

Project Summary

Project Title: Vermont Birth through Five System Improvement Project	Contact Phone (Voice, Fax): 802-241-0891
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The Vermont Birth through Five (B-5) System Improvement Project will build upon the strengths and accomplishments of Vermont’s collective work to realize the promise of every Vermont child by employing well developed networks and relationships that support our innovative and connected early childhood (EC) state system including a mixed delivery system for children B-5 and their families. The project will (1) improve our understanding of how children, families, and EC professionals are served in the system, with particular attention to vulnerable populations in our rural state, (2) identify and address unmet needs and gaps, and (3) sustain and grow emerging innovations.

- Activity 1: B-5 Needs Assessment. Vermont will conduct four analyses: (1) assess the unduplicated count of children B-5 participating in childcare subsidies, Head Start, publicly funded Pre-K (UPK), and IDEA Parts B and C; (2) more clearly determine the capacity of early childhood care and education (ECCE) services for B-5 including UPK services; (3) conduct an evaluation of the EC professional development system (ECPDS); and (4) analyze gaps in existing data needed to track child and systems outcomes described in Vermont’s Early Childhood Action Plan (ECAP). Results of all analyses will inform the Strategic Plan in Activity 2.
- Activity 2: B-5 Strategic Plan. Building Bright Futures (BBF) will conduct an inclusive strategic planning process to make targeted updates to Vermont’s ECAP within a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) framework.
- Activity 3: Maximizing Parental Knowledge and Choice. Vermont will (1) increase capacity and reach of the *Help Me Grow* system as a resource for parents and other B-5 system participants and (2) support robust development of the BBF Parent and Communities Committee to increase the leadership of parents in the system and develop a strong plan for on-going parent engagement.
- Activity 4: Sharing Best Practices. Multiple strategies will be implemented to support and share best practices among ECCE providers and among Higher Education Institutions (HIE) providing EC coursework and degrees; also, technical assistance will be provided to Vermont communities to support young children and build resilience.
- Activity 5: Improving Overall Quality. Based on the results of Activities 1 and 2, Vermont proposes to improve quality through 1) expanding Early Care and Learning Practice Improvement Hubs; (2) expanding regional professional development opportunities. (3) further developing data systems (e.g. CIS Data System); (4) expanding community access to EC data (VT Insights).
- Evaluation Plan. The VT Child Health Improvement (VCHIP) will develop a mixed-methods formative program performance evaluation that will evaluate the success of activities proposed in the Project and contribute to continuous quality improvement in Vermont’s B-5 EC system, particularly the mixed delivery system of ECCE programs across the state.