

# 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.

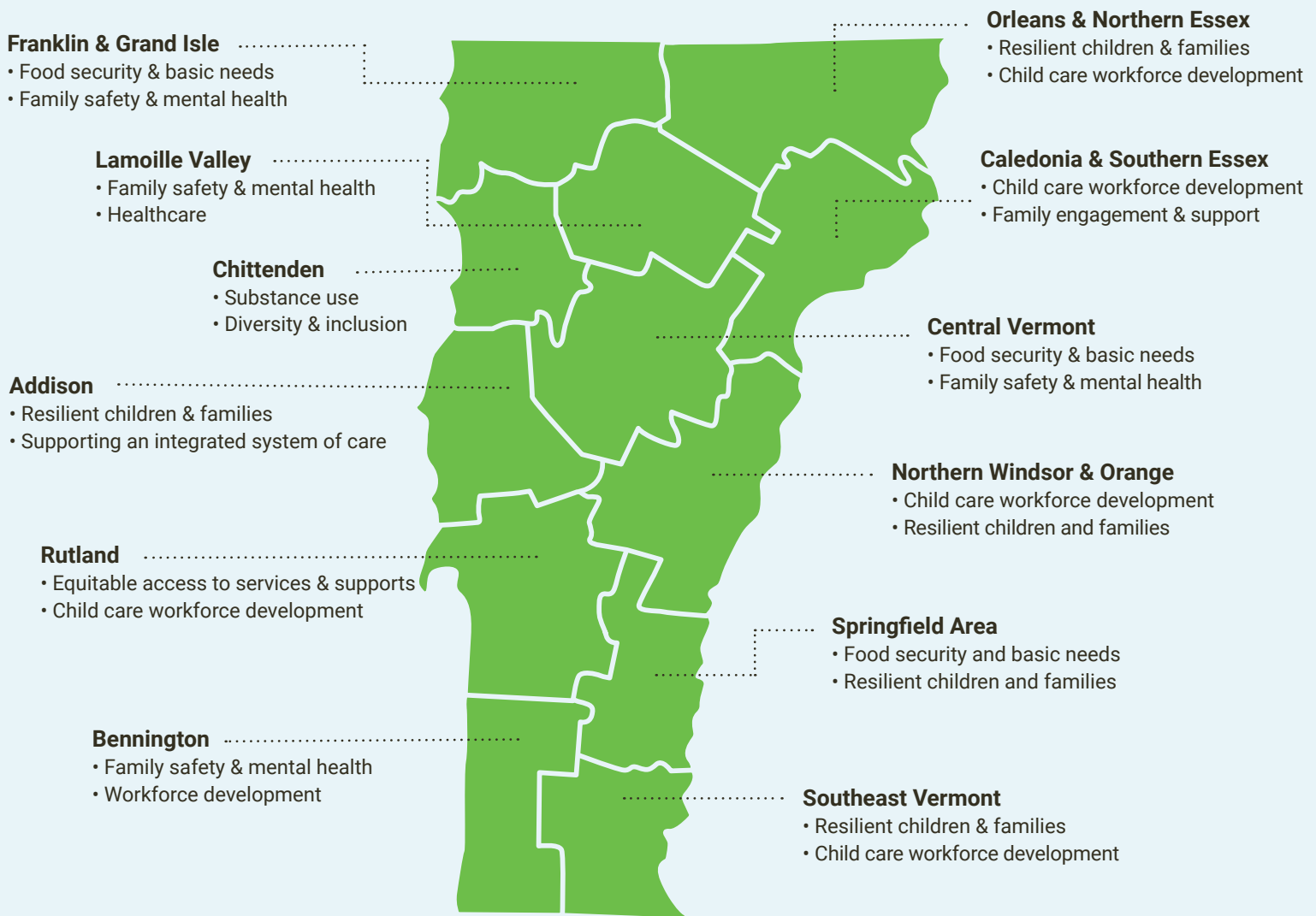
Regional councils serve as critical mechanisms to elevate regional innovations, successes, and barriers to state partners and to implement state policies and best practices at the regional level.



# 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.

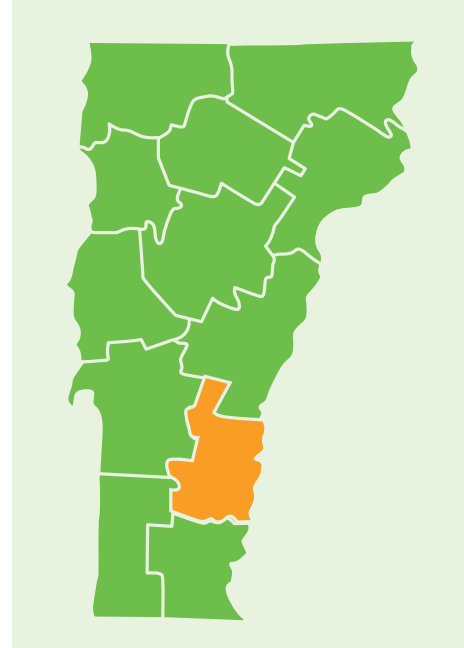


More information about each region including monthly council meetings and updates can be found at [buildingbrightfutures.org/what-we-do/regional-councils/](https://buildingbrightfutures.org/what-we-do/regional-councils/)

# Springfield Area

The Springfield Area Regional Council in the past few years has focused on ensuring that families are able to meet their basic needs. The Council has done this in a variety of ways, whether that is ensuring that families have supplies needed for remote schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic or making sure that families have access to diapers. One new creative way the Council has helped support food security and nutrition education is connecting early care and education programs to the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program. Families enrolled in these programs are able to meet their education requirements through programs put on at the early education centers and can be seen by a WIC specialist at the centers, reducing barriers of transportation, and time off of work as well as building relationships between partners in the region in line with **VECAP Goal 1: All Children Have a Healthy Start.**

*In addition to providing food and nutrition education, this connection has contributed to an increase in WIC enrollment in the region!*



## Current Status

### CHILD POPULATION (2018)

**2,812** children under 9

Decreased by 6% from (2,983 in 2013)

### CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY (2018)

**48.3%** children under 6 (904)

Decreased by 9% from (52.8% - 1,006 in 2013)

### CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CUSTODY (2019)

**33** children under 9

Consistent with 33 in 2014

## Educational Assessments

### SUPERVISORY UNION / SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bennington Rutland SU

Springfield SD

Two Rivers SU

Windham Central SU

Windham Northeast SU

Windsor Central SU

Windsor Southeast SU

### KINDERGARTEN READINESS (FALL 2019)

88.9%

79.5%

91.7%

82.2%

79.5%

90.2%

85.0%

### 3RD GRD READING PROFICIENCY (SPRING 2019)

55.3%

43.6%

61.4%

47.6%

50.6%

66.6%

58.0%