



Stronger Together Conference
Richmond, Virginia
May 7, 2024

The Challenge

Shrinking Population

A projected **population decline of 30%**
within the next two decades

Weak Workforce Participation

An average labor **participation rate of 50%**
vs. a statewide average of 65%

Limited Access to Early Care + Low Educational Obtainment

A **29% gap in access to early childhood care and education**
vs. a Commonwealth average of 11%

+

19% of bachelor's degree or higher
vs. 24% across the Commonwealth

Poor Health Outcomes

A **life expectancy of 75 years** vs. 83 years
among other Virginia Communities





The Opportunity

Where Vision Meets Possibility



Education

Expand access to early care
and education

+

Bridge the gap between the
worlds of learning and work



Workforce Innovation

Develop a professional early
care and education workforce

+

Create more career awareness
and hands on learning
opportunities for K-12



Wellbeing

Strengthen the early care
and education system

+

Ensure that everyone can
learn and grow in a healthy
environment













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