



Project LAUNCH Vermont

Cohort 4, Funding Period 2012–2017

<http://buildingbrightfutures.org/initiatives/project-launch/>

Grantee Overview

Project LAUNCH Vermont serves children and families in Chittenden County, the state’s most populous and diverse area. The Burlington area is home to many resettled refugee families, including recent arrivals from all over the globe, such as Burmese, Bhutanese-Nepali, Somali, and Somali Bantu families. Project LAUNCH Vermont focuses on reaching these new Americans. Piloting a strengths-based, family-centered, culturally competent community system and building on the existing structures created by Vermont’s Building Bright Futures initiative, Project LAUNCH Vermont works to engage additional partners and stakeholders, advance measures to promote sustainability, and ultimately replicate success in communities across Vermont to achieve a coordinated, state-wide system of service delivery for young children and their families and caregivers.

Project Milestones

All [Project LAUNCH](#) grantees implement five core promotion and prevention strategies intended to increase access to high-quality prevention and wellness promotion services for children and their families. In Project LAUNCH Vermont, these five strategies are implemented through the following activities:

- **Screening and Assessment:** The Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP) at the University of Vermont’s College of Medicine is training primary care practices and child-serving settings in early developmental screening and assessment of all children. VCHIP is utilizing the [Ages & Stages Questionnaire](#) (ASQ-3) and [Ages & Stages Questionnaires®: Social–Emotional](#) (ASQ:SE-2) as well as promoting the [Bright Futures](#) schedule for screenings. Training is provided to early care and education staff and primary care providers on implementing, scoring, interpreting, and communicating findings to families and making follow-up referrals. VCHIP also works with practices and centers to develop mechanisms to ensure communication among service providers on important topics related to children’s health, development, and family well-being. Private foundation funding is now replicating this work to train providers on the screening tools in two additional counties with plans to continue replication state-wide across Vermont.

“By identifying and utilizing more culturally sensitive strategies for building trust and engagement, they [Pediatric New American Clinic] are hoping that more referred patients and family members will make successful transitions into treatment.”

*—Project LAUNCH Vermont
Grantee Staff*

- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation:** As part of Vermont’s Multi-tiered System of Supports initiative, the Howard Center is providing early childhood mental health consultation in early care and education settings to teachers and parents to help them support the child and manage the child’s environment more effectively. Project LAUNCH Vermont mental health consultation has been provided to families through 16 child care centers, with consultations taking place in both the centers and in homes. When necessary, children may be referred for ongoing mental health services—such as [Parent Child Interaction Therapy](#)—and the consultants may collaborate with Children’s Integrated Services or private providers to determine the best set of services to support the particular child’s needs.
- **Enhanced Home Visiting:** The Lund Family Center and Visiting Nurse Association’s home visiting services were enhanced by Project LAUNCH funding providing training in [Parents as Teachers](#) (PAT) and continued affiliation and for a full-time staff at each organization to bring additional capacity to their home visiting program. Certified parent educators offer support to families from birth to age five. Starting in 2016, in close consultation with Project LAUNCH Vermont staff, PAT will be replicated and implemented state-wide through Children’s Integrated Services.
- **Integrating Behavioral Health Into Primary Care:** Two primary care practices, University of Vermont Medical Center Pediatric Immigrant Clinic and the Community Health Center of Burlington, are integrating behavioral health into the primary care setting by providing medical/clinical care coordination to children and their families. Services are provided by clinical social workers who are located on site at two primary care practices in Burlington. They provide services such as case management, short term therapy, perform screenings and assessments, attend team meetings, and coordinate referral and evaluation services. These practices also receive training and support from the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program in developmental screening, assessment, and follow-up. Both practices serve children birth to eight years old and their families.
- **Family Strengthening:** Project LAUNCH Vermont and Vermont Family Network provide parent support and outreach that focus on family strengthening and parenting skills training. Project LAUNCH Vermont engages families who are not currently receiving services—including new American families—and connects them to resources; assists with information and referrals for families of young children with developmental delays or at risk of having developmental delays; assists families in navigating the system of care including health care coverage, a medical home, special education supports, community resources, and disability-specific resources; and recruits parents to be part of the Building Bright Futures Regional Council.

Systems Integration

Project LAUNCH is intended to improve coordination and collaboration across systems that serve young children and their families. Project LAUNCH Vermont has increased leadership and capacity for child and family services in the community as well as with leaders to improve the early childhood system in the state. Project LAUNCH Vermont-funded positions allow community agencies, Vermont Department of Health, and Building Bright Futures to participate in multiple initiatives to improve the early childhood system of services and supports in Chittenden County. Initiatives in which Project LAUNCH Vermont-funded staff are integral to system change efforts include [Child, Youth, and Family Trauma Workgroup](#),

[Caring Collaborative](#), [Let's Grow Kids](#) campaign, [Help Me Grow](#), Children's Integrated Services, and [Touchpoints](#).

"Many of us continue to talk about the presentation and how thought provoking it was. I had thought there would be little new [information], but that it would, as always, be good to revisit ongoing personal prejudices and biases. On the contrary, I felt like I couldn't keep up with all of the things I wanted to absorb. There is so much still percolating and we will continue to revisit things you brought to our attention."

—Project LAUNCH Vermont Staff reflection on cultural and linguistic competency training

Workforce and systems development is increasing and improving with cultural and linguistic competency trainings for organizations in the community, which include more than 200 Project LAUNCH Vermont-funded staff and other staff in each partner organization/agency. Two trainings were specifically designed for members of the Chittenden Building Bright Futures Regional Council. Training incorporates the [National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care](#) (CLAS Standards) content as well as information from the National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University and includes training on how to use interpreters for translation.

Grantee-Developed Materials

Click on the following links to access information about grantee-developed resources:

- [Policy Briefs](#): Quarterly policy briefs from Building Bright Futures have received state-wide media coverage. Topics include bullying prevention, adverse effects of child neglect, and health and educational disparities in young children.

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