

Speaking for our children and youth—21% of our population and 100% of our future.

Why do Vermont children and youth need Voices for Vermont's Children?



We know that today's children are our future—our future parents, workers, voters, and taxpayers, and that their future and ours depends on ensuring that they all have the opportunity to develop physically, intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

We know that public policies—laws and state budget priorities set by legislators and public officials—**play a major role** in giving all children these opportunities.

We give kids an organized voice. We work to ensure that our public policies are designed to address the needs of Vermont children and families.

We help secure the fundamental building blocks for child development: supported families, nurturing child care, healthy and adequate nutrition, safe and stable housing, solid educational foundations, health care, and safety and security.



What do we do?

We do the research. We make sure policymakers and the public have the facts—tracking data on how kids and families are doing, providing practical analysis of issues and policies that affect children and families, and showing what needs to be done to support their healthy development.

We work with others. We don't go it alone. We work in coalitions, we organize outreach to communities, and we listen and learn from people who are concerned about the well-being of children.

We advocate at the Statehouse. We always ask the question, is it good for kids? It's our job to ensure that the needs of children are raised in every policy debate affecting kids and their families.

We reach out to Vermonters by communicating about issues, encouraging public debate, and promoting action by community members across the state on behalf of children and youth.

We mobilize Vermonters to influence key policy debates affecting children and families—by contacting their legislators, writing letters to the editor, or sharing research and data in community meetings.



1983

1984 - 1989

Vermont Children's Forum founded
Through legislative advocacy we helped to: establish kindergarten in every Vermont school district; strengthen Vermont's child-abuse prevention laws; enact the Early Education Initiative for at-risk young children
Publications: *The Vermont Children's Budget: Do the Dollars Make Sense?;* *Kids in our Backyard*

1990 - 1999

Through legislative advocacy we helped to: expand child care assistance for low income working families; expand services to runaway and homeless youth; expand summer food programs; increase access to affordable health insurance for children and teens. Established the *Parent Leadership Training* program. **Publications:** *Kids Count in Vermont;* *The State of Our Children county data reports;* *Children and Poverty in Vermont;* *Report on Childhood Hunger in Vermont with the VT Campaign to End Childhood Hunger;* *Special Report on Children and Youth with Disabilities in Vermont*

2000 - 2010

Through legislative advocacy we helped to: ensure that eligible 18 to 20-year-olds access Medicaid health insurance; restructure child welfare system to provide supports for parents at risk of losing custody; provide continued support for 18 to 20-year-olds in foster care; provide quality pre-school education services for 3 - 4 year olds; established the Vermont Child Poverty Council; develop a unified, coordinated early childhood system. Established *Vermont Community Leadership Training* and the youth leadership program, *Our Voices: Our Community.* **Publications:** *Children and Environmental Toxins;* *Untapped Potential: Early Learning Investments in Vermont;* *Bridging the Gap: Pathways to Success for All Vermont Students;* *Challenging Poverty: Supporting Children and Families in Difficult Times*

2007 - ^{Name changed to}Voices for Vermont's Children



Membership

How can you help? More “voices” mean more influence. That’s why Voices for Vermont’s Children is a member organization. We make it easy for you to support kids and their needs. We alert you to specific issues being discussed at the legislature and offer you ways to get involved. In these times, every dollar you donate needs to be strategic. Dollars donated to Voices provide seed money for improving the chance for success of children and families. From research to policy to legislation, Voices makes change happen.

What does it mean to become a member? Your annual support lets us continue to shape policies that keep kids healthy, keep kids safe and secure, and strengthen families.

- You can sign up to receive our e-mail alerts and on-line Greetings from Montpelier to be informed of actions affecting children.
- You can receive a member discount on our annual conference and special events.
- You can learn more about children’s issues from our KIDS COUNT reports, fact sheets and issue briefs.
- You can join a coalition to work with other Vermonters on an issue you care about.
- You can speak with friends or a group about Voices for Vermont’s Children, host a gathering, or contact your legislators.
- You can play a part in building a better future for our children.

Become a member today. A response envelope is enclosed for your convenience, or you can make a donation online at www.voicesforvtkids.org

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Voices
for Vermont's Children 



Let us put our minds together and
see what life we can make for our children.

-Sitting Bull

**Bringing Vermonters together
to build a better future
for our children.**

Voices for Vermont’s Children is a multi-issue, independent, non-profit that promotes public policy to enhance the lives of children and youth in Vermont.