

## History:

**VT Legislature established Children's Trust Fund:** The Vermont Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established in 1986 by amendment to 33 V.S.A., Chapter 33, Section 3306 for the purpose of providing funds for community-based primary prevention programs. The CTF is overseen by the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs (CFCPP), a 21 member Council appointed by the Governor, and the Child Development Division of the Department for Children and Families.

**Additional fund raising made possible through a public/private partnership with the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation and Tax Check-off:** In 1991 the Vermont Children's Trust Foundation (VCTF) was formed to raise funds from private and corporate sectors to increase the Vermont Children's Trust Fund. To further increase funding to the Trust Fund, in 1996 the Vermont State Legislature enacted the Children's Trust Fund Tax Check-off, which became effective with the 1997 Vermont State Income Tax Forms, giving taxpayers an opportunity to donate to the Children's Trust Fund. In 2004, the CTF became part of the Child Development Division (CDD) within the Department of Children & Families (DCF). On July 1, 2009, DCF awarded a grant to VCTF to oversee the management of the Children's Trust Fund grant program in partnership with the Child Development Division.

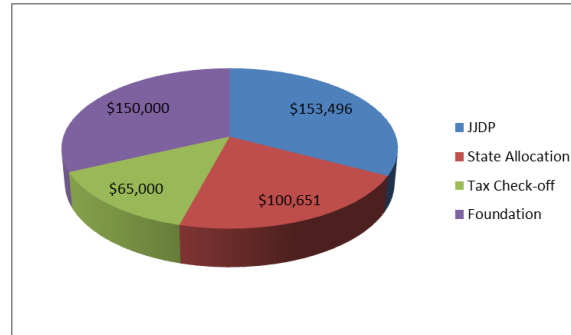
**Grants are awarded to community-based programs for primary prevention work:** Through the Children's Trust Fund, grants are awarded to community-based, private non-profit and public organizations to provide direct services for primary prevention activities. Grants are reviewed by both the CFCPP and VCTF and then approved by the Deputy Commissioner of the Children Development Division within DCF.

**Primary prevention programs promote healthy children and families:** Primary prevention programs promote the health and self-reliance of children and families. These voluntary programs, which are open to the general public, help reduce the likelihood of child abuse, drug abuse, domestic violence, school truancy, school dropouts, teen pregnancy and other high-risk behaviors.

Examples of programs that effectively address these issues are home visits to parents of newborns, parenting

education classes, before and after-school programs, violence prevention training, teen community service, and mentoring programs.

These programs tend to cost less and be less intrusive in the lives of families and children than remedial or rehabilitation programs. They are most effective when combined with a community-wide coordinating effort, public awareness campaign, training, and ongoing assessments and evaluation.



**CTF Funding Sources:** Each year several sources of money are pooled to make up the Children's Trust Fund. In SFY'15 these funds consisted of State Appropriation, Tax Check-off, Foundation and Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) dollars.

**Grant cycle starts in January:** The CTF grant cycle starts in early January with an open invitation to community organizations to submit proposals for funding. Technical assistance trainings are provided.

In SFY'15 the VCTF received 46 applications for new programs and funded 34. The new awards consisted of 5 equipment grants, 3 one year grants and 26 three year grants. In addition, the VCTF/CFCPP funded 16 continuing programs that were in their second or third year of their multi-year grant award period. Multi-year grant awards were implemented in SFY'07 which eliminates the need for programs having to reapply every year.

**Evaluation:** A Site Visit Coordinator from VCTF visits funded multi-year grantees through the grant period in addition to offering technical assistance.

**Cultural Competency Trainings:** The VCTF set aside \$4,000 to enable all CTF grantees to attend cultural competency trainings free of charge.

**Grant decisions based on five identified state outcomes:**

- Children succeed in school
- Children are ready for school
- Pregnant women, children and youth thrive
- Children live in stable, supported families
- Youth choose healthy behaviors

**Outcomes of SFY'14 CTF Grantees:** CTF grantees served a total of 15,955 individual during SFY'14. 14,256 of the 15,955 served showed a significant change in behavior. Breakdown by outcome is below:

**Children Succeed in School:** 806 served with 573 with significant behavior change.

**Children Ready for School:** 1,094 served with 967 with significant behavior change.

**Pregnant Women, Children and Youth Thrive:** 592 served and 555 showing significant behavior change.

**Children Live in Safe Supported Families:** 860 served with 702 showing significant behavior change.

**Youth Choose Healthy Behaviors:** 12,603 served; 11,459 showed significant behavior change.

**Actual funds rarely meet the demand:** Requests for CTF dollars outweigh the actual amount of funds available. For SFY'15, there was \$469,147 available to award, requests totaled \$665,951,

**Future Funding Concerns:** The large majority of CTF funds are federal dollars, through the Office of Juvenile Delinquency and Prevention Office. Due to large cuts in the federal budget, Vermont has seen a \$200,000 reduction in these funds. This reduction affects funds available for prevention programs.

In addition to reduced federal funds, the CTF State Allocation has stayed the same for the past twenty-one (21) years at \$100,651.

**Need More Information?** Contact VT Children's Trust Foundation at (802) 951-8604 or visit the Foundation's web site at [www.vtchildrenstrust.org](http://www.vtchildrenstrust.org)

**SFY'15 CTF Programs:**

Addison Central Teens & Friends  
 Addison Central Supervisory Union  
 Boys & Girls Club of Brattleboro  
 Boys & Girls Club of Rutland County  
 Brattleboro Area Prevention Coalition  
 Brattleboro Youth Services  
 Burlington Partnership for a Health Community  
 Connecting Youth  
 COTS  
 Cultural Competency Trainings through UVM  
 DREAM Program  
 Family Center of Washington County  
 Franklin County Caring Communities  
 Health Connections of the Upper Valley  
 Howard Center  
 Girls Scouts of Green/White Mountains  
 Good Beginnings of Central Vermont  
 Greater Burlington YMCA  
 Hub Teen Center  
 Lamaille Family Center  
 Local Motion  
 Milton Community Family Center  
 Milton Community Youth Coalition  
 Milton School District  
 Mountain Communities  
 NEKCA/PCC South  
 Northern Counties Health Care, Inc.  
 One Planet Afterschool Program  
 Orange County Parent Child Center  
 Otter Creek Child Center  
 Prevent Child Abuse Vermont  
 Rochester School  
 Rumney Community Connections  
 Rutland County Parent Child Center  
 Sunrise Family Resource Center  
 Together Works  
 Twinfield Union School  
 UVM & State Agricultural College  
 VNA of Chittenden/Grand Isle Counties  
 Vermont Community Preschool Collaborative  
 VSA Vermont, Inc.  
 Vermont Works for Women  
 Very Merry Theatre  
 Washington County Youth Service Bureau  
 Windham Child Care Association  
 Winooski Family Center  
 Women Helping Battered Women  
 Youth Services, Inc.

**CFCPP, VCTF & DCF Partnership****Department for Children & Families Child Development Division**

Ken Schatz, Commissioner  
 Reeva Murphy, Deputy Commissioner  
 Jan Walker, Director, Statewide Systems & Community Collaboration

**Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs**

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# The Vermont Children's Trust Fund



## Tax Check-off Report

January, 2015

Submitted in partnership by:

Department for Children & Families/Child Development Division  
 Children & Family Council for Prevention Programs  
 Vermont Children's Trust Foundation