

DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
SUMMARY OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT RELATED PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

Economic Services Division

- Reach Up: The program supports extremely low-income families with children with a nominal monthly financial benefit while they develop the educational and work skills to engage or re-engage in the workforce to become economically self-sufficient.
- Reach Ahead: Is a 24-month program for families who leave the Reach Up program due to earned income. It provides a nominal food benefit (\$50 for the first six months and then \$5 for the remaining months) and the maximum child care subsidy.
- PSE: Is a program available to Reach Up families who want to pursue a 2 or 4-year post-secondary education. It provides a nominal monthly financial benefit while families pursue their education and they also receive educational support services.
- 3SquaresVT: Able Adults without Dependents are required to engage in work activities for 20 hours a week to be eligible for the monthly financial food benefit. ESD has a MOU with the Department of Labor to provide employment related services to support program participants.
- JFI: Jobs for Independence is a program establishment with a three-year demonstration grant (approximately \$9M) from the USDA for to help engage or re-engage 3SquaresVT recipients in the workforce who have specific barriers to employment: mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness and criminal history.

Family Services Division

- YDP: The Youth Development Program works to assist foster children as they transition into adulthood with educational and job development supports so they can become successful and self-sufficient.

Child Development Division

- CCFAP: The Child Care Financial Assistance Program provides subsidies to families to pay for childcare to support parents seeking or engaging in employment. It is an income-based program that provides a monthly benefit. The cost of childcare is a significant barrier to employment for many Vermont families.

Office of Economic Opportunity

- MBDP: The Micro Business Development Program helps low to moderate income Vermonters start and grow micro businesses, which are businesses that employ less than five people and generate less than \$25K in annual revenue. The program provides access to experienced business counselors to help develop a business idea, teach essential business skills, create a business plan, connect to other resources, assist with obtaining credit and develop marketing plans.

Office of Child Support

- Work 4 Kids: This program helps parent with a child support obligation to find and keep good paying jobs, so they can meet their monthly obligation. The program helps parents to gain work skills and knowledge, find new or better jobs, resolve issues that may be preventing them from steady work (criminal record, mental illness, substance abuse, transportation), access supports (such as work clothes, training and transportation), obtain counseling if needed and services to modify child support orders based on their ability to pay.