

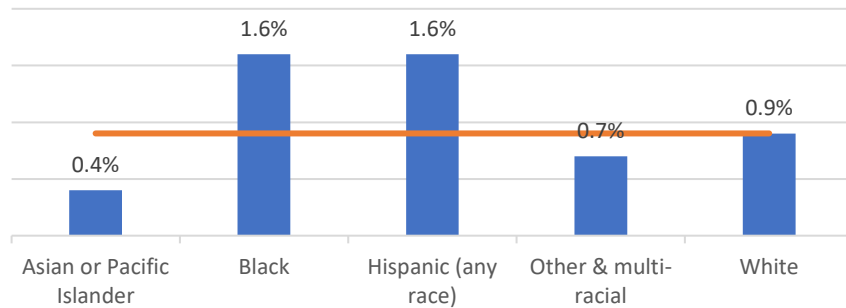
CCFP RFP | TAC Tool: Literacy/Educational Development/Attainment

Outcome Statement: To have the ability to read, write, and communicate effectively in order to manage finances and attain employment goals through academic and vocational achievement. To have access to quality early care and education and supports to develop employment and independent living skills.

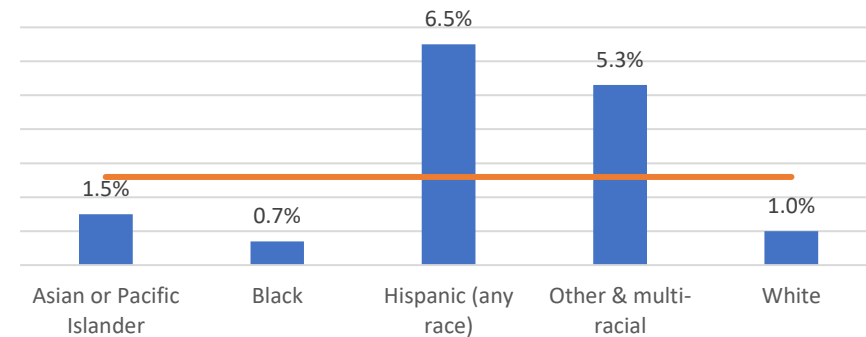
According to the [Fairfax County Strategic Plan](#), some in our community have less access to well-paying jobs and the learning opportunities needed to successfully compete in the regional job market, which affects both individuals and families. There is also a tremendous need for quality early childhood education, which supports school readiness and is an essential component of success later in life. Finally, older residents need to be connected and engaged, especially through increased digital access and literacy, but also through in-person opportunities that teach new skills and offer a sense of inclusion and connection.

The digital divide reveals that access to computers and high-speed internet often reflect inequities in communities. A [report from the Urban Institute](#) asserts that racial and economic inequities in the US are growing, and rapid technological change can either promote inclusion or widen this divide. Our reliance on technology to connect during the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on our residents ([2022 ACS 1-year data, table S2802](#)).

0.9% of people in Fairfax County do not have a computer in their household



2.6% of people in Fairfax County do not have an internet subscription in their household



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) defines child care as affordable if it costs no more than 7% of a family's income. However, the [2022 Needs Assessment](#) points out that annual costs for childcare are between \$19,760 - \$25,220 per infant and \$16,120 - \$22,100 for pre-school age children. About 7,500 Fairfax County families with children have an annual income of less than \$25,000.

The [Center for American Progress](#) looked at the cost and availability of quality child care, and found that families' participation in child care and early education may be inhibited by both the cost of and the lack of high-quality options that are culturally or linguistically appropriate. Research on the populations impacted by "child care deserts"—areas with little or no access to quality child care—show that Latino and Asian children are most impacted by lack of supply.