Early Education and Care

We are deeply invested in the delivery of <u>quality</u> <u>affordable</u> early education and care services, organized around a two-generation approach, through a comprehensive mixed delivery system operating in various settings including family child care, center-based programs, out-of-school time programs, and Head Start/Early Head Start.

Quality means promoting children's cognitive growth, meeting their physical needs, supporting their social and emotional development, and engaging families. Quality means children will be ready to enter our Kindergarten-12 education system.

CAAs Leaders in Early Education & Care for 60 Years

+16,000 Early Education & Care Slots

Community Action Agencies are one of the Commonwealth's largest groups of nonprofit early education and care providers for low-income families. They administer more than 14,000 early education and care slots, including Head Start and subsidized programs, in the majority of communities across the state.

+8,200 Head Start slots

Community Action Agencies are leaders in providing Head Start services. Head Start is a high-quality model of preschool early education and care which has pioneered many of the "best practices" now being used in other programs. Over 7,600 low-income children and families receive comprehensive services through CAA-sponsored Head Start programs.

½ CCR&Rs are operated by CAAs

Community Action Agencies operate half of the State's Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs). These are "one-stop shopping" resources for early education and care services, which offer parent education and quality improvement assistance for providers as well as information and referral to early education and care options. The CCRR's are a critical component of the Early Education and Care infrastructure – they help more than 38,000 children from income eligible working families, DTA families and DCF families.

The CAA Network is focused on quality, affordable childcare and the particularly critical needs of working parents.