



Let's Grow Kids COVID-19 Response and Recovery Approach

Updated: May 15, 2020

EMERGENCY CHILD CARE	
Online form for essential employees to request child care	At request of the Governor of Vermont and the Vermont Child Development Division, built and distributed a webform to collect essential workers' child care needs (for children birth to eighth grade), Let's Grow Kids is managing this process and data with daily reports sent out to child care referral specialists around the state
Supplies for emergency child care for essential Employees	At the request of the Child Development Division, procure and distribute needed sanitation and health supplies to child care programs providing emergency care statewide.
Referral system for in-home child care for essential employees	At the request of the Child Development Division in partnership with Help Me Grow and the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine, create list of individuals (with background checks and first aid training) who are willing to offer in-home child care to essential employees. Help Me Grow will make referrals.
Health guidance for emergency child care for essential employees	At the request of the Department of Health support the dissemination of customized and updated health guidelines to early childhood education programs serving essential employees.
SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND EARLY EDUCATORS	
Technical assistance and support to child care program leaders	Provide technical assistance, information, and moral support to child care program leaders; especially as each new wave of guidance comes out in partnership with Building Bright Futures, Vermont Afterschool, and the Child Development Division.
COVID-19 business resource for child care programs	Provide child care businesses with help navigating the immediate human resources, legal, and tax hurdles and choices coming from the pandemic and mandated closures; includes webinars, online resources, and curated frequently asked questions created in partnership with local content experts (https://letsgrowkids.org/coronavirus#webinars).
Loans for early educators	Offer no-interest loans to early educators working in Vermont experiencing a disruption of household income in partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation and VSECU (local credit union). Loans are up to \$2,000 and Let's Grow Kids will pay membership fee plus first monthly payment.



SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE PROGRAMS AND EARLY EDUCATORS (CONTINUED)	
Training and professional development opportunities for early childhood educators	Offer timely and needed professional development to early educators who are navigating this new situation and/or may have more time for trainings right now; includes online trainings offered via SharedServicesVT.org and webinars. Other classes and credit-bearing courses in the works in partnership with Vermont PBS, Northern Lights at Community College of Vermont, and Vermont Higher Education Collaborative.
Reopening child care in Vermont	Engage with the Child Development Division to shape state plans and policies for reopening, and provide support to child care programs as they prepare to reopen.
Policy work on national and state level	Engage with Vermont legislature and Vermont federal delegation to ensure early childhood education needs met in initial response legislation and then in allocation and use of recovery funds.
CURATING RESOURCE and INFORMATION FOR NETWORK	
Information and Resources for Let's Grow Kids network	To curate and synthesize up-to-date info for early childhood education programs, families, and employers to be posted on the Let's Grow Kids website (www.letsgrowkids.org/coronavirus)
Technical Assistance and Support to Volunteers, Parents	To provide support, info, and connection to Let's Grow Kids volunteers and parents
EMERGENCY FUND	
Raising Money for Emergency Fund	To meet the needs of the early childhood educator field and offer meaningful engagement to donors, prospects, and other supporters (www.letsgrowkids.org/emergencyfund)
Disseminating Emergency Funds	Currently funding several initiatives highlighted in this document including the procurement and delivery of emergency supplies, the early educator loan fund, technical assistance, and the COVID-19 business resource program. We are working to establish how Let's Grow Kids funds can make a difference in COVID-19 emergency response as well as in recovery and building resilience longer-term.
AWARENESS CAMPAIGN	
Sharing the Vermont story nationwide	To increase Vermont's influence and national awareness of Let's Grow Kids based on strong handling of this crisis and lend support to other organizations and states in addressing the child care crisis.