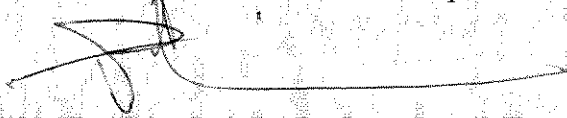




I. APPLICATION ASSURANCES AND CERTIFICATIONS
Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge
(CFDA No. 84.412)

Legal Name of Applicant (Office of the Governor): Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin	Applicant's Mailing Address: 109 State Street, Pavilion Montpelier, VT 05609
Employer Identification Number: 036000264	Organizational DUNS: 809376155
Lead Agency: VT Agency of Human Services Contact Name: Alyson Richards (Single point of contact for communication)	Lead Agency Contact Phone: 802-371-9750 Lead Agency Contact Email Address: Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us
Required Applicant Signatures (Must include signatures from an authorized representative of each Participating State Agency. Insert additional signature blocks as needed below. To simplify the process, signatories may sign on separate Application Assurance forms.): To the best of my knowledge and belief, all of the information and data in this application are true and correct. I further certify that I have read the application, am fully committed to it, and will support its implementation:	
Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name): Governor Peter Shumlin Signature of Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor: 	Telephone: 802-828-6403 Date: 10/11/2013
Lead Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Secretary Doug Racine Signature of Lead Agency Authorized Representative: 	Agency Name: VT Agency of Human Services Date: 10/11/2013
Participating State Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name): Alyson Richards, Director of Special Projects Signature of Participating State Agency Authorized Representative: 	Agency Name: VT Governor's Office Date: 10/11/2013

Vermont RTT-ELC Application for Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

Participating State Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

Secretary Armando Vilaseca

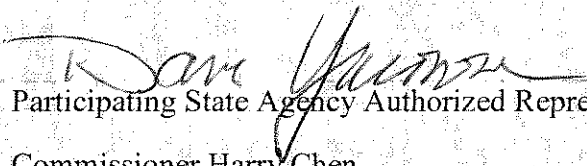
Signature of Participating State Agency Authorized Representative:



Participating State Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

Commissioner Dave Yacovone

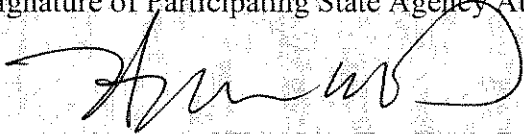
Signature of Participating State Agency Authorized Representative:



Participating State Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

Commissioner Harry Chen

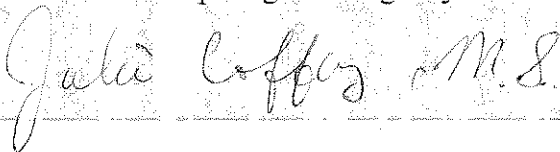
Signature of Participating State Agency Authorized Representative:



Participating State Agency Authorized Representative (Printed Name):

Julie Coffey, Executive Director

Signature of Participating State Agency Authorized Representative:



Agency Name:

VT Agency of Education

Date:

10/11/2013

Agency Name:

VT Department for Children and Families

Date:

10/11/2013

Agency Name:

VT Department of Health

Date:

10/11/2013

Agency Name:

Building Bright Futures Council

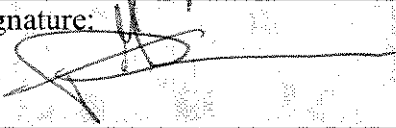
Date:

10/11/2013

Accountability, Transparency, and Reporting Assurances

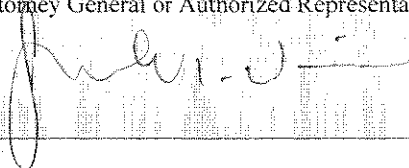
The Governor or his/her authorized representative assures that the State will comply with all applicable assurances in OMB Standard Forms 424B and D (Assurances for Non-Construction and Construction Programs), including the assurances relating to the legal authority to apply for assistance; access to records; conflict of interest; merit systems; nondiscrimination; Hatch Act provisions; labor standards, including Davis-Bacon prevailing wages; flood hazards; historic preservation; protection of human subjects; animal welfare; lead-based paint; Single Audit Act; and the general agreement to comply with all applicable Federal laws, executive orders, and regulations.

- With respect to the certification regarding lobbying in Department Form 80-0013, no Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making or renewal of Federal grants under this program; the State will complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," when required (34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix B); and the State will require the full certification, as set forth in 34 C.F.R. Part 82, Appendix A, in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers.
- The State and other entities will comply with the following provisions of the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR), as applicable: 34 CFR Part 74 -- Administration of Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations; 34 CFR Part 76 -- State-Administered Programs, including the construction requirements in section 75.600 through 75.617 that are incorporated by reference in section 76.600; 34 CFR Part 77 -- Definitions that Apply to Department Regulations; 34 CFR Part 80 -- Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, including the procurement provisions; 34 CFR Part 81 -- General Education Provisions Act—Enforcement; 34 CFR Part 82 -- New Restrictions on Lobbying; and with the debarment and suspension regulations found at 2 CFR Part 3485.

Governor or Authorized Representative of the Governor (Printed Name):	
Governor Peter Shumlin	
Signature: 	Date: 10/11/2013

Vermont RTT-ELC Application for Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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State Attorney General Certification

State Attorney General or Authorized Representative of the Attorney General Certification	
I certify that the State's description of, and statements and conclusions in its application concerning, State law, statute, and regulation are complete and accurate, and constitute a reasonable interpretation of State law, statute, and regulation:	
State Attorney General or Authorized Representative of the Attorney General (Printed Name): Joseph L. Winn	Telephone: (802) 769-2175
Signature of the State Attorney General or Authorized Representative of the Attorney General : 	Date: 10/9/13

VERMONT EARLY LEARNING CHALLENGE (VT ELC)

**STATE PLAN
MASTER AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

**VERMONT OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR (LEAD PROGRAM AGENCY) AND
VERMONT AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES (LEAD FISCAL AGENCY) AND
AND VERMONT AGENCY OF EDUCATION (PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCY),
AND**

**VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITHIN THE
AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES (PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCY)
AND VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WITHIN THE AGENCY OF HUMAN
SERVICES (PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCY),**

AND

THE BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES COUNCIL (PARTICIPATING AGENCY)

This Master Agreement is entered into by and between the Vermont Office of the Governor ("Lead Program Agency"), and the Vermont Agency of Human Services ("Lead Fiscal Agency"), and the Vermont Agency of Education ("Participating State Agency"), and the Vermont Department for Children and Families within the Agency of Human Services ("Participating State Agency"), and the Vermont Department of Health within the Agency of Human Services ("Participating State Agency"), and the Building Bright Futures Council ("Participating Agency"). The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of collaboration, as well as articulate specific roles and responsibilities in support of the State in its implementation of an approved Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant project.

I. ASSURANCES

The Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency hereby certifies and represents that they:

1) Each agree to be a Participating State Agency/Participating Agency and will implement those portions of the VT ELC State Plan within the Scope of Work assigned to them as indicated in Exhibit I, if the State application is funded;

2) Agree to use, to the extent applicable and consistent with the VT ELC State Plan and Exhibit I:

- (a) A set of statewide Early Learning and Development Standards: (Vermont First Steps, Vermont Early Learning Standards, Common Core State Standards K12);

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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- (b) A set of statewide Program Standards for Early Learning and Development Programs (VT STARS Program Performance Standards and Qualified Prekindergarten Education Program as defined in Vermont State Board of Education, Rule 2600: Rules Governing Prekindergarten Education which incorporates VT STARS Program Performance Standards);
 - (c) A statewide Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (Vermont Step Ahead Recognition System (VT STARS)); and
 - (d) A statewide Workforce Knowledge and Competency Framework and progression of credentials (Northern Lights Career Development Center Core Competency Documents and Vermont Northern Lights Career Ladder, and Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators: Licensing Rules and Endorsement Area: Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Educator)
- 3) Have all requisite power and authority to execute and fulfill the terms of this Master Agreement;
- 4) Are familiar with the State's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant application and are supportive of and committed to working on all applicable portions of the VT ELC State Plan;
- 5) Will provide a Final Scope of Work only if the State's application is funded and will do so in a timely fashion but no later than 90 days after a grant is awarded; and will describe the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's specific goals, activities, timelines, budgets, and key personnel ("Participating State Agency Plan" "Participating Agency Plan") in a manner that is consistent with the Preliminary Scope of Work (Exhibit I), with the Budget included in section VIII of the State Plan (including existing funds, if any, that the Participating State Agency/Participating Agency is using for activities and services that help achieve the outcomes of the State Plan; and
- 6) Will comply with all of the terms of the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant, this agreement, and all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations, including laws and

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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regulations applicable to the Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge program, and the applicable provisions of EDGAR (34 CFR Parts 75, 77, 79, 80, 82, 84, 86, 97, 98 and 99), and the suspension and debarment regulations in 2 CFR Part 3485.

II. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

A. PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCIES/PARTICIPATING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

In assisting the Lead Agency in implementing the tasks and activities described in the State's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant application, the Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency will:

- 1) Implement the Participating State Agency/Participating Agency Scope of Work assigned to them as identified in the Exhibit I of this agreement;
- 2) Abide by the governance structure outlined in the VT ELC State Plan;
- 3) Abide by the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's budget included in section XI - XIII of the State Plan (including the existing funds from Federal, State, private and local sources, if any, that the Participating State Agency/Participating Agency is using to achieve the outcomes in the RTT-ELC State Plan);
- 4) Actively participate in all relevant meetings or other events that are organized or sponsored by the State, by the U.S. Department of Education ("ED"), or by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS");
- 5) Post to any Web site specified by the State, ED, or HHS, in a timely manner, all non-proprietary products and lessons learned developed using Federal funds awarded under the RTT-ELC grant;
- 6) Participate, as requested, in any evaluations of this grant conducted by the State, ED, or HHS;
- 7) Be responsive to State, ED, or HHS requests for project information including on the status of the project, project implementation, outcomes, and any problems anticipated or encountered, consistent with applicable local, State and Federal privacy laws.

B. LEAD AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

In assisting the Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency in implementing their tasks and activities described in the VT ELC State Plan application, the Lead Agency will:

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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- 1) Work collaboratively with, and support each Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency in carrying out the Scope of Work assigned to them, as identified in Exhibit I of this agreement;
- 2) Timely award the portion of Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant funds designated for each Participating State Agency/Participating Agency during the course of the project period and in accordance with the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's Scope of Work, as identified in Exhibit I, and in accordance with the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's Budget, as identified in section XI- XIII of the State's application;
- 3) Provide feedback on the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's status updates, any interim reports, and project plans and products;
- 4) Keep the Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency informed of the status of the VT ELC State Plan implementation and seek input from the Participating State Agency where applicable, through the governance structure outlined in the VT ELC State Plan;
- 5) Facilitate coordination across Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency necessary to implement the VT ELC State Plan; and
- 6) Identify sources of technical assistance for the project.

C. JOINT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) The Lead Agency and each Participating State Agency/Participating Agency will appoint a key contact person for the VT ELC State Plan.
- 2) These key contacts from the Lead Agency and each Participating State Agency/Participating Agency will maintain frequent communication to facilitate cooperation under this Master Agreement, consistent with the VT ELC State Plan and governance structure.
- 3) Lead Agency and Participating State Agency/Participating Agency personnel will work together to determine appropriate timelines for project updates and status reports throughout the grant period.
- 4) Lead Agency and Participating State Agency/Participating Agency personnel will negotiate in good faith toward achieving the overall goals of the State's Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant, including when the VT ELC State Plan requires modifications that affect Participating State Agencies/Participating Agency, or when the Participating State Agency's/Participating Agency's Scope of Work requires modifications.

D. STATE RECOURSE IN THE EVENT OF A PARTICIPATING STATE AGENCY'S/PARTICIPATING AGENCY'S FAILURE TO PERFORM

If the Lead Agency determines that a Participating State Agency/Participating Agency is not meeting its goals, timelines, budget, or annual targets, or is in some other way not fulfilling applicable requirements, the Lead Agency will take appropriate enforcement action, which could include initiating a collaborative process by which to attempt to resolve the disagreements between the Lead Agency and the Participating State Agency/Participating Agency, or initiating such enforcement measures as are available to the Lead Agency, under applicable State or Federal law.

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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III. MODIFICATIONS

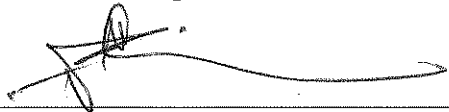
This Master Agreement may be amended only by written agreement signed by each of the parties involved, in consultation with ED.

IV. DURATION

This Master Agreement shall be effective, beginning with the date of the last signature hereon and, if a Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge grant is received by the State, ending upon the expiration of the Race to the Top- Early Learning Challenge grant project period.

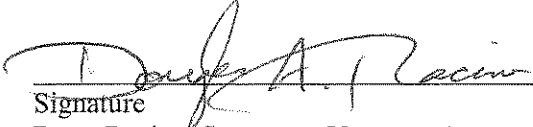
V. SIGNATURES

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



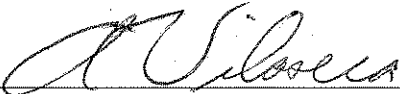
Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):



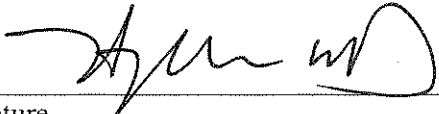
Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Education (Participating State Agency):



Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Armando Vilaseca, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education

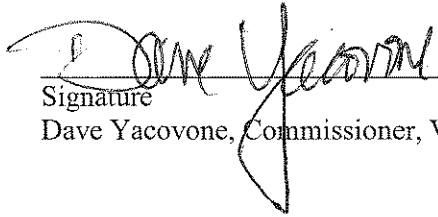
Authorized Representative of Vermont Department of Health (Participating State Agency):



Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Harry Chen, M.D., Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

Authorized Representative of Vermont Department for Children and Families (Participating State Agency):



Signature

October 11, 2013

Date

Dave Yacovone, Commissioner, Vermont Department for Children and Families

Authorized Representative of Building Bright Futures Council (Participating State Agency):



Signature

October 11, 2013

Date


Julie Coffey, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures Council

**EXHIBIT I – SCOPE OF WORK FOR LEAD AGENCY AND EACH PARTICIPATING
STATE AGENCY/PARTICIPATING AGENCY**

The **Vermont Office of the Governor** hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
All Criterion	Designated Senior Staff	Provides oversight and advice for the VT RTTT ELC grant.
(A)(3)	Designated Senior Staff	Convenes and manages the VT RTTT ELC State Management Team.
(A)(3)	Designated Senior Staff	Along with VT RTTT ELC Management Team hires and supervises a VT RTTT ELC State Plan Manager. Manager serves as one of support staff of VT RTTT ELC Management Team.
(A)(3)	Designated Senior Staff	Hires and supervises administrative assistant for VT RTTT ELC State Plan Manager.
(A)(4)	Designated Senior Staff	Engages in discussion and planning by VT RTTT ELC Management Team, including the BBF Council to identify strategies and public and private funds to build on the achievements of the VT RTTT ELC State Plan.
(D)(2)	Designated Senior Staff	Leads formation of the Early Childhood Leadership Development Institute (ECLI) Work Group and assists in development of and successful launch of Early Childhood Leadership Development Institute.
(E)(2)	Designated Senior Staff	Establishes an Education Data Governance Council that includes Policy, Data and IT leadership from VT RTTT ELC participating state agencies and other relevant state agencies and partners.
(E)(2)	Governor Peter Shumlin	Appoints broad stakeholders to Education Data Governance Council.
(E)(2)	Designated Senior Staff	Hires consultant to manage Data Governance processes and procedures, facilitate meeting discussions, and handle the logistics for first two years of grant.

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



Signature

October 11, 2013

Date

Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):


Signature

October 11, 2013

Date

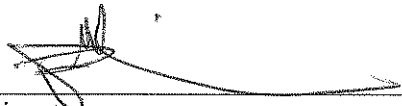
Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

The **Vermont Agency of Human Services** hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

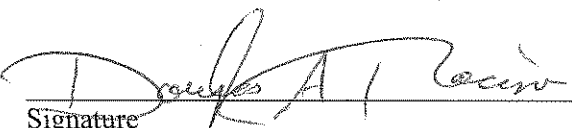
Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
(A)(3)	Secretary of Human Services or designee	Hires VT RTTT ELC State Plan fiscal manager.
(A)(3)	Secretary of Human Services or designee	Provides oversight to the VT RTTT ELC State Plan fiscal management.
(A)(3)	Secretary of Human Services or designee	Coordinates closely with Governor's Office designated Senior Staff providing VT RTTT ELC grant program oversight.
(A)(3)	Designated Senior Staff	Active participation as member of the VT RTTT ELC State Management Team.
(A)(3)	Designated Senior Staff	Assures financial reporting for the VT RTTT ELC grant.

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



Signature Date
Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):



Signature Date
Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

The **Vermont Agency of Education** hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

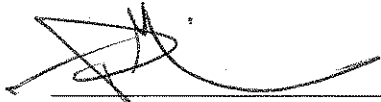
Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
(A)(3)	Secretary of Education or designee	Secretary or designee participates regularly and actively on BBF Council (statewide) and encourage leaders in Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to participate on BBF Regional Councils.
(A)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participate regularly and actively as a member of the VTT RTT ELC State Management Team and recruits AOE content/program experts as participants in VT ELC activities as appropriate.
(A)(3)	Secretary of Education or designee	Hires and supervises a VT ELC Coordinator to assist with added volume of responsibilities under VT ELC Plan. Coordinator serves as one of support staff of VT RTTT ELC State Management Team.
(A)(4)	Designated senior staff	Engages in discussion and planning by VT RTTT ELC Management Team and the BBF Council to identify strategies and public or private funds to sustain the achievements of the VT ELC State Plan.
(B)(1)(2)(3) & (5)	Designated senior staff	Continues active participation on the VT STARS Oversight Committee.
(B)(3)	Designated senior staff	Lead the creation of a monitoring system for publicly funded preschool.
(B)(3)	Designated senior staff	Working with DCF, improve inter-rater reliability and create integrated monitoring and rating processes across child care licensing, VT STARS and publicly funded preschool.
(B)(5)	Designated senior staff	With DCF, initiate and monitor an evaluation of VT STARS.
(C)(1)	Designated senior staff	Leads review and completion of new VELs.
(C)(1)	Designated senior staff	Leads alignment of early learning guidelines across developmental age span from birth – grade 3.
(C)(1)	Designated senior staff	Updates and disseminates materials to inform families about early learning guidelines across all developmental ages (birth – grade 3) to engage families in supporting early learning and development.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Create the Comprehensive Early Childhood Assessment Work Group to develop a plan for a quality comprehensive system, with BBF, VDH and DCF.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Leads expansion of the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system throughout all types of early learning and development programs, including in infant and toddler

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		settings, for documenting children's development and informing practices.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Leads incorporation of CLASS as a commonly used assessment tool in early learning and development programs in Vermont and as part of the VT STARS array of assessment tools.
(C)(3)	CACFP staff	Participate in workgroup promoting good nutrition and food security for young children including the provision of healthy meals in early learning.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Convene statewide leadership and planning teams to promote comprehensive approach for professional development to support social and emotional well-being and promote Early Multi-tiered System of Supports.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Hire program manager to lead RTTT Early MTSS project.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff, RTTT Early MTSS Project Manager	Work with BBF Councils to adopt five key components of Early MTSS.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Provide oversight for RTTT Early MTSS project.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	With DCF, implement and evaluate MATCH program, including development of Results Based Accountability Model.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Formally establish the Early Childhood Education Workgroup (ECHEW) with DCF.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Lends expertise and participation to success of Leadership Development Institute.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	With DCF, participate in interagency work group to manage Early Childhood Workforce Survey.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	With DCF, implement licensed TEACH model in VT.
(E)(1)	Designated senior staff	Oversee strengthening and alignment of Ready Kindergartners Survey (RKS), including the convening of stakeholders.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Actively participate on the Early Childhood Data Governance Council convened by the Governor's Office.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Lead the drafting of an Early Childhood and K-12 SLDS Plan with DCF assistance.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Manage Early Childhood K-12 SLDS data linkages plan.
CPP4	Designated senior staff	Lead initiative, including hiring of contractor, to build a coordinated Birth through Grade 3 system including coordination of professional development pilot.
CPP5	Designated senior staff	Participate on the Promise Communities State Team to oversee menu of options development process and manage grant applications and give approvals.

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



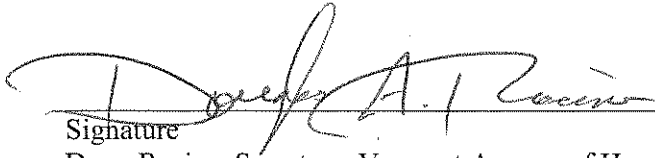
October 11, 2013

Signature

Date

Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):



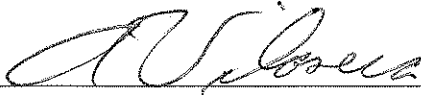
October 11, 2013

Signature

Date

Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Education (Participating State Agency):



October 11, 2013

Signature

Date

Armando Vilaseca, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Education

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
Proposal and State Plan

The **Vermont Department for Children and Families** hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
(A)(3)	Commissioner or designee and Head Start Collaboration Office Director	Participates regularly and actively on BBF State Advisory Council and encourages District Office staff and AHS Field Directors to participate actively on Regional Councils.
(A)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participates regularly and actively as a member of the VT RTTT ELC State Management Team and recruits DCF content/program experts as participants in VT ELC activities as appropriate.
(A)(3)	Deputy Commissioner of CDD	Hires and supervises VT ELC Contracts Manager to assist with added volume of grants, contract and payment activity that will accompany responsibilities for implementation of the proposed RTT-ELC plan.
(A)(4)	Designated senior staff	Engages in discussion and planning by VT RTTT ELC Management Team and the BBF Council to identify strategies and public or private funds to sustain the achievements of the VT RTTT ELC State Plan.
(B)(1) & (4)	Designated senior staff	Maintains VT STARS as the state TQRIS. Maintains commitment to high standards. Leads improvement of VT STARS reporting.
B(2)	Designated senior staff	Develops and implements a robust program of rewards and incentives to increase participation in VT STARS.
(B)(2)	Designated senior staff	Facilitate participation in VT STARS and support continuous program improvement and maintaining program quality through VT STARS participation.
(B)(3)	Designated senior staff	Leads strategies to increase frequency and quality of monitoring and rating ELDP participating in VT STARS and evaluate effectiveness to ensure continuous improvement.
(B)(3)	Designated senior staff	Working with AOE, improve inter-rater reliability and create integrated monitoring and rating processes across child care licensing, VT STARS and publicly funded preschool.
(B)(3)	Designated senior staff	Hires, trains, supervises and supports two VT STARS assessors to improve technical assistance capacity and strengthen monitoring of regulatory compliance in schools, centers and family child care homes.
(B)(4)	Designated senior staff	Develop and release competitive grant

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
 Proposal and State Plan

Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		opportunities to expand the Strengthening Families grants, provide supports, professional development opportunities and evaluation for grantees.
(B)(4)	Designated senior staff	Lead strategies to strengthen and improve Specialized Child Care Services (SCCS).
(B)(5)	Designated senior staff	With AOE, initiate and monitor an evaluation of VT STARS.
(C)(1)	Designated senior staff	Support AOE in the revision, finalization, dissemination and training of the new VELS.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff and HHSSCO	Actively participates in Comprehensive Assessments System group.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Assists AOE in expansion of the use of Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment system throughout all types of early learning and development programs, including in infant and toddler settings, for documenting children's development and informing practices.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Assists AOE in incorporation of CLASS as a commonly used assessment tool in early learning and development programs in Vermont and as part of the VT STARS array of assessment tools.
(C)(3)	Deputy Commissioner CDD	With VDH, hire a Home Visiting Coordinator: this position will manage oversight for implementation of evidence-based models and integration of all model locally through CIS.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	With VDH, oversee implementation of an aligned and integrated evidence-based statewide home visiting system.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participates in activities to promote food security, good nutrition and physical activity through early learning and development programs in schools, centers and family child care homes well as through home visiting and other services.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participate in statewide leadership and planning teams convened by AOE to promote comprehensive approach for professional development to support social and emotional well-being and promote Early Multi-tiered System of Supports.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff, VCCICC, CCRRs	With AOE, implement and evaluate MATCH program, including development of Results Based Accountability Model.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Formally establish the Early Childhood Education Workgroup (ECHEW) with AOE.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Implements expansion of the Vermont Early


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Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		Childhood Apprenticeship Program.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	With AOE, participate in interagency work group to manage Early Childhood Workforce Survey.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	With AOE, implement licensed TEACH model in VT.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Lends expertise and participation to success of Leadership Development Institute.
(E)(1)	Designated senior staff	Participates in validation and strengthening of Vermont Ready Kindergarteners Survey.
(E)(2)	Commissioner or designee	Hires and supervises an AHS Information Technology (IT) Project Manager: this position will have in-agency oversight responsibility for the IT contract to build the CIS System. A FT Project Manager to manage the project will also be secured with contract funds.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Actively participate on the Early Childhood Data Governance Council convened by the Governor's Office.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Contributes relevant data to known/shared data on early learning and development.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Manage CIS Data System project, including appoint staff member as project manager and appointing a work group.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Participate with AOE on drafting of an Early Childhood and K-12 SLDS Plan.
CPP4	Designated senior staff	Support AOE's initiative, including hiring of contractor, to build a coordinated Birth through Grade 3 system including coordination of professional development pilot.
CPP5	Commissioner or designee	Hires and supervise a Promise Communities Project Manager: this position will be responsible for implementing Promise Communities Project, will supervise Coaches and work with PS State Team. This person will be point person on RTT-ELC for CDD and will sit on CDD Senior Management Team to ensure new and expanded activities are integrated with CDD usual business.
CPP5	Commissioner or designee	Hires and Supervises Promise Community Coaches: these three positions will be assigned to work from home offices in different regions of the state supporting communities in creating and implementing their Promise Community Plans. Each will work with 2 – 4 communities at a time.
CPP5	Designated senior staff	Convene and lead Promise Communities State Team to oversee menu of options development

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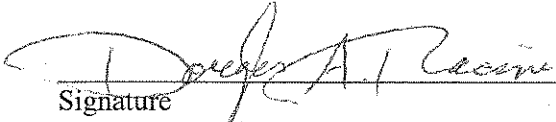
Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		process and manage grant applications and give approvals.

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



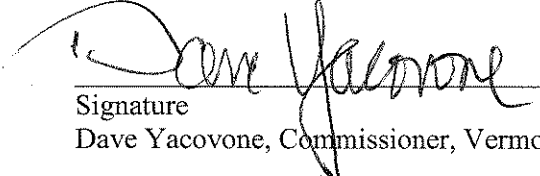
Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):



Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Authorized Representative of Vermont Department for Children and Families (Participating State Agency):



Signature Date
October 11, 2013
Dave Yacovone, Commissioner, Vermont Department for Children and Families

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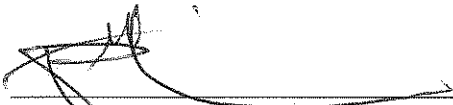
The **Vermont Department of Health** hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
(A)(3)	Commissioner or designee	Participates regularly and actively on BBF State Advisory Council and encourages District Office staff and leadership of local community wellness initiatives to participate actively on Regional Councils.
(A)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participates regularly and actively as a member of the VT RTTT ELC State Management Team and recruits VDH content/program experts as participants in VT ELC activities as appropriate.
(A)(4)	Designated senior staff	Engages in discussion and planning by VT RTTT ELC State Management Team and the BBF Council to identify strategies and public or private funds to sustain the achievements of the VT ELC State Plan.
(C)(2)	Designated senior staff	Actively participates in Comprehensive Assessments System group.
(C)(3)	Commissioner or designee	With DCF, hire a Home Visiting Coordinator: this position will manage oversight for implementation of evidence-based models and integration of all model locally through CIS.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Oversee implementation of an aligned and integrated evidence-based statewide home visiting system.
(C)(3)	Maternal Child Health, Healthy Child Care Vermont (HCCVT)	Lead the enhancement and expansion of Child Care Health Consultation services.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff, HCCVT Coordinator, Nutrition and Physical Activity Cmte	Participates actively in activities to promote food security, good nutrition and physical activity through early learning and development programs in schools, centers and family child care homes well as through home visiting and other services.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff, VT Help Me Grow Management Cmte	Lead the population-level, cross-sector collaboration to promote healthy development of Vermont children through use of the Help Me Grow framework.
(C)(3)	Designated senior staff	Participate in statewide leadership and planning teams convened by AOE to promote comprehensive approach for professional development to support social and emotional well-being and promote Early Multi-tiered System of Supports.
(D)(2)	Designated senior staff	Lends expertise and participation to success of


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Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		Leadership Development Institute.
(E)(1)	Designated senior staff	Participates in validation and strengthening of Vermont Ready Kindergarteners Survey.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Actively participates on the Early Childhood Data Governance Council convened by the Governor's Office.
(E)(2)	Designated senior staff	Contributes relevant health data to known/shared data on early learning and development.
CPP5	Designated senior staff	Participate on the Promise Communities State Team to oversee menu of options development process and manage grant applications and give approvals.

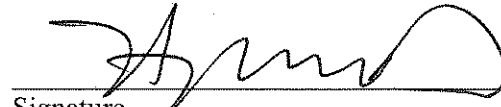
Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):


 Signature _____ Date October 11, 2013
 Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):


 Signature _____ Date October 11, 2013
 Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

Authorized Representative of Vermont Department of Health (Participating State Agency):


 Signature _____ Date October 11, 2013
 Harry Chen, M.D., Commissioner, Vermont Department of Health

Vermont Early Learning Challenge Application for Initial Funding [CFDA 84.412A]
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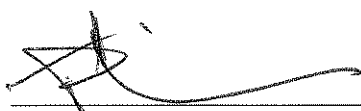
The Building Bright Futures Council of Vermont hereby agrees to participate in the VT ELC State Plan, as described in the State's application, and more specifically commits to undertake the tasks and activities described in detail below.

Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director	Convenes, manages, and supports Building Bright Futures Council (statewide).
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director, BBF State Advisory Council, BBF Regional Manager, 12 BBF Regional Council Coordinators	Actively recruits and engages critical partners at state and local levels, clearly articulates relationships and responsibilities among partners and overlapping systems of care, and promotes strategic planning and action at state and local levels.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director	BBF Council Executive Director participates regularly and actively as a member of the VT RTT - ELC State Management Team and recruits BBF Council content/program experts as participants in VT RTTT ELC activities as appropriate.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director	Hires and supervises a BBF Regional Councils Manager.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director, Leadership at 12 BBF Regional Councils	Hires, trains, supervises and supports 11 FTEs as Regional Council Coordinators to enhance the capacity of BBF Regional Councils.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director, BBF State Advisory Council, BBF Regional Manager, 12 BBF Regional Council Coordinators	Participates in the development and implementation of ELC Partnerships. Supports Regional BBF Councils in providing inclusive, collaborative local governance structure for ELC Partnerships.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director, 12 BBF Regional Council Coordinators, BBF State Advisory Council	Produces timely and useful reports on the status of measurable outcomes related to children's early learning and development at both statewide and regional levels to inform improved practice, effective investments and sound policy decisions.
(A)(4)	BBF Executive Director and BBF hired consultants	Engages in discussion and planning by VT RTTT ELC State Management Team and the BBF Council to identify strategies and public or private funds to sustain the achievements of the VT ELC State Plan.
(B)(1)(2)(3) & (5)	BBF State Council Directors, BBF Regional Council Members	Designated BBF Council members continue active participation on the VT STARS Oversight Committee.
(C)(3)	BBF State Director and BBF Regional Council	Work with AOE to adopt five key components of Early MTSS.
(D)(2)	BBF SAC Cmte on Professional Preparedness and Development	BBF Council members participate in Early Childhood Higher Education Work Group convened by AOE.
(A)(3)	BBF Executive Director	Assists development and implementation of Early Childhood Leadership Development Institute.
(E)(2)	BBF Executive Director or designee	Designated staff actively participates on the Early Childhood Data Governance Council convened by the Governor's Office.
(E)(2)	BBF Executive Director	Hires, supervises and supports data and planning personnel to create and support the unified early childhood data reporting infrastructure that tracks results and provides consistent reporting of VT's early

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Selection Criterion	Participating Party	Type of Participation
		learning and development outcomes and policy questions.
(E)(2)	BBF Executive Director, Hired Project Manager	Fully implements all activities in the plan to enhance Vermont's early childhood data system so that it is a unified system used by all to improve practices and inform policies that support children's health, development and learning and is aligned and interoperable with Vermont's Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

Authorized Representative of Vermont Office of the Governor (Lead Program Agency):



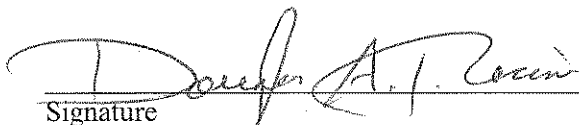
Signature

Governor Shumlin, Governor, State of Vermont

October 11, 2013

Date

Authorized Representative of Vermont Agency of Human Services (Lead Fiscal Agency):



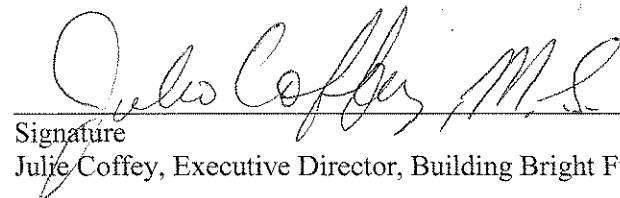
Signature

Doug Racine, Secretary, Vermont Agency of Human Services

October 11, 2013

Date

Authorized Representative of Building Bright Futures Council (Participating Agency):



Signature

Julie Coffey, Executive Director, Building Bright Futures Council

October 11, 2013

Date