

## CHILD CARE INITIATIVE

The County is aggressively moving forward with its Child Care Initiative (CCI), a multi-year effort to develop an inclusive, integrated child care system that effectively serves all Arlington County families, with a priority focus on vulnerable populations. Led by the Department of Human Services (DHS), the CCI includes broad participation from the child care provider community, non-profits, and multiple County departments.

DHS kicked off the CCI by conducting a Risk and Reach Study, to better understand the County's early childhood population and the provider community. This included demographic and other analysis of who and where children are, the risks the early childhood population faces, and how they are currently being served. The data and stakeholder input provided the foundation for the draft CCI Action Plan that addresses the following priority areas:

- **Accessibility** – Evaluation and implementation of tools to improve access to child care, including affordability and other barriers
- **Availability** – Analysis of tools that could increase the number and utilization of child care slots, including zoning and permitting process reviews and child care employment barriers.
- **Quality** – Evaluation and implementation of strategies to ensure the quality and safety of child care in Arlington, including review of existing regulations and training and accreditation opportunities.

The draft CCI Action Plan will be finalized with the County Manager and the County Board later this spring, including a prioritization of Action Plan steps that will necessarily need to occur over a multi-year period. Additional resources may be needed for implementation. Additional information on the Child Care Initiative can be found [here](#).

This page intentionally left blank