



SUMMARY

VA Early Childhood Foundation \$400,000 Grant to the Success By 6 Coalition of the Shenandoah Valley

The United Way of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County will serve as the fiscal agent to the Success By 6 Coalition of the Shenandoah Valley (SB6) for financial oversight. James Madison University will provide grant implementation and management. Through this grant, SB6 has identified strategic systems building opportunities, articulated goals to measure and track the region's progress towards achieving school readiness, and raised public and private matching funds to support the following work:

1. Strengthen parenting and families

Grant funds will be used to develop the Success By 6 Academy. The Academy will strengthen, enhance and expand services for our most at risk families and create an infrastructure of agencies and organizations serving families with children birth through kindergarten age. Partnering agencies will build networks with other agencies, community resources and local businesses to develop a cohesive system that offers families a unique supportive opportunity to gain the skills necessary to help their children enter school ready to learn. Families will have the opportunity to work with the Academy Coordinator to develop goals and be guided in the selection of opportunities to help reach their goals.

2. Strengthen skills of providers

A Success by 6 Academy for providers will be developed. Using the Smart Beginnings Professional Competencies providers will develop an individual professional growth plan. This plan will assist them in selecting educational opportunities to help them reach their goals. The Academy will incorporate and coordinate with the state Quality Rating System and Career Lattice.

3. Create a seamless transition to kindergarten

The VECF grant funds will be used to create a seamless transition from preK to kindergarten classrooms. The Milestones for Child Development will be used to align curriculum across childcare centers and family child care providers. The Virginia Foundation Blocks will be used as a curriculum tool for both public and private providers. Curriculum will be purchased for private 4 year old classrooms that align with the public school system. Public and private providers will work together to create a formalized transition to kindergarten plan.

4. Increase community awareness

Parents, providers and the community will be educated on the importance of early childhood experiences and available resources in the community through a targeted media campaign.

For more information, contact:

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