

About the Regions

BBF's regional infrastructure has a presence in every corner of the state and in all communities. These 12 Regional Councils bring together early childhood stakeholders to identify gaps; share expertise and resources to break down silos; elevate regional and family voice; and implement strategies to respond to the needs of each and every child and family in their respective area.

Statewide, nearly 250 people bring their perspectives together on Regional Councils on a monthly basis. Early childhood stakeholders across regional tables include professionals in physical and mental health, social services, basic needs, early childhood education, PreK-12 education, families of children under 9, and community members invested in the well-being of young children.

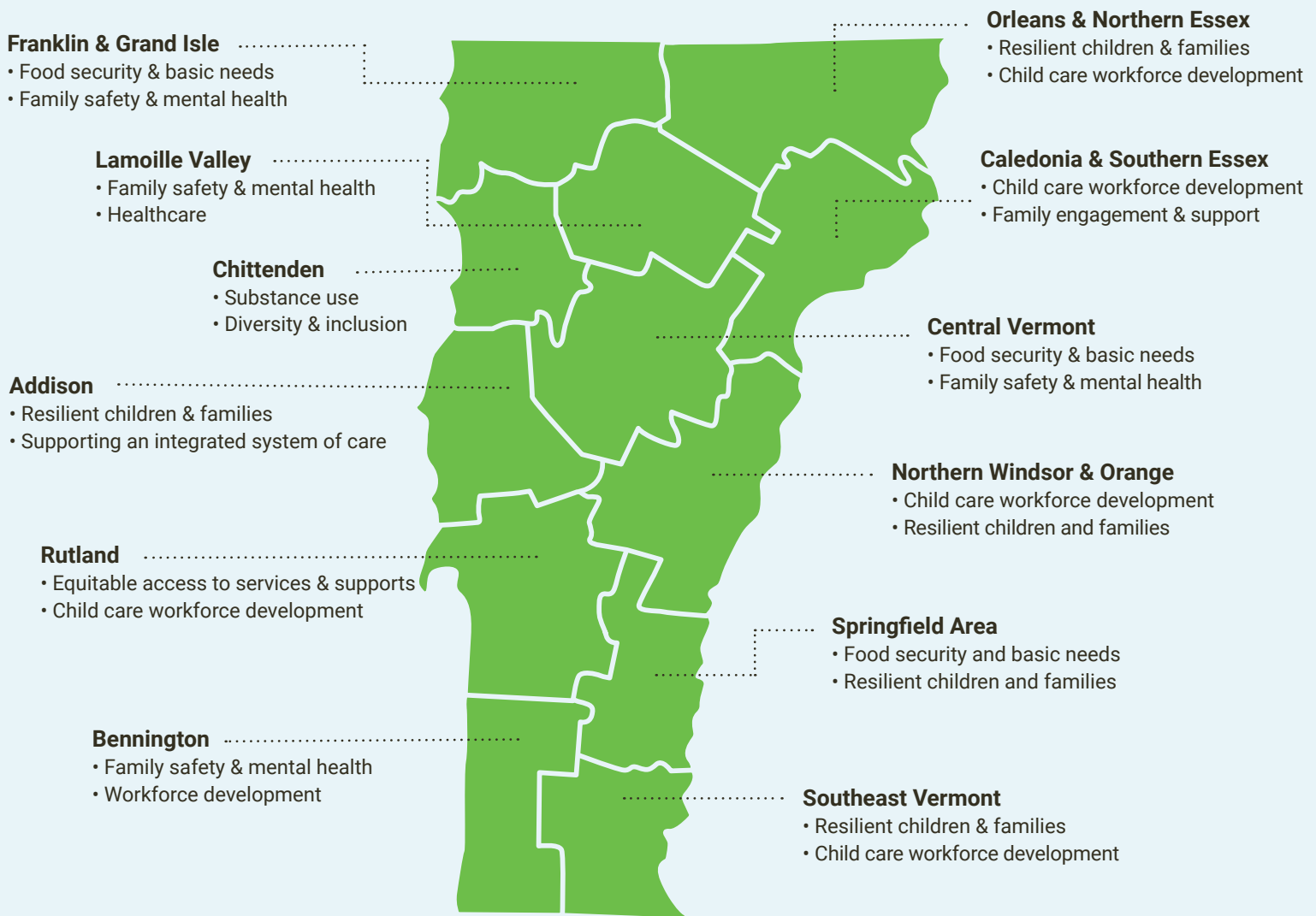
Regional councils serve as critical mechanisms to elevate regional innovations, successes, and barriers to state partners and to implement state policies and best practices at the regional level.



BBF REGIONAL PRIORITIES 2020

The following pages offer a snapshot of each region with a highlighted project and selected indicators of child and family well-being.

Each Regional Council has an action plan to guide decisions and activities. While each plan covers the different parts of the Early Childhood system, two priorities are identified to share across the state. The map below shows the strengths of the regional council infrastructure in allowing for local priority setting as well as the connections between regions across Vermont.



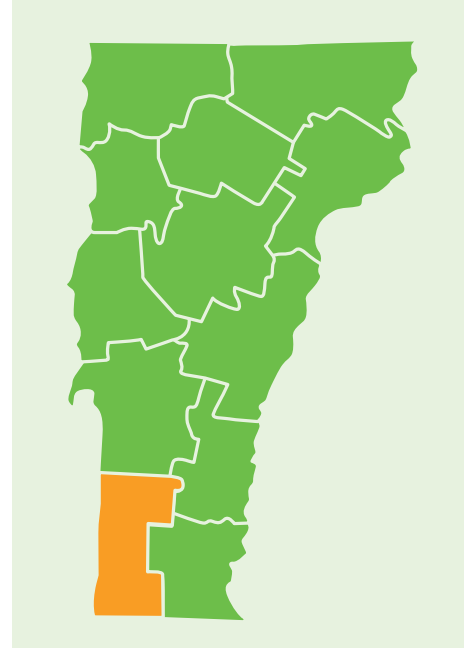
More information about each region including monthly council meetings and updates can be found at buildingbrightfutures.org/what-we-do/regional-councils/

Bennington

The Bennington Regional Council has a long history of working together guided by regional action plans since 2005. The Council continues to put the social emotional health of children and their families at the forefront of their work together in line with **VECAP Goals 1, 2, and 3.**

Bennington uses the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) across the region. The DECA includes both parent and program components that together, help parents and educators better understand children’s social and emotional strengths at home and at school.

Bennington began updating its action plan in the summer of 2020. Small diverse groups met to link the regional plan to council work. While the action plan is full of exciting and innovative regional priorities, the actions and strategies supporting the outcome that, ‘Bennington will become a place of equity and inclusion’ resonate strongly across the Council and the region.



Current Status

CHILD POPULATION (2018)

3,061 children under 9

Decreased by 8% from (3,323 in 2013)

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY (2018)

47.2% children under 6 (934)

Decreased by 19% from (58.1% - 1,299 in 2013)

CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CUSTODY (2019)

64 children under 9

Increased by 52% from (42 in 2014)

Educational Assessments

SUPERVISORY UNION / SCHOOL DISTRICT

Battenkill Valley SU	73.3%
Bennington Rutland SU	88.9%
Southwest Vermont SU	82.5%
Windham Southwest SU	91.3%

KINDERGARTEN READINESS (FALL 2019)

73.3%
88.9%
82.5%
91.3%

3RD GRD READING PROFICIENCY (SPRING 2019)

44.4%
55.3%
36.5%
Not Available



The aggregate information has given the region the ability to better target professional development resources.