

# Chittenden County

## THE CHALLENGE

In Chittenden County, **48% OF INFANTS** ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD ) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **68% OF INFANTS** likely to need care don't have access to a high-quality program.

## OUR PROGRESS

Thanks to generous supporters, Let's Grow Kids has partnered with Vermonters to create **390 new child care spaces** at 19 child care programs in the county in just the last two years. And **1,671 people** in Chittenden County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$5.45 million** in Chittenden County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

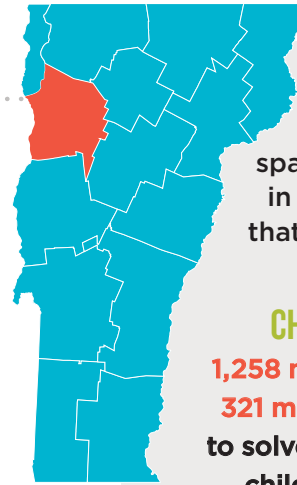
## But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$8.49 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Chittenden County children, forever.

**AND YOU CAN HELP!** Join the movement by adding your name, making a gift, or volunteering at [www.letsgrowkids.org](http://www.letsgrowkids.org).



PHOTO: ASCENSION CHILD CARE, SHELBURNE, VT



## CHITTENDEN COUNTY

has 4,199 child care spaces for children under 5 in 145 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

## CHITTENDEN COUNTY NEEDS

**1,258 more child care spaces & 321 more lead early educators** to solve the child care crisis for children birth to 5 years old.



PHOTO: ROBIN'S NEST CHILDREN'S CENTER, BURLINGTON 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](http://letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS)

## THANKS TO SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU...

### SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

## The Burlington Early Learning Initiative

### BURLINGTON, VT

Mayor Miro Weinberger understood Vermont's child care crisis: about 350 children are born in Burlington each year, but fewer than 200 spaces are available for infants and toddlers.

He also knew that child care was unaffordable for most families, and he saw that children from low-income families were even less likely to enter school with the tools they needed to thrive.

In 2018, Mayor Weinberger and the City Council committed \$500,000 in municipal revenue to the Burlington Early Learning Initiative.

**This city program invests in the local economy by creating more child care spots, and offers child care scholarships to low-income families.**

Thanks to community support, Let's Grow Kids staff is there to help with the Early Learning Initiative.

**Let's Grow Kids staff member Paula, for example, supports families to learn about, apply for, and succeed in the program.**

Paula explains the story of one family suddenly facing homelessness.

"This family received full-time child care with a scholarship, which meant that the parent could work with local support services to find a job and secure housing," Paula says.

"With siblings in school, and their younger child in affordable, high-quality child care, **this parent was able to work to relocate out of a local family shelter and into stable housing within a few months.**"



PHOTO: ROBIN'S NEST CHILDREN'S CENTER, BURLINGTON, VT

### CHILD CARE IS URGENTLY NEEDED

In 2019, **Georgia's Next Generation** worked with Let's Grow Kids staff to open expand their Georgia, Vermont program to serve 42 children.

Now, owner Sara LeBlanc continues to work with Let's Grow Kids staff to get support opening two additional child care programs—one in Burlington, and one in Williston. Plus, Sara is building in business efficiencies to save time and money and communicate with parents, all while providing high-quality child care.



PHOTO: ASCENSION CHILD CARE, SHELBURNE, VT



**"I see Vermont's child care challenges as one of the biggest hurdles to growing our family business in Vermont."**



MICHELE ASCH

Twincraft Skincare | Winooski, VT



# The Whole Picture

## THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

### INFANTS ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD )

- » **48% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **68% of infants likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

### TODDLERS ( 2-3 YEARS OLD )

- » **8% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **41% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

### PRESCHOOLERS ( 3-4 YEARS OLD )

- » **6% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.\*
- » **31% 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.

## CHITTENDEN COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

2,173 Infants  
1,080 Toddlers  
2,204 Preschoolers

## THE NUMBERS GAP .....

### Child care spaces needed to solve the child care crisis:

- 1,042 for Infants
- 81 for Toddlers
- 135 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:

**321 Lead Early Educators**



PHOTO: BOLTON VALLEY CHILD CARE, BOLTON VALLEY, VT

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

[letsgrowkids.org/resources-publications#SAS](https://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](https://www.letsgrowkids.org)