

# Early Childhood & Homelessness:

Research, Resources & Partnerships

February 13, 12:30 – 2:30pm  
and February 16, 6:30 – 8:30pm



# Early Childhood & Homelessness

Lynne Robbins,  
Child Development  
Division



Sarah Phillips,  
Office of Economic  
Opportunity

# Raise your hand if you are a ...

Member of the early childhood community  
(e.g., child care provider, Head Start, etc.)

Homeless shelter/service provider

Another caring and interested partner



# POLL:

## Where in Vermont do you work?

- Champlain Valley - Franklin, Grand Isle, Chittenden, Addison
- Central Vermont - Lamoille, Orange, Washington
- Southwestern Vermont - Rutland/Bennington
- Northeast Kingdom
- Southeastern Vermont - Windsor/Windham



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# Webinar Learning Objectives

- The effects of homelessness on young children, and Vermont data
- The kinds of homeless assistance available and how to connect
- Lessons & best practices from peers about effective partnerships
- Early Learning Resource Guide for Homeless Families



# Webinar Overview

- Overview of homelessness, what the data shows, effects on children
- Vermont data and information about homeless assistance
- McKinney-Vento and the Liaisons in the Schools/Supervisory Unions
- Early Learning Resource Guide for Families who are Homeless
- Panel Discussion with Vermont Partners





# Homelessness among Young Children: What the National Data Show

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David Murphey, Ph.D.

Research Fellow and Director of the Child Trends DataBank



# ATTENDEE POLL

Which age-group is most likely to experience (sheltered) homelessness?

- a) Infants (birth to 1)
- b) Toddlers (1 to 2)
- c) Preschoolers (3-5)
- d) School-age (6-17)

# ATTENDEE POLL

About how many children younger than 6 were homeless (as of 2013)?

- a) 10,000
- b) 100,000
- c) 1,000,000
- d) More than 1,000,000

# ATTENDEE POLL

The children of women who are homeless while pregnant are more likely to

- a) Get inadequate prenatal care
- b) Have low birthweight
- c) Have developmental delays and social-emotional problems
- d) All of the above

# Young children are the age group MOST likely to experience homelessness

- Entering shelter or transitional housing programs is most likely during the first year of life, followed by ages 1-5.
- Nearly half of children in shelters are younger than 6 (>150,000 children)
- Among low-income families, being pregnant or having a child younger than 2 is associated with a higher risk for seeking or entering shelter.

## Data (incomplete)

- Nationally, about 1 in 18 children <6 was homeless in 2013 (1,266,605/23,535,026)
- In 2013, 153,896 homeless children under 6 were in emergency shelters or transitional housing.
- 23,647 were in permanent supportive housing.
- 98,613 (8%) of them were known to be served in early learning programs (HS, EHS, McKinney-Vento)

# Homelessness During Pregnancy or a Child's Early Years is Linked with Harmful Developmental Effects:

- Pregnant women who are homeless are less likely to get adequate prenatal care, and
- Their children are more likely to have low birthweight
- Other adverse effects include language and literacy delays, and social-emotional problems

# Special Needs of Homeless Families

- More than 1 in 7 homeless children has *health problems* that are moderate or severe
- Nearly 1 in 9 has one or more *asthma-related* health problem
- Nearly 1 in 18 is in a family where *adults hit or throw things*
- 1 in 6 has *emotional disturbances*

## Use your Chat Box:

Given my position, one thing I can do to improve well-being of homeless young children is . . . ?

# Resources

- Child Trends DataBank ([www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org))
- National Center on Family Homelessness ([www.air.org/center/national-center-family-homelessness](http://www.air.org/center/national-center-family-homelessness))
- U.S. Administration for Children & Families ([www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/ecd/interagency-projects/ece-services-for-homeless-children))

# POLL:

**Of Vermonters who are homeless,  
the largest group is...**

- a) Chronically homeless
- b) Runaway/homeless youth
- c) Children 6 and under
- d) Veterans

# 2016 Vermont Point-In-Time Count

*A one-night, unduplicated count of people experiencing homelessness*

801 Households – 1,117 People

14% of People were Unsheltered

158 Families with Children (41% of total persons)

262 Children (23.5% of total persons)

73 Unaccompanied Youth (6.5%)

1 Minor & 72 Ages 18-24

95 Parenting Youth (Ages 18-24) & their Children  
(8.5%)

652 Single Adults (58%)

11% Chronically Homeless

10% Veterans

20% Victims of Domestic Violence

13% People of Color

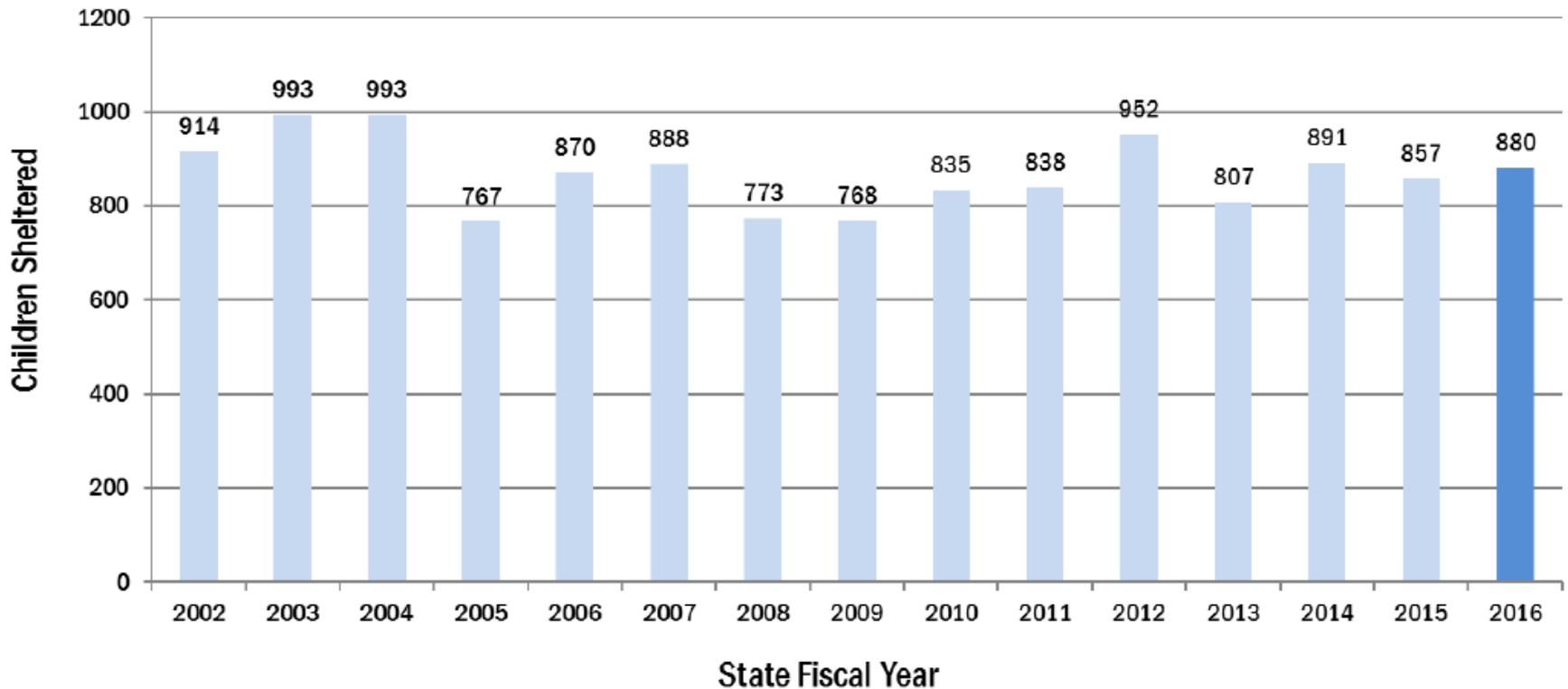
42% Female

57% Male

3% Transgender

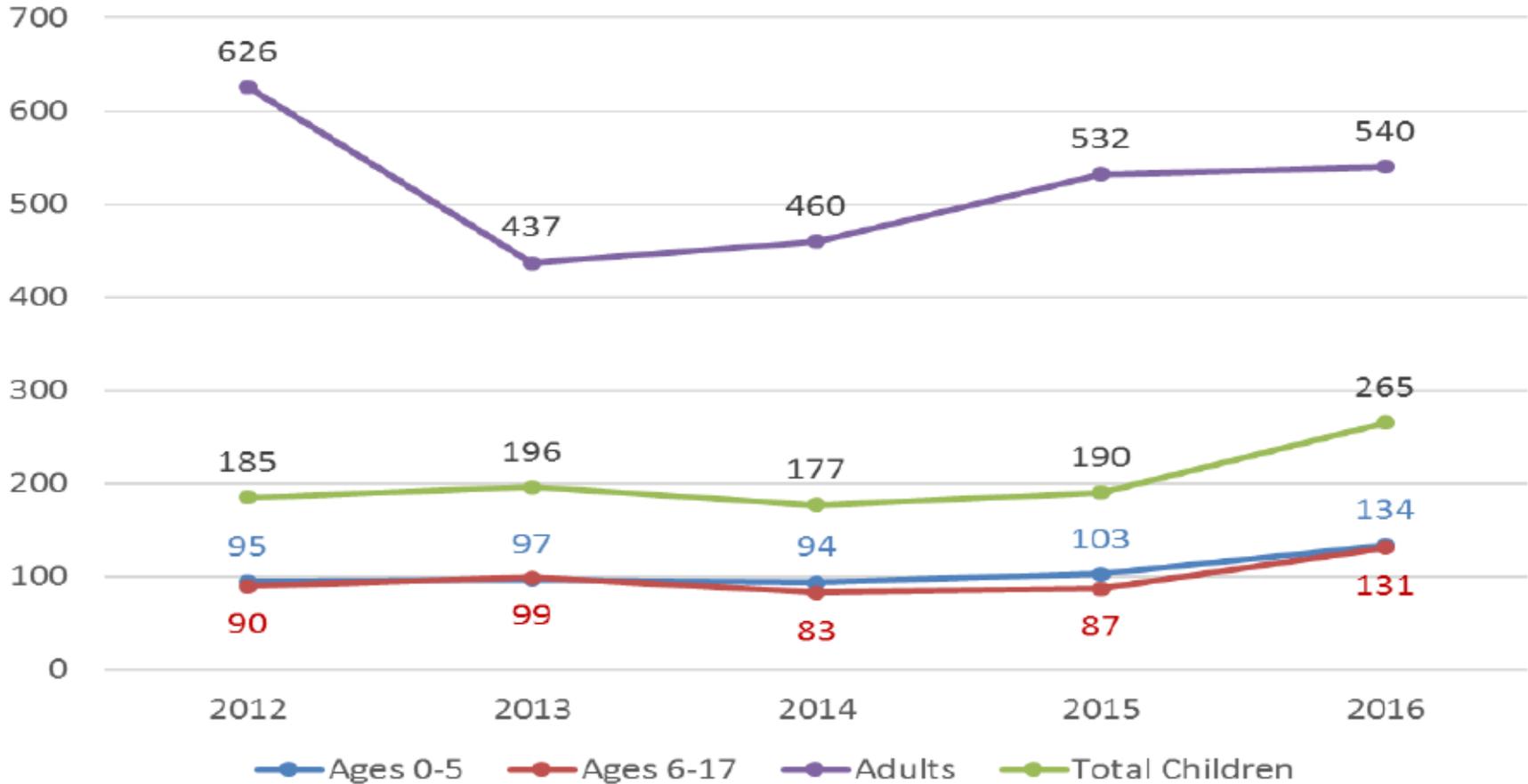
# Children in Vermont Shelters

Children in Vermont's Publicly Funded Homeless Shelters  
(2002-2016)



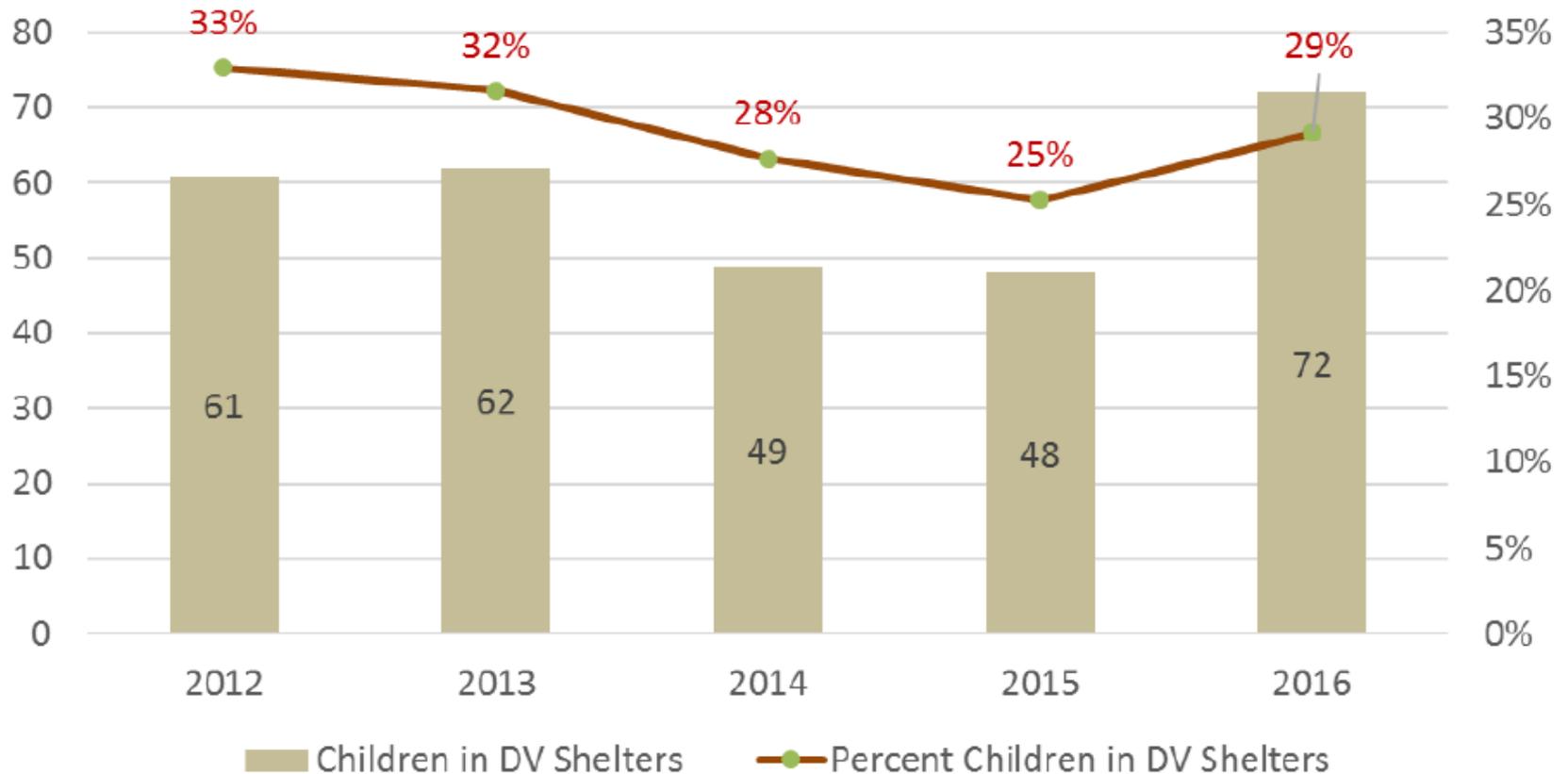
# 2016 One Night Shelter Guests

Total Children and Adult Guests



# 2016 One Night Shelter – DV/Children

Children in Domestic Violence Shelters and Percent of Total Children in DV Shelters



# Homeless Shelter & Service Network

- Emergency Shelter, incl. DV, seasonal, youth
- Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing
  - Housing Navigation
  - Financial & Rental Assistance
  - Post-lease support services
- Supportive Housing



# The Reality of Homeless Assistance

- Limited resources
- Definitions
  - [\(Literal\) Homeless, At-Risk of Homelessness, McKinney Vento definition](#)
- Targeting resources to those with the most severe service needs/most likely to become literally homeless (again)
- Gaps in the system of care
- Waiting lists
- Housing costs compared to wages
- Vacancy rates – a statewide problem

# Homeless Continuum of Care

## Planning & Collaboration



# Vermont Homeless Continua of Care

<http://www.helpingtohousevt.org>

## Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness

The mission of the Coalition is to end homelessness in Vermont through sharing information, developing resources, providing a forum for decision-making and to promote decent, safe, fair, affordable shelter for all.

HOME

ABOUT

ADVOCACY

INITIATIVES

**LOCAL CONTINUUMS OF CARE**

POINT-IN-TIME

EVENTS

RESOURCES

### Local Continuums of Care

Each region of Vermont has its own Continuum of Care. Ideally, a Continuum is a partnership of the local service providers (Community Action Agencies, Mental Health Agencies, homeless shelter and service providers, private health care providers, etc); local resource providers (Economic Services, private lenders, etc.); nonprofit and for-profit housing managers; housing developers; consumers; and any other key local players in the homelessness or low-income service or housing system.



# Who to Call?

**Need a warm, safe place to sleep tonight?**



Local Shelter

[Local Economic Services](#)

**Fleeing Domestic Violence?**

Toll Free Hotline 1.800.228.7395

**Need help to find or keep housing?**

Local Homeless Coordinated Entry Lead

<http://www.helpingtohousevt.org>

# Raise your hand if ...

You know what a homeless education liaison does

You have worked with a homeless liaison from a local school



# McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

- Why we have and need the program
- Agency of Education role
- Local Education Agencies and Homeless Liaisons
  - Identification: Who is considered “homeless”  
*“Lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence ...”*
  - Collaboration and coordination with service providers
  - Removing barriers to enrollment
  - School stability - transportation



# Vermont Homeless Education Program

<http://education.vermont.gov/student-support/federal-programs/homeless-education>

VERMONT OFFICIAL STATE WEBSITE



STATE OF VERMONT

**Agency of Education**

SEARCH

CONTACT US

[STUDENTS](#) [FAMILIES](#) [EDUCATORS](#) [ADMINISTRATORS](#) [COMMUNITIES](#)

Student Learning

Student Support

Adult Education

Early Education

Federal Programs Under ESSA

Consolidated Federal Programs

After-School and Summer Programs

Homeless Education

Migrant Education

## HOMELESS EDUCATION

Vermont's Education for Homeless Children and Youth program ensures that homeless students have equal access to the same free, appropriate, public education (including public preschool) provided to other Vermont children, with the opportunity to meet the same challenging state content and student performance standards. The Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is supported by funding from the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the Every Students Succeeds Act.

- [Contact List for Vermont Homeless Liaisons](#)
- [Homeless Liaison Responsibilities](#)
- [Vermont Homeless Education Data](#)

# POLL:

How confident are you in being able to connect a family to needed early childhood services?

- a) Not at all confident
- b) Somewhat confident
- c) Very confident



# Early Learning Resource Guide for Families Experiencing Homelessness

<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/end-family-homelessness/resource-guide-for-families-with-young-children-9-27-16.pdf>

- By Agency of Human Services and Agency of Education
- To help programs serving families who are homeless to locate early learning and development resources
- Part of the AHS initiative to End Family Homelessness:  
<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/end-family-homelessness>

# Early Learning Resource Guide for Families Experiencing Homelessness

<http://humanservices.vermont.gov/end-family-homelessness/resource-guide-for-families-with-young-children-9-27-16.pdf>

- Service/Program
- Eligibility
- Services Provided
- Homeless-specific Provisions
- Contact and General Information



Service/Program	Eligibility	Services Provided	Homeless-specific Provisions	Contact and General Information
<p><b>Head Start</b> (a comprehensive child development program)</p>	<p>Children ages 3-5 and their families. Federal regulations require that at least 90% of children enrolled be from families with an income at or below the federal poverty line and that at least 10% of children enrolled have a disability.</p>	<p>Promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through educational, health, nutritional, social, and family support services. Services are provided through a range of program options, including: center-based; home-based; or family-child care program options. Some programs are full-day. Limited transportation.</p>	<p>Children &amp; families experiencing homelessness and children in foster care are <u>category eligible for services</u> and do not need to provide proof of income to qualify.</p>	<p>Vermont's Head Start grantees provide services in every county and are administered by four Community Action Agencies, two mental health agencies and a school district.</p>
<p><b>Early Head Start</b> (a comprehensive child development program)</p>	<p>Pregnant women and children age birth to 3 and their families. Federal regulations require that at least 90% of children enrolled be from families with an income at or below the federal poverty line and that at least 10% of children enrolled have a disability.</p>	<p>Provides early, intensive, and comprehensive child development and family support services in a home-based or center-based setting. Limited transportation. Center-based services are provided either full-day or full working day for at least 48 weeks per year. Home-based services consist of one visit per week in a family's home for at least 32 home visits/yr</p>	<p>Programs are required to identify homeless children, prioritize their enrollment, and allow their enrollment while enrollment documentation is obtained.</p> <p>Programs also must collaborate with McKinney-Vento programs and other programs in the community that serve homeless infants and toddlers.</p>	<p>Early Head Start grantees provide services in nine of 12 counties and are administered by a school district and three Community Action Agencies.</p> <p>VT Head Start Association: <a href="http://vermontheadstart.org/">http://vermontheadstart.org/</a></p> <p>VT Head Start State Collaboration Office: <a href="http://vermontheadstart.org/partners-2/vt-head-start-state-collaboration-office/">http://vermontheadstart.org/partners-2/vt-head-start-state-collaboration-office/</a></p>

Service/Program	Eligibility	Services Provided	Homeless-specific Provisions	Contact and General Information
<b>Assistance locating quality child care</b>	Any family is eligible	Twelve community agencies help families find child care while providing consumer education about quality child care. Referral services are often provided by the agencies that help families access the Child Care Financial Assistance Program.	N/A	Call the appropriate community agency: <a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cccsa">http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cccsa</a> or 1-877-705-9008  Or search the state database: Vermont Child Development Division Bright Futures Information System <a href="http://www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us/">www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us/</a>
<b>Assistance paying for child care</b>  Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) (formerly known as subsidy)	Funding to support eligible families accessing child care services for infants, toddlers, and preschool- aged children; and before- and after-school care.	The Child Care Financial Assistance Program helps eligible families pay for child care services for children from age 6 weeks to age 13 (or to age 19 if the child has special needs). Families may choose any approved provider willing to accept payments from the Child Development Division.	Homelessness is one of the eligibility factors for family support child care. Families who are homeless according to the McKinney-Vento definition and complete an application are automatically eligible for this assistance.	Child care subsidies are administered by a variety of state agencies. Child care providers are located across communities.  VT Child Care Financial Assistance Program: <a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap">http://dcf.vermont.gov/benefits/ccfap</a>  Local agencies providing services to families: <a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cccsa">http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cccsa</a>
<b>Children's Integrated Services (CIS) Comprehensive Services</b>	Families who are pregnant and have a question or concerns or have a condition/risk that may impact their baby's health; have a child from birth to age 3 with a suspected developmental delay or medical condition that may result in a developmental delay; have a child up to age 5 who is experiencing behavioral challenges, emotional issues, or other social emotional needs; have a child up to age 5 and your family is experiencing challenges; or struggles with parenting or their child's behaviors.	CIS services are family-centered, child-focused, and delivered through a network of providers throughout Vermont. CIS helps families decide what services they need, and helps families access the services they need. Services may include: parenting support and child development information; support during and after a; an assessment of your child and family's situation; early intervention services for children with a suspected delay or a medical condition that could lead to a delay, or a nurse or home visitor.	Families prenatal to families with a child thorough age 5 can call with questions and one of the criteria for accessing services is that the family is experiencing significant challenges.	To find the name of the CIS Coordinator and contact information for each area, go to: <a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cis">http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/cis</a>  Children's Integrated Services: <a href="http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/cis">http://dcf.vermont.gov/child-development/cis</a>

Service/Program	Eligibility	Services Provided	Homeless-specific Provisions	Contact and General Information
<p><b>Children’s Integrated Services (CIS) Specialized Child Care</b></p>	<p>Families who are experiencing significant stress in areas such as homelessness, safety, emotional stability, substance abuse, children’s behaviors, and parenting issues are eligible. (See Child Care Financial Assistance Program)</p>	<p>CIS Specialized Child Care provides quality child care and specific supports to children: In families with open cases with DCF’s Family Services Division (Protective Services Child Care); In families experiencing significant stress in areas such as shelter &amp; safety (Family Support Child Care); and with special physical, behavioral, or developmental needs (Special Needs Child Care).</p>	<p>Homelessness is one of the eligibility categories for Family Support Child Care and Specialized Child Care Services.</p>	<p>Services are provided through approved state-licensed child care and afterschool programs.</p>
<p><b>Vermont pre-k and preschool programs</b></p>	<p>Regardless of family income, three-, four-, and five-year-olds not yet enrolled in kindergarten are eligible to enroll in Vermont’s state-funded prekindergarten education program.</p>	<p>Half-day and full-day prekindergarten education programs are provided in public school or community-based settings or through community partnerships. Some programs provide referrals for health and developmental screening, provide supportive services to families, and offer opportunities for parent involvement. Children at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line are eligible to enroll in full-day prekindergarten education funded by the Preschool Development Expansion Grant. Public and private prekindergarten education programs must apply for prequalification status under Act 166.</p>	<p>State-funded prekindergarten education under Acts 62 and 166 in Vermont does not prioritize homeless children for enrollment. Public schools and three Head Start grantees provide full-day prekindergarten education funded by the federal Preschool Development Expansion Grant to children at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line must support the inclusion of homeless children as defined in subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act.</p>	<p>Search the CDD BFIS Database for Prequalifying programs at: <a href="http://www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us/">www.brightfutures.dcf.state.vt.us/</a></p> <p>Information about Act 166 regarding Preschool Education services: <a href="http://education.vermont.gov/act-166#faq">http://education.vermont.gov/act-166#faq</a></p> <p>Vermont Early Education: <a href="http://education.vermont.gov/early-education">http://education.vermont.gov/early-education</a></p> <p>Agency of Education homeless education webpage <a href="http://education.vermont.gov/homeless-children-and-youth">http://education.vermont.gov/homeless-children-and-youth</a></p>

# Specialized Child Care Services

<http://dcf.vermont.gov/partners/scc>

- Part of Children's Integrated Services
- Services & supports to families with specialized child care needs
- Supports child care providers and CIS specialists to provide the best quality child care to vulnerable children in their care

## Serves three groups:

- 1) Child/families with open custody/family support cases with DCF
- 2) Families experiencing significant stress (Family Support Child Care)
- 3) Children with special health needs (physical, medical, behavioral, developmental)

**Homelessness makes a family eligible under #2**



# Partnership Panel



Faith,  
NEKCA



EARLY EDUCATION SERVICES

Carol,  
Early  
Education  
Services –  
Brattleboro  
Town  
School



Marie,  
Little  
Dippers  
Doodle

Emily &  
Kerri,  
Winston  
Prouty  
Center

Lori, Reach  
for the  
Stars

WINSTON PROUTY  
Center for Child and Family Development



Catherine  
& Tamira,  
COTS



# Contact Information

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**Before you leave,**

Use your chat box to share one action that you will take after this webinar.