

Rutland County

THE CHALLENGE

In Rutland County, **66% OF INFANTS** (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And, **75% OF TODDLERS** (2-3 YEARS OLD) 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 **319 new child care spaces** and **improve the quality of 427 spaces**. And **1,189 people** in Rutland County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$1.86 million** in Rutland County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

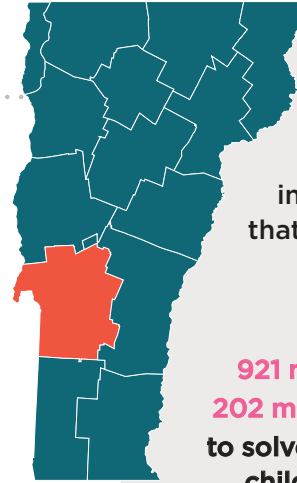
But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$2.99 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Rutland County children, forever.

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



PHOTO: MOUNTAIN ROAD PRESCHOOL, ADDISON, VT



RUTLAND COUNTY HAS

1,001 child care spaces for children under 5 in **64 child care programs** that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

RUTLAND COUNTY NEEDS

921 more child care spaces & 202 more lead early educators to solve the child care crisis for children birth to 5 years old.



PHOTO: BENNINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER, BENNINGTON, VT

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

Baby Steps Child Care

PROCTOR, VT

With nearly 20 years of experience in early education—and 12 of those as a child care center director—Heather Martin knew she could help ease the child care crisis for Rutland families.

In fact, Heather and her team learned through community meetings that families had been using unregulated child care and low-quality programs because of strains on child care availability.

In 2018, Heather worked with Let's Grow Kids Community and Program Support Specialist Brenda Metzler to plan for and open Baby Steps, a new child care program.

Knowing that care for infants and toddlers was desperately needed, Heather devised a partnership with the nearby Children's Center to transition children from Baby Steps's program into pre-kindergarten at the Children's Center.

This model allows families continuous, high-quality programming and universal pre-kindergarten for children from birth to 5. At the same time, the programs benefit from sustainable collaboration.

Heather used the funds from generous Let's Grow Kids donors to hire and retain qualified staff, install fencing for the outside space, and purchase equipment and supplies for her program.

Congratulations, Heather and Baby Steps Child Care!

CHILD CARE IS COLLABORATIVE

In Rutland County, a team of committed early childhood leaders has devised a collaborative approach to addressing the region's tremendous child care needs. With guidance from Let's Grow Kids staff and financial support, these educators are working at every level to provide high-quality early childhood care.

“By working together, we can hold each other accountable, address challenges, build on successes, dream and inspire.”



PHOTOS: RENOVATIONS AT BABY STEPS CHILD CARE, PROCTOR, VT

CHILD CARE IS GOOD BUSINESS

“Supporting the child care needs of our employees isn't just good for our employees, it's good business – when parents can find, afford and trust their child care provider, they arrive at work ready to be productive team members.

“We launched a child care scholarship to help our employees afford high-quality programs and will continue to look for unique ways to support our current employees' child care needs.”

JOHN CASELLA

Casella Waste Systems | Rutland, VT



I am amazed and thrilled at how much the children and my program have benefited from the improvements.

With these funds, I have created a learning, growing, safe, loving, caring, calming and inviting environment for not only the children, but for myself as well. ”

MARY MCDONALD

Expanding Minds Child Care & Preschool
Rutland, VT

The Whole Picture

THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

INFANTS (BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD)

- » **66% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **81% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

TODDLERS (2-3 YEARS OLD)

- » **40% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **75% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

PRESCHOOLERS (3-4 YEARS OLD)

- » **37% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.*
- » **61% 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.

RUTLAND COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

713 Infants
377 Toddlers
832 Preschoolers

THE NUMBERS GAP

Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 467 for Infants
- 150 for Toddlers
- 304 for Preschoolers

Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 5:00 AM
- Most programs open: 7:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 11:59 PM

Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

202 Lead Early Educators



PHOTO: COMPLETED REPAIRS AND RENOVATIONS AT THE RUTLAND COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER, RUTLAND, 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