Vermont’s Preschool Development Renewal Grant

House Committee on Human Services Testimony
Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Janet McLaughlin, Child Development Division Deputy Commissioner
Ilisa Stalberg, Maternal and Child Health Division Director
Dr. Morgan Crossman, Building Bright Futures Executive Director
“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

[Map showing the distribution of grants across the United States, with arrows indicating the amount of funding in dollars for 3-year and 1-year funding periods.]
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
ACTIVITY 6 SUBGRANTS TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS (NEW) ★

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
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 Accomodations Grants
- Work to streamline the payment process for these financial supports so they work better for families and providers
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
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

Key Partners: PDG Directors & VECAP Data & Evaluation Committee

Scope:
- Meta analysis
- Updating or developing a needs assessment
- Executing updated needs assessment
ACTIVITY 2: STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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

PDG Planning Grant | 2020 VECAP Update
Project 3.1: Supporting Family Leadership

**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
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
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 Apprentice 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
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 STep 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
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INPUTS</th>
<th>GRANT ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>OUTPUTS</th>
<th>SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES</th>
<th>LONG-TERM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Development Grant Funding</td>
<td>Update Comprehensive Needs Assessment</td>
<td>Updated data on children, families, programs, and needs</td>
<td>Quality Improvement - Increased coordination, integration, &amp; alignment across early childhood systems to advance a common vision - Increased capacity to advance equitable &amp; 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</td>
<td>All children have a healthy start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vermont’s Preschool Development Grant Directors &amp; Primary Implementation Partners</td>
<td>Update Strategic Plan</td>
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<td>Families and communities play a leading role in children’s well-being</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Partners and Stakeholders</td>
<td>Support Family Leadership</td>
<td>Improved infrastructure to support family leadership</td>
<td>All children and families have access to high-quality (culturally responsive, inclusive, developmentally appropriate) services, resources, and supports that meet their needs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing infrastructure</td>
<td>Coordinated Intake and Referral</td>
<td>Improved connections for families to high-quality services, resources, and supports</td>
<td>The early childhood system will be integrated, well resourced, and data-informed</td>
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<td>Existing infrastructure</td>
<td>Family-Child Relationships</td>
<td>A cadre of Touchpoints facilitators</td>
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<td>Identify Barriers to Recruitment</td>
<td>Identification of barriers to recruiting the EC workforce</td>
<td>Family Engagement - 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 &amp; valued</td>
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<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>Increased opportunities for high-quality PD, coaching, and trauma-responsive approaches</td>
<td>Workforce Development - 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</td>
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<td>Early Multi-Tiered Systems of Support</td>
<td>Increased access to Early MTSS for ECCE professionals</td>
<td>Data Improvement - Increased use of data to inform decision-making - Increased evidence based support for infant, early childhood, and family mental health</td>
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<td>Health Consultation</td>
<td>Increased capacity for ECCE health consultation</td>
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<td>Additional supports for existing and new Vermont FCCHs</td>
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<td>Vermont Early Learning Standards</td>
<td>Updated VELS</td>
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<td>Provisional License Mentoring</td>
<td>Increased mentorship capacity</td>
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<td>CQI and Monitoring in UPK</td>
<td>Improved quality in UPK through continuous quality improvement</td>
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<td>CQI and Monitoring in Child Care</td>
<td>Updated Vermont Quality Rating and Improvement System</td>
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<td>Data Monitoring and Integration</td>
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<td>Access and Quality Subgrants</td>
<td>Increased opportunities to pilot innovative practices and address key needs</td>
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<td>Support for Children with Disabilities Specialized Needs</td>
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<td>Infant, Early Childhood and Family Mental Health</td>
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### Project Goal:
To strengthen Vermont’s early childhood system and improve outcomes for Vermont’s young children

### Target Population:
Vulnerable children and families