

Investing in Child



Children Can Thrive

Vermont's Three-Year Policy Proposal and Campaign

Help Me Grow Virtual Conference

September 20, 2021

Introductions and



Aly Richards
Chief Executive Officer
Let's Grow Kids



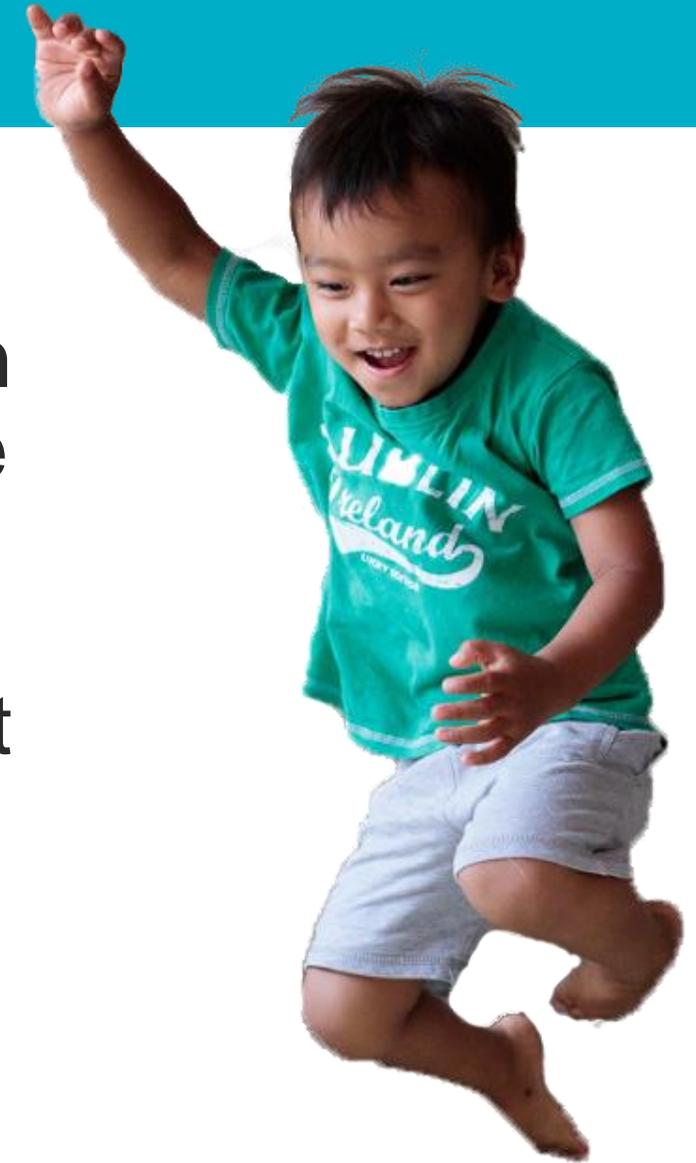
Dr. Morgan Crossman
Executive Director
Building Bright Futures



Janet Kilburn
Early Childhood Director
Vermont Department of
Health, Maternal Child
Health Division

Objectives

1. Learn how Vermont has engaged statewide stakeholders in developing a policy agenda in support of an equitable, high-quality childcare system for all Vermonters.
2. Learn the tools and methods used in Vermont to engage statewide stakeholder in building an advocacy movement and how others can use in them in their own state/regional policy initiatives.



Agenda

- Introductions
- Child Care Campaign: Policy Proposal and Advocacy Plan
- Sustaining the Gains: Accountability and Sustainability Plan
- Q & A



Help Me Grow Vermont

- Early childhood education as a public health strategy
- Partnered with Let's Grow Kids to train and support early educators to do developmental screening and food insecurity screening
- Make sure families are connected to resources including mental health and supporting pandemic recovery



Partnering to Strengthen Families and Communities

HMG partners with BBF to help communities offer activities that promote early development and learning, strengthen families, and build social connections.





- The early years are essential.
- High-quality child care can close or eliminate opportunity gap.

From birth to age 5, we form over one million new neural connections every second!



Expanding our early childhood education system would yield:

\$3 for

invested net benefits to
our government and
society

every \$1

\$1.3

net benefits to VT
over the working
lifetime (15 years) of
the children served.

N





All children should have
access to positive early
learning experiences that
will set them up for long-
term success and wellness.

- The Children's Equity

Project

Current Strategy to
Transform the Child
Care System / How
We Do This



LET'S GROW KIDS
CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

The Vermont Child Care Campaign

It's time to invest in what's essential.



Our vision is a Vermont in which all children have access to the early childhood education opportunities they need for a strong start in life, families have increased economic opportunity

Our mission is to ensure
affordable access to

high-quality child care for **ALL**
Vermont families by 2025.



Let's Grow Kids'

Approach



30,000

Supporters

across Vermont



95 VERMONT LEGISLATORS

co-sponsored child care legislation in 2021

1,800 MORE CHILDREN

now have access to high-quality child care





KEEGAN ALBAUGH

One third of my family's income goes to child care.

Child care is **ESSENTIAL** to Vermont.
JOIN US AT: [LetsGrowKids.org](https://letsgrowkids.org)

LET'S GROW KIDS
LITTLE KIDS • BIG IMPACT



- Community Organizing – Community events door-to-door, phone calls, action teams and phone and text banking
- Communications – Emails, websites, media stories, social media and more
- Policy and Advocacy – Following the science, best practices, data, weaving them into actionable policy proposals
- Direct Service – Capacity building grants, workforce development, technology solutions, communications with policy makers
- Development and Fund Raising – Individuals, businesses, foundations, government

Impact of Pandemic

Covid-19 Impact on the Child Care Crisis

- Child Care programs in Vermont remained opened to serve children of essential persons.
- Inequities among families were exacerbated even more.
- Employers struggled, and continue to struggle, to find workers.



Impact of Covid-19 on

Child Care Policy

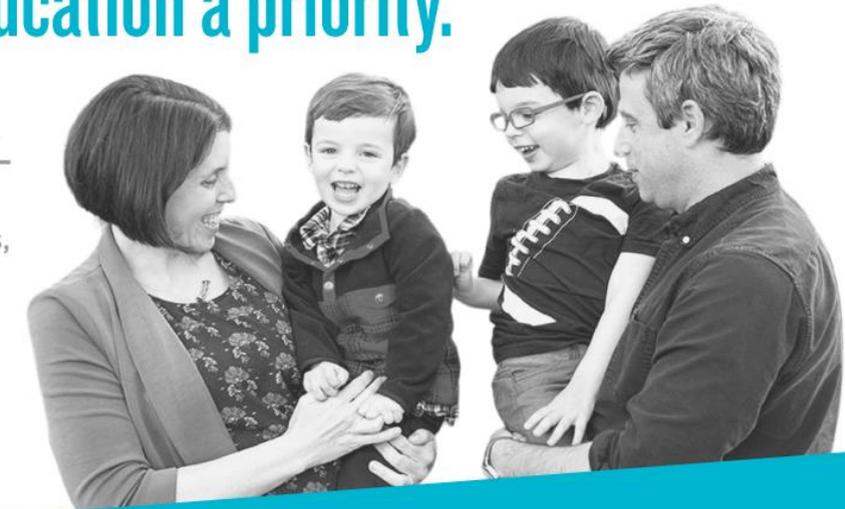
- Spotlight on the child care challenge and increased urgency
- Business and health care leaders became vocal and active child care champions
- With urgency created by pandemic opportunities like our Health Care and Business Leadership Circles to step up to a more active advocacy role



If you ask any family what the biggest stress was this past year, a majority of the responses would be around child care.

We need to make supporting early childhood education a priority.

DR. REBECCA BELL
President, American
Academy of Pediatrics,
Vermont Chapter



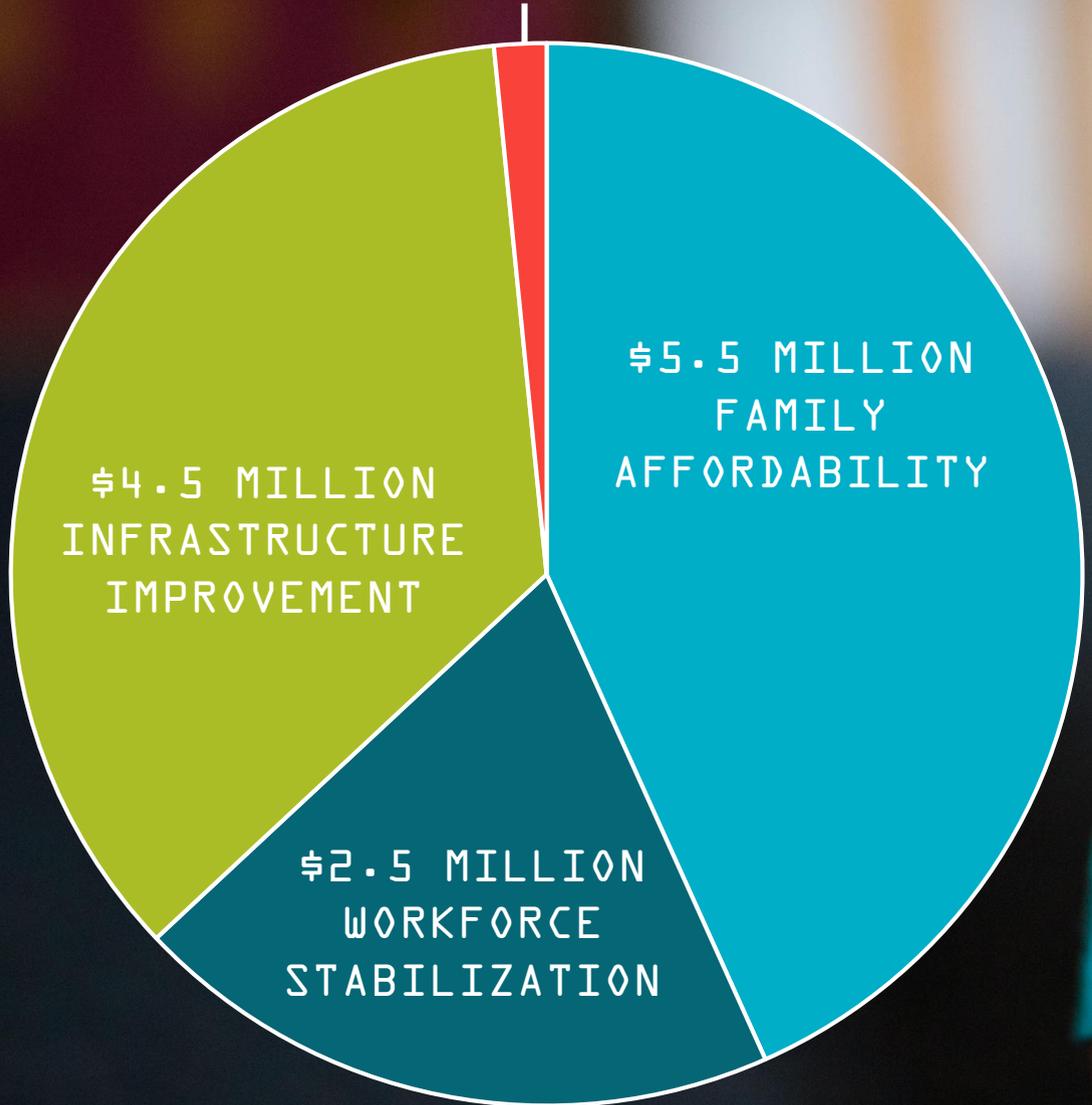
Child care is **ESSENTIAL** to Vermont.

JOIN US AT: LetsGrowKids.org



Highlights from H.171 / The Child Care Bill

\$200,000,000
SYSTEMS
ANALYSIS



The Road to 2025



2025
YOUR SUPPORT WILL
HELP US CROSS THE
FINISH LINE!

2021

WE ARE
GETTING
READY

2022

WE'LL SET UP
VERMONT'S
FUTURE CHILD
CARE SYSTEM

2023

WE'LL SECURE
A FUNDING
SOURCE

2023

WE'LL BRING
OUR SHARED
VISION TO
LIFE



Sustained Systems Transformation

MISSION

To improve the well-being of each and every child and family in Vermont by using evidence to inform policy and bringing voices together to discuss critical challenges and problem solve.



VISION

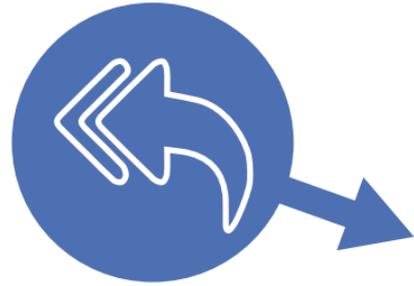
BBF maintains the vision and strategic plan for Vermont's Early Childhood System. Vermont's vision for the Early Childhood system is to be an integrated continuum of comprehensive, high quality services that is equitable and accessible and will improve outcomes for each and every child in the prenatal period to age eight and their family in Vermont.

Convening

Vermont's early childhood community to foster coordination and collaboration, communication, solidify feedback loops, share best practices and problem-solve.

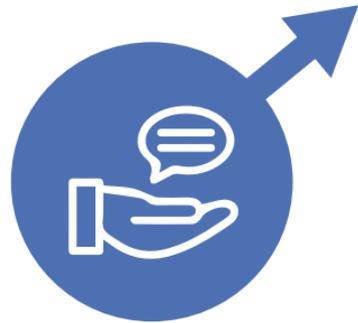
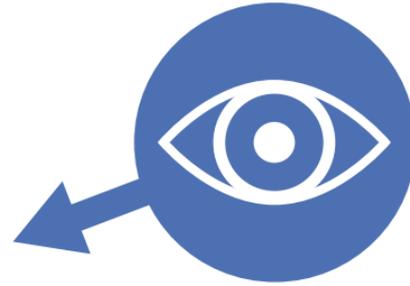
Responding

to fill the gaps in child and family need at the regional and systems level.



Monitoring

child and family well-being and services to ensure an equitable, accessible, high-quality early childhood system.



Advising

the Governor and legislature on the well-being of Vermont's children and families using the most up-to-date high-quality data to inform forward-thinking policy.



Empowering

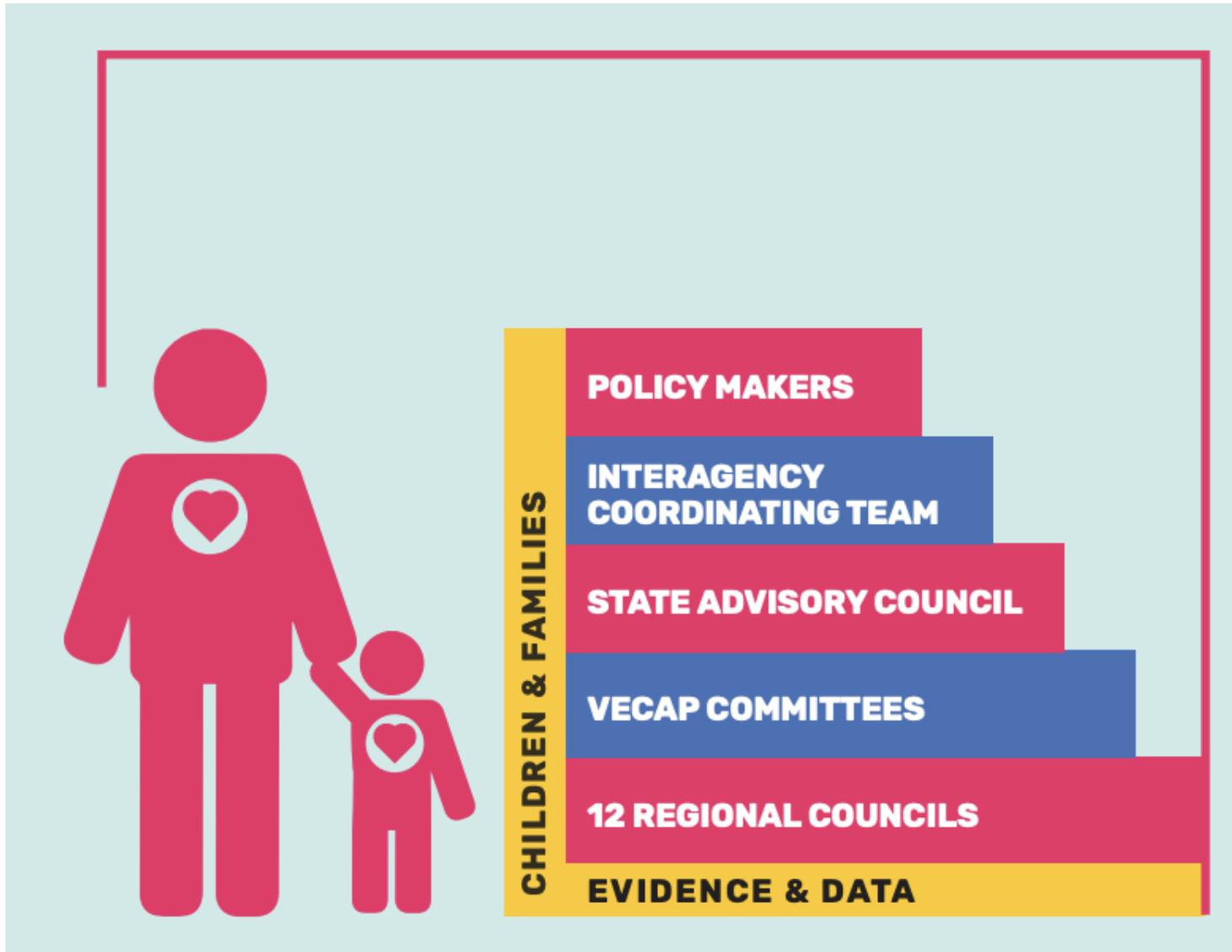
families and communities by providing the opportunity to lead and elevate their needs.

Building Bright Futures' Role

Vermont's Title 33, Chapter 46 Federal Head Start Act

Building Bright Futures Early Childhood Infrastructure

The Building Bright Futures State Advisory Council and network infrastructure is charged by Act 104 to use evidence and data to monitor the system of services and provide the mechanism to support accountability.



Vermont's Early Childhood State Advisory Council (SAC) Membership



Public Members

Vermont's General Assembly (House and Senate)
Governor's Office
Agency of Commerce & Community Development
Agency of Education
Agency of Human Services Secretary's Office
Department for Children and Families - Child Development Division
Department of Mental Health
Head Start Collaboration Office
Department of Health/Maternal & Child Health



Private Members

Parents
Parent Child Center Network
Winston Prouty Center (Child Care/Family Services)
Let's Grow Kids
Head Start Representative
A.D. Henderson Foundation
South Royalton Health Center (Pediatrician)
Early Educator (PreK and Special Education)
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity
Vermont's Principals Association
Vermont School Boards Association
Business Community Partner

2021 BBF Regional Council Priority Map

Franklin/Grand Isle

Access to basic needs
Supporting an integrated system of care

Lamoille Valley

Building resilience in children, families and communities
Early childhood workforce development

Chittenden

Early childhood workforce development
Supporting an integrated system of care

Addison

Building resilience in children, families and communities
Early childhood workforce development

Rutland

Equitable access to services
Early childhood workforce development

Bennington

Equitable access to services
Family engagement and support

Orleans & Northern Essex

Building resilience in children, families and communities
Family engagement and support

Caledonia & Southern Essex

Early childhood workforce development
Family engagement and support

Central Vermont

Access to basic needs
Family safety and mental health

Northern Windsor and Orange

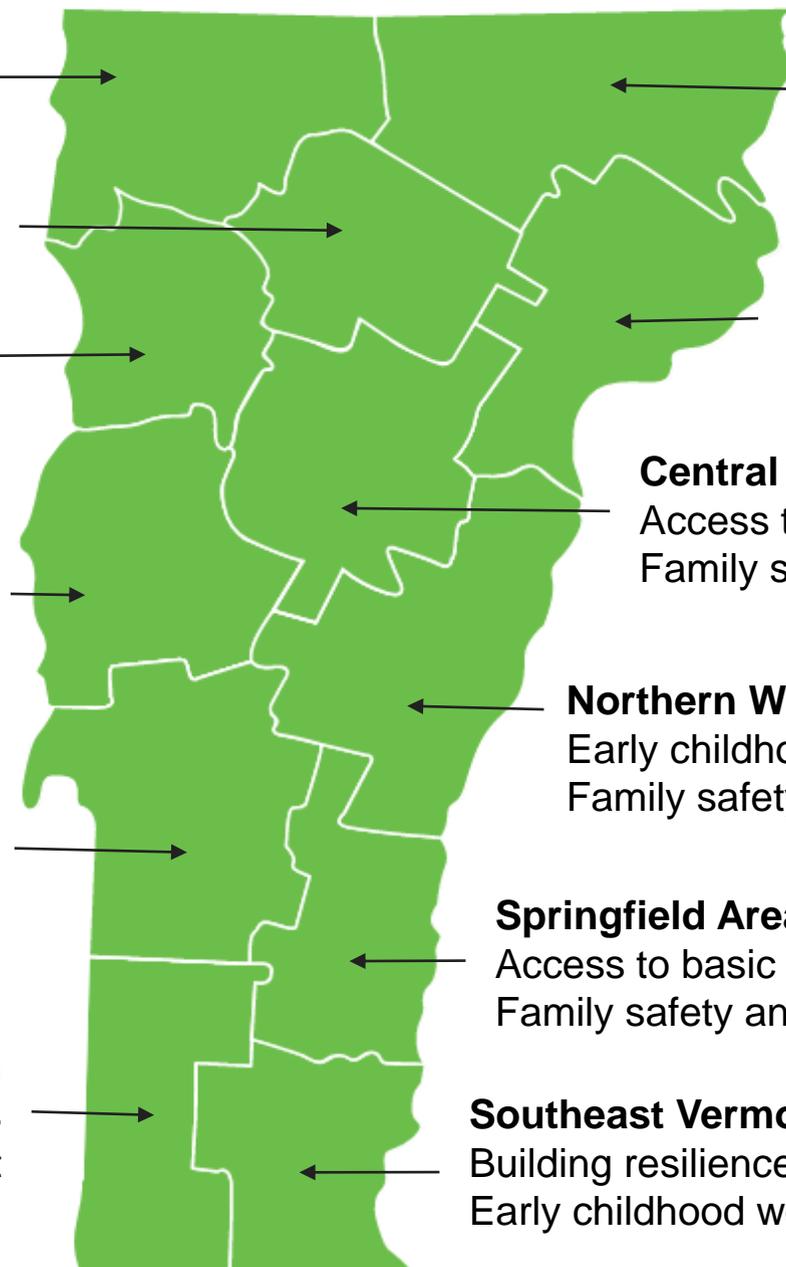
Early childhood workforce development
Family safety and mental health

Springfield Area

Access to basic needs
Family safety and mental health

Southeast Vermont

Building resilience in children, families and communities
Early childhood workforce development

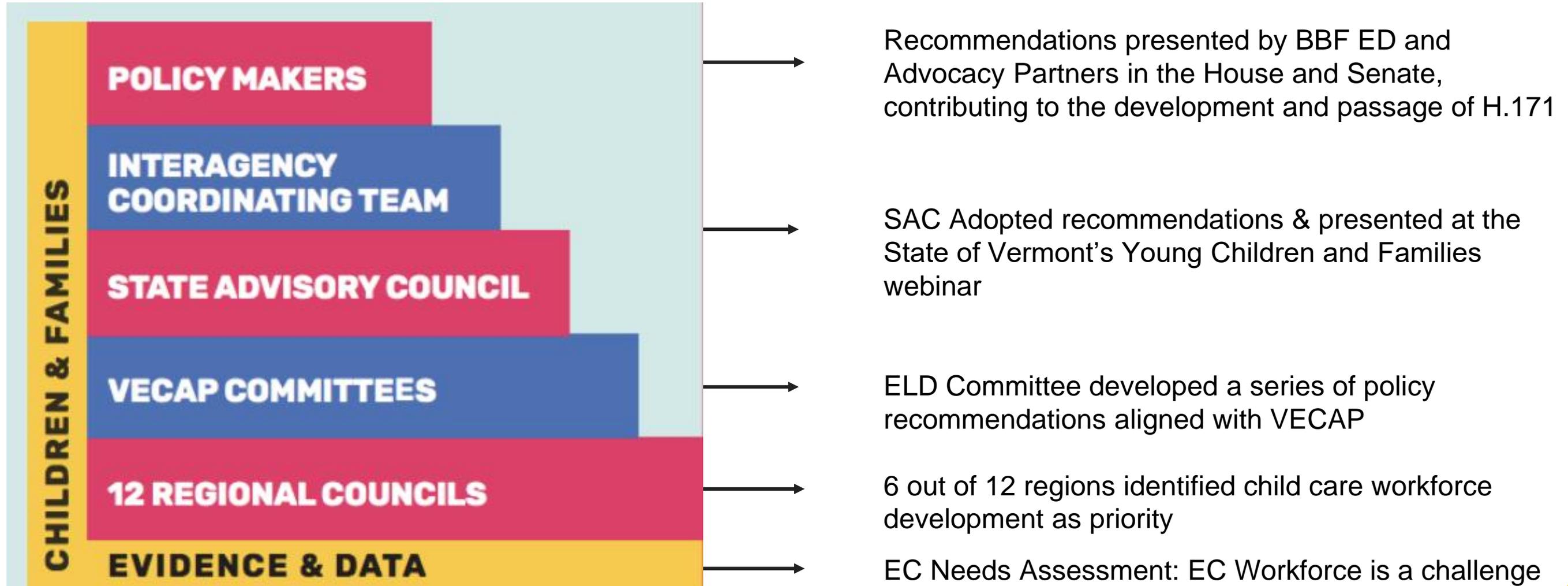


VECAP Summit
July 2021



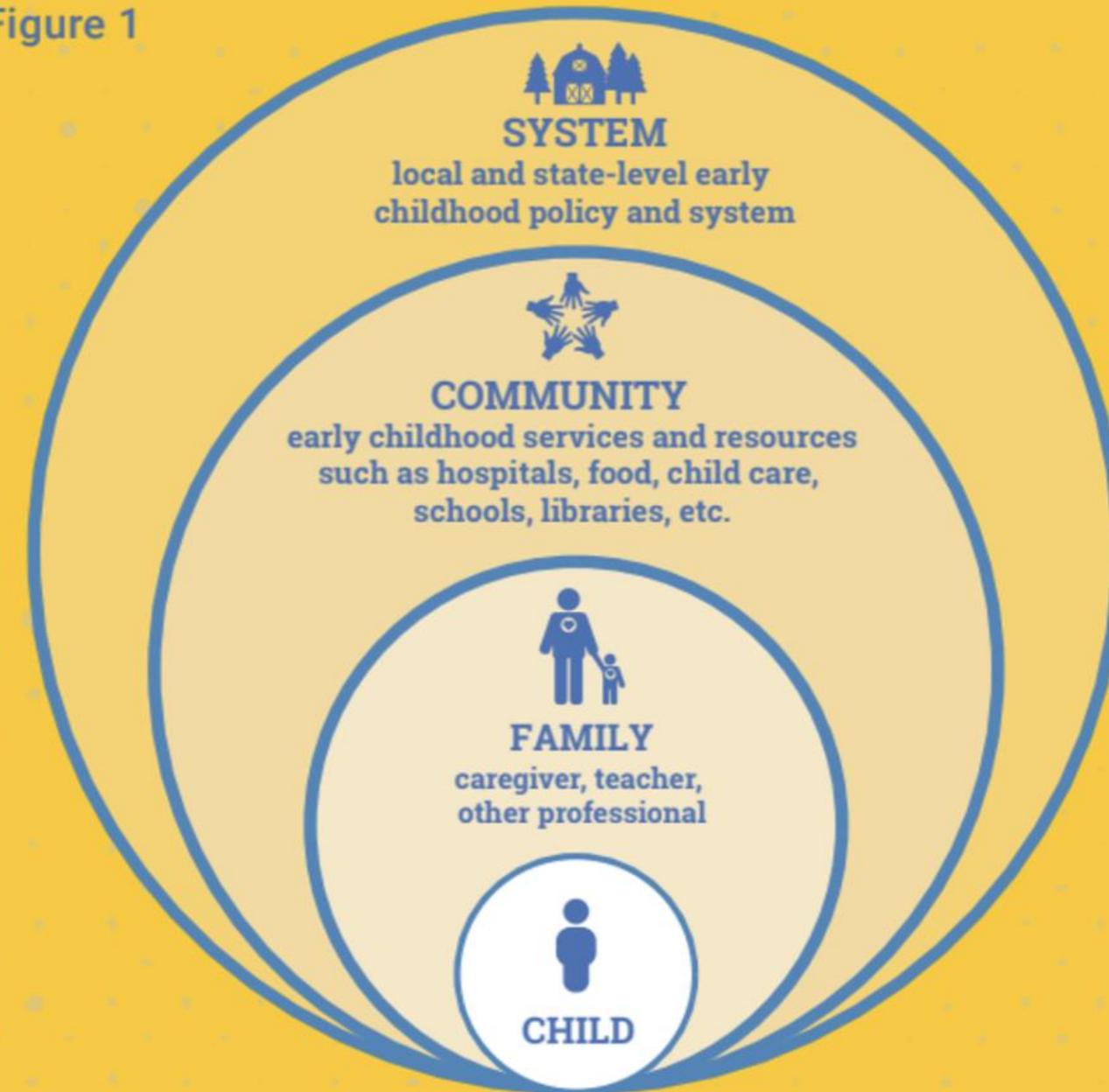
Child Care Workforce Policy Example

Building Bright Futures



Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP)

Figure 1





- A catalog of high quality resources for families, communities, and early childhood professionals
- National and Vermont-specific datasets, data spotlights, and related policy recommendation briefs and fact sheets
- A scorecard to monitor indicators identified in Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan (VECAP)
- Reports and publications from BBF, agency and community partners
- Recorded research presentations, webinars, and early childhood grand rounds
- A portal for stakeholders to ask questions about existing data, make recommendations for needed data, and report data gaps and priorities

Accountability and Governance of the Transformed System





LET'S GROW KIDS
CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

Q + A

For More Information and to Stay Connected

- www.helpmegrowvt.org
 - On Facebook @ HelpMeGrowVT
- www.buildingbrightfutures.org
 - On Facebook @BuildingBrightFutures
- www.letsgrowkids.org and www.letsgrowkidsactionnetwork.org
- Follow us on social media:
 - On Facebook @LetsGrowKids and @LetsGrowKidsActionNetwork
 - On Instagram @LetsGrowKids and @LetsGrowKidsActionNetwork
 - On Twitter @LetsGrowKids and @LetsGrowKidsAN

