

Result #3 - All children and families have access to high-quality opportunities that meet their needs.

Strategy	Action Step	Accomplishments
<p>1) Implement policies that enhance family stability and economic security</p>	<p>a) Explore expansion of the current child care tax credit to all families who utilize nationally accredited or STARS-rated early learning and development programs</p>	
	<p>b) Promote initiatives that lead to a livable wage for all families, including annual increases in the minimum wage</p>	
	<p>c) Strengthen the Reach Up Program based on the recommendations of the Reach Up Work Group</p>	
	<p>d) Promote initiatives that address homelessness and housing needs for children and families (see Appendix A for details)</p>	<p>In 2015, Vermont launched a statewide initiative to end child and family homelessness in Vermont by 2020. The three-part strategy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting the national “Family Connection” framework to ensure local communities have a coordinated system for assessing families’ housing needs and connecting them to the appropriate housing, benefits, employment supports, and evidence-based intervention the first time. • Braiding supportive services, housing, and rental assistance to improve stability for families, children, landlords and communities. • Constructing and rehabilitating rental housing which is affordable to households with extremely low incomes, and accessible to families and individuals who have experienced homelessness. <p>The Vermont Council on Homelessness is comprised of 22 members appointed by the Governor and representing state government, persons who have experienced homelessness, housing providers, homeless service providers and at-large members. The responsibilities of the Council include development, monitoring and periodic revision of Vermont’s Plan to End Homelessness. The Council makes annual recommendations to the Governor and Administration regarding resource, policy, and regulatory changes necessary to reduce and end homelessness in Vermont.</p>
	<p>e) Promote initiatives that provide fuel assistance for families with young children (see Appendix A for details)</p>	<p>ELDPs Strengthening Families efforts support families to access concrete supports</p>
	<p>f) Ensure that Building Bright Futures Regional Councils work with diverse partners to develop and track multi-sector measures related to families’ economic security, i.e. housing, transportation, fuel, nutrition</p>	<p>Vermont Insights provides data on a variety of economic security measures</p> <p>BBF Regional Councils consist of diverse membership and cross sector regional action plans</p>

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<p>2) Expand access to high-quality services and programs for all families with young children by increasing quality, capacity and affordability</p>	<p>a) Expand access to affordable, high- quality early learning and development programs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding access to and increase rates in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) • Establishing universal Pre- k education in all school districts through qualified public school-based programs and/or partnerships with qualified early learning and development programs and Head Start; encourage partnerships with private full-day/full- year qualified early learning and development programs 	<p>Increased funding for CCFAP - FY17 & FY18</p> <p>Passage/full implementation of Act 166</p> <p>Vermont Supported Training Education and Employment Grant/Strengthening Working Families Initiative grant includes childcare/subsidy rate/expanding slots/non-traditional hours- this is about capacity-in process, not yet started</p>
	<p>b) Implement the Promise Communities initiative [RTT-ELC]</p>	<p>Underway – 3 cohorts underway – 24 communities</p>
	<p>c) Identify and assess potential areas for investment and/or expansion in early learning and development programs (see Appendix A for details)</p>	<p>Passage/full implementation of Act 166</p> <p>Head Start expansion grants</p> <p>Pre-K Development grant</p> <p>Burlington School District and Trinity Early Childhood special education pilot program</p>

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<p>3) Ensure a continuum of holistic, family-centered services for young children who are experiencing, or are at risk for, developmental delays due to behavioral or physical health concerns, including children with chronic health conditions</p>	<p>a) Support outreach related to the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) Part C to assure all eligible children are identified early and their families have access to the necessary services and supports</p>	<p>Help Me Grow – call center</p> <p>Specialized Child Care Coordinators</p> <p>Agency of Education Each and Every Child</p> <p>VCHIP developmental screening training for child care providers</p>
	<p>b) Leverage federal funding opportunities to promote prevention and early intervention activities which support young children and families</p>	<p>Vermont leveraged significant grant funding for EC efforts –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAUNCH grant • Pre-K Development • Head Start expansion • ELCG Projects - Promise Communities and Community/Parent Cafés, Strengthening Families framework embedded in ELDPs to support families to increase protective factors, Improvements in Specialized Child Care, VELs family guide, home visiting models and training, Early MTSS • Transforming EC and Afterschool PD system currently funded by CCV to include CIS, AOE, Health, Head Start, etc.
	<p>c) Expand the capacity of the current family support networks to do outreach to school- and community-based early childhood programs as a resource to support them in serving children with special needs</p>	<p>Transfer of BBF Direct Service funding to Parent Child Centers (PCC Master Grants)</p> <p>Collaboration between Burlington School District and Trinity</p> <p>Strengthening Families efforts – Statewide Leadership Team, ELDP grants</p>
<p>4) Strengthen the quality of early childhood services throughout the early childhood system through a focus on alignment and best practices</p>	<p>a) Use science, research data and promising practices to drive quality, including in programs that serve children with special needs (see Appendix A for details)</p>	<p>ELCG - Early MTSS, STARS evaluation, Strengthening Families grants to ELDPs</p>
	<p>b) Improve teaching practices in early learning and development programs</p>	<p>ELCG - Early MTSS, Apprenticeship, TEACH, VELs, SF grants to ELDPs, MATCH registry</p> <p>Pre-k monitoring</p> <p>Initial work to transform the early childhood and afterschool professional development system – CDD funding to CCV</p> <p>Creation of infant/toddler credential in process</p> <p>Rock Solid Foundations Train the Trainers</p> <p>Vermont Birth to Five consultation and mentoring</p>

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	c) Build alignment among the early childhood sectors, especially early learning and development and K- 3 education including the Vermont Early Learning Standards (VELS) and Common Core (see related actions in Result #6)	VELS revised (August 2015) Completion of EC Comprehensive Assessment Plan (spring 2016) First School pilots (2015-2017)
	d) Implement a PreK-Grade 3 approach that aligns curriculum and practices across settings in selected high-needs school communities [RTT- ELC]	First School pilots (2015-2017)
	e) Develop a monitoring system for publicly-funded Pre-kindergarten programs [RTT-ELC]	ELCG - Project 7 – Pre-K monitoring – funded by grant, will continue by AOE/AHS Programs are already monitored by CDD child care licensing New fingerprinting requirements in place STARS is required for all publicly funded Pre-K programs Pre-K monitoring – Coordinator hired, recommendations for monitoring system, system piloted
5) Ensure quality by adequately supporting the early childhood workforce	a) Equip the early childhood workforce across sectors in the early childhood system with the common knowledge and skills needed to support children’s optimal learning and development and family stability (see Appendix A for details)	ELCG efforts - VELS, Early MTSS, SF, TEACH launched (2014), Expansion of Apprenticeship (2014-2017), Higher Ed, STARS validation/evaluation, creation of Early Childhood Higher Education Workgroup (summer 2015) CDD Transforming the PD System – funding to CCV, Director hired, advisory group formed New child care licensing regulations
	b) Increase compensation of and benefits available to the early childhood workforce without creating a cost shift to families (see Appendix A for details)	ELD Committee research and report on successful models, presented to SAC (Sept 2016) Blue Ribbon Commission Passage/full implementation of Act 166