History:

VT Legislature established Children's Trust Fund: The Vermont Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established in 1986 by amendment to 33 V.S.A., Chapter 33, Section 3306 for the purpose of providing funds for community-based primary prevention programs. The CTF is overseen by the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs (CFCPP), a 21 member Council appointed by the Governor, and the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families.
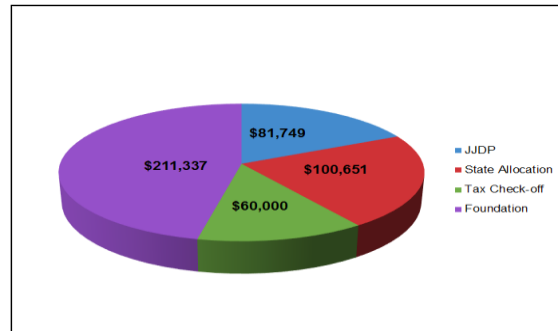
Additional fund raising made possible through a public/private partnership with the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and Tax Check-off: In 1991 the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation (VCTF) was formed to raise funds from private and corporate sectors to increase the Vermont Children's Trust Fund. To further increase funding to the Trust Fund, in 1996 the Vermont State Legislature enacted the Children's Trust Fund Tax Check-off, which became effective with the 1997 Vermont State Income Tax Forms, giving taxpayers an opportunity to donate to the Children's Trust Fund. In 2004, the CTF became part of the Child Development Division (CDD) within the Department of Children & Families (DCF). On July 1, 2009, DCF awarded a grant to VCTF to oversee the management of the Children's Trust Fund grant program in partnership with the Child Development Division.

Grants are awarded to community-based programs for primary prevention work: Through the Children's Trust Fund, grants are awarded to community-based, private non-profit and public organizations to provide direct services for primary prevention activities. Grants are reviewed by both the CFCPP and VCTF and then approved by the Deputy Commissioner of the Children Development Division within DCF.

Primary prevention programs promote healthy children and families: Primary prevention programs promote the health and self-reliance of children and families. These voluntary programs, which are open to the general public, help reduce the likelihood of child abuse, drug abuse, domestic violence, school truancy, school dropouts, teen pregnancy and other high-risk behaviors.

Examples of programs that effectively address these issues are home visits to parents of newborns, parenting education classes, before and after-school programs, violence prevention training, teen community service, and mentoring programs.

These programs tend to cost less and be less intrusive in the lives of families and children than remedial or rehabilitation programs. They are most effective when combined with a community-wide coordinating effort, public awareness campaign, training, and ongoing assessments and evaluation.

CTF Funding Sources: Each year several sources of money are pooled to make up the Children's Trust Fund. In SFY'16 these funds consisted of State Appropriation, Tax Check-off, Foundation and Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) dollars.

Grant cycle starts in January: The CTF grant cycle starts in early January with an open invitation to community organizations to submit proposals for funding. Technical assistance trainings are provided.

In SFY'16 the VCTF received 54 applications for new programs and funded 25. The new awards consisted of 9 equipment grants, 5 one year grants and 13 three year grants. In addition, 25 continuing programs in their second or third year of their multi-year grant award were also funded. Multi-year grant awards were implemented in SFY'07 which eliminates the need for programs having to reapply every year.

Evaluation: A Site Visit Coordinator from VCTF visits

funded multi-year grantees through the grant period in addition to offering technical assistance.

Cultural Competency Trainings: $4,000 was set aside to enable grantees to attend cultural competency trainings free of charge. Five trainings were held in SFY'15.

Grant decisions based on five identified state outcomes: Children succeed in school
Children are ready for school
Pregnant women, children and youth thrive
Children live in stable, supported families
Youth choose healthy behaviors

Outcomes of SFY'15 CTF Grantees: CTF grantees served a total of 11,819 individuals during SFY'15. 7,894 of the 11,819 served showed a significant change in behavior. Breakdown by outcome is below:

Children Succeed in School: 415 served, 82 showed significant behavior change.
Children Ready for School: 384 served, 352 showed significant behavior change.
Pregnant Women, Children and Youth Thrive: 1,411 served, 1,198 showed significant behavior change.
Children Live in Safe Supported Families: 1,121 served, 1,065 showed significant behavior change.
Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors: 8,488 served, 5,197 showed significant behavior change.

Actual funds rarely meet the demand: Requests for CTF dollars outweigh the actual amount of funds available. For SFY'16, there was $467,400 available to award, requests totaled $706,481,

Future Funding Concerns: A large amount of CTF funds are federal dollars, through the Office of Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention Office. Due to large cuts in the federal budget, Vermont has seen a $200,000 reduction in these funds. This reduction affects funds available for prevention programs. In addition to reduced federal funds, the CTF State Allocation has stayed the same for the past twenty-two (22) years at $100,651.

Need More Information? Contact VT Children's Trust Foundation at (802) 951-8604 or visit the Foundation's web site at www.vtchildrenstrust.org

SFY'16 CTF Programs:

Barre City Elementary/Middle School
Barre Town Elementary/Middle School
Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro
Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County
Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition
Brattleboro Youth Services
Burlington Children's Space
Burlington Partnership for Healthy Community
Community Health Centers of Burlington
Connecting Youth
COTS
Cultural Competency Trainings through UVM
DREAM Program
Everybody Wins! Vermont
Family Center of Washington County
Good Beginnings of Central Vermont
Hartland Cooperative Preschool
Health Connections of the Upper Valley
Greater Burlington YMCA
Local Motion
Milton Community Family Center
Milton Community Youth Coalition
Milton School District
Mountain Communities
NEK Kids on the Move
Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc.
New England Youth Theatre
Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
Pine Forest Children's Center
St. Johnsbury Schools
Springfield Area Parent Child Center
Springfield School District
Sunrise Family Resource Center
Twinfield Union School
UVM & State Agricultural College
VT Association for Blind/Visually Impaired
Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative
VNA of Chittenden & Grand Isle Counties
VSA Vermont, Inc.
Vermont Works for Women
Very Merry Theatre
Washington County Youth Service Bureau
Windham Child Care Association
Winooski Family Center

CFCPP, VCTF & DCF Partnership

Department for Children & Families Child Development Division

> Ken Schatz, Commissioner
> Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner
> Jan Walker, Director, Statewide Systems & Community Collaboration

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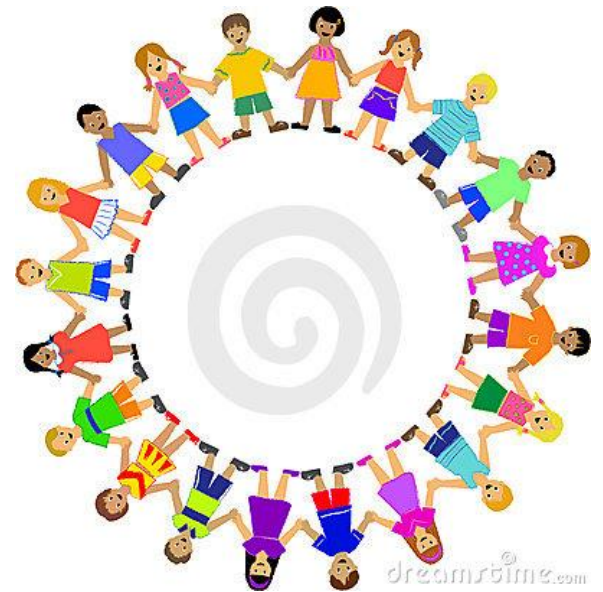**VT Children's Trust Foundation Board of Directors**

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The Vermont Children's Trust Fund

Tax Check-off Report
January, 2016

Submitted in partnership by:

Department for Children & Families/Child Development Division
Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs
Vermont Children's Trust Foundation