

Vermont – Federal Prek Expansion Grant

- Highly competitive federal grant - of 36 state applications, 13 states received PreK Expansion Grants
- Interagency team from AHS, AOE and Governor's Office working directly with communities on application (October 2014) and implementation (2015 – 2019)
- Four-year federal grant to pay for full-day, high-quality Prek for 4 year-olds in poverty
- **Year 1:** \$7,231,681 **Year 2:** \$8,009,167 **Year 3:** \$8,631,497 **Year 4:** \$9,519,937
- Grant funds go directly to subgrantees: Supervisory Unions/Districts or Regional Head Start Programs
- Participation is voluntary, subgrantees can join or drop off at any time during the grant
- Grant funds must be used to expand programs to full-day and meet high-quality criteria including comprehensive services
- Two limited service positions at AOE: Grant Manager and Fiscal Analyst
- All subgrantees must have sustainability plans, AOE Fiscal Analyst will assist
- The state match for this grant is comprised of the current public dollars that Vermont already spends on Prek through Act 62 and now Act 166, as well as philanthropic match from the early childhood philanthropic organizations
- Goal is to serve 1818 students through this grant by Year 4 (VT Currently has 6,400 four-year-olds)
- Strong program evaluation – at the state and local levels – are worked into this grant
- 35 subgrantees covering the entire state are currently participating in the grant, but some may be added and some may drop out over the course of the grant
- This grant is closely coordinated with the systems-level Early Learning Challenge – Race to the Top Grant, as well as Vermont's Early Childhood Action Plan
- As Vermont transitions to Act 166 – Universal Prek, this grant provides a great opportunity for subgrantees to work closely with the state to help with the transition, and to pay for supplies, equipment and other start-up costs that are associated with moving to full implementation of Act 166

Fast Facts - VT Early Childhood Initiatives

Background

In the past few years, Vermont has invested significant resources to improve the wellbeing of young children and families in Vermont. Parents, educators, service providers, state agencies, philanthropic partners, the business community, and other key stakeholders are working together in new ways to realize the promise of every Vermont child. Outlined below are several recent key initiatives.

Timeline

March 2013 – March 2014: Following Governor Shumlin's January 2013 announcement of an Early Childhood Summit, a group of government, community, and business leaders drafts, with significant public input, an Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan. The Framework recognizes Vermonters' shared responsibility to ensure that our young children grow up happy, healthy and ready for a lifetime of learning. The Action Plan charts the course to achieve the goals of the Framework.

Dec 2013: Vermont is awarded a \$36.9 million four-year federal Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge Grant. This grant builds a foundation for a coordinated and accountable early childhood system that increases quality of programs and services, provides training and support, empowers communities to play a leading role, and develops existing data systems to monitor effectiveness and increase accountability.

June 2014: Vermont passes Act 166, a universal Pre-K bill, allowing every three and four year old in the state to access 10 hours of publicly funded Pre-Kindergarten.

Dec 2014: Vermont is awarded a \$33 million, four-year federal Preschool Expansion Grant that directly supports targeted Pre-K programs providing services to low-income four year-olds to further improve quality, increase capacity, and expand to full day.

Dec 2014: Vermont receives Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership and Early Head Start Expansion awards that allow new or existing Early Head Start programs to partner with local child care providers to better serve infants and toddlers from low-income families by providing full-day, full-year programs.

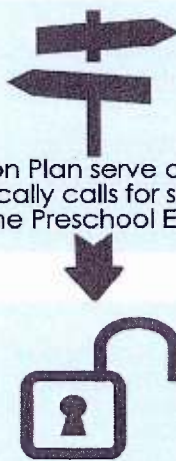
A Case Study in Collaboration

While each of these initiatives is different in scope, they are all tightly coordinated and work together to make Vermont a national leader in the area of early childhood. One strong example of how they work together is in the promotion of high-quality, accessible Pre-Kindergarten education.

The Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan serve as the foundation for all early childhood efforts in Vermont. The action plan specifically calls for strategies that are included in the Early Learning Challenge grant, Act 166, and the Preschool Expansion grant.



The Early Learning Challenge grant supports professional development, program and child assessment, and data collection that will enable more programs in the state to become pre-qualified public Pre-K providers. These efforts will also support a robust monitoring and accountability system going forward.



Act 166 relies on these pre-qualified programs to provide universal access to 10 hours of publicly funded Pre-K for all Vermont three and four year-olds. This public funding helps support the quality of programs statewide.



The Preschool Expansion grant will allow selected pre-qualified programs to provide high-quality, full-day Pre-K education for Vermont four year-olds in families at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

See opposite side for more information about each initiative

Fast Facts - VT Early Childhood Initiatives

**All initiatives listed in the chart below address VT's Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan Goal #3:
All children and families have access to high-quality opportunities that meet their needs.**

For more information on VT's Early Childhood Action plan contact Julie Coffey at jcoffey@buildingbrightfutures.org.

Name of Program	Early Learning Challenge - Race to the Top grant	Act 166	Preschool Expansion grant	Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership and Early Head Start Expansion Awards
Who is the target of services?	Vermont children prenatal to third grade and their families	Vermont's three and four year olds, and five year olds not yet kindergarten	Vermont's four year olds from low and moderate income families	Vermont's infants and toddlers (birth to age three) from low-income families
What is it and what services are provided?	A federal systems-level grant that strengthens early childhood infrastructure, including program quality, professional development, community supports, and data systems.	A Vermont state law that establishes access to ten hours of publicly funded Pre-K per week, 35 weeks per year.	A federal grant, built upon the ELC grant, that enables pre-qualified providers of preschool to expand to full day, increase capacity, and improve quality.	A federal grant that allows Early Head Start grantees to partner with center and home-based child care to increase their hours and/or capacity and/or quality.
When do services or programs start and end?	The grant was awarded in December 2013 and is a four year grant.	It was signed into law in June of 2014. It will be fully implemented by September of 2016.	The grant was awarded in December of 2014 and is a four year grant.	Five year grants awarded on a rolling basis between December 2014 and the end of March 2015.
Where are services provided?	Statewide, through state agencies, and community partners, including the Building Bright Futures Regional Councils	Schools, Head Start, child care centers, child care homes, All must be pre-qualified in order to offer publicly funded Pre-K education	Schools, Head Start, child care centers, child care homes, All must be pre-qualified	Head Start, Early Head Start, and partnering child care centers and family child care homes
Why does it matter?	The grant's goal is to improve school readiness for Vermont's children.	Children who have high quality Pre-K are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.	Targeted, high-quality, full day pre-k is the most effective way to close the achievement gap before it begins.	The grant's goals are to increase access to high-quality, full day, infant and toddler care for low-income families.
More information?	Julie Cadwallader Staub Julie.cadwallader-staub@state.vt.us	Manuela Fonseca Manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us Reeva Murphy Reeva.murphy@state.vt.us	Karin Edwards Karin.edwards@state.vt.us	Ben Allen Ben.allen@state.vt.us

see opposite side for more information about how these initiatives work together

Subgrantees

Addison Central SU
Addison Northeast SU
Addison Northwest SU
Bennington County HS
Bennington-Rutland SU
Burlington SD
Caledonia Central SU
Capstone Head Start
Champlain Valley Head Start
Chittenden East
Early Education Services
Essex North SU
Franklin Central SU
Franklin Northwest SU
Lamoille South SU
Milton Town SD
NEKCA Head Start
Orange SW SU
Orange Windsor SU
Rivendell SD
Rutland Central SU
Rutland County Head Start
Rutland NE SU
SEVCA/Windsor County
Springfield
St. Johnsbury SD
Two Rivers SU
Windham Central SU
Windham SE (Brattleboro)
Windsor Southeast SU (possibly)
Winooski SD
Windsor Northwest SU
Southwest Vermont SU
Orange North Supervisory Union

***Subgrantees can be added or drop out over the course of the grant**

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Franklin Central SU
Franklin Northwest SU
Lamoille South SU
Milton Town SD
NEKCA Head Start
Orange SW SU
Orange Windsor SU
Rivendell SD
Rutland Central SU
Rutland County Head Start
Rutland NE SU
SEVCA/Windsor County
Springfield
St. Johnsbury SD
Two Rivers SU
Windham Central SU
Windham SE (Brattleboro)
Windsor Southeast SU (possibly)
Winooski SD
Windsor Northwest SU
Southwest Vermont SU
Orange North Supervisory Union

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