



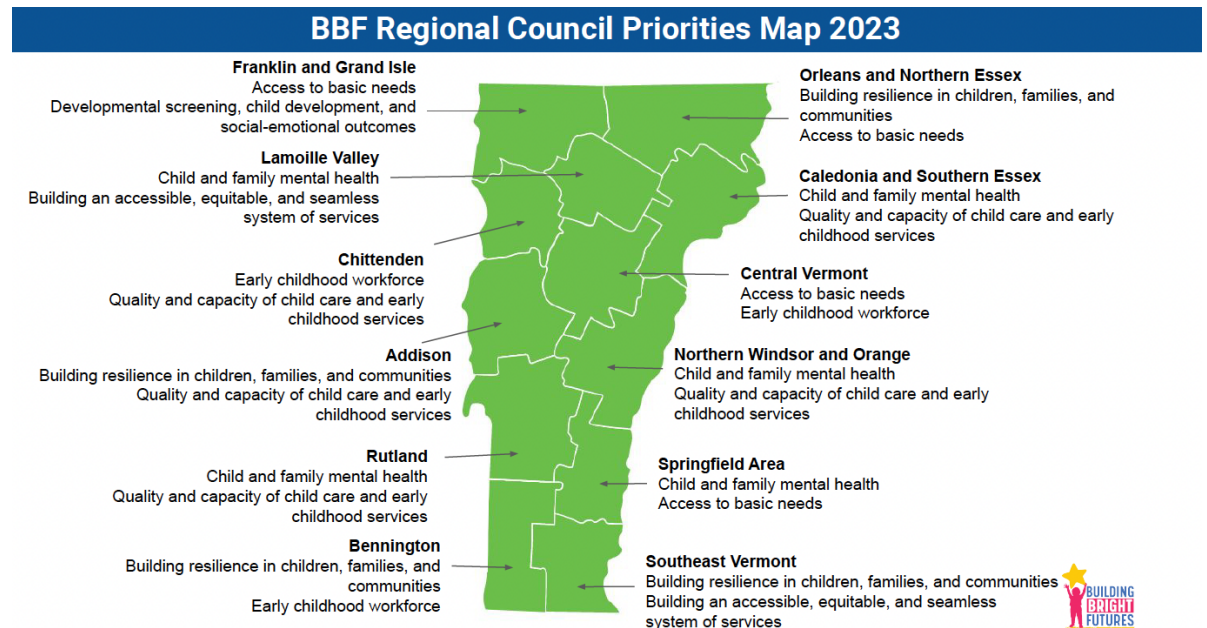
Franklin and Grand Isle Regional Action Plan 2023-2024

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.





Franklin and Grand Isle 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 Franklin and Grand Isle Regional Council.

Activity/Function	Council Time	VECF/ Council Funds	Strategic Partner-ships	BBF Staff Time	BBF Network	Notes/Status
Regional-State Coordination via BBF Network						
Share information across early childhood partners	X					
Identify opportunities for partnership and resource alignment						
Acknowledge and address regional concerns through emerging issues doc, committees, SAC, etc.						
Increase alignment between regional and statewide work						
Convene regular Regional Council meetings	X					
Priority Issue: Access To Basic Needs - Connecting children and families to programs and supports they need to meet their basic needs, e.g. food, housing, diapers, health care, transportation, etc.						
Discussion about gaps around access to basic needs (panel discussions and presentations by people or organizations)	X	X	X	X		Convene Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), food shelves, VT Connector, affordable housing agencies
Gain deeper understanding via trainings, data collection of the current landscape around access to basic needs in the region	X		X	X	X	Review the state of Vermont's Children report and request Regional Specifics presentations
Share information and efforts in the region related to access to basic needs	X		X	X	X	Request and support the development of a database around regional access to basic needs. Share info via the network, best practices



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Support partner strategies and programs addressing access	X	X	X	X		Promote the Vermont Early Childhood Fund and Regional Council Fund to support programs addressing access to basic needs. Identify gaps preventing access and build strategies for solutions
Identity regional initiatives and connect them with Vermont Early Childhood Fund & Council Project Fund	X	X			X	
Consistent request (MONITOR) to partners around updates on gaps and how BBF and Regional Council could support filling the gaps	X		X	X	X	
Priority Issue: Development screening & child developmental and social-emotional outcomes - Given the evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on developmental and academic outcomes, ensure equitable access to developmental screenings and monitor trends in developmental and social-emotional outcomes for children.						
Discussion via presentations about gaps in mental health services	X		X		X	
Identify and promote mental health training for child care providers and community at large	X			X		
Identity regional initiative around developmental screenings providers and connect them with Vermont Early Childhood Fund	X	X			X	
Gain a better understanding of the gaps that exist in developmental screening in the Franklin and Grand Isle region	X		X	X	X	
Identify, monitor, and support partner strategies and programs working to fill the developmental screening gap	X	X	X	X	X	
Share information related to the early developmental screening and access access the regions and the network	X		X	X	X	



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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

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.