



# HARRISONBURG | VA FRIENDLY BY NATURE



For Immediate Release – Sept. 22, 2023

Contact: Michael Parks, Harrisonburg Director of Communications  
540.432.7701  
Michael.Parks@harrisonburgva.gov

## City's ARPA-funded childcare support program moves forward

HARRISONBURG, Va. – The City of Harrisonburg, along with partner agencies the Shenandoah Valley Small Business Development Center and Early Education Business Consultants, is now offering an opportunity for local childcare providers and aspiring childcare providers to receive special training and personalized assistance through the City's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) program.

A free information session will be held Monday, Oct. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center, 620 Simms Ave., where Harrisonburg-based childcare providers and those wishing to become a childcare provider will be able to learn more about free support and potential funding for their services. An additional information session will be held Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 6:30 p.m. at Harrisonburg City Hall, 409 S. Main St., for those who cannot attend the first event. Participants are encouraged to register in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/bp6yhpsm>.

The goal of the effort is to provide participants with the tools and support they need to start, grow and succeed as a childcare provider. The program is a priority for Harrisonburg City Council members, who heard frequently from community members during its six-month ARPA community engagement process that childcare support was one of the biggest struggles for many families during the COVID-19 pandemic. City Council voted in December 2022 to set aside \$596,000 from federal ARPA funds to be used toward supporting childcare programs in the community.

"We know that many in our community struggled with childcare during the pandemic, as did the providers who are so important to families in Harrisonburg," Mayor Deanna Reed said. "I am grateful that we have the opportunity to help childcare providers grow and flourish, which in turn will help make sure anyone in our community who needs these services will be able to find options that work for their family."

Participants who complete the program and can demonstrate they have increased childcare spaces in their home or center may be eligible for ARPA grant funding from the City.

More information on the program is available at <https://www.valleysbdc.org/pathway-to-success-childcare-business/>.

Childcare support efforts are part of a group of 21 projects City Council is funding through ARPA. The City received \$23.8 million from the federal program focused on helping states and localities recover from the pandemic and maintain vital public services.

**CONSIDERING OR ALREADY PROVIDING CHILDCARE IN HARRISONBURG?**

Join us to learn how to start a daycare or how to improve your existing business by connecting with resources!

**INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS**  
Monday, October 9, 6:30pm  
Wednesday, October 25, 6:30pm

Learn more:  
[www.valleysbdc.org](http://www.valleysbdc.org)

How to get started  
How to connect with resources  
Training/Technical Assistance  
ARPA Funding

AMERICA'S SBDC VIRGINIA SHENANDOAH VALLEY  
EARLY EDUCATION BUSINESS CONSULTANTS  
THE CITY OF HARRISONBURG VIRGINIA

Following a robust community engagement effort that heard from thousands in Harrisonburg about their needs, City Council identified six focus areas – one of which is the need to increase affordable, accessible childcare in the community.

More information on the ARPA program and other funded projects can be found at <https://harrisonburgva.gov/ARPA>.

***The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to approximately 55,700 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).*

###