



Birth Through Five System Improvement Project Update

Welcome to the first PDG B-5 (Preschool Development Grant – Birth Through Five) Planning Grant update! The grant team will be using this venue to keep all interested parties up-to-date on the progression of the Planning Grant activities.

The State of Vermont applied for and was awarded a Federal PDG B-5 Planning Grant in December 2018. The Planning Grant activities will continue through December 2020.

The Planning Grant allows the State of Vermont to build on its strengths and accomplishments to help children birth through age five realize their full potential and better itself to pursue future federal and state funding opportunities.

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

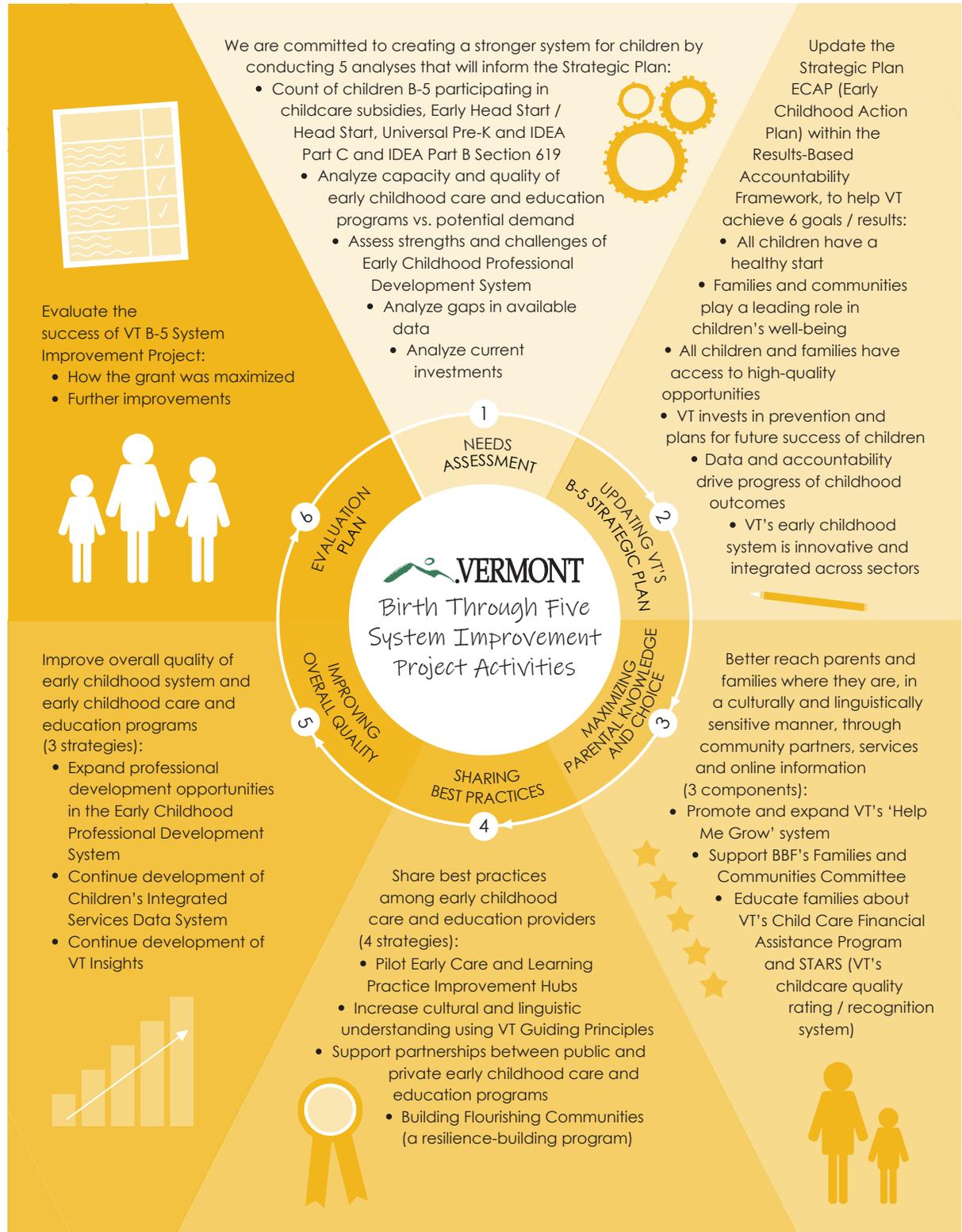
Partners:

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

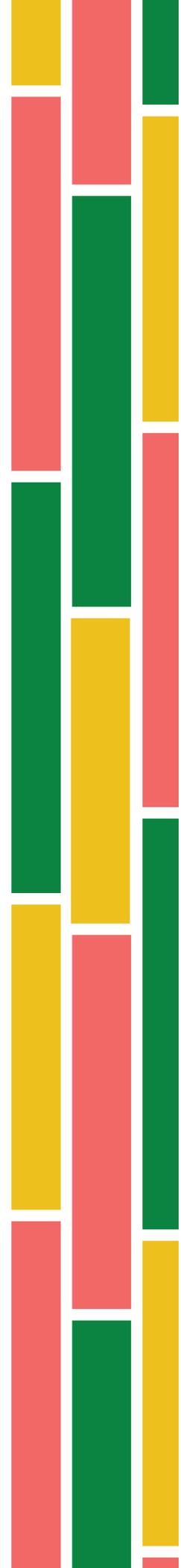
BBF (Building Bright Futures) and Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division are primary partners. BBF is a public-private partnership to advise Vermont's Administration and Legislature on early childhood care, health and education.

Activities:

Below is a graphic of the activities that make up the Planning Grant.



We will provide Planning Grant updates by activity.



Updates:

1 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Building Bright Futures has contracted Noonmark Services to manage the Needs Assessment. Noonmark Services is compiling a Needs Assessment survey to inform the Strategic Plan / ECAP.

CDD (Child Development Division) is conducting an evaluation of the Early Childhood Professional System.

The Let's Grow Kids match dollars will help build childcare capacity, adding 514 additional childcare spaces in 28 towns across Vermont.

2 UPDATING VT'S B-5 STRATEGIC PLAN (ECAP)

Building Bright Futures has contracted Noonmark Services to update the Strategic Plan / ECAP. They have met with all seven ECAP committees and are currently working on updating the Strategic Plan / ECAP.

3 MAXIMIZING PARENTAL KNOWLEDGE AND CHOICE

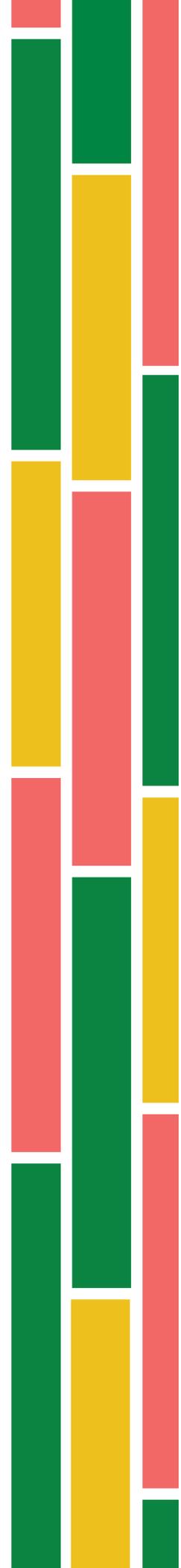
VDH (Vermont Department of Health) is piloting the ASQ-3 (Ages & Stages Questionnaires, Third Edition) online system at pediatric practices and childcare centers. ASQ-3 pinpoints developmental progress in children B-5.

Building Bright Futures has contracted a part-time Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator will support BBF's Families and Communities Committee's work on the parent engagement improvement plan.

4 SHARING BEST PRACTICES

CDD posted an RFP to pilot and implement Early Care and Learning Practice Improvement Hubs and provide the State of Vermont with a 3-year plan to scale-up the pilot across the state.

DMH (Department of Mental Health) has executed a Building Flourishing Communities grant with Vermont Afterschool, Inc. Vermont Afterschool, Inc. will work with communities to support young children and families build resilience.



5 IMPROVING OVERALL QUALITY

An architectural assessment was conducted on the case management functions needed in the CIS (Children's Integrated Services) Data System. CDD is currently looking into data platform options.

Vermont Insights is now searchable and includes all of the chapters and indicators included in the 2019 'How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families'.

6 EVALUATION PLAN

CDD will write the Evaluation Plan.

The Evaluation Plan monies will be reallocated to do a needs assessment on how to best support children with special needs to reduce expulsions.

Additional Information:

Please visit <https://dcf.vermont.gov/cdd/PDG> for additional information.

Questions:

Please contact Eli Hawgood, PDG B-5 Grant Manager, at elizabeth.hawgood@vermont.gov with questions regarding the Planning Grant.