHILDREN UNDER SIX LIVING IN POVERTY

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey
Note: 2013 Poverty level for a family of four is $23,440. 200% of poverty level is $47,100. In 2011, the poverty level was $22,350 for a family of four.
RISK FACTORS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

## Socioeconomic Risk Factors by Zip Code

### Key
- A: Higher than Alexandria Average
- V: Higher than Virginia Average
- N: Higher than National Average

### Socioeconomic Risk Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socioeconomic Risk Indicators</th>
<th>22301 (Del Ray)</th>
<th>22305 (Arlington)</th>
<th>22302 (Braddock)</th>
<th>22314 (Old Town)</th>
<th>22304 (West End)</th>
<th>22311 (West End)</th>
<th>22312 (West End)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of 16 years and older unemployed</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of kids &lt;6 living in poverty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births to mothers with &lt;12 years of education</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births to single mothers</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>V</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births to teen mothers</td>
<td>A</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of socioeconomic risk indicators</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alexandria with State & Local Comparisons 2002-2011

Higher prenatal care rates are better

*Healthy People 2020 National Target

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT, AS A % OF ALL BIRTHS

Alexandria with State & Local Comparisons 2002-2011

Lower low birthweight rates are better

% of Births <2,500 grams

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics
LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Alexandria, Virginia 2002-2011

- White
- Black
- Hispanic

**HP 2020**: 7.8 or lower

Lower low birthweight rates are better

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**: Low Birthweight is defined as < 2,500 grams.

*Healthy People 2020 National Target

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics
**INFANT MORTALITY RATE**

*Alexandria with State & Local Comparisons 2002-2011*

Lower infant mortality rates are better

**Infant deaths per 1,000 live births**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Virginia</th>
<th>Alexandria</th>
<th>Arlington</th>
<th>Fairfax</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Infant mortality is defined as the death of an infant before his or her first birthday

*Healthy People 2020 National Target*

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics
INFANT MORTALITY RATE BY RACE & ETHNICITY

Alexandria, Virginia 2002-2011

Note: Infant mortality is defined as the death of an infant before his or her first birthday

*Healthy People 2020 National Target

Source: Virginia Department of Health, Division of Vital Statistics
# Health Risk Factors by Zip Code

## Key

- **A**: Higher than Alexandria Average
- **V**: Higher than Virginia Average
- **N**: Higher than National Average
- **H**: Healthy People 2020 Target

## Health Risk Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Risk Indicators</th>
<th>22301 (Del Ray)</th>
<th>22305 (Arlandria)</th>
<th>22302 (Braddock)</th>
<th>22314 (Old Town)</th>
<th>22304 (West End)</th>
<th>22311 (West End)</th>
<th>22312 (West End)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of low birth weight babies</td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of births from mothers not receiving early prenatal care</td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td><strong>V</strong></td>
<td><strong>H</strong></td>
<td><strong>A</strong></td>
<td><strong>N</strong></td>
<td><strong>V</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of health risk indicators</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Related Outcomes</td>
<td>Healthy People 2020 Targets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Percent of children who are breastfed | • Decreased health issues (e.g. infectious diseases, allergies, obesity)  
• Improved cognitive functioning | 81.9% |
| Percent of children with effective vaccination coverage level by 35 months | • Prevention of serious illness | 80-90% (depending on vaccine) |
| Percent of children with a medical home | • Lower emergency room use  
• Fewer hospitalizations for those with chronic illness | 63.3% |
| Percent of obese children 0-5 | • Health issues such as diabetes and asthma  
• Socio-emotional issues | 9.6% |
| Percent of children who have had a preventative dental visit in last 12 mos. | • Speech issues  
• Poor academic performance  
• Poor social relationships | 49.0% |
Percent of Kindergartners meeting PALs Benchmark 2011-2012

Source: Alexandria City Public Schools Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening Digest (PALS K-3): 2010-2011.

Notes: There are no elementary schools in 22312. Zip codes are for the school attended not the home address. The State of VA is currently piloting a more comprehensive standardized and useful kindergarten readiness assessment.
THIRD GRADE READING PERFORMANCE

Third Graders’ Reading SOL Test Results, by Percentage, 2011-2012

Source: Virginia Department of Education
Note: There are no elementary schools in 22312. Zip codes are for the school attended not the home address. Third grade math SOL scores are not included in this presentation because the standards were changed for 2011-12 so the results are not comparable with prior years.
KINDERGARTNERS REQUIRING ELL SUPPORT

Percent of Kindergartners requiring English Language Learner Support, 2012-2013

Source: Virginia Department of Education
Note: There are no elementary schools in 22312. Zip codes are for the school attended not the home address. All data are as of September 30, 2012.
## EDUCATION RISK FACTORS BY ZIP CODE

**Key**

- **A** Higher than Alexandria Average
- **V** Higher than Virginia Average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Indicator</th>
<th>22301</th>
<th>22305</th>
<th>22302</th>
<th>22314</th>
<th>22304</th>
<th>22311</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% of Kindergarteners with disabilities</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Kindergartners not passing PALS test (Fall)</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Kindergartners not passing PALS test (Spring)</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Kindergartners with Limited English Proficiency</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 3rd graders failing the Reading SOL</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of 3rd graders failing the Math SOL</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Number of Education Risks</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RISKS: QUESTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

• **Socioeconomic**
  – What is the relationship between unemployment, wages, and poverty?
  – What is the relationship between ethnicity and patterns of risk factors? How do we address in a culturally sensitive way?
  – How do we identify the relatively small number of children most at risk and enroll them in all services for which they are eligible?

• **Health**
  – What might be contributing to Black infant health outcomes and how can we positively impact those outcomes?
  – How healthy are our children post-infancy?
  – How would a shared data system enable us to better understand the state of our children’s health and implement programs to address areas of concern?

• **Education**
  – What are the best ways to support our English language learners and their parents around literacy?
  – What are best practices for family engagement around school readiness?
  – How do we create an early care & education system that ensures all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn?
DETAILED STUDY FINDINGS

Demographics
Who are the children in Alexandria ages 0-5?
• How many are there?
• Where do they live?
• What is their background?

Risks
What risks are experienced by our children ages 0-5?
• Which socioeconomic, health, and education risks are most prominent across the city?
• Which children are most at risk?

Service Capacity
What services are available to our children ages 0-5?
• Do we have sufficient services?
• Are the services matched to the need?
• Have we accessed all available funding for services?
• Are services coordinated effectively?

Looking Forward
Based on the information gathered, what might we achieve as a community?
OVERVIEW OF SERVICE CAPACITY FINDINGS

- Preschool and childcare capacity are not well matched with geographic needs.
- Only 15% of the preschool capacity has external validations of quality (i.e., NAEYC accreditation or VSQI star rating). Nearly one-third of this capacity is located in Old Town.
- Alexandria has developed capacity to serve needy children through various programs, but it is still unclear whether the right services are getting to the right children.
- Eligibility for programs can be confusing and act as a barrier to access.
- The majority of dollars supporting early care & education in Alexandria come from government sources and are highly prescriptive in how they can be used.
Note: Child care centers are facilities licensed by the Virginia Department of Social Services to provide group care for children, usually from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Family child care homes are private homes in which an adult provides care for children. The family child care homes represented in this figure include locally-regulated providers (registered with the Early Childhood Division) in Alexandria caring for 5 or fewer children. Persons caring for more than five children (including their own under 14) must have an assistant, a Special Use Permit from the City and a license from the state.
Source: Alexandria Department of Health and Human Services
Note: The Virginia Start Quality Initiative (VSQI) is the state’s child care Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to assess, improve and communicate level of quality in childcare centers and preschools. The VSQI assigns 1 to 5 star ratings to each site. For specific quality criteria programs must meet at each star-level, see http://www.smartbeginnings.org/Portals/5/PPDFs/VSQI/QRISStandard11_4_11.pdf. Programs that are both accredited and 3+ Star-rated are categorized as accredited above.

Source: Alexandria Department of Health and Human Services
PLAY SPACE CAPACITY BY ZIP CODE

**Number of Parks for Ages 0-5**

- 22301: 8
- 22305: 11
- 22302: 7
- 22314: 19
- 22304: 18
- 22311: 4
- 22312: 0

**Number of Parks per 100 0-5 Year Olds**

- 22301: 0.86
- 22305: 1.00
- 22302: 0.50
- 22314: 1.23
- 22304: 0.59
- 22311: 0.34
- 22312: 0.00

Source: Alexandria City Website
UNCLEAR WHETHER THE PIECES MATCH UP

CAPACITY

VPI
Early Head Start
Head Start
Play Groups
Home visits
Parent Infant Education

NEED

Children in poverty
Children in low income families
Children with language needs
Children of teen mothers
Children of single mothers
Children with disabilities
EXISTING FUNDING FOR ALEXANDRIA EC&E

$24.2 Million Total is mostly government and highly prescriptive on use

- Federal: 43%
- State: 24%
- Local Govt: 22%
- Private Philanthropy: 11%

Source: Alexandria city government, foundation websites, state and federal government reports
FEDERAL SOURCES OF FUNDS

Potential sources Alexandria does not currently receive

- HHS CCDF Family Engagement grants
- HHS, SAMHSA Project LAUNCH Grant Birth to age 8, incl mental health, early school adjustment issues
- HHS, HRSA Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant, & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program
- HHS, HRSA Healthy Start Prenatal women and parents with identified risks
- Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies
- HHS, HRSA, Title V Genetic & Metabolic Screening Services for Infants
- HHS, HRSA, Healthy Start Safe Cribs
- HHS, HRSA Universal Infant Hearing Screening
- HHS, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Linkage and Tracking Postpartum women w/kids <5
- HHS, SAMHSA Healthy Futures -- Mental health screening and adjustment issues 0-5
- HHS, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Medicaid Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment
- EPA, HHS, CDC -- CDC Healthy Homes Grant, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and Healthy Homes Program for households with kids <6 at risk for lead poisoning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Eligibility Criteria – Income Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TANF</td>
<td>Difference between income and 150% of poverty level does not exceed standard assistance unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNAP</td>
<td>Gross monthly income of no more than $2498 for a family of four</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>&lt;133% of the Federal Poverty Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHIP</td>
<td>&lt;200% of the Federal Poverty Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMIS</td>
<td>133%-200% of the Federal Poverty Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIC</td>
<td>&lt;185% of the Federal Poverty Level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free and Reduced Lunch</td>
<td>&lt;130% of the Federal Poverty Level for free lunch; 130%-185% of the Federal Poverty Level for reduced lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VPI</td>
<td>Varies by jurisdiction. Alexandria using 250% of FPL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head Start</td>
<td>&lt;130% of Federal Poverty Level assuming all children under 100% of Federal Poverty Level are being served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Child Care Assistance</td>
<td>150-250% of the Federal Poverty Level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CAPACITY: QUESTIONS AND IMPRESSIONS

• **Preschool and Care**
  – Do we need additional capacity, including subsidized capacity?
  – Do the existing programs have the language and cultural competencies to meet the needs of Alexandria’s racially and ethnically diverse children?
  – How can we incentivize and improve quality?

• **Eligibility and Enrollment**
  – Lack of coordinated data / enrollment creates inefficiencies and impediments
  – How do we ensure that all who are eligible are being linked to services?
  – How do we engage families in culturally sensitive ways?

• **Funding**
  – How can we be more creative with existing funds to better achieve outcomes?
  – What solutions have others implemented that could inform a strategy for our city?
  – What will we have to give up versus what can we achieve?
DETAILED STUDY FINDINGS

Demographics

Who are the children in Alexandria ages 0-5?
• How many are there?
• Where do they live?
• What is their background?

Risks

What risks are experienced by our children ages 0-5?
• Which socioeconomic, health, and education risks are most prominent across the city?
• Which children are most at risk?

Service Capacity

What services are available to our children ages 0-5?
• Do we have sufficient services?
• Are the services matched to the need?
• Have we accessed all available funding for services?
• Are services coordinated effectively?

Looking Forward

Based on the information gathered, what might we achieve as a community?
LOOKING FORWARD - WHAT’S POSSIBLE?

• **A detailed understanding of Alexandria’s children**
  – Common early childhood data set to be collected and analyzed across Alexandria programs

• **Easy access to services**
  – Single point of entry and eligibility screening for all EC&E services

• **Capacity to identify and meet children’s needs**
  – Better screening tools to identify and address needs as early as possible
  – Programming that meets diverse cultural and language needs

• **An integrated EC&E system that focuses on the child**
  – Shared strategy and bold goals around EC&E to improve child outcomes
  – Coordinating mechanisms and data sharing across agencies

• **Sufficient and sustainable funding**
  – Ensure we’re leveraging and maximizing impact from existing funding streams
  – Use data to inform program design and monitor and evaluate results
LOOKING FORWARD - WHAT’S POSSIBLE?

WHEN OUR CHILDREN FLOURISH... OUR COMMUNITY THRIVES
What are your impressions from the Risk & Reach Study?

What strikes you as especially important to keep in mind for our community as we continue to work towards an integrated early care & education system for our City?

Who and/or what is missing from this conversation?

What else should we explore? Best practices/bright spots? Who is doing this work well?