

Vermont's Preschool Development Renewal Grant

House Committee on Human Services Testimony
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Vermont's Preschool Development Grant

“Vermont Integration Project: Building Integration in Vermont's Birth-5 Early Childhood Systems (VIP B-5)”

AMOUNT: \$23 million over 3 years (\$7.7M annually, 30% match required)

TIMELINE: December 2022 - December 2025

DIRECTORS: DCF/Child Development Division
VDH/Maternal and Child Health Division
Building Bright Futures
Agency of Education
Department of Mental Health

NEW PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT BIRTH THROUGH FIVE GRANTEES



Vermont Preschool Development Grant Overview



1. Comprehensive Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment

2. Statewide Strategic Plan

3. Maximize Parent and Family Engagement in the B-5 System

4. Workforce

5. Quality

6. Subgrants to Enhance Quality and Expand Access*

← Monitoring, Data Use, Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement →

Project 6.1 Vermont Early Childhood Fund



Lead: Building Bright Futures

Scope:

- Expand the BBF Vermont Early Childhood Fund to distribute \$1.9M annually
- Grants will be awarded to support a range of community projects including:
 - Access, infrastructure, expansions, staffing, PD, supports
 - Workforce innovations
 - Connecting families to services
 - Regional needs and priorities
- A webinar will be held when the application process is developed



ACTIVITY 6 SUBGRANTS TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS (NEW)★

Project 6.2 Support for children with disabilities and specialized needs



Lead: DCF/Child Development Division

Scope:

- Enhance equitable access to services and education for children with specialized needs
- Expand Special Accommodations Grants
- Work to streamline the payment process for these financial supports so they work better for families and providers



Project 6.3 Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health



Lead: Department of Mental Health

Scope:

- Expand Infant Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation as a strategy to promote inclusion in the classroom and reduce suspension and expulsions
- Expand Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, an evidence-based behavior parent training treatment for young children with emotional and behavioral disorders
- Expand Child-Parent Psychotherapy, an evidence based, in-home, trauma responsive therapy model for children aged 0-5 who have experienced at least one traumatic event



ACTIVITY 6 SUBGRANTS TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS (NEW) ★

Project 6.4 Supporting Family Child Care Homes in Vermont's Mixed-Delivery System

Lead: DCF/Child Development Division

Scope:

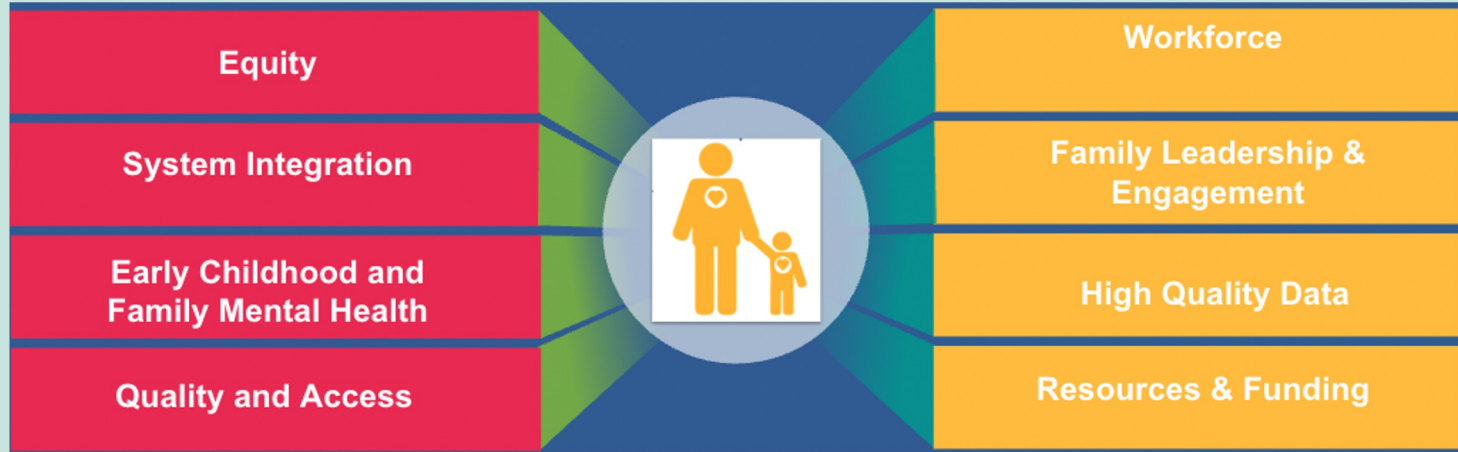
- Support the quality and service delivery of Family Child Care Homes
- Build collaboration and sharing of resources across Family Child Care Homes through Early Childhood Networks.
- Expand capacity and explore a staffed network model for Early Childhood Networks



ACTIVITY 1: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Project 1.1 Update Comprehensive Needs Assessment

PDG Planning Grant | 2020 Early Childhood Needs Assessment



Lead: Building Bright Futures

Scope:

- Meta analysis
- Updating or developing a needs assessment
- Executing updated needs assessment

Key Partners: PDG Directors & VECAP Data & Evaluation Committee



ACTIVITY 2: STRATEGIC PLAN

Project 2.1 Update the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP)

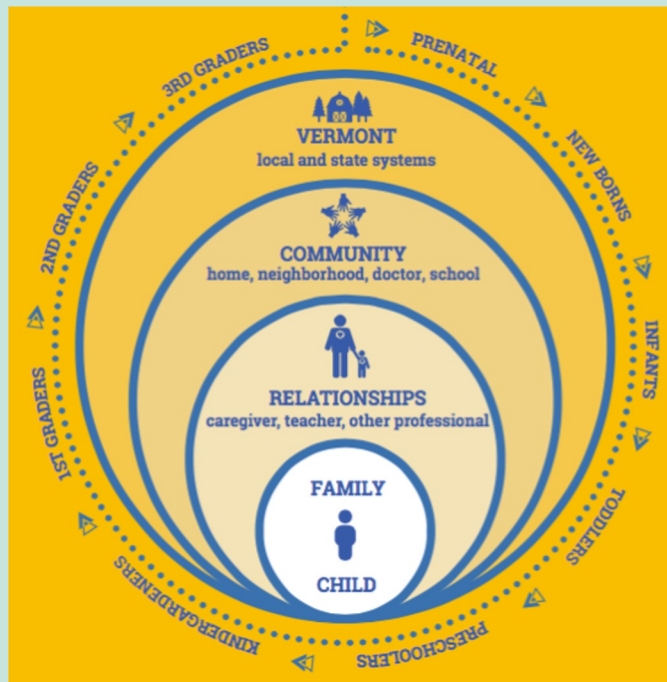
PDG Planning Grant | 2020 VECAP Update

Goal 4: The early childhood system will be integrated, well resourced and data-informed

Goal 3: All Children and Families Have Access to High-Quality Opportunities That Meet Their Needs

Goal 2: Families and Communities Play A Leading Role in Children's Well-being

Goal 1: All Children Have A Healthy Start



Lead: Building Bright Futures

Scope:

- Continued implementation of 2020 VECAP
- Communicating vision and plan
- Identify opportunities to address inequities in the system
- Strategic plan development sessions
- 2025 VECAP Update

Key Partners: BBF Network



ACTIVITY 3: MAXIMIZING FAMILY CHOICE, ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Project 3.1: Supporting Family Leadership



**Early Childhood Family
Engagement Assessment
Report 2020**



Lead: Building Bright Futures

Scope:

- Supporting family leadership through supporting family ambassadors through the Families and Communities VECAP Committee
- Build staff capacity by hiring a Family Leadership Coordinator
- Conducting an inventory of family leadership programs

Key Partners: Families and Communities Committee



ACTIVITY 3: MAXIMIZING FAMILY CHOICE, ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Project 3.2 Coordinating Intake and Referral through Help Me Grow VT



Lead: Vermont Department of Health

Scope:

- Expand families knowledge about their child's development and learning
- Expanding access to resources through Help Me Grow Vermont, the state's CIRS
- Promotes developmental screening through the ASQ Online system



ACTIVITY 3: MAXIMIZING FAMILY CHOICE, ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

3.3 Building Strong Family-Child Relationships through Touchpoints



Lead: Vermont Department of Health

Scope:

- Building strong family-child relationships from before birth through age five
- Developing a cadre of Touchpoints facilitators and trainers



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.1 Identifying barriers to recruiting the EC workforce



Lead: DCF/Child Development Division

Scope:

- Conduct an evaluation of the Vermont Early Childhood Apprenticeship Program
- Identify strategies to streamline workforce background checks and fingerprinting



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.2 Expanding access to high quality professional development



Lead: DCF/Child Development Division

Scope:

- Review of criteria and curricula to increase equity, inclusion, and trauma-responsive approaches
- Develop the MATCH registry to better support Vermont's investment in practice based coaching
- Expand Professional Development Offerings to promote access, equity and inclusion



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.3 Early MTSS Implementation



Lead: Interagency

Scope:

- Expand demonstration and implementation sites across diverse ECCE settings, prioritizing high-need areas
- Expand Early MTSS training and coaching
- Expand cadre of Early MTSS implementation/system and practice-based coaches
- Develop robust program evaluation and CQI



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.4 Early Childhood Care and Education Health Consultation



Lead: Vermont Department of Health

Activities:

- Support the use of health and safety standards and best practices within ECCE programs
- Provide training and consultation on health and safety topics that promote early relational health and family well-being through webinars, web-based information, and on-site consultation visits



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.5 Improving PD and Quality using the Vermont Early Learning Standards



Lead: Vermont Agency of Education

Scope:

- Support program quality by supporting ECCE workforce understanding and use of the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS)
- Integration of VELS with existing professional development and coursework opportunities
- Providing VELS training and e-learning modules



ACTIVITY 4: WORKFORCE

4.6 Provisional License Mentoring



Lead: Vermont Agency of Education

Scope:

- Address the workforce shortage in UPK programs by expanding the number of people who can access ECE/ECSE provisional license waiver
- Improve the ability to recruit and retain new mentors by increasing the stipend award
- Build agency capacity to manage the program



ACTIVITY 5: QUALITY

Project 5.1 Continuous Quality Improvement and Monitoring in UPK



Lead: Interagency (CDD & AOE)

Scope:

- Support program quality and monitoring of the 420+ UPK programs
- Build agency capacity to ensure strong partnerships, coordinated communication and monitoring of UPK
- Support the development and implementation of high-quality UPK data collection and analysis



ACTIVITY 5: QUALITY

Project 5.2 Continuous Quality Improvement and Monitoring in Child Care



Lead: DCF/Child Development Division

Scope:

- Vermont's S**T**ep Ahead Recognition System (STARS) is the state's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
- Support the continued revision to STARS to promote child well-being, learning, and development
- Ensure a revision promotes a strong definition of quality, and ensures equity, accessibility, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with national best practice
- Identify a contractor to provide technical assistance and coaching to support ECCE programs across the mixed-delivery system



ACTIVITY 5: QUALITY

Project 5.3 Early Childhood Data Monitoring and Integration



Lead: Building Bright Futures

Scope:

- Vermont's vision for early childhood data is to examine long-term outcomes for children who participate in various early childhood programs, and improve equitable access to, and the quality of programs and outcomes using data-informed decision-making
- Strengthen collection and data practice
- Develop strategies for linking and integrating data
- Support PDG and EC systems evaluation

Key Partners: Agency of Digital Services, Agency of Education, Dept of Mental Health, Vermont Dept of Health, Office of Racial Equity, Building Bright Futures



LOGIC MODEL: Vermont Integration Project: Building Integration in Vermont's B-5 Early Childhood Systems (VIP B-5)					
Project Goal: To strengthen Vermont’s early childhood system and improve outcomes for Vermont’s young children Target Population: Vulnerable children and families					
INPUTS	GRANT ACTIVITIES		OUTPUTS	SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES	LONG-TERM
Preschool Development Grant Funding	1	Update Comprehensive Needs Assessment	Updated data on children, families, programs, and needs	Quality Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased coordination, integration, & alignment across early childhood systems to advance a common vision - Increased capacity to advance equitable & improved access to services for underserved P–8 populations - Increased equitable inclusion for vulnerable children to resources, services, and supports - Improved program quality across the mixed delivery system Family Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) services, resources, and supports that meet their needs - Families are meaningfully engaged and leadership is prioritized & valued Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved resource navigation and access to support for ECCE programs in the mixed delivery system - The EC workforce is supported through evidence-based and innovative programs and strategies that are trauma informed - The early childhood care and education workforce is robust, diverse, culturally responsive, high quality, well compensated and stable Data Improvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased use of high quality, up to date, cross sector data to support accountability and inform decision-making in policy and resource allocation 	All children have a healthy start Families and communities play a leading role in children’s well-being All children and families have access to high-quality opportunities that meet their needs The early childhood system will be integrated, well resourced, and data-informed
	2	Update Strategic Plan	Updated Strategic Plan		
Vermont’s Preschool Development Grant Directors & Primary Implementation Partners	3	Support Family Leadership	Improved infrastructure to support family leadership		
		Coordinated Intake and Referral	Improved connections for families to high-quality services, resources, and supports		
		Family-Child Relationships	A cadre of Touchpoints facilitators		
Community Partners and Stakeholders	4	Identify Barriers to Recruitment	Identification of barriers to recruiting the EC workforce		
		Professional Development	Increased opportunities for high-quality PD, coaching, and trauma-responsive approaches		
		Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support	Increased access to Early MTSS for ECCE professionals		
		Health Consultation	Increased capacity for ECCE health consultation		
Existing infrastructure	5	Vermont Early Learning Standards	Updated VELs		
		Provisional License Mentoring	Increased mentorship capacity		
		CQI and Monitoring in UPK	Improved quality in UPK through continuous quality improvement		
	6	CQI and Monitoring in Child Care	Updated Vermont Quality Rating and Improvement System		
		Data Monitoring and Integration	Increased use of data to inform decision-making		
		Access and Quality Subgrants	Increased opportunities to pilot innovative practices and address key needs		
	Support for Children with Disabilities Specialized Needs	Increased access to services and education for children with disabilities and specialized needs			
	Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health	Increased evidence based support for infant, early childhood, and family mental health			
		Supporting Family Child Care Homes	Additional supports for existing and new Vermont FCCHs		
		Monitoring, Data Use, Evaluation, and Continuous Quality Improvement	Increased use of data to inform decision-making		