



Date: February 24, 2023
 To: Chair Lyons and members of the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare
 CC: Katie McLinn, Legislative Counsel
 From: Dr. Morgan Crossman, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures
 Re: S.56: An act relating to Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Fiscal Implications

The fiscal implications of activities included in S.56 for Building Bright Futures are outlined below in relation to rule-making and supporting transitions/technical assistance.

BBF’s Role by Section	Fiscal Implications
<p>Section 3, Rulemaking, subsection (6a), pg: 4 CCFAP eligibility - Consultation with the Department for Children and Families to adopt rules around compensation schedule with annual amendments</p> <p>Section 5, Rulemaking, subsection (a), pg 22: Consultation with the Commissioner of the Department for Children and Families to establish a payment schedule and rules</p>	<p>\$60,000 for FY 24/25 BBF will require \$30,000 per year to utilize the VECAP Committee Network to support DCF with adopting and/or updating rules. This funding includes BBF staff time to support this scope.</p>
<p>Section 13, Building Bright Futures; Transition Assistance, pg 11: Consultation with, and technical assistance for, the Agency of Education and the Department for Children and Families focused on transitioning from the current system to the newly proposed system.</p> <p>Given the removal of UPK, please remove the following language from Section 13 on page 11: “including 6 establishing the public prekindergarten education program pursuant to 16 7 V.S.A. § 829”.</p>	<p>\$350,000 for FY 24/25 Year 1: \$300,000 to support BBF and a contractor to build the initial transition plan including all elements outlined in the language provided below, and to begin monitoring implementation and progress. Year 2: \$50,000 for BBF and a contractor to support agencies throughout the transition period and monitoring progress. <i>(Of note, this is not the total cost required to support implementation and monitoring. Funding may be supplemented by the federal Preschool Development Grant.)</i></p>

Consultation on Rulemaking: Building Bright Futures does not have rule-making authority. It is not an appropriate role for BBF to consult around rulemaking and we recommend that the language within the rulemaking sections that requires consultation with BBF be removed. If the language remains in the bill, as aligned with our state statute, the SAC Network, specifically our VECAP Committees, could inform rulemaking and support the public comment period as a public private partnership.



Consultation with Agencies on Governance and Administration Transitions

BBF is being asked to support complex system transitions and provide technical assistance to the administration. While we do not endorse or oppose any component of legislation, we encourage the committee to review the findings of [Vermont's Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis](#), specifically the value of a unified comprehensive early childhood system.

Supporting governance and systems transitions is an appropriate role for BBF and our team is well positioned to support this work. In order for BBF to be successful in supporting this series of complex transitions, this legislation must include more concrete language about the role and responsibilities. Based on the Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis and recent recommendations from both national experts and the State Advisory Council, a formal transition plan is required. **The language or similar language found in the 2023 State Advisory Council's Policy Recommendations related to the responsibilities related to supporting any governance and policy transitions could be utilized in the bill:**

- Developing a concrete transition plan with accountability and metrics (process and success) prioritizing cross-sector stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring any and all transitions over time and reporting annually to the Legislature
- Defining and measuring success in process and outcomes using a continuous quality improvement framework
- Ensuring alignment with the vision articulated in the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan

Given the removal of UPK from the bill, please remove the following language from Section 13 on page 11: "including 6 establishing the public prekindergarten education program pursuant to 16 7 V.S.A. § 829".

Our team continues to be available to discuss the role of BBF with regard to S. 56 and the broader Vermont early childhood system.

Sincerely,

Morgan K. Crossman, Ph.D., M.A.

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