



2021 Policy Priorities

Our mission is to ensure affordable access to high-quality child care for **ALL Vermont families by 2025.**



LET'S GROW KIDS
CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL

VT's Child Care Landscape Before Covid-19



3 out of 5

of Vermont's youngest children don't have access to the child care they need

VT families are spending nearly **30%** of their income on child care

The median annual income for a VT early childhood educator is

\$27,600

often without benefits



Let's Grow Kids' Approach



 **30,000**
Supporters across Vermont

 **95 VERMONT LEGISLATORS**
co-sponsored child care legislation in 2021

1,800 MORE CHILDREN 
now have access to high-quality child care



November 2020 Polling Data



87%

of the 500 Vermonters surveyed **agreed that child care** for children up to age five, like health care and education, **is essential to Vermont.**

92%

agreed that making sure **children from all backgrounds** have access to high-quality child care is an important step to ensuring that every child has **an equal opportunity to succeed in school and life.**

79%

said access to high-quality, affordable **child care is essential** or very important to **reopening the state's economy** and getting people back to work.

78%

are in favor of **increasing state funding** for child care.

You are here



You are here, too



Policy
Change

LET'S GROW KIDS Action
Network



2021 Priorities



Our Three-Year Plan



2021

Advance legislation that lays the foundation of our future child care system by establishing state goals for child care affordability, access, and quality.

2022

Support the stakeholder processes, complete legislative work, and, via the newly formed **Let's Grow Kids Action Network**, organize communities to support legislators who have championed child care legislation in the 2022 elections.

2023

Pass a revenue bill and fully implement affordability, access, quality, and accountability measures.



Together, we can create an
equitable child care system

that is:

- ✓ Affordable
- ✓ High-Quality
- ✓ Accessible
- ✓ Accountable
- ✓ Sustainable



Priority I: **Affordable**

The Goal: No family will spend more than 10% of their income on child care.

In 2021:

- Establish state goal for child care affordability in statute
- Continue redesign and expansion of the Child Care Financial Assistance Program to better meet families' needs and pay for the true cost of care, including fair compensation for early childhood educators





Priority 2: **High-Quality**

The Goal: Every child will be taught by prepared early childhood educators who are fairly compensated and well-supported.

In 2021:

- **Adopt plans** to increase early childhood educator compensation by adopting minimum compensation standards
- **Make investments** to strengthen the professional pipeline of early educators via scholarships and student loan repayment

Priority 3: **Accessible**

The Goal: Every child will have access to high-quality child care when and where they need it.

In 2021:

- Adopt state goals for child care access in statute
- Continue state investment in child care capacity development



Priority 4: **Accountable**

The Goal: The system will have well-coordinated and transparent governance, administrative and accountability structures, and resources.

In 2021:

- **Invest** in Child Development Division Information System
- **Convene** stakeholders and experts to advise the child care system
- **Study** the current governance and administration structures and make recommendations to strengthen and streamline

Priority 5: **Sustainable**

The Goal: Stable, long-term funding for the system will be secured.

In 2021: Establish a study commission to update cost estimates and investigate long-term, stable revenue sources



Imagine a future...



LET'S GROW KIDS
CHILD CARE IS ESSENTIAL



Thank you!

LetsGrowKidsActionNetwork.org

LetsGrowKids.org/mobilize