



Child Outcomes Accountability Team Meeting

Monday, September 25, 2025

Today's Agenda

- COAT Legislative Priorities & Policy Recommendations
- Status Update: Maternal Health Strategic Plan
- Status Update: Vermont's Early Childhood Strategic Plan



The Child Outcomes Accountability Team



works to improve **integration and coordination** of early childhood public and private partners committed to the health and well-being of children and their families.

The group will inform strategies and monitor progress to ensure that children are **healthy, thriving and developmentally on track** from the prenatal period to third grade

by **promoting and monitoring outcomes** in the following domains: **physical health, development and educational outcomes, mental health outcomes, and basic needs outcomes.**

Goal 1 also promotes the importance of **prevention and early identification** across the same domains.





2026 COAT Committee Policy Recommendations Discussion, Part 2

September 25, 2025

Developing Policy Recommendations



- Identify Needs
- Consider Next Steps
- Leverage data and best practice
- Gather expert & lived expertise through network and partners
- Seek feedback & SAC endorsement



Policy Recommendation Timeline



Gather Input

June - September

How to get involved:

- Attend VECAP, Regional Council, and SAC Meetings



Draft & Endorse

October - November

How to get involved:

- Fill out the policy recommendation feedback form or get in touch with us!



Advise

November - May

How to get involved:

- Advocate for recommendations
- Track progress of recommendations



Likely Recommendations from Other Committees



Data & Evaluation

- Prioritize data privacy and protect Vermonters from federal overreach
- Invest in CIS including implementing a statewide data system

Early Learning and Development Committee:

- Workforce - ECE Professionalization (and potentially Licensure) (Goal 4)
- UPK - PEIC Recs/ED Transformation (Goal 3)
- Protecting CCFAP/Act 76 Investments (Goal 3)
- Fingerprinting Issue (Goal 4)

Families and Communities

- Family & Community Voice (Goal 5)
- Support for Basic Needs Recs (Goal 1)

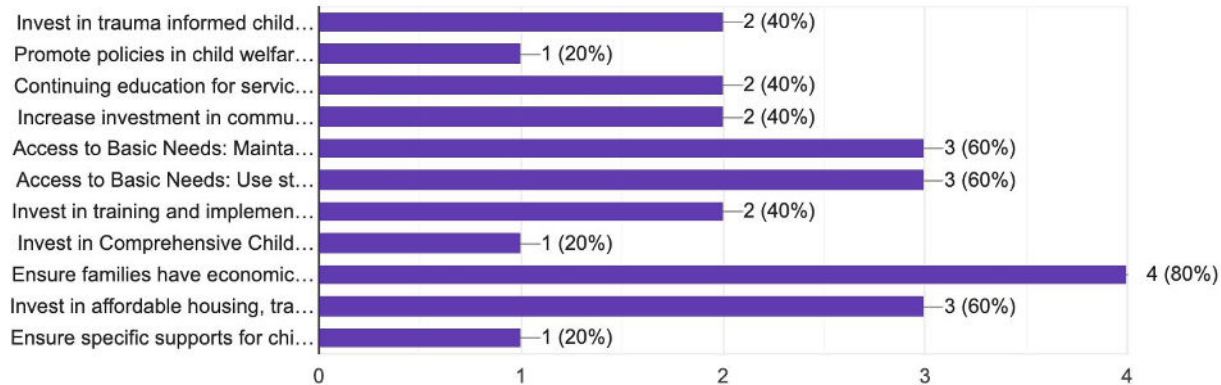


Survey Results

Select which potential recommendations you would like to see COAT consider

 Copy chart

5 responses



- Ensure families have economic supports to meet basic needs
- Use state dollars to maintain supplemental nutrition supports
- Maintain Medicaid coverage for all children and families
- Invest in affordable housing, transitional housing supports and emergency shelter



Healthcare & Nutrition Access



Ensure Child and Family Nutritional Needs Are Met: In the face of federal funding cuts, maintain current eligibility and benefit levels for nutrition programs including 3Squares Vermont, WIC and Universal School Meals (and continue to improve access to CACFP)

Ensure Healthcare and Mental Healthcare Access: In the face of federal funding cuts, maintain current eligibility and benefit levels for medicaid and related health services for all, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Discussion



If you would like to, elaborate on why this area is the highest priority at this time



- I believe the next several years are going to be a tough legislative sessions and the COAT needs to reduce the number of recommendations, focus on mitigating harm from the impacts of federal cuts, and assist our legislators but honing in on only a couple of priorities so as to reduce confusing and competition for state dollars which are going to be tight
- Funding for Special Accommodation Grants, Specialized Child Care, and other supports for children with specialized needs in early childhood education settings - to prevent suspension and expulsion and promote inclusive classrooms
- Trauma Informed Services and Supports Frameworks. We may not prevent all ACES, but we need to address this more openly and head on to have an impact. A public health approach.



Potential Housing Recommendation



- Emergency Shelter & Homelessness supports for families
- Family Supportive Housing Programs and rental vouchers
- Investment in housing infrastructure and more units

Question: Given a complex ecosystem of partners and stakeholders, what is BBF's value add in the early childhood space? Can we craft a recommendation that is targeted and has relevance?



Holistic Trauma Informed System of Care



- Increase financial support for substance use disorder housing, especially recovery housing for women with children, Support for Universal Nurse Home Visiting in the full post partum period, Inclusion of OB services as a Patient Centered Medical Homes the Blueprint for Health to increase capacity for care coordination and case management of high risk pregnant and post partum people



Strategic Plan



Goal 1: All Children and Families Have Their Basic Needs Met

Children cannot thrive without stable housing, food, income, and transportation. The stress of being unable to meet basic physiological needs such as food and shelter, often due to poverty, impacts parents' and caregivers' capacity to create environments that support early childhood development.

Goal 2: All Children Are Raised in Safe, Healthy, and Healing Environments

Every child should grow up in conditions that support health, safety, and resilience. Stable, nurturing environments help children thrive in school, build strong relationships, and grow into healthy adults



Thank You & Next Steps



September: Discussion & Input

October: Public Feedback Survey

November: Vote by SAC

Thanks for your time! Reach out to Anna with any questions or comments following the today's presentation - abrouillette@buildingbrightfutures.org





Maternal Health Strategic Plan Draft

Maternal Health Innovation Grant

Statements on Language

- The Division of Family and Child Health recognizes all gender identities, including in the perinatal space. The division makes every effort to acknowledge and honor the wide range of gender identities and personal experiences of those who seek or access services.
- This approach aims to be inclusive, respectful, and sensitive to unique perspectives, including for all birthing people.

Maternal Health Innovation Grant



Vermont Department of Health

Purpose: To reduce maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity (SMM) in Vermont and advance sustainable improvements in maternal health service delivery, data collection and policy development.

Goals:

- 1. Improve access to care** that is comprehensive, high-quality, appropriate and ongoing throughout the preconception, prenatal, labor and delivery, and postpartum periods;
- 2. Enhance state maternal health surveillance and data capacity;** and
- 3. Identify and implement innovative interventions** to improve outcomes for populations disproportionately impacted by maternal mortality and SMM.

Draft Desired Outcome



**All birthing people in
Vermont feel *safe*,
supported, and *empowered*
during their pregnancies,
births, and throughout
their postpartum
experiences.**

Maternal Health Task Force

Goals of the MHTF:

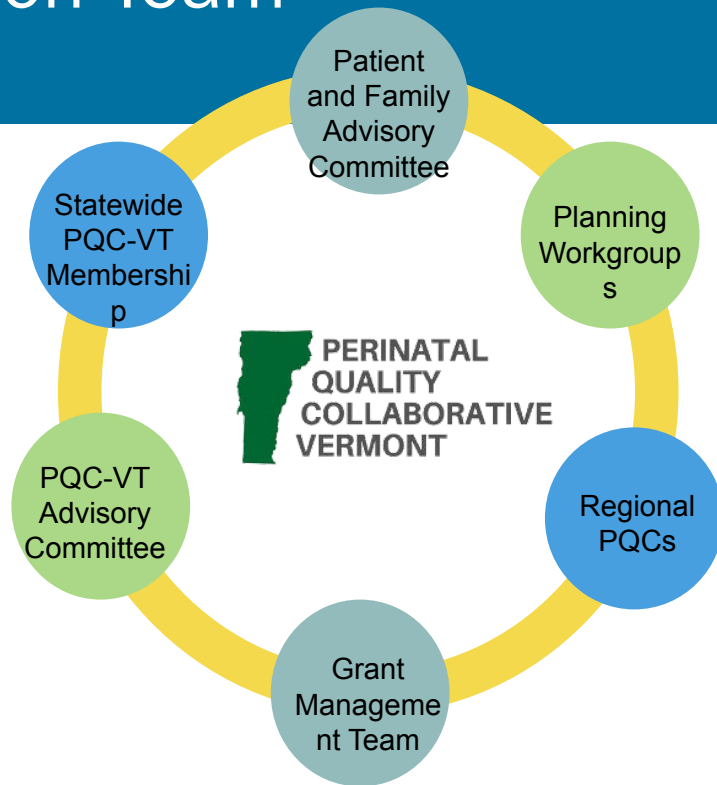
- Leverage existing perinatal health efforts and organizing efforts under one umbrella
- Be jointly led, organized, and administrated by FCH and the PQC-VT
- Consist of diverse leaders across state government, hospitals, community partners, and individuals with lived experience

Activities:

- Receive feedback & make edits on draft strategic plan
- Establish governance mechanism within grant
- Affirm oversight/management plan with key and accountable stakeholders and technical assistance to support ongoing coordination
- Opportunity for a more people to engage on specific topics in work groups

Regional PQC as your Local Action Team

- Development of Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives (VT-RPQCs) to come together to support pregnant people, infants and families across Vermont
- State Maternal Strategic Plan will be used as a blueprint for VT-RPQCs and emphasize concrete strategies to address known gaps in the care continuum
- Infrastructure building, quality improvement best practices and support with data and guidance for selecting projects
- VT-RPQCs will be Think Tanks/Innovation Hubs for connecting, showing up, and developing an innovative system of supports for families



Follow Along and Provide Feedback!

Maternal Health Strategic Plan Feedback Form





GOAL 1: Improve access to care that is comprehensive, high-quality, appropriate and ongoing

STRATEGY A: Create continuity of care for birthing people, supported by system integration, care coordination and low-barrier services.

STRATEGY B: Increase and expand support for the maternal health workforce to continue providing high quality service.



GOAL 2: Enhance state maternal health surveillance and data capacity

STRATEGY A: Assess the maternal health landscape

STRATEGY B: Monitor new and ongoing programmatic initiatives and efforts to improve maternal health

STRATEGY C: Increase data sharing across agencies and partners



GOAL 3: Identify and implement innovative interventions

STRATEGY A: Integrate community-based services and peer networks into the maternal health system of care.



Next Steps

Provide Feedback

Rank which recommendations resonate most with you

- Provide feedback by October 3rd, 2025

Let us know what we missed!

- Remember, regions will determine what specific activities to engage in in support of the statewide vision

Stay Involved

- If you have not already done so, complete our interest form to receive our newsletter
- Link in with your Regional PQC, more information will be in the newsletter

Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

Email: ahs.vdhfchmhiccontact@vermont.gov

Web: [Maternal Health Innovation | Vermont Department of Health](#)

Social: @HealthVermont





Vermont's Early Childhood Strategic Plan 2026 - 2030 UPDATE!

Vermont's Early Childhood Strategic Plan 2026-2030

A Roadmap Built with Families, For Families



- The Strategic Plan is a comprehensive, cohesive “**plan of plans**” that everyone at all levels of the system can see themselves in.
- This Plan is a **shared tool** for families, policymakers, advocates, educators, researchers, and business leaders to work from a common vision.
- It sets **clear objectives and flexible strategies** to guide investments, align priorities, and track progress through 2030.



Multifaceted Engagement

How This Plan Was Built



- Nearly 200 Vermonters contributed
- Conversations, letters, “day-in-the-life” exchanges
- Mixed methods approach paired with statewide data and monitoring
- Priorities shaped by both lived experience and other data



Vision for 2030



5 SYSTEM

Our System Centers Children and Families and Is Coordinated, Well-Resourced, and Data-Driven



4 WORKFORCE

All Children Are Supported by a Well-Prepared, Well-Supported Early Childhood Workforce



3 OPPORTUNITY

All Children and Families Have Access to High-Quality Opportunities That Promote Child Development and Well-Being



2 HEALTH & SAFETY

All Children Are Raised in Safe, Healthy, and Healing Environments



Scan to learn more about the 2025 action plan.



1 FOUNDATION

All Children and Families Have Their Basic Needs Met

