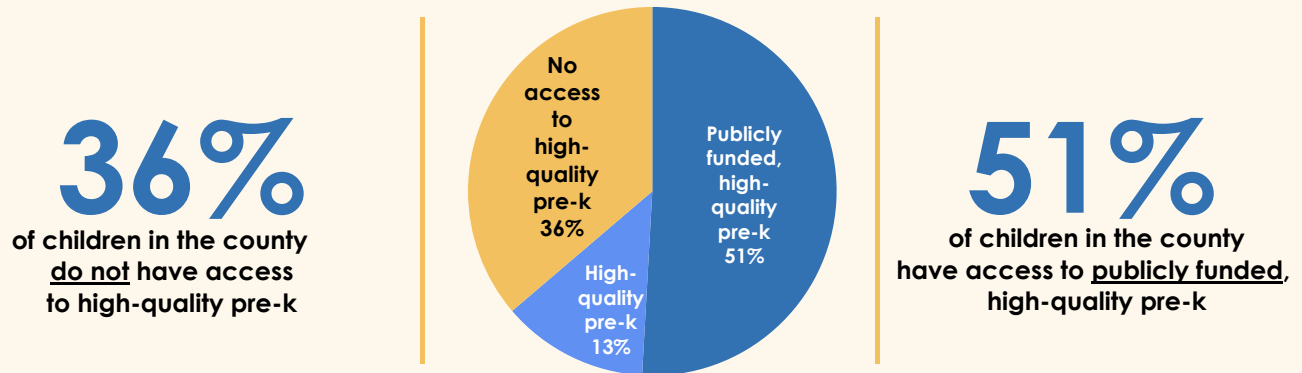# MAKING SURE VENANGO COUNTY CHILDREN ARE READY TO SUCCEED

Access to high-quality pre-k gives <u>all</u> children the opportunity to learn.

But … 470 children ages 3 and 4 in Venango County <u>don't</u> have access to high-quality pre-k!

36%
of children in the county <u>do not</u> have access to high-quality pre-k

Pie chart:
- No access to high-quality pre-k 36%
- Publicly funded, high-quality pre-k 51%
- High-quality pre-k 13%

51%
of children in the county have access to <u>publicly funded</u>, high-quality pre-k

There are 1,297 children ages 3 and 4 in Venango County.

Of those children, 1,063 or 82% live in families below 300% poverty.

Despite its benefits, far too many families cannot afford to enroll their kids in high-quality pre-k and often resort to programs that lack elements essential to their child's success.

HIGH-QUALITY PRE-K WORKS!

The percentage of 4-year-olds in 2012-13 with **proficient academic and social skills:**

more than tripled from 22 percent to 82 percent after participating in PA Pre-K Counts

increased more than six-fold from 12 percent to 76 percent after participating in Head Start Supplemental

Education investment must start early, before the achievement gap is too wide and very costly to overcome.

STRENGTHEN OUR SCHOOLS!

High-quality pre-k significantly improves children's early literacy, language, math and social/emotional skills.

Reduces grade repetition by as much as a third through 8th grade

Reduces special education placements by nearly half through 2nd grade

Increases the likelihood of high school graduation and college enrollment

STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY!

Pre-k builds the foundation for a more successful Venango County.

Preserves taxpayer dollars by decreasing dropout rates

Saves taxpayers' money by decreasing crime and incarceration

Boosts the economy through increased lifetime earnings