



## COMMUNITY PROFILE

# A PARTNERSHIP FOR Lamoille Valley CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



## Fast Facts

### ORIGIN

Collaborative efforts to bring together parents, providers, educators and the business community to improve outcomes for children and families in Lamoille Valley have been ongoing for over 20 years. In 1992, Lamoille Valley launched the state's first regional Success By Six Council, a model adopted and adapted in 12 regions of the state over the next few years. The purpose of the Success by Six Councils was to change or influence early childhood systems, policies, practices and funding. Vermont's early childhood partnerships are now referred to as Building Bright Futures (BBF) Councils. The Lamoille Family Center has been an active partner in the BBF Council, including serving on the local Steering Committee and the Council Board since 1992. It currently serves as the BBF fiscal agent for the Lamoille County region.

### GOALS

Vermont's outcomes were codified in law in 2014 under Vermont Act 186. The Act lays out a set of desired outcomes for which the state will collect population-level data to measure progress and inform future spending decisions. These outcomes also serve as the vision and roadmap for the Lamoille Valley partnership. All partners with a stake in child and family well-being are invited to step up and help align resources toward the following outcomes, as outlined in the Act.

1. Vermont has a prosperous economy.
2. Vermonters are healthy.
3. Vermont's environment is clean and sustainable.
4. Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.
5. Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported.
6. Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential:
  - a. pregnant women and young people thrive;
  - b. children are ready for school;
  - c. children succeed in school;
  - d. youth choose healthy behaviors; and
  - e. youth successfully transition to adulthood.
7. Vermont's elders and people with disabilities and people with mental conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.
8. Vermont has open, effective and inclusive government at the state and local levels.

### KEY STRATEGIES

Lamoille Valley partners pursue multiple strategies to build a strong and vibrant system that supports desired outcomes for children and families and promotes protective factors, including:

- A coordinated and integrated system of services for young children and their parents;
- Playgroups for parents and children to promote social connections;
- Facilitated dialogue and instructional opportunities to increase knowledge of parenting and child development;
- Home visiting to support children with developmental, physical or behavioral challenges and their families and provide access to concrete supports;
- Community events that create awareness of early learning and development; and
- Support to and networking with child care providers to enhance quality.

### LEAD AGENCIES

The Lamoille Family Center and the Lamoille Valley Building Bright Futures Council

### MISSION

Together with our community partners, we strive to support the health and well-being of children, youth and their families.

### INITIATIVE BUDGET

\$2 million

### START DATE

1992, as Success By Six

### GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

Lamoille Valley, which includes Lamoille County and five neighboring towns

### KEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Population Under 5
30,955 (2014)	1,726 (2014)

Percent of Children in Poverty  
17.5% (2013, data for Lamoille County)

Percent of Newborns at Low Birth Weight  
6.7% (2013, data for all of VT)

Percent of Children in Food Insecure Households  
19.9% (2013, data for Lamoille County)

### CONTACT

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## INNOVATION OF NOTE

In 2010, Vermont restructured funding and services for several programs to create the Children's Integrated Services (CIS) program in localities across the state. The CIS in Lamoille Valley is housed in the Lamoille Family Center and is a multi-disciplinary team focused on providing high quality, holistic and family centered services to families with young children. Services are provided to pregnant women and families with children under the age of six in the home, at child care providers and in community settings. CIS team members include family support, nursing, mental health, developmental educators and specialized child care consultants. CIS is a single system of care that families and service providers can turn to when:

- A child is not meeting developmental milestones;
- A family experiences significant stress;
- A child struggles in child care;
- A teenager becomes pregnant;
- A family with young children becomes homeless; or
- A young child is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

### + EARLY CHILDHOOD-LINC

An initiative of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, **Early Childhood-LINC** (Learning and Innovation Network for Communities) is developed by and for communities. Our mission is to support families and improve results for young children in communities across the country with a focus on accelerating the development of effective, integrated, local early childhood systems.

## MEASURES OF PROGRESS

### APPROACH

The partners in Lamoille Valley track progress on numerous indicators of well-being in accordance with the outcomes and goals of Vermont Act 186. Data are used to inform continuing quality improvement efforts. Specific indicators collected by Lamoille partners include but are not limited to:

- Percent of total regulated early care and education providers rated as 4 or 5 stars in the state quality rating and improvement system
- Percent of children ready for kindergarten
- Percent of public school students eligible for free or reduced meals
- Number of reports and percent of substantiations of child abuse and neglect cases

### INDICATORS

The Lamoille Family Center tracks a Children's Integrated Services program scorecard to illustrate the impact of programs. The scorecard is available at: <http://www.lamoillefamilycenter.org/data>.

In addition, BBF collects data on indicators that are publicly available by geographic regions of the state (see [www.vermontinsights.org](http://www.vermontinsights.org)). To see a copy of district-specific community profiles in, "How Are Vermont's Young Children and Families," March 2015 go to: <http://buildingbrightfutures.org/initiatives/how-are-vermonts-young-children/>.

## STRUCTURE & LEADERSHIP

The Lamoille BBF Council is one of 12 Councils across Vermont that align geographically with the state Agency of Human Services districts. The BBF State Council, established in Vermont Act 104, serves as the umbrella organization to the 12 regional councils. The Lamoille Council is comprised of local parents, early childhood providers, child welfare, physical and mental health staff and other interested community members.

The Lamoille Family Center is a non-profit service agency and one of 15 parent child centers in Vermont. It is a major provider of child and family services in this rural community. The Center is governed by a Board of Directors and is firmly committed to developing a system of care for children and families that weaves together best practices of professionals, the wisdom and experience of families and the strengths and hopes of the community. Members of the Lamoille Family Center staff are part of the BBF Council.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents serve on the Lamoille Building Bright Futures Council.

## FINANCING

The Lamoille BBF Council is supported with two funding streams. First, state grants fund the implementation of direct service strategies. Second, a 2014 federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge grant supports Council staffing.

The Lamoille Family Center is funded with state and federal grants and contracts that allow it to provide programming for children, youth and families.