



2021  
COVA  
GIVING BACK  
AWARDS  
NONPROFITS

## Virginia: Kids First

### Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula

*"The resources we received from [Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula] helped us physically expand our space and to create innovative and interactive ways to work with new materials in interest centers so students may become more investigative, engaged and involved in their personal learning and development."*

Established in 2005, Smart Beginnings Virginia Peninsula is one of only 17 school readiness coalitions in the Commonwealth. The local nonprofit identifies unmet needs and gaps in service in early childhood systems then strategically designs and implements solutions to such deficiencies to ensure success in the lives of the Greater Peninsula's youngest residents. The most common challenges SBVP helps children, birth to age five, and their families overcome include lack of affordable housing, economic problems, high childcare costs and food insecurity. To enrich all facets of children's lives, SBVP partners with an array of organizations from health and social services to medical communities, faith communities and childcare providers.

#### HOW THEY MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- SBVP's primary goal is to assist working families in locating childcare and promoting high-quality early childhood programs that are critical to a child's development.
- They employed Ready Network for Family Child Care and Ready Regions for School-Age Child Care programs to stabilize the local childcare industry during the height of COVID-19.
- Smart Beginnings awarded over 100 households with scholarships up to \$3,600 to assist with home and tuition costs.
- The organization promotes the importance of public health recommendations and immunizations for individuals closely involved with childcare settings.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

SBVP offers an array of giving opportunities to its supporters. In addition to monetary donations, the Newport News-Hampton nonprofit encourages volunteer opportunities, shopping online with Amazon SMILE, providing scholarship funds and inviting speakers to spread mission awareness at your place of work.

Learn more at [SmartBeginningsVP.org](http://SmartBeginningsVP.org)



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