



Act 76 Implementation: Year 1 Monitoring

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House Committee on Human Services
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Building Bright Futures



Implementation Progress in Year 1: Administrative Successes



1. Strong leadership and transparency
2. Timely communication about implementation, namely from the Child Development Division
3. Simplified applications for funding based on community feedback
4. CCFAP is now an entitlement program in Vermont that cannot have a waitlist
5. Establishment of First Children's Finance to build capacity to support child care businesses, provide technical support, and partner on monitoring efforts
6. Prekindergarten Education Implementation Committee - strong facilitation, monthly full committee and subcommittee meetings, 2 key documents produced
 - a. Quality Matrix
 - b. Systems Matrix
7. Collaborative approach to monitoring & dissemination (8 entities)

Implementation Progress in Year 1: Preliminary Data



- Readiness payment program disseminated \$21M to ~800 child care programs (input from 378 programs)
- CCFAP expansion has been rolling out as directed
 - Paying out 34% more to programs on behalf of families - \$8.74M in March 2024 vs \$5.78M in March 2023
- First eligibility expansion was in place on April 7th
 - As of May, 141 families above 350% FPL were approved
 - For a family of four with two children in child care, they would mean they are now paying \$250/week when before they could have easily been paying \$800/week



Implementation Progress in Year 1: Preliminary Data



- Significantly fewer programs have decreased enrollment
- More child care program openings than closures
- Increased licensed capacity
- Collaborative focus on capacity building
- Benefits for ECE to value and recruit and retain staff
- Optimism about child care businesses, the state's investment, and the value of ECE
- New programs preparing for licensure, to hire staff, increase benefits, upgrade facilities, & increase compensation



Implementation Progress in Year 1: Challenges & Unintended Consequences



- Workforce
- Family co-pay and income guidelines
- Rate caps
- Timelines of required legislative reports due to lack of data

