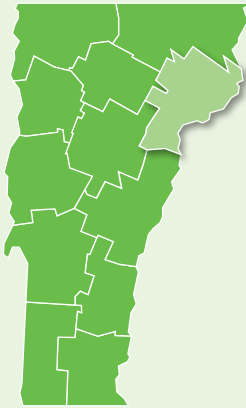


Caledonia & Southern Essex Region

About the Region



The Caledonia and Southern Essex region (which aligns with the St. Johnsbury AHS District) is a beautiful, rural area in the Northeast Kingdom that is rich in outdoor recreation opportunities. The 2016 population of children under 9 in the 24 towns in the region is 3,048, making up 46.6% of the under 18 population. It also has some of the highest poverty rates in the state. There is a continued increase in children in DCF custody, many because of parental substance use. The BBF Regional Council is comprised of a diverse group with representation from registered and licensed child care programs, school districts, health, mental health, libraries, and families.

REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Based on current data, the Council has highlighted several strategies to address concerns and to enhance community connectedness for all families, including:

- School readiness activities
- Promotion of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors framework
- Offering on-going, advanced professional development opportunities

Current Status

CHILD POPULATION

under age 9

The percent* of children under 9 years old **decreased** from 46.9% (3,467) in 2010 to **46.6%** (3,048) in 2016.

DECREASED TO
46.6%

**Denominator is children under 18 years old.*

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

under age 6

The percent of children under 6 years old living in poverty** **increased** from 44.9% (959) in 2010 to **46.0%** (906) in 2016.

INCREASED TO
46.0%

***Living below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level*

CHILDREN IN DCF CUSTODY

under age 9 (rate per 1,000)

The rate† of children under 9 years old (per 1,000) in DCF custody **increased** from 6.8 (23) in 2012 to **15.1** (46) in 2016.

INCREASED TO
15.1

†As of September 30th each year.

STARS PARTICIPATION

The percent of regulated child care, early learning, and afterschool programs with 1-5 STARS‡ **increased** from 21.2% (21) in 2010 to **83.6%** (61) in 2018.

INCREASED TO
83.6%

‡As of June each year.

Percent of All Students Ready for Kindergarten

SUPERVISORY UNION/DISTRICT	SCHOOL YEAR 2015-16	SCHOOL YEAR 2016-17	SCHOOL YEAR 2017-18
Blue Mountain SD	92.9%	84.0%	80.0%
Caledonia Central SU	92.0%	97.1%	81.3%
Caledonia North SU	85.0%	83.8%	90.9%
Essex Caledonia SU	81.6%	86.7%	88.9%
Orange East SU	74.5%	76.2%	69.7%
St Johnsbury SD	81.4%	80.6%	87.1%