



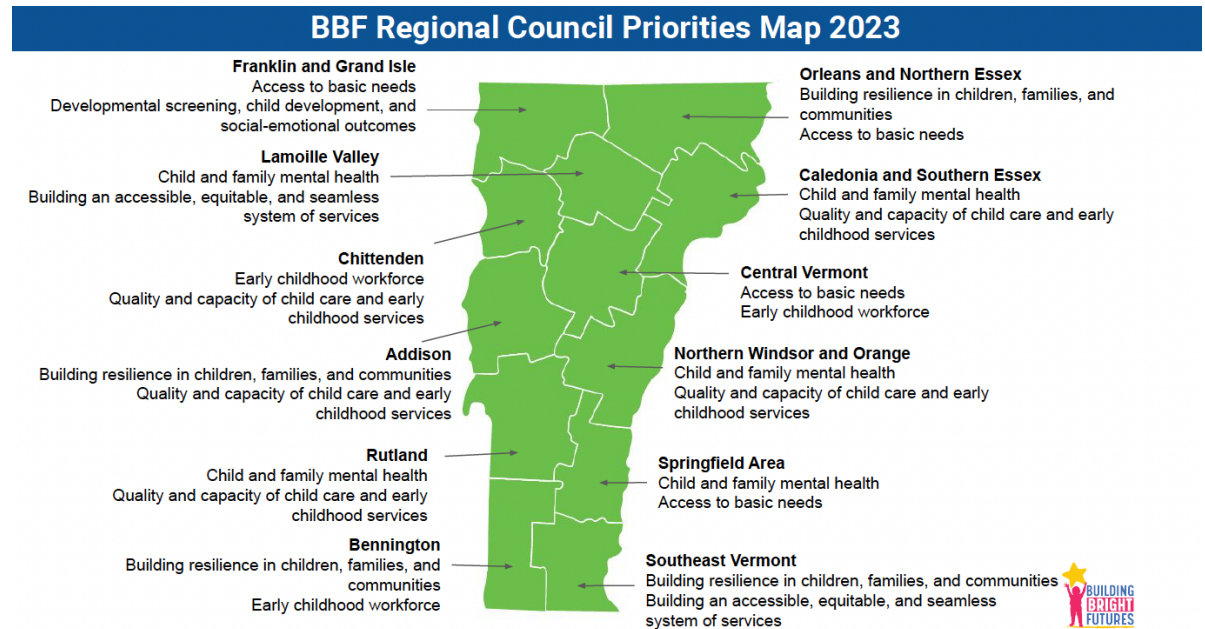
Caledonia and Southern Essex Regional Action Plan 2023-2024

Building Bright Futures’ Regional Councils bring together early childhood stakeholders to identify gaps, share expertise and resources, elevate regional and family voices, and implement strategies in each respective region. These strategies include identifying gaps for children and families and aiming to improve access to services and supports across early care, health, and education for young children and families in their communities. Regional Council members are crucial to each stage of this process, both in official convenings of the Regional Councils and within the early childhood system more broadly.

The 12 Regional Councils are mandated to support an integrated system of early care, health, and education at the local level under Vermont Statute Title 33 § Chapter 46. In alignment with, and with support from, the State Advisory Council, Regional Councils are tasked with coordinating and implementing services in accordance with system and regional priorities. Regular Regional Council meetings are just one way that this mandate is fulfilled.

Early childhood stakeholders from across Vermont bring their perspectives together through Regional Councils 8-10 times a year. Participants at regional tables include professionals in physical and mental health, social services, basic needs, early childhood care and education, and pre-K-12 education; families of children under 9; and community members invested in the well-being of young children.

Annually, each Regional Council sets two regional priorities to guide their work. The map at right illustrates the top two priorities of each region, showcasing the similarities and differences among the 12 regions in Vermont.





Caledonia and Southern Essex Regional Council 2023-2024 Plan

Below you will find a plan outlining work to make progress for each priority as well as additional strategies and actions of the Caledonia and Southern Essex Vermont Regional Council.

Activity/Function	Council Time	VECF/ Council Funds	Strategic Partner-ships	BBF Staff Time	B B F N e t w o r k	Notes/Status
Regional-State Coordination via BBF Network						
Share information across early childhood partners	X			X	X	
Identify opportunities for partnership and resource alignment	X			X	X	
Acknowledge and address regional concerns through emerging issues doc, committees, SAC, etc.	X			X		
Increase alignment between regional and statewide work				X	X	
Convene regular Regional Council meetings	X			X	X	
Priority Issue: Child and Family Mental Health - Support early childhood and family mental health at home, at school/child care, and in the community. Promote strategies that build a child’s social-emotional development; support a caregiver’s emotional regulation; respond to the mental health workforce crisis; improve access to consultation and crisis services; and prevent the use of exclusionary discipline.						
Early Multi-Tiered System of Support (EMTSS) professional development/coaching for Family Child Care programs		X	X	X	X	The region will explore local interest in a contract with 802 Pyramid Plus to offer EMTSS modules for Family Child Care providers, with a coaching component



Caledonia and Southern Essex Regional Council 2023-2024 Plan

Families have access to safe community-based activities that promote social connections			X	X	X	The Regional Council partners will continue to host and support Dabble Day, Family Fun Friday activities in the community
Children and families are supported during transition to preschool/kindergarten	X	X	X	X	X	The Regional Council will provide pre-K and kindergarten transition materials for families in the region
Priority Issue: Quality and Capacity of child care and early childhood services - Respond to system gaps to improve access for families to high-quality opportunities that meet their needs (child care, including pre-K, special education, mental health services, etc.)						
Highlight the changes in the quality improvement system (STARS to SPARQS, System for Program Access to Resources for Quality Supports)	X			X	X	New SPARQS information will be added to Regional Council agendas
Connect with Business Advisor for the Northeast Kingdom (NEK) from the Vermont Small Business Development Center (VTSBDC) to encourage new child care businesses	X	X	X	X	X	In partnership with Kingdom Child Care Connection, First Children's Finance VT, and VTSBDC, the region will host an info session for prospective child care business startups
Support regional programs like Step Up to Child Care and pre-apprenticeship programs to include child care business component			X	X		Advocate for a child care business startup component to the Step Up to Child Care program as a member of the Northeast Kingdom Step Up to Child Care team

Definitions

Council Time - Partners dedicating time to attend the council meeting, how the council time is used to build relationships, information sharing, and collaboration sharing accomplished together

Resources - Funds allocated to support council priorities by BBF, or awarded through other sources like the Vermont Early Childhood Fund or outside grants/sponsorships



Caledonia and Southern Essex Regional Council 2023-2024 Plan

Strategic Partnerships - Establishing or developing connections between the Council (Regional Manager or Council members) and other regional partners. This can be 1:1, attending other coalition meetings, or convening small working groups.

BBF Staff Time - Time dedicated by the Regional Manager or other BBF staff to support a council effort (communication, data, planning, etc.)

BBF Network - Elevating a regional gap or need through the BBF Network to inform decision-making. This could be submitting an issue to the 'emerging priorities' document, bringing an issue to a VECAP committee for further discussion, identifying data gaps, or informing BBF SAC policy recommendations.