



Impact Report
2022



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OUR MISSION & ROLE

The mission of Building Bright Futures (BBF) is to improve the well-being of each and every child and family in Vermont by using evidence to inform policy and bringing voices together to discuss critical challenges and problem-solve.

- ★ We bring together a robust network of policymakers, early childhood professionals, educators, health and mental health providers, business leaders, families, and other stakeholders to share insights and problem-solve through regular meetings of **12 Regional Councils, 7 Committees moving forward the work of Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP), and a 23-member State Advisory Council.**
- ★ We empower and elevate family and community voices as partners in decision-making.
- ★ We oversee **Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP)**, a five-year strategic plan that takes a collaborative approach to building a comprehensive and integrated early childhood system that promotes healthy child development and family stability.
- ★ We centralize and disseminate early childhood data to inform policy through Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center at **VermontKidsData.org**, a free, centralized clearinghouse of data, publications, and policy recommendations on the well-being of Vermont children through age 8. We also produce a yearly report called **The State of Vermont's Children**, an objective, data-driven assessment of the state of young child and family well-being in Vermont; progress on selected indicators and outcomes for the early care, health, and education system; and recommendations on how best to improve child and family well-being.



This report, together with Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center, provides another tool for data-driven decision-making for our kids and their families and can support our collective work as a state to make Vermont the best possible place for children and families to live."

Gov. Philip B. Scott

OUR IMPACT

BBF utilizes a robust, 450+ person network to convene stakeholders to problem-solve, empower families and communities, monitor outcomes for children and families, respond to gaps, and advise decision-makers. Below we have outlined a few highlights from the last year across our primary functions: to **advise, monitor, convene, respond, and empower.**

Advise

One of the most critical roles the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council Network has is serving as the primary advisor to Vermont's Governor and Legislature on the well-being of children in the prenatal period through age 8 and their families. The [2021-2022 Policy Recommendations of Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network](#), developed based on input from across the BBF Network, were formally endorsed by the 23-member Governor-appointed State Advisory Council, elevating a series of recommendations targeting the most pressing challenges in the system.

Additionally, **BBF provided formal advisement 36 times** (in multiple forms) to Vermont's General Assembly, the Governor's Office and Administration, or the state's Federal Delegation. More important than the number of advisement opportunities are the trusted relationships built between the Building Bright Futures team and members of the General Assembly, Governor's Office and Administration, and Federal Delegation, enabling change and action within the state's early childhood system by calling attention to challenges, errors, or emerging issues. [Building Bright Futures Network Advisement](#) can be found at Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center.

Finally, the Legislature selected the Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council to oversee the **Child Care and Early Childhood Education Systems Analysis** called for under Act 45, which was a critical advisory role in FY22. Throughout this year, BBF worked closely with Foresight Law + Policy and Watershed Advisors to execute the project. BBF supported direct communication with the Governor's Office, Agency leaders, and the Legislature to help all involved parties to navigate the process and conduct internal planning in collaboration with the contractors. A final report was completed and submitted to the Legislature on July 1, 2022, and a [briefing was held on July 11](#). The process included a 50-person cross-agency advisory committee and the engagement of over 400 early childhood stakeholders.



I really appreciate the thoughtfulness and preparation that went into our group conversations as the results were emerging. I thought it was well done in a professional and sensitive way."

An early childhood education stakeholder in Vermont



Monitor

BBF plays a critical role in monitoring Vermont's early childhood system and has a proven track record of supporting the state in capturing, compiling, and producing high-quality cross-sector data. This year, BBF and [Vermont's Early Childhood Data and Policy Center](#) produced three significant original documents, more than 80 publications, and new and updated data at [Vermontkidsdata.org](#). Vermont's critical tool for **answering early childhood policy questions**. The three major documents were:

1. [The State of Vermont's Children: 2021 Year in Review](#)
2. [Issue Brief: Integration in Vermont's Early Childhood System](#)
3. [Data Brief: Exclusionary Discipline in Vermont: Early Childhood](#)



Convene

In 2022, BBF hosted the annual Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP) Summit, with 70 people from across the network focused on monitoring the VECAP. Participants engaged in small groups to share progress toward the VECAP goals and discussed emerging needs and priorities for the coming year. Some of the key priorities that emerged from this discussion and through the VECAP Committees include: early childhood workforce across sectors, housing, care coordination, quality in child care and early childhood education, mental health, partnership with families, and ensuring Vermont develops a strong process to guide early childhood governance transitions. **Participants reflected that this process felt meaningful as a way to better understand the vision and the steps to get there.**



While all of these big system topics and initiatives take time (likely more than one year) for impact, I believe it is because BBF harnesses local and stakeholder voices and couples these voices with data that Vermont is finally serious about making historic investments and improvements to our early childhood system."

A member of a VECAP Committee





Respond

Building Bright Futures' 12 Regional Councils serve as the early childhood experts within their communities, identifying local needs and driving decision-making about how best to meet those needs. In 2021, BBF established the **Vermont Early Childhood Fund**, awarding \$100,000 of private funds to help address barriers in the system and make impactful connections with Regional Councils. Projects were selected to address emerging community needs through regional creative solutions, including anti-racism training for early childhood educators in Chittenden County, meeting family transportation needs through gas cards and auto repairs in Franklin/Grand Isle, and purchasing vision and screening equipment for the Bennington Children's Integrated Services Early Intervention Program.

“

At a time when fuel prices are soaring and significantly impacting the financial stability of families, to have funding to support this significant expense has been an incredible blessing.”

A program administrator of the Franklin/Grand Isle transportation project funded by VECF





Being able to share my issues with the BBF staff so they can share them directly with the state is one of the best ways to get results. Having my issue shared without going through a million steps is a huge benefit."

A member of a VECAP Committee

Empower

BBF serves as a key liaison between those most impacted by early childhood policy decisions (children, families, communities, providers) and decision-makers. BBF believes that representation and voice matter, and recognizes families and communities as key components to informing sound, sensible policy recommendations that improve equitable access to early childhood services. As part of BBF's efforts to expand Vermont's family partnership and leadership opportunities within the early childhood system through the VIP-3/ECCS Grant, the [Families and Communities Committee](#) has continued to convene meaningful opportunities for families to learn about the early childhood system and policies, for decision-makers to learn about the perspectives of families, and for families to be empowered to engage as partners throughout the system. This year, the committee developed and fielded a survey on the experiences of families with young children across Vermont, including an emphasis on how welcomed they feel and how accessible they found various services. The resulting data will be shared with decision-makers to inform programs and policy to better serve young children and their families.

BBF also created a **centralized tracker to collect emerging priorities and questions** from early childhood stakeholders. More than 30 emerging issues, challenges, and priorities from early childhood stakeholders throughout the BBF Network were shared with the appropriate early childhood partners and decision-makers between January and June 2022.



I've been a member of the Families and Communities Committee for a couple of years. I love how the committee has changed with its members, becoming more family-focused and meeting parents where we are. Working on projects like the Family Needs Assessment makes me feel like I'm really making a difference in helping improve the system for my kids."

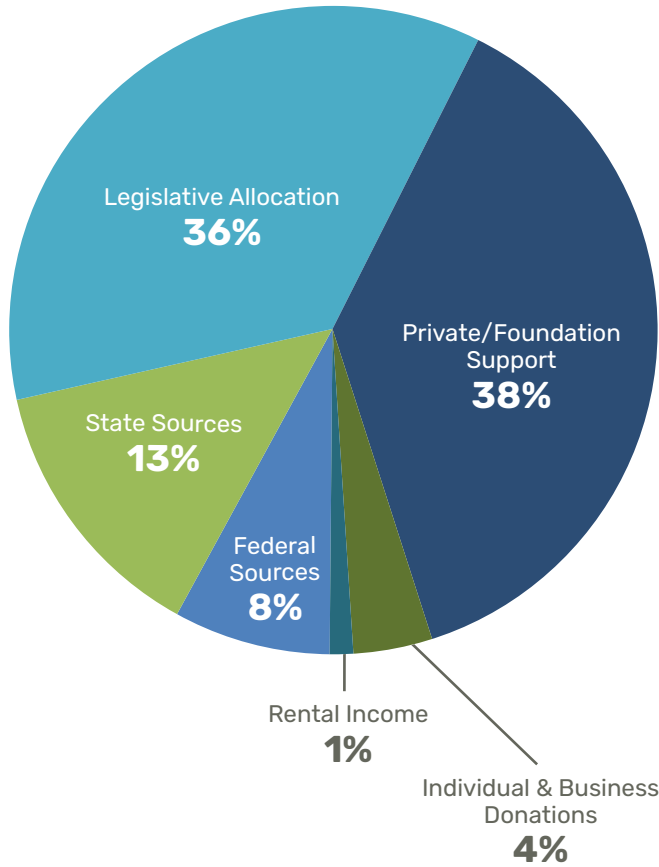
A parent leader on the Families and Communities Committee

OUR FUNDERS & FINANCIALS

July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

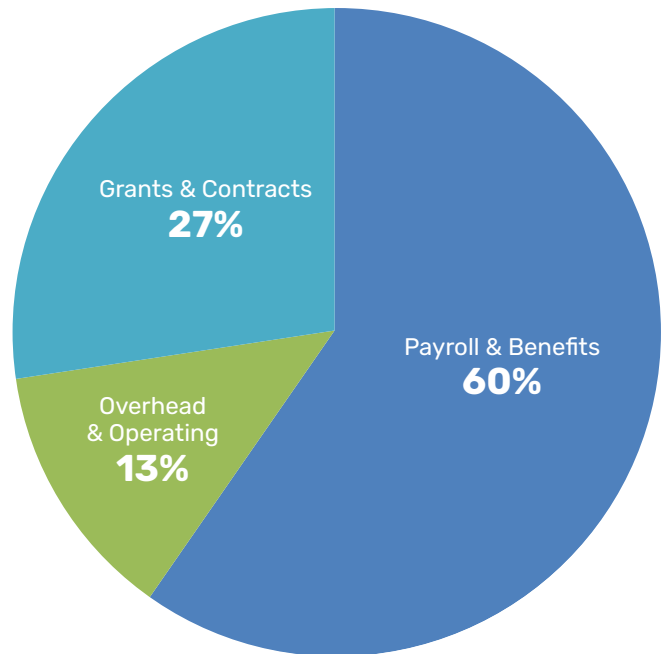
Revenue by Source*

FY22 = \$1,406,470



Expenses by Category*

FY22 = \$1,309,478



* Unaudited

Thank you to our major FY22 funders!

Anonymous
 The A.D. Henderson Foundation
 Association of University Centers on Disability
 BBF Early Childhood State Advisory Council Legislative Allocation
 Ben & Jerry's Foundation
 Couch Family Foundation
 Dept. of Housing & Urban Development via Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
 The Donley Foundation
 HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Health Integration Prenatal to Three Program
 Let's Grow Kids

National Life Group
 Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital
 The Sunflower Fund
 Turrell Fund
 UVM Medical Center
 Vermont Mutual Insurance Group



Thank you to our over 100 individual and small business donors in FY22!

This list recognizes all those who donated from July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please send any corrections to Katie Mobbs at kmobbs@buildingbrightfutures.org.

Anonymous	John & Mary Lynn Culver	Patricia Heather-Lea	Eileen & Ric Reardon
Sandra Adams	Peggy Darling	& John Lea	Jane Richards
Patty Alberti	David Smith Painting	Jeffrey Leonard	Lindsay Romano
John Atwood	Ben Davis	Kristen LeVangie	Allison Rose
Betsy Austin	Gail DesRoches	Mary Levins	Jennifer Roth
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OUR TEAM

STAFF

Dr. Morgan Crossman, Executive Director

Beth Truzansky, Deputy Director

Ali Dieng, Regional Manager for Central Vermont, Chittenden, and Franklin and Grand Isle

Allison Oskar, Finance Manager

Anna Brouillette, Policy and Program Director

Courtney Hillhouse, Regional Manager for Southeast Vermont, Northern Windsor and Orange, and Springfield Area

Darla Senecal, Regional Manager for Bennington, Rutland, and Addison

Dora Levinson, Research and Data Director

Katie Mobbs, Office Manager

Linda Michniewicz, Regional Manager for Caledonia and Southern Essex, Lamoille Valley, and Orleans and Northern Essex

Nicole D'Agostino, Data and Policy Manager

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Heather Wilcoxon, Health Care & Rehabilitation Services of Southeastern Vermont

