



## State Advisory Council and Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan Summit

Monday, July 26, 2021 | 1:00-3:00pm |

[Registration Link](#)

### Desired Outcomes:

- Celebrate progress made to the [Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan](#) by VECAP committees, [2020 Policy Recommendations](#) and levels of the BBF network in the last year
- Mark the start of a new annual VECAP Implementation Cycle
- Provide input to develop policy recommendations in small groups
- Build alignment and collaboration across the BBF Network (Regional Councils, State Advisory Council and Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan committees)
- Review the [VECAP Dashboard](#) and Vermont’s Early Childhood Resource, Data, and Policy Center at [www.vermontdatakids.org](http://www.vermontdatakids.org) as tools to monitor the VECAP

Time	Topic
1:00 – 1:20	<p><b>1. Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome</li> <li>● Mindful moment: Visualization of a Vermont Child Born in 2026</li> <li>● Introductions by BBF Network participation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Regional Council</li> <li>● Early Childhood Action Plan Committee (such as Early Learning and Development, Early Childhood Wellness, Families and Communities, Professional Preparation and Development or Early Childhood Interagency Coordinating Team)</li> <li>● State Advisory Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:20 – 1:45	<p><b>2. Community reflections to celebrate progress made to the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan</b></p> <p>Sharing from early childhood leaders illustrating progress to reach our collective vision outlined in the VECAP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jen Fortman, Parent Co-chair for the VECAP Families and Communities Committee</li> <li>● Theresa Wood, Member of the Vermont House of Representatives</li> <li>● Miranda Gray, Child Development Division Interim Deputy Director</li> </ul>
1:45 – 2:00	<p><b>3. Building Policy Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brief description of the VECAP, committees and policy recommendation process</li> <li>● Review of key issues identified by BBF Regional Councils 2021</li> <li>● Presentation of issues and small groups</li> </ul>

2:00 – 2:35	<p><b>4. Policy Work Sessions in Small Groups</b>  <b>See table below for details</b></p> <p>Participants will be able to select one small group via Zoom rooms to review successes toward the VECAP vision, determine where there has been progress on the 2020 recommendations and discuss next steps for 2021 recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Mitigate COVID impacts on family economic stability and mental health</li> <li>B. Recognize and address chronic inequities in the early childhood system</li> <li>C. Family voice to build a stronger system</li> <li>D. Stabilize and sustain the early childhood workforce</li> <li>E. Evolve our data system to address gaps</li> </ul>
2:35- 2:55	<p><b>5. Discussion on Strategy &amp; Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Return to the large group and share highlights of small group discussions</li> <li>● How do these issues and call to action inform your own work?</li> <li>● Review the <a href="#">VECAP Dashboard</a> and Vermont’s Early Childhood Resource, Data, and Policy Center at <a href="http://www.vermontdatakids.org">www.vermontdatakids.org</a> as tools to monitor the VECAP</li> </ul>
2:55- 3:00	<p><b>6. Closure</b></p>

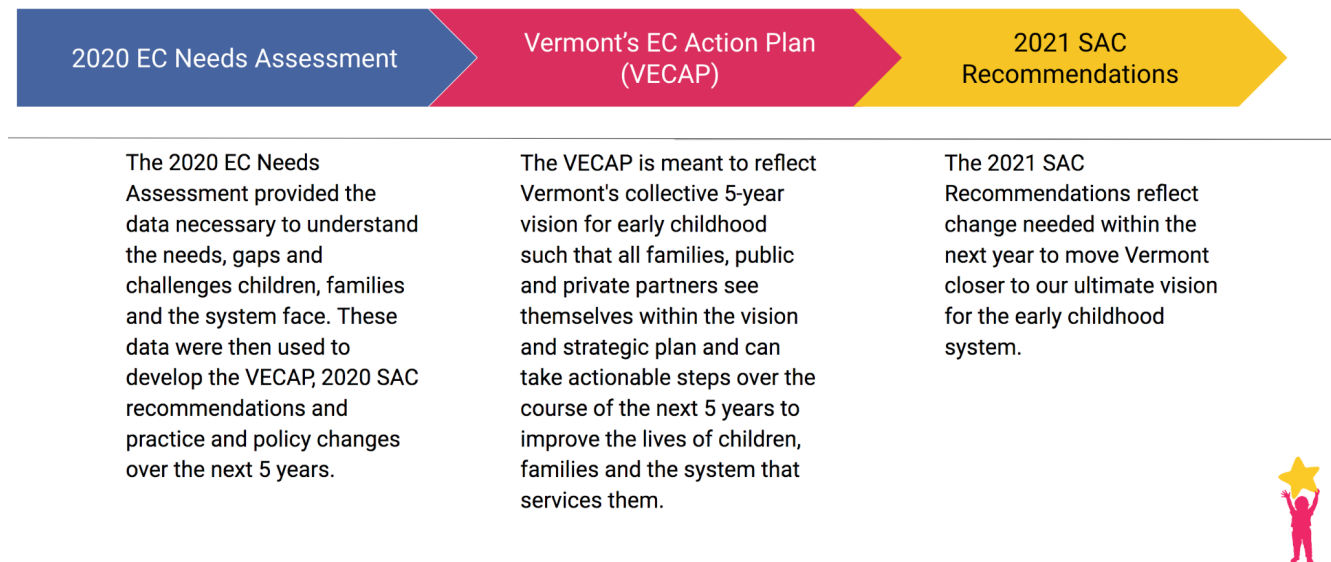
2020 Policy Recommendations	Status
<b>A. MITIGATE COVID IMPACTS ON FAMILY ECONOMIC STABILITY &amp; MENTAL HEALTH</b>	
<p><b>Small group description: Explore mental health and economic response to support children, families and the workforce as they deal with financial and mental health stressors due to the pandemic.</b></p> <p>VECAP reference: Goal 1.1: Parents, caregivers and children have equitable access to comprehensive physical and mental health supports and services. Goal 1.2: Families who are experiencing adversity have access to resources to meet their basic needs.</p>	
<p>Rec. 1: Mitigate The Health And Economic Effects Of The Pandemic On Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Extend economic support beyond expiration of CARES Act funds that expire in December.</li> <li>● Extend flexibility in eligibility for programs (e.g. Reach Up work requirements) so parents can engage in other activities that help them invest in their future and integral to the health and well-being of their family.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Significant progress:</b>  American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, Department of Mental Health support</p>
<p>Rec. 2: Sustain And Strengthen The Integration Of Mental Health Services For Children And Families Through Flexible Funding For Integrated Mental Health Across Settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue to allow telehealth to be covered by insurance so families can access the care they need.</li> <li>● Invest in flexible service delivery and availability.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Initiated:</b> Progress through the Department of Mental Health in focusing on mental health prevention and staff burnout</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on mental health prevention and staff burnout across many settings.</li> </ul>	
<b>B. RECOGNIZE AND ADDRESS CHRONIC INEQUITIES IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEM</b>	
<p><b>Small group description: Supporting equitable access to education-based services, resources and support for children with disabilities and special health care needs and their families</b></p> <p>VECAP reference: Goal 3.3: Expand access to high-quality inclusive early care, education and afterschool programs for each and every child and their family.</p>	
<p>Rec. 1: Partner With Vermont’s Racial Equity Task Force To Identify And Build Structures Of Support For Racially Diverse Populations And Address Health Disparities And Systemic Impacts Of Racism.</p>	<p><b>Initiated:</b> BBF leadership held initial meeting with Executive Director of Racial Equity and Racial Equity Panel leader</p>
<p>Rec. 2: Align And Integrate Equity Initiatives To Leverage Impact And Expertise Across Sectors And Early Childhood Partners To Inform Strategies In The Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan And Early Childhood System.</p>	<p><b>Not yet initiated,</b> Vermont was just awarded Health Resources and Services Admin. (HRSA) grant to support this effort starting 9/2021</p>
<b>C. EMPOWER FAMILY VOICE TO BUILD A STRONGER SYSTEM</b>	
<p><b>Small group description: Successes to engage families in decision making, policy development and data collection through the Families &amp; Communities Committee.</b></p> <p>VECAP citation: Goal 2.4: Include families as partners in decision-making and provide leadership opportunities at all levels of the early childhood system.</p>	
<p>Rec. 1: Increase Opportunities For Parent And Caregiver Representatives To Serve On Committees, Legislatively Mandated Study Sections And Decision Making Bodies To Inform Local And State Policy, Practice And Resource Allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require each legislatively mandated board/committee/study section have at least 1 parent representative with lived experience</li> </ul>	<p><b>Initiated:</b> House Committee on Human Services actively using this recommendation to design new committees and advisory bodies</p>
<p>Rec. 2: Commit To Ensuring That Children And Families Are In All Policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the “health in all policies” initiative, this recommendation is based on incorporating child development and family well-being considerations into all decision-making across sectors and policy areas.</li> <li>At the state-agency and community-based partners level, and at the policy-making level, review programs, policies and legislation to ensure that revisions and requirements consider the impact and consequences to child development and family well-being.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Initiated:</b> BBF testimony to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, House Committee on Human Services, the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations</p>

<b>D. STABILIZE AND SUSTAIN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE</b>	
<p><b>Small group description: Strategies to promote professional advancement, economic security and address chronic workforce shortages among Vermont’s early childhood workforce.</b></p> <p>VECAP reference: Goal 3.5: Stabilize and sustain the early childhood workforce through policies and structures that promote professional advancement and economic security.</p>	
<p>Rec. 1: Fund Education Costs, Compensation For Early Childhood Education Workforce, Including Scholarships, Loan Repayment, And Wage Supplementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sufficiently fund and expand scholarship programs for early educators and maintain this revenue annually.</li> <li>• Establish a loan repayment program for early educators.</li> <li>• Establish a wage supplement program to progress toward adequate compensation for early educators.</li> <li>• Prioritize workforce development and hazard pay for this sector.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Significant progress</b> through H171 and FY22 budget</p>
<p>Rec. 2: Continue Investment In Redesigning The State’s Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) By Making Progress In Alignment With Year 3 Of The State’s 5-Year Plan, Including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the CCFAP rate paid to early care and education providers so those reimbursement rates closely reflect the true cost of high-quality care thereby reducing the burden on early care and education programs to subsidize the system through low wages and other cost-saving efforts.</li> <li>• Fully support needed investments in the technology system(s), staff and resources required to implement the redesigned CCFAP structure and providing an accessible platform for families, educators, and administrators.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Significant progress</b> through H171 and FY22 budget</p>
<b>E. EVOLVE OUR DATA SYSTEM TO ADDRESS GAPS</b>	
<p><b>Small group description: Successes on data initiatives (State Longitudinal Data System, CDD Information System, Vermont’s Early Childhood Resource, Data, and Policy Center) and moving forward with data literacy and monitoring the early childhood system.</b></p> <p>VECAP reference: Goal 4.2: Develop a strong data infrastructure to enhance service delivery, systems building and outcome reporting.</p>	
<p>Rec. 1: Restart And Support The Early Childhood Data Governance Council And Utilize The BBF Data And Evaluation Committee To Identify And Elevate Data Gaps And Align Priorities Through Cross-Sector Collaboration</p>	<p><b>Progress</b> in partnerships between Agency Leaders, data stewards and BBF around SLDS, data priorities and integration. Discussions about timing and capacity for the EC Data Governance Council</p>

	<b>on hold</b> until completion of the Systems Analysis.
Rec. 2: Promote Data Literacy And Using Data To Inform Policy Across Sectors By Educating Vermonters About The Importance Of High-Quality Data Collection, Reporting And Integration.	<b>Initiated</b> through BBF's partnership with FEMA, LGK, CDD, DMH, etc. and through the Data and Evaluation VECAP Committee
Rec. 3: Fully Fund Existing Early Childhood Data Initiatives To Fidelity: Early Childhood Information System (E.g. Bright Futures Information System, Children's Integrated Services) And The State Longitudinal Data System	<b>Significant progress</b> through PDG, H171, CDD, AOE, and Vermont's Early Childhood Resource, Data, and Policy Center at BBF
Rec. 4: Create An Early Childhood Budget That Identifies All Financial Sources Dedicated To Children And Their Families From Prenatal To Age Eight To Monitor, Align And Leverage Financial Resources	<b>Not yet initiated</b> , HRSA grant includes funding to support BBF in this effort starting September 2021

# BBF Policy Recommendation Development Process



## Policy Recommendation Process Example

How does this process work? Here's an example about the issue priority on **Child Care Workforce Development**

- 6 out of 12 regions identified child care workforce development as one of the top two priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The ELD Committee developed a series of policy recommendations:  
Title: Recognizing Vermont's Early Care and Education System and Workforce as Essential
  - Rec 1: Fund education costs, compensation for early childhood education workforce, including scholarships, loan repayment, and wage supplementation
  - Rec 2: Continue investment in redesigning the state's child care financial assistance program (CCFAP) by making progress in alignment with year 3 of the state's 5-year plan
- The recommendations were reflective of strategies identified in Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan
  - Goal 1, Objective 1.3, Strategy 2 (pg. 13): *Ensure the EC workforce has the capacity to meet the needs of each and every child across stessings*
  - Goal 3 (pg. 18), Objective 3.3, Strategy 1 (pg. 21): *Promote and increase equitable access to high-quality inclusive early care, education and afterschool programs.*
  - Goal 3, Objective 3.5, Strategy 1: *Establish an infrastructure that recruits, retains and advances early childhood and afterschool professionals as an essential workforce.*  
Strategy 2: *Promote strategies to increase early childhood workforce compensation and benefits without shifting costs to families.*
- The State Advisory Council Adopted these recommendations, they were printed in the 2020 How are Vermont's Young children and families report, and presented at the State of Vermont's Young Children and Families webinar
- The recommendations were also presented to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare directly by the BBF Executive Director.
- The recommendations were also used by our advocacy partners at Let's Grow Kids and others to develop and affirm H.171 and budget priorities

**Outcome:** Passage of H.171 including investments in child care workforce development

