

# Windsor County

## THE CHALLENGE

In Windsor County, **61% OF INFANTS** ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD ) likely to need care don't have access to any regulated child care.

And **37% 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 **131 new child care spaces**. And **808 people** in Windsor County from all walks of life have joined together to support our shared movement.

Since 2018, you've helped Let's Grow Kids invest **\$1.45 million** in Windsor County to build a child care system that works for children and families, early educators, and communities.

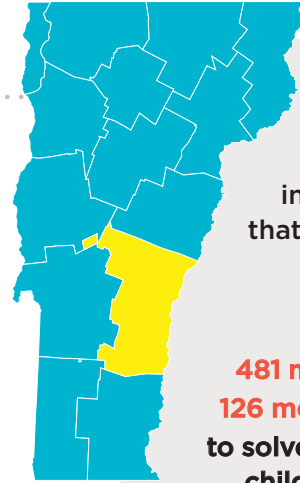
## But there's more work to do.

Through 2025, we'll invest another **\$2.28 million** to solve the child care crisis for all Windsor 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).



PHOTOS: RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL, WOODSTOCK, VT



## WINDSOR COUNTY HAS

988 child care spaces for children under 5 in 57 child care programs that offer full-time, full-year child care (as of 2019).

## WINDSOR COUNTY NEEDS

**481 more child care spaces & 126 more lead early educators** to solve the child care crisis for children birth to 5 years old.



## 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

## Bridgewater Community Center

### BRIDGEWATER, VT

When the hundred-plus-year-old Bridgewater Village School closed due to local consolidation in 2015, the townspeople voted to tear down the building. **Almost immediately, a group of Bridgewater residents came together to save the school.**

The group developed deep partnerships with town government, state agencies, local businesses, health care professionals, public schools, and nonprofits. In 2018, they formed the Bridgewater Area Community Foundation (BACF) and renamed the former school: Bridgewater Community Center.

At the time, Bridgewater had no registered or licensed child care, and programs in neighboring Woodstock had long waiting lists. So, the group committed to creating a high-quality child care center.

In late 2018, BACF started working with Brenda Metzler, a Let's Grow Kids staff member, Bridgewater resident, and early education expert. **Thanks to generous donors like you, Brenda provides customized support to BACF as they build their program and navigate the early childhood landscape.**

In 2019, BACF applied for and used a Let's Grow Kids grant of \$23,100 to renovate several former classrooms into beautiful infant and toddler program spaces ready to welcome 14 children.

They were also able to pay a consultant to develop philosophies and policies, and to hire their founding director. BACF has laid the foundation for future expansion and long-term sustainability.

**Thank you, BACF, for your inspiring dedication to Windsor County children, families, and early educators!**



PHOTOS: RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL, WOODSTOCK, VT

### CHILD CARE CLOSES THE OPPORTUNITY GAP

“When children don’t get the nurturing care they need at a young age, they arrive at school less prepared to learn. Research shows the achievement gap continues to widen from that point forward.

“And when families cannot access or afford child care, it can have a devastating economic impact on their ability to provide for their children as well as participate as contributing members of their community.”

**MEG SEELY** | Bridgewater, VT  
Vermont Community Foundation



**I’m a single parent, and my sister, my mother, and my father all sent me money each month to pay for child care. Everybody pitched in. Now my child’s not only ready for kindergarten, she’s ready to tackle the world. And she wouldn’t be if it weren’t for the dedication and support that early educators have given her.**



**KELLY FRENCH**  
Parent | White River Junction, VT

# The Whole Picture

## THE CURRENT STATUS OF CHILD CARE ACCESS FOR:

### INFANTS ( BIRTH TO 2 YEARS OLD )

- » **61% 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 )

- » **24% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.
- » **37% of toddlers likely to need care** don't have access to high-quality (4- or 5-star) programs.

### PRESCHOOLERS ( 3-4 YEARS OLD )

- » **12% of preschoolers likely to need care** don't have access to any regulated programs.\*
- » **26% 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.

## WINDSOR COUNTY CHILDREN LIKELY TO NEED CHILD CARE:

**554 Infants**  
**299 Toddlers**  
**616 Preschoolers**

## THE NUMBERS GAP .....

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

- 336 for Infants
- 72 for Toddlers
- 73 for Preschoolers

### Program hours of operation:

- First program opens: 5:30 AM
- Most programs open: 7:00 AM
- Most programs close: 5:30 PM
- Last program closes: 6:00 PM

### Additional early childhood educators needed to join the workforce:

**126 Lead Early Educators**



PHOTO: RAINBOW PLAYSCHOOL, WOODSTOCK, 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)