

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.

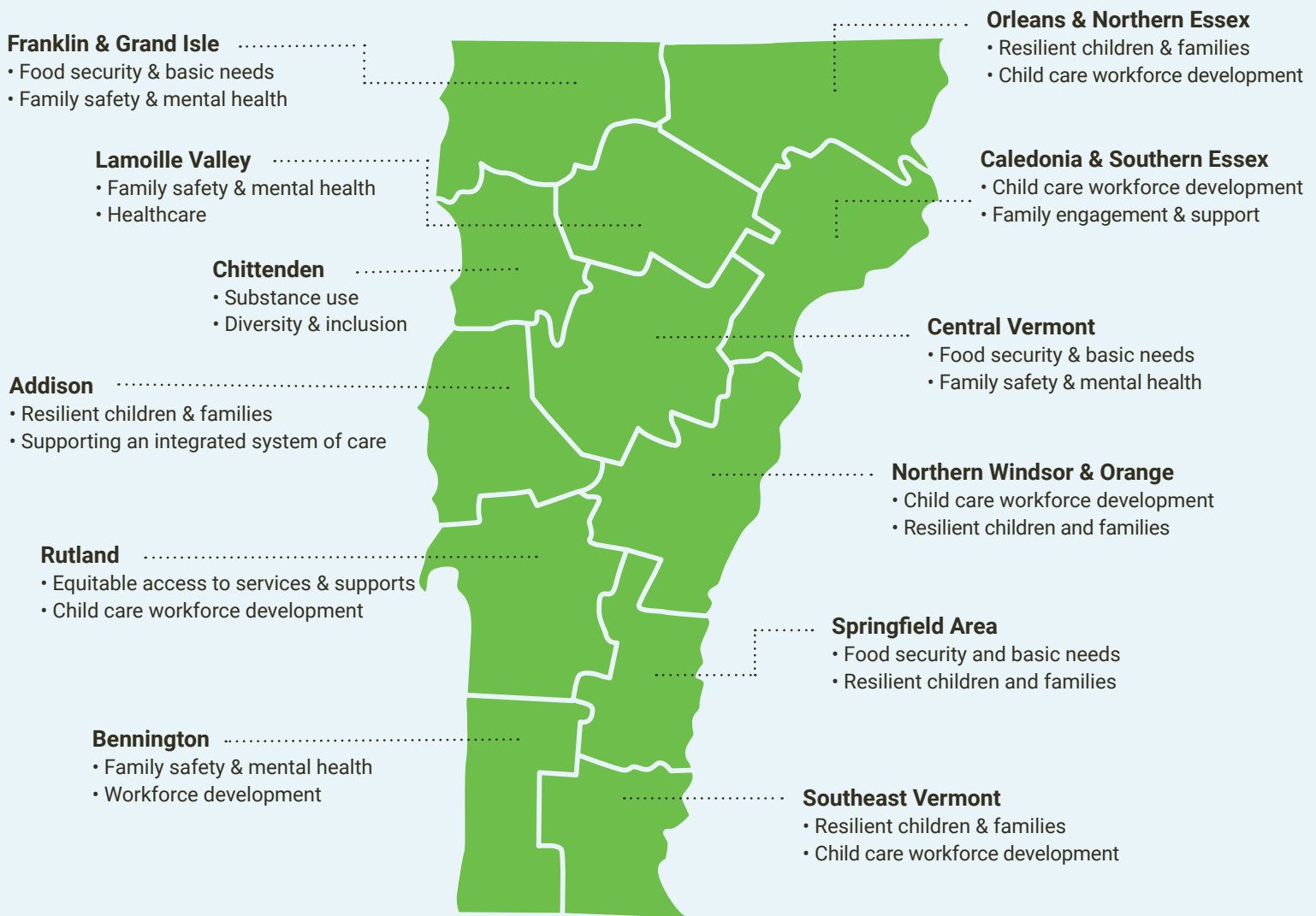
Regional councils serve as critical mechanisms to elevate regional innovations, successes, and barriers to state partners and to implement state policies and best practices at the regional level.



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.

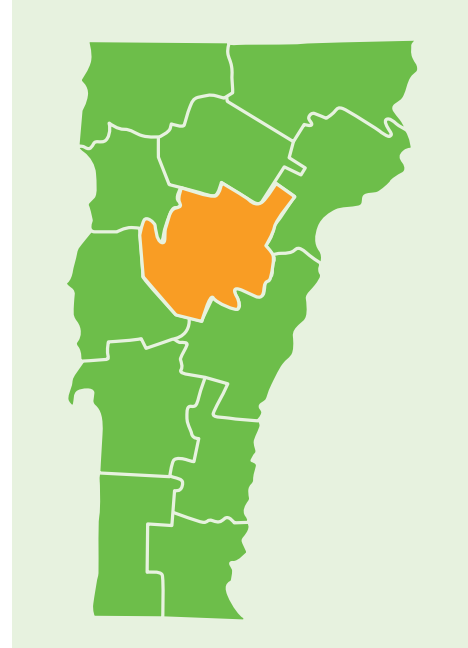
Each Regional Council has an action plan to guide decisions and activities. While each plan covers the different parts of the Early Childhood system, two priorities are identified to share across the state. The map below shows the strengths of the regional council infrastructure in allowing for local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

Central Vermont

The Central Vermont Regional Council has spent much of the past year working to address the basic needs of children and families in the wake of the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. In tandem with community partners, the Council worked to address a variety of needs including housing, food, diapers, childcare for essential workers and more. One particular focus was the issue of internet connectivity. In response to this challenge the Council initiated a work group to assess connectivity needs and explore ways to address them. With the help of volunteers and financial and technical support from local businesses, the work-group has provided devices and technical assistance to families in the region to address this digital divide they were experiencing. The work-group continues to meet lead by the Green Mountain United Way to provide assistance to families in need in line with **VECAP Goal 1: All Children Have a Healthy Start.**



Current Status

CHILD POPULATION (2018)

5,805 children under 9

Decreased by 7% from (6,216 in 2013)

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY (2018)

36.5% children under 6 (1,283)

Increased by 2% from (35.9% - 1,395 in 2013)

CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CUSTODY (2019)

59 children under 9

Increased by 23% from (48 in 2014)

Educational Assessments

SUPERVISORY UNION / SCHOOL DISTRICT

Barre SU
 Central Vermont SU
 Harwood Unified Union SD
 Montpelier Roxbury SD
 Orange Southwest SU
 Washington Central SU
 Washington Northeast SU

KINDERGARTEN READINESS (FALL 2019)

80.4%
73.3%
92.2%
96.5%
89.6%
79.2%
84.9%

3RD GRD READING PROFICIENCY (SPRING 2019)

43.0%
48.7%
65.8%
53.4%
44.8%
58.4%
29.4%



Families who lack appropriate devices or the funds to pay for an internet service provider are unable to access school, telehealth and other essential services.