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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
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
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

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

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.
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
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

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
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.

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