

CHILD CARE START-UP & EXPANSION RESOURCE GUIDE

Start, Grow, Expand



This start-up and expansion resource guide is for funding, licensing, workforce & business support for child care providers across United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West region.

How To Use This Guide

Starting or growing a child care program means navigating a lot of information. This packet is designed to make that easier.

What's In This Packet?

Each page in this guide covers one locality in the Ready Region West service area. Resources are organized into four categories: starting and planning your business, quality and licensing support, workforce and staff training, and funding and loans. Every resource listed is available to child care providers – most at no cost.

Where To Start

Find your locality's page and look at the category that matches your most pressing need right now.

Just getting started?

Go to Start and Plan Your Business first, then Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support.

Already operating and looking to grow?

Start with Funding & Loans, then Workforce & Staff Training.

Exploring whether to open a program?

Child Care Aware of Virginia offers free one-on-one guidance on licensing, business planning, and next steps. Call 866-KIDS-TLC or visit vachildcare.com.

Not sure where you fit?

Connect with United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West. Let's have a conversation about your options.

Want To Dig Deeper?

This guide highlights the most relevant resources for your area. A full inventory of regional and statewide funding, financing, real estate, and business support options is also available. It includes eligibility details, application costs, capital amounts, and direct contact information for each resource.

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS:

Steps to Licensure

1 Complete pre-application training

Most program directors need a graduate degree and 6 months of experience or a bachelors with a year of experience in childcare, or extensive experience without a degree.

2 Register for pre-license orientation

Contact your local Office of Child Care Health and Safety. You'll learn some basic standards, such as staff to child ratios, which depend on child age.

3 Create a functional design plan

This is your layout for the Child Care Center. You'll need 35 square feet of usable floor space per child, meaning all floor space minus furniture.

4 Complete initial application

You'll need over a dozen documents, including proof of qualifications, proof of insurance coverage, an annual operating budget, and copies of policies and procedures.

Opening or expanding a new Child Care Center means dealing with a lot of regulations. For more information, go to: www.childcare.virginia.gov/providers

ALLEGHANY COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Alleghany Highlands EDC

Year-round | Free

Business recruitment/expansion, local data, permitting guidance, incentives connector.

Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Year-round | Free

Member networking and small-business support.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Mountain Gateway Community College

Semester Terms

Early-childhood credentials and customized employer training.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

The Alleghany Foundation

Year-round

Major local funder (~\$64M); funds early childhood and child care. Not for debt or ongoing operating costs.

Give Local Alleghany Highlands

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

VSBFA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

BATH COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Bath County EDA

Year-round | Free

Offers assistance for new businesses looking to open in the country.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Year-round | 5 Cohorts a year

8-week business bootcamp plus technical assistance and small business loans.

Shenandoah Valley SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy located in Harrisonburg.



Workforce & Staff Training

InternshipsVA Matching Grant

Annual Cycle

Matching funds to provide paid internships to students in VA universities.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Bath EDA Small Business Incentive Grant

Once a year

Up to \$10,000 grants for small businesses that serve the local community.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

BOTETOURT COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Greater Roanoke & NRV SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.

TAP - Business Seed (BSCI)

Year-round | Free

Startup classes plus short-and long-term loans up to \$50,000.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

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Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF BUENA VISTA:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

The Walker Program

Year-round | Free

Business training and networking to support and jumpstart businesses owned by people of color.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Year-round | 5 Cohorts a year

8-week business bootcamp plus technical assistance and small business loans.

Shenandoah Valley SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy located in Harrisonburg.



Workforce & Staff Training

InternshipsVA Matching Grant

Annual Cycle

Matching funds to provide paid internships to students in VA universities.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

City of Buena Vista Small Business Revolving Loan

Once a year

Locally managed revolving loan fund for business start-ups and improvements.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF COVINGTON:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Alleghany Highlands EDC

Year-round | Free

Business recruitment/expansion, local data, permitting guidance, incentives connector.

Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Year-round | Free

Member networking and small-business support.

Greater Roanoke SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.



Workforce & Staff Training

Project Pathfinders

Year-round

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Mountain Gateway Community College

Semester Terms

Early-childhood credentials and customized employer training.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

The Alleghany Foundation

Year-round

Major local funder (~\$64M); funds early childhood and child care. Not for debt or ongoing operating costs.

Give Local Alleghany Highlands

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

VSBFA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF LEXINGTON:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Main Street Lexington

Year-round | Free

Business support and connections to development resources downtown.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Year-round | 5 Cohorts a year

8-week business bootcamp plus technical assistance and small business loans.

Shenandoah Valley SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy located in Harrisonburg.



Workforce & Staff Training

InternshipsVA Matching Grant

Annual Cycle

Matching funds to provide paid internships to students in VA universities.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Washington and Lee University Community Grants

Twice a year

Grants for nonprofit organizations serving Lexington and Rockbridge County.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF MARTINSVILLE:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Year-round | Free

Free training, consulting, and help with capital acquisition.

City of Martinsville EDA

Year-round | Free

City authority for entrepreneurship and business development, helps to maximize incentives for businesses.

Longwood University SBDC - Western Region

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.



Workforce & Staff Training

Appalachian Regional Commission

Year-round

READY Grants to Grow helps organizations obtain skills, knowledge and resources to strengthen their local economies.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

The Harvest Foundation

Year-round and quarterly grants

Provides funding, support, and programming to child care providers in Henry County and Martinsville.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF ROANOKE:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Greater Roanoke & NRV SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.

TAP - Business Seed (BSCI)

Year-round | Free

Startup classes plus short- and long-term loans up to \$50,000.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CITY OF SALEM:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Greater Roanoke & NRV SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.

TAP - Business Seed (BSCI)

Year-round | Free

Startup classes plus short- and long-term loans up to \$50,000.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

CRAIG COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Year-round | Free

Free training, consulting, and help with capital acquisition.

TAP - Business Seed (BSCI)

Year-round | Free

Startup classes plus short- and long-term loans up to \$50,000.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

FRANKLIN COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Year-round | Free

Business recruitment/expansion, local data, permitting guidance, incentives connector.

Greater Roanoke & NRV SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

HENRY COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Year-round | Free

Free training, consulting, and help with capital acquisition

Henry County Economic Development

Year-round | Free

Administers Enterprise Zone incentives and supports business retention and expansion.

Longwood University SBDC - Western Region

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.



Workforce & Staff Training

Appalachian Regional Commission

Year-round

READY Grants to Grow helps organizations obtain skills, knowledge and resources to strengthen their local economies.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

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Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

The Harvest Foundation

Year-round and quarterly grants

Provides funding, support, and programming to child care providers in Henry County and Martinsville.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

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HIGHLAND COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Highland County EDA

Annual cycle

Grant incentive program for small businesses in Highland County.

Highland County Chamber of Commerce

Year-round | Membership Fee

Maintains a curated list of small-business resources and provides networking.

Shenandoah Valley SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy, located in Harrisonburg.



Workforce & Staff Training

InternshipsVA Matching Grant

Annual Cycle

Matching funds to provide paid internships to students in VA universities.

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Aligned with VCCPSP

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Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Year-round | 3 cohorts a year

Technical assistance and small-business loans plus 8-week business bootcamp.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

PATRICK COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project

Year-round | Free

Free training, consulting, and help with capital acquisition.

Patrick County Economic Development

Year-round | Free

Provides business retention and expansion support and resource navigation for start-ups.

Longwood University SBDC - Western Region

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.



Workforce & Staff Training

Appalachian Regional Commission

Year-round

READY Grants to Grow helps organizations obtain skills, knowledge and resources to strengthen their local economies.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

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Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

ROANOKE COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

Greater Roanoke & NRV SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy.

TAP - Business Seed (BSCI)

Year-round | Free

Startup classes plus short- and long-term loans up to \$50,000.

The Advancement Foundation

Gauntlet: Feb-Apr | \$299 Program Fee

Entrepreneur workshops and the Gauntlet pitch competition with cash prizes.



Workforce & Staff Training

Virginia Career Works Blue Ridge

Year-round

Recruiting, screening, and hiring incentive support for employers.

Child Care Provider Scholarship (VCCPSP)

March 15 | June 15 | Oct 15

Pays staff tuition toward early-childhood credentials and the CDA.

Project Pathfinders

Aligned with VCCPSP

Community-college tuition, fees, and books for early-childhood staff.



Quality, Licensing & Ongoing Support (Year-round & Free)

United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge - Ready Region West

VQB5 coaching, Mixed Delivery slots, and enrollment help.

VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

Coaching to strengthen infant & toddler care.

Child Care Aware Virginia

1-on-1 consultation on licensing, business management, quality improvement, and the Child Care Subsidy Program applications.

ChildCareVA (VDOE)

Licensing requirement, official guidance, and provider news.



Funding & Loans

Roanoke County EDA - BEAP Grant

Equipment acquisition grant for existing Roanoke businesses for a maximum of 50% capital acquisition costs or \$20,000.

Community Foundation Serving Western VA

Opens in November

Grants for programs serving children from prenatal through age five.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

Federally backed loans for startup, equipment, and facilities via local lenders.

New here? Start with two contacts - Ready Region West for free quality coaching, and the SBDC for free business help. Most funders look for VQB5 participation and a simple business plan.

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY:

Child Care Provider Resource Guide

Funding, training, and support to help you start, sustain, and grow your program.



Start and Plan Your Business

The Walker Program

Year-round | Free

Business training and networking to support and jumpstart businesses owned by people of color.

Shenandoah Community Capital Fund

Year-round | 5 Cohorts a year

8-week business bootcamp plus technical assistance and small business loans.

Shenandoah Valley SBDC

Year-round | Free

Free one-on-one advising on business plans, projections, and startup strategy, located in Harrisonburg.



Workforce & Staff Training

Internships VA Matching Grant

Annual Cycle

Matching funds to provide paid internships to students in VA universities.

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Funding & Loans

VSBA Child Care Financing Program

Year-round

No-interest state loans for equipment, materials, and quality upgrades.

Washington and Lee University Community Grants

Twice a year

Grants for nonprofit organizations serving Lexington and Rockbridge County.

SBA 7(a) - 504 - microloans

Year-round

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UNITED WAY
Virginia's Blue Ridge

READY

REGION
West