

Bennington County

THE CHALLENGE

In Bennington County, **61% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care. And **72% OF INFANTS** likely to need care don't have access to a high-quality program.

OUR PROGRESS

Thanks to generous supporters like you, Let's Grow Kids has partnered with Vermonters to create **72 new child care spaces**. And **586 people** in Bennington County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$1.38 million** in Bennington County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

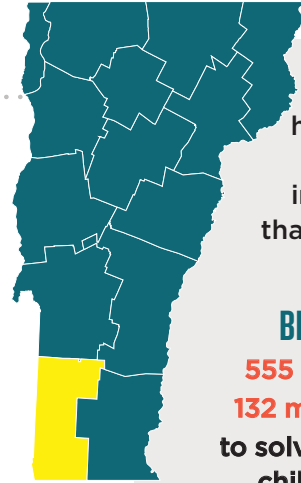
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$2.24 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Bennington County children, forever.

AND YOU CAN HELP! Join the movement by adding your name, making a gift, or volunteering at www.letsgrowkids.org.



PHOTOS: BENNINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, BENNINGTON, VT



BENNINGTON COUNTY

has 886 child care spaces for children under 5 in 48 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

BENNINGTON COUNTY NEEDS

555 more child care spaces & 132 more lead early educators to solve the child care crisis for children birth to 5 years old.



WHAT IS A CHILD CARE SPACE?

A child care "space" refers to a place for a child in a child care program. Let's Grow Kids uses "spaces" to track the availability of child care.

Not every family needs child care for a full week, so some spaces are shared between families who use part-time child care.

READ FULL REPORTS ON THE SUPPLY OF AND DEMAND FOR CHILD CARE IN VERMONT AT:
letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU...

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

Bennington Early Childhood Center

BENNINGTON, VT

Alyson Grzyb, the director of the Bennington Early Childhood Center (BECC), and her staff, are some of the many early educators who are tirelessly and skillfully providing consistent, nurturing care to children during COVID-19.

Alyson volunteers her time to talk with community leaders and legislators about the importance of child care, and she is a leader in the early education field.

“I have been in this field for 22 years and I can’t imagine doing more challenging, inspiring and important work,” says Alyson.

Yet the child care system’s challenges are felt deeply by both families and early educators.

“Seventy percent of the children in my program receive some form of financial assistance from Vermont, and still many of these families struggle to pay their tuition. At the same time, I struggle to pay my staff what they deserve. Many of them, including myself, have second or even third jobs to make ends meet,” Alyson adds.

Providing child care during a pandemic and within a broken child care system is emotionally and financially taxing. Alyson shares what keeps her going:

“I remember the hugs and smiles from the children and the words of gratitude from the parents, and it makes me thankful to be a part of this community doing my piece to make the world right again,” she says.

Thank you, Alyson and the BECC staff, for providing essential and high-quality child care services for children in your community, and for all you do to lift up the entire early education profession.



PHOTOS: BENNINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, BENNINGTON, VT

CHILD CARE IS GOOD BUSINESS

“I believe investing in child care is the moral thing to do. Each Vermont child deserves the same opportunity to thrive.

“But I am also trained as a data scientist and a businessperson, and I see child care as the best possible return on investment for our community and state.

“Broken systems are not just bad for people, they’re bad for business. If we take this investment seriously, we help families today and chart a new vision for Vermont.”

DIMITRI GARDER, CEO

Global-Z International | Bennington, VT



This grant helped us create 25 full-time, full-year child care slots and supported us to provide comprehensive early education experiences and social and community connections for children and their families in our community.



NICOLE BUSHIKA, DIRECTOR

Myers Prouty Children’s Campuses

(Monument Campus), Old Bennington, VT

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **61% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **72% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **24% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **45% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **25% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **40% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.*

*Preschool child care data does not include universal pre-K.

BENNINGTON COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

542 Infants
291 Toddlers
608 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 331 for Infants
- 71 for Toddlers
- 153 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 6:00 AM
- Most programs open: 7:30 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 6:00 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

132 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: BENNINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, BENNINGTON, VT

READ FULL REPORTS ON CHILD CARE ACCESS AND AVAILABILITY, PLUS WORKFORCE DEMAND, AT:

letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

Share your story, make a donation, sign our Petition, become a volunteer, and get involved at

www.letsgrowkids.org