



VERMONT EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

INNOVATION GRANT

Preview of Application Questions

This document is intended as a preview only. You may use this document to draft answers to application questions and copy and paste your responses into the grant portal.

Section 1: Your Organization's Profile

For organizations that applied in a past round, this section is complete. Please update as necessary.

- Organization Name
- Organization's Federal EIN #
- Organization's Mailing Address (*and physical address if different*)
- Website (*if available*)
- Please share a short description of your organization. What is your mission? What is/are your key programs? Who do you serve? (*300 word limit*)
- Type of program (*checkbox*)
- Fiscal Agent information (*A fiscal agent is an organization that helps collect or distribute money on behalf of your organization. This is sometimes used by nonprofits that are in the process of establishing their 501(c)(3) status*)
- Primary Contact information (*name, email address, phone number, role*)
- Organization's Leader information (*if different from Primary Contact*)

Section 2: Innovation Grant Application

Information about the program or project that the Innovation Grant will fund

Program/Project Information

- Project Title
- Amount of Request
- County where your project will take place (select all that apply, checkbox)
- Please share a description of your request and the program/project being funded, including the program/project goal(s) (*1500 word limit*)

The next section of the application asks questions relating to areas of focus in the early childhood system. These questions will help us understand the impact of potential funding. You

will choose a primary goal, but can include information about additional areas of focus in the questions that follow. If you are unsure if these questions apply to your project/program, you can view some examples at <https://buildingbrightfutures.org/vecf/>

- What is the primary goal of your project? (select one)
 - Increase access or create more equitable access to early childhood services and programs
 - Improve the quality of an existing service or program
 - Develop workforce
 - Engage families and connect families to services
 - Other (Please describe)
- Will your program/project increase access or create more equitable access to early childhood care and/or education? *(yes/no question)*
 - If awarded, how will this funding help increase access or create more equitable access to your program? Please include details about how your project will reach families with historically marginalized identities if applicable *(300 word limit)*

New ECCE Spot Information

The following question is for early childhood care and education (ECCE) programs only. If your project does not directly result in the creation of new slots, the answer to the next question should be "No"

- If awarded, will VECF funding help create new early childhood care or education (ECCE) spots? *(yes/no question)*
 - If yes*
 - Is this an existing or new program? *(check box)*
 - How many new infant spots will be created?
 - How many new toddler spots will be created?
 - How many new preschool spots will be created?
 - How many new early elementary spots will be created?

Improving Quality

- Will your program/project improve the quality of an existing program? *(yes/no question)*
 - If awarded, how will this funding help improve the quality of your program? *(300 word limit)*

Workforce Innovations

- Will your program/project develop workforce innovations and strategies that will help ensure that the early childhood system is well-resourced, and that the early childhood workforce is robust and stable? *(yes/no question)*

- If awarded, how will your project develop the workforce? What strategies will you use to promote an inclusive and welcoming workforce? *(300 word limit)*

Family Engagement and Connection

- Will your program/project help to increase family engagement, better connect families to services, or address barriers that prevent families from accessing services? *(yes/no question)*
 - If awarded, how will your project help to increase family engagement, better connect families to services, or address barriers that prevent families from accessing services? If you are engaging families that are traditionally underserved, what strategies will you use? *(300 word limit)*

Regional Priorities

- Will your program/project address one of [BBF's Regional Council Priorities](#) for your area? *(yes/no question — if yes select the regional council priority that applies)*

Impact

- Please describe the need or problem being addressed, citing relevant data if available *(1000 word limit)*
- Please describe how this project/program will create a solution to the problem *(1000 word limit)*
- Describe the metrics that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project/program. What systems/tools do you have in place to collect data (quantitative and qualitative)? *(1000 word limit)*
- Describe how you will be collaborating with other organizations on this project, both formally and informally. Please include the names of partners and the nature of the collaboration *(1000 word limit)*
- Describe how you envision using the Vermont Early Childhood State Advisory Council Network (Regional Councils, VECAP Committees, the State Advisory Council) to share project/program successes, challenges, and recommendations for replication *(300 word limit)*

Additional Information

- If there is additional information that you would like to share with the team reviewing your application, please include it here. *(1000 word limit)*
- If awarded, you will be asked to submit a work plan that includes your goal statement, specific objectives, and methods for evaluating impact within 30 days. Does your organization have the capacity to complete this deliverable? *(yes/no question)*
 - If not, what support would you need to complete this deliverable?

Section 3: Project Budget

In addition to the above questions, you will be asked to include a project/program budget. You

can upload your own budget, or complete the budget template in the grant portal. You can preview the budget template on the [VECF page of BBF's website](#).

Section 4: Financials

Please upload your organization's most recent fiscal year end financial statements (balance sheet **and** profit and loss statement).

Section 5: Letters of Support

Please upload 2 to 3 letters of support. Letters can be from organizations that are partnering in the project and/or beneficiaries of the project

Section 6: Applicant Survey

Please complete this brief survey so that we can improve the application process for future funding rounds