



UNITED WE FIGHT.

UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED

Virginia Quality

Virginia Quality leads the way for high-quality early education for our youngest Virginians by setting standards for quality and providing a path for continuous quality improvement at child care centers, preschools and family child care homes across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Virginia Quality is part of a grant initiative funded through the Virginia Department of Social Services.

Preschool Development

The Preschool Development Initiative is testing innovative strategies to strengthen early childhood care and education. The ultimate goal is to improve education outcomes for children. As part of a statewide network of 11 communities, UWSWVA will collect data from key partners in family day home, center-based child care, Head Start and school programs for a statewide needs assessment and strategic plan. The plan will be used to align early learning standards across early care and learning settings, and develop kindergarten-readiness tools with and for all publicly funded programs. During this one-year initiative, UWSWVA will support Carroll, Russell, Tazewell, and Wythe counties, and the city of Bristol to better unify child care, Head Start, and pre-K at the local level.

Mixed Delivery Preschool Project

The Mixed Delivery Preschool Project is a pilot designed by United Way of Southwest Virginia to provide 8 private licensed childcare centers with support and resources not typically found in private childcare. The project uses a cross-sector collaborative approach to strengthen the quality of care for four-year-olds by assessing current needs and developing a plan to improve teacher education, curriculum, environment, enrollment, community resource utilization, and classroom interactions. The Mixed Delivery Preschool Project is part of a grant initiative awarded through the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.

Ready Network

An online platform will enable providers to share the availability of their services, manage day-to-day operations, and communicate with families at the touch of a button. This initiative includes free computer hardware and training and offers support for providers to enroll in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to receive reimbursement for their food costs

Virginia Infant Toddler Specialist Network

From the time babies are born, their brains are developing. Most of a child's brain development happens before he or she is three years old, setting patterns for success or failure in the workforce from an early age. United Way of Southwest Virginia serves as the Western Regional Office for the statewide Virginia Infant & Toddler Specialist Network (VA ITSN). VA ITSN delivers on-site consultations, trainings, mentoring, feedback, and support to program providers that care for children birth-36 months, and helps providers make connections to existing community resources.

Campaign for Grade Level Reading

The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading is a collaborative effort to ensure that many more children from low-income families succeed in school and graduate prepared for college, a career, and active citizenship. In Southwest Virginia, the GLR Campaign began with the distribution of 50,000 brand new, high-quality books donated by The Soho Center, a 46-year-old nonprofit in Virginia. The CGLR Campaign is led and supported by United Way of Southwest Virginia, and school systems, libraries, summer, and after-school programs, and various cross-sector organizations are collaborating to put the GLR framework and priorities into action over a multi-year period.

Trauma Informed Community Network/Systems Building

Using the Collective Impact framework for community change, the Health Programs team leads a system-wide response to address trauma by fostering child and youth resiliency across sectors. As the anchor entity the Trauma-Informed Community Network (TICN) in Southwest Virginia, we guide the region to help critical stakeholders realize the public health crisis we are experiencing because of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and childhood trauma. United Way works with cross-sector partners to build a more unified trauma-informed system to build resiliency in children, families, and child-serving systems across the region.

Developmental Screening

The Developmental Screening Hub ensures all children are screened early and continuously for special health care needs for early detection and linked to services so children enter school ready to learn and succeed.

AI's Pals

Kids Making Healthy Choices is a school-based prevention program that seeks to develop social-emotional skills such as self-control, problem-solving, and healthy decisionmaking in children ages 3-8 in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade. The program fosters both the personal traits of resilience and the nurturing environments children need to overcome difficulties and fully develop their talents and capabilities. The AI's Pal's program is part of a grant initiative awarded through the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.

Backpacks Unite

Backpacks Unite provides nutritious weekend meals during each school year to over 1,000 elementary and middle school-aged students throughout Southwest Virginia ensuring that students come to school Monday ready to learn and ready to succeed.

Ignite Program

The United Way of Southwest Virginia Ignite Program sparks career interest in the next generation of Southwest Virginia's workforce through career awareness (through components like the Careers Expo for Youth) and skill development. The program helps bridge the gap between the worlds of learning and work by connecting schools and students with employers and employees. Across the United Way of Southwest Virginia service area, the Ignite Program is investing in the lives of over 29,000 students – enabling middle school and high school students to realize their potential and be ready to enter and advance in the region's workforce.