

# New Investments in Early Care and Learning – FY2020

## Child Care Investment Changes

### \$5.8 million in Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) Changes

Approximately \$5.8 million of additional funding was appropriated for the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) to:

- Adjust the income guidelines to align with the 2019 Federal Poverty Levels (FPL)
- Changes in the income guidelines that provides a gradual decrease in benefits to families as they earn more income.
- Align the preschool and school age Child Care Financial Assistance (CCFAP) rates with the 2014 Vermont Market Rate Survey



#### Status

- These changes were implemented on July 21, 2019
- Families already in the program: their cost-sharing went significantly down.
- More families eligible
- Families received a copy of their new Child Care Financial Assistance Program certificate by the beginning of August. Their eligibility was automatically determined using the new income guidelines.

### \$1 million in Stabilization Grants

One million dollars in ongoing funding was allocated for two purposes:

- A Stabilization Grant program to support full-day/full-year child care and early learning programs that serve infants and toddlers and maintain the enrollment of children receiving support through the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) at a level of at least 50% of total enrollment.
- A grant program to support expanding infant and toddler child care capacity



#### Status:

- \$200,000 in Stabilization Grants will be managed by the Child Development Division and will be distributed on a formulaic basis in January and May 2020. <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/providers/grants/infant-toddler>
- \$800,000 in a competitive grant program to support expanding infant and toddler child care capacity is being finalized.

## Additional Funds for Information Technology Needs to Implement Changes

The legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 to implement upgrades to the child care information system, currently called Bright Futures Information System, to support future changes to the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.



#### Status

- Completed Technical and Business Architecture with a focus on the areas directly impacted by current BFIS system
- Requested and received Level of Effort estimates from two vendors

# Additional Child Development Division 2020 Budget Updates

## Capacity Building Grants

### One-time child care funds reallocated from the FY2019 budget



\$1.4 million to support one-time grants to new or existing regulated child care programs to build child care capacity in areas of the state where the need is greatest with a focus on serving infants and toddlers and vulnerable populations of children.

#### Status

- Partnering with Let's Grow Kids and using the established structure and process of their Make Way for Kids Program to administer the grants.
- The first round of grant applications was received in December 2019.

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## Workforce Supports

\$300,000 in workforce supports for individuals employed in a regulated privately-operated center-based child care program or family child care home.

#### Status



- The Early Learning and Development Committee of Building Bright Futures recommended funds be allocated to T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Vermont, a project of the Vermont Association of the Education of Young Children.
- Funding for Scholarships supporting professionals who are either seeking an early childhood associate's degree or a teaching license with an endorsement in early childhood or early childhood special education.

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\$300,000 of funding was appropriated to facilitate the implementation of a nationally accredited Child Development Associate Credential (CDA) curriculum in career technical centers throughout the State, and to provide stipends and other incentives to tech center students preparing to enter early childhood professions.



#### Status

- Partnering with Community College of Vermont to develop the curriculum based on the CDA requirements and
- Partnering with Let's Grow Kids to promote the CDA curriculum.

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### For more information please contact:

Melissa Riegel-Garrett, CDD Policy Director, DCF, Agency of Human Services  
Melissa.riegel-garrett@vermont.gov

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*The Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division's goal is to increase access to high-quality, sustainable services that are developmentally beneficial for children, strengthen families, and meet their needs. We do this in partnership with families, communities, schools, providers and state and federal agencies.*

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