



Birth Through Five System Improvement Project

The State of VT received a federal Preschool Development Grant - Birth Through Five, allowing VT to build on its strengths and accomplishments to help children B-5 (birth through age five) realize their potential.

The Project Will:

- Improve understanding of how children, families and early childhood professionals are served in the system, with a focus on vulnerable populations
- Identify and address unmet needs and gaps
- Sustain and grow emerging innovations

Partners:

Core components of VT's early childhood system are managed by the Agency of Human Services and Agency of Education.

BBF (Building Bright Futures), Department of Mental Health, and Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division are primary partners. (BBF is a public-private partnership to advise VT's Administration and Legislature on early childhood care, health and education.)

Stay Up To Date:

For the most up to date information and progress on VT's Birth Through Five System Improvement Project, please visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/PDG>.

Questions:

Please contact Eli Hawgood, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, at elizabeth.hawgood@vermont.gov with questions regarding VT's Birth Through Five System Improvement Project.

We are committed to creating a stronger system for children by conducting 5 analyses that will inform the Strategic Plan:

- Count of children B-5 participating in childcare subsidies, Early Head Start / Head Start, Universal Pre-K and IDEA Part C and IDEA Part B Section 619
- Analyze capacity and quality of early childhood care and education programs vs. potential demand
- Assess strengths and challenges of Early Childhood Professional Development System
- Analyze gaps in available data
- Analyze current investments



Update the Strategic Plan ECAP (Early Childhood Action Plan) within the Results-Based Accountability Framework, to help VT achieve 6 goals / results:

- 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
- VT invests in prevention and plans for future success of children
- Data and accountability drive progress of childhood outcomes
- VT's early childhood system is innovative and integrated across sectors



Better reach parents and families where they are, in a culturally and linguistically inclusive manner, through community partners, services and online information (3 components):

- Promote and expand VT's 'Help Me Grow' system
- Support BBF's Families and Communities Committee
- Educate families about VT's Child Care Financial Assistance Program and STARS (VT's childcare quality rating / recognition system)



VERMONT
Birth Through Five
System Improvement
Project Activities



Evaluate the success of VT B-5 System Improvement Project:

- How the grant was maximized
- Further improvements



Improve overall quality of early childhood system and early childhood care and education programs (3 strategies):

- Expand professional development opportunities in the Early Childhood Professional Development System
- Continue development of Children's Integrated Services Data System
- Continue development of VT Insights



Share best practices among early childhood care and education providers (4 strategies):

- Pilot Early-MTSS coaching for socio-emotional and academic supports
- Increase cultural and linguistic engagement in early education using VT Guiding Principles
- Support partnerships between public and private early childhood care and education programs
- Building Flourishing Communities (a resilience-building program)

