



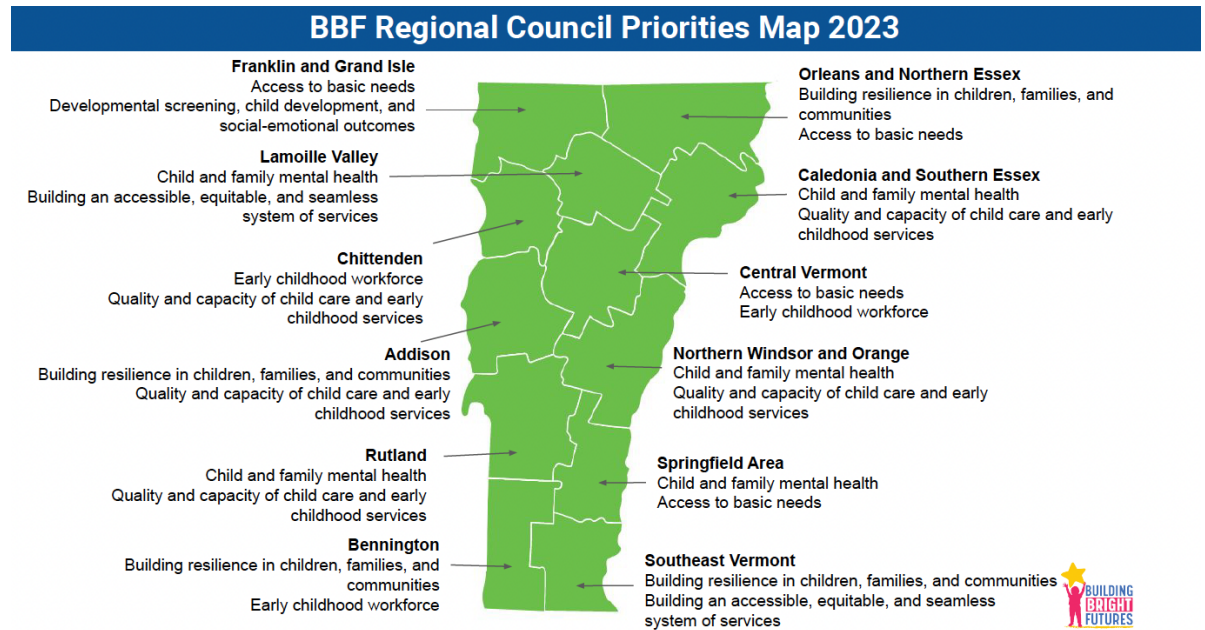
## Springfield Area Regional Action Plan 2023-2024

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.





Springfield Area 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 Springfield Area 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	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		X	X	
Increase alignment between regional and statewide work	X		X	X	X	
Convene regular Regional Council meetings	X			X		
<b>Priority Issue: Access to Basic Needs</b> - Connect children and families to programs and supports they need to meet their basic needs, e.g. food, housing, diapers, health care, transportation, etc.						
Engage families and partners from key organizations: housing, transportation, food security, misc. (diapers, formula, school supplies, etc.).	X	X	X	X		Invite partners to council meetings to brainstorm how the council can engage. The Regional Manager will attend meetings (on the board of Springfield Supportive Housing Program, Springfield Family Center, Community Health Team, Project Action)
Promote resources available for diapers/formula	X			X		The Regional Manager will attend meetings with Springfield Area Parent Child Center, and others around how to fill the void of access
Continue partnership with Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center Family Wellness Program Food Security workgroup and Hunger Free Vermont				X	X	The Regional Manager will share updates and resources from BBF



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Identify gaps within communities around basic needs	X		X	X	X	Use the council table for conversations around gaps and challenges and how the council can be a resource. For issues that need a state level response, utilize the BBF Network (Emerging Priorities doc, for example) to share what people are experiencing in the region to prompt systems change.
Promote resources and services available	X			X		Share promotional materials for VeggieVanGo, food shelves, diaper banks, WIC, other basic needs
Identify and implement projects where council has capacity to participate	X		X	X		Year-round school "Gift Fairy" project, Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU) school supply drive, school food security programs, etc.
<b>Priority Issue: Child &amp; Family Mental Health</b> - 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.						
Identify key partners to engage around child, family, and adult mental health	X		X	X	X	Leadership team and Regional Manager will identify contacts, and Regional Manager will conduct outreach and invite to the council: Health Care and Rehabilitation Services, Dartmouth Health, Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center Family Wellness Program, etc.
Plan a series of council meetings with mental health professionals to share resources, challenges, connections around child, family, workforce, and when to combine with Northern Windsor and Orange council	X		X	X		Leadership teams will choose sequence and schedule for meetings (panel discussion, areas for opportunity, etc.)
Identify projects where council has capacity to participate	X	X	X	X		Greater Falls Connections—Positive Life Experiences, Gift Fairy, etc.
Promote area programs that focus on social connectedness	X			X		Strengthening Families Network (CHIP workgroup)—Circle of Security/Playgroups, Springfield Area Parent Child Center playgroups, Bellows Falls playgroups



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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.