



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Early Childhood: On the Move in Vermont

UPDATE

Early Childhood Action Plan and Race to the Top

February 2014

This update comes to you from the Governor's office, the Vermont Agency of Education, the Vermont Agency of Human Services, and Building Bright Futures.

The Governor's office, the Vermont Agency of Education, the Vermont Agency of Human Services and Building Bright Futures (Vermont's Early Childhood Advisory Council) are committed to working together to provide coordinated leadership in building a more innovative, comprehensive and connected network of early childhood community resources for Vermont's young children and their families. This commitment will be formalized in a written agreement, which is currently being drafted.

These four entities—along with many other collaborating partners—are working together on two major initiatives aimed at realizing the promise of every Vermont child.

Statewide Early Childhood Action Plan

The Action Plan will map out how we will make progress towards the six goals in Vermont's new Early Childhood [Framework](#). Action Plan development is well under way. During December 2013 and January 2014, the Action Planning Committee sought feedback on proposed strategies for the Action Plan. The Committee co-hosted 8 regional action planning meetings with the Building Bright Futures Regional Councils; distributed 3 surveys; offered an online comment period; held 3 conference calls, which were open to the public; and convened additional meetings with specific constituency groups to make sure their voices were heard.

The Action Planning Committee met on February 7th to discuss the indicators by which we will measure progress towards the Framework's six goals. The Committee will meet again on February 21st to decide which strategies to prioritize in the Action Plan, based on the input

gathered during December and January and work already underway, including Vermont's Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant and Integrated Family Services (Vermont Agency of Human Services).

Following a public comment period on the draft Action Plan, the Action Plan Committee will hold its final meeting on March 14th to finalize the Action Plan by March 28th. Beginning in April, Building Bright Futures, as directed in Act 104, will lead the statewide coordination of this Plan and its action steps. This will entail monitoring, assessment and reporting of progress of the Plan on an annual basis.

For more information about the Action Plan, go to <http://governor.vermont.gov/blog-early-childhood-action-planning-committee>.

Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant (RTT-ELC)

Vermont is one of six states recently awarded a [RTT-ELC grant](#). Vermont will receive \$36,931,076 over the next four years. These funds will focus on sustainability—ensuring that the foundation and walls of our early childhood “house” are solid and can support the rest of the structure. The Governor's office has convened an interagency team to oversee hiring of RTT-ELC positions and initial implementation of the work envisioned in the grant.

The grant has gone to the Joint Fiscal Office for legislative approval. Once that process is complete, the implementation team can advertise, interview and hire for the positions in the grant. The team hopes to begin the hiring process by mid-March. Additionally, the team is working on detailed scopes of work for the project, due into the federal government by March 31st. As the work of the grant cranks up to full speed, the team will send out regular updates and will convene an advisory committee to assist in implementation of the grant.

For more information about Vermont's RTT work, go to <http://governor.vermont.gov/race-to-the-top>.

For More Information

- **Early Childhood Action Plan:** Contact Action Plan Developer Kim Friedman at kfriedman@svcable.net or 802-348-9879.
- **Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge grant:** Contact Aly Richards, Director of Special Projects & Intergovernmental Affairs in Governor Shumlin's office, at Alyson.Richards@state.vt.us or (802) 828-6403.