



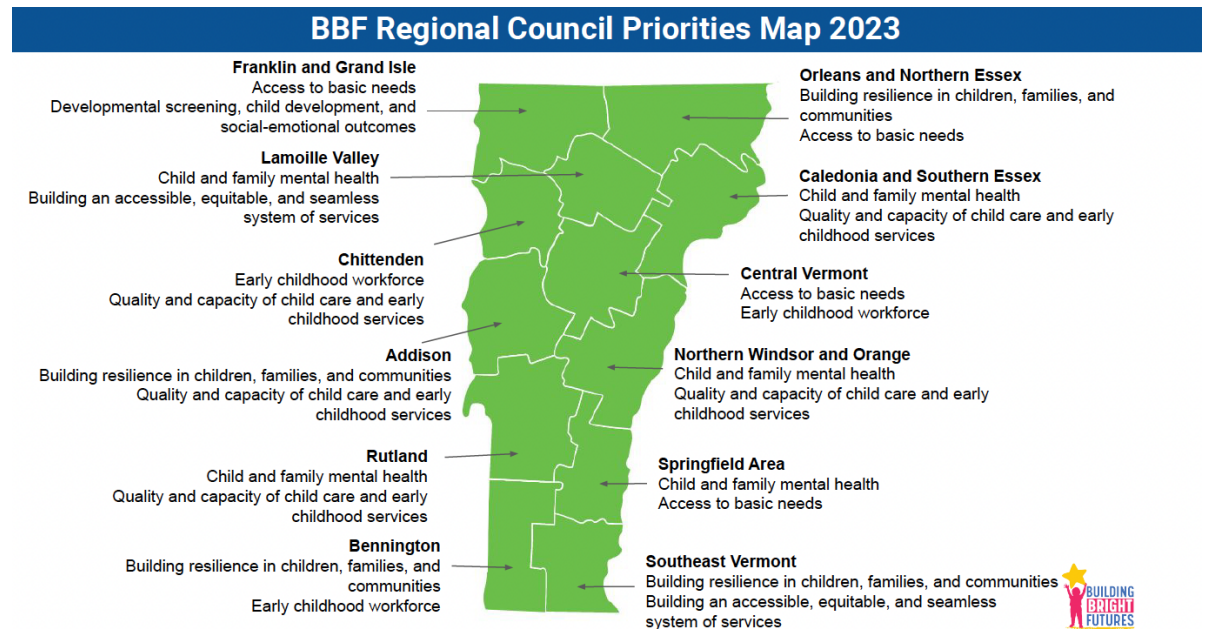
Orleans and Northern Essex Regional Council Plan 2023-2024

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.





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Below you will find a plan outlining work to make progress for each priority as well as additional strategies and actions of the Orleans and Northern Essex 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				X	
Identify opportunities for partnership and resource alignment				X		
Acknowledge and address regional concerns through emerging issues doc, committees, SAC, etc.				X	X	
Increase alignment between regional and statewide work						
Convene regular Regional Council meetings	X					
Priority Issue: Building Resilience - Work with families, programs, and communities to ensure that children reach their optimal well-being and potential. Promote education and training for caregivers about resilience and the impact of trauma, promote screening and early identification, and connect children and families to support.						
Identify key partners to mount regionwide resilience messaging (newspapers, radio, blogs, social media)	X	X	X			
Enlist Dr. Gillian Boudreau to educate about trauma-informed practices and to build resilience in children, families, and practitioners				X		
Sponsor substance-free family friendly events and promote resilience messaging		X		X	X	
Convene and join community/agency leaders to address family needs following flooding				X	X	



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Priority Issue: Access to Basic Needs - Connect children and families to programs and supports they need to meet their basic needs, e.g. food, housing, diapers, health care, transportation, etc.						
Conduct mapping about gaps in access to basic services in outlying communities to inform decision-making	X			X	X	
Support/promote Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) traveling resource van	X	X	X	X		
Explore transportation needs grant through Vermont Early Childhood Fund (VECF)		X		X	X	

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.