



Early Education and Care

We are deeply invested in the delivery of quality affordable 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 +50 Years



+12,000 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 12,000 early education and care slots, including Head Start and subsidized programs, in the majority of communities across the state.



+8,500 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 8,500 low-income children and families receive comprehensive services through CAA-sponsored Head Start programs.



1/2 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, professional development for staff, and quality improvement assistance for providers, as well as information and referral to early education and care options. The CCR&Rs also manage vouchers for DTA recipients and income-eligible working parents. CCR&Rs helped 14,536 families (20,684 children); there are more than 23,000 children on the waiting list.

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