



Vermont Newsletter

April 2025

Trust Has Become More Complicated

FCF has invested in a cybersecurity training program for our staff. The training videos feel like procedural police dramas – I am not sure how much I have retained, but they are entertaining. And it has been eye-opening all the many ways that bad actors can seem like someone you trust – either by mimicking a person you already know or by pretending to be someone you can trust.

Vermonters build trust through civic engagement, community participation and complaining about the weather. As an outsider, it can be hard to become a trusted neighbor; you have to earn it. I appreciate the trust that so many of you have put in FCF VT – from the 216 who completed our survey, to the 50 or so who have engaged in financial analysis, to all of you who subscribe to our newsletter. We will never share your individual information outside FCF without your permission and we will never knowingly share misinformation with you or anyone else.

As someone who analyzes a lot of information, I have learned to consider the

source of information and what they might have to gain before I trust it. If you ever wonder about the trustworthiness of something, please reach out to us and we'll do our best to advise you.

Erin Roche, Vermont Director, First Children's Finance

Access to Capital?

If you have ideas or plans to start up or expand a child care business this year, we still have a grant opportunity to support that. Final Make Way for Kids Infant/Toddler Capacity Grant applications for this school year are due on May 3. For our most recent round, we funded 22 projects across the state; see our media release of those awards.

[Read the Media Release](#)

How did the Capacity Grant help make providers more successful? Here's what a couple of recipients said:

"The demand for infant care in our area is overwhelming – families were facing long drives just to find an open spot. This grant from First Children's Finance allowed me to transform my home into a high-quality child care space, creating a much-needed resource for local families. For parents, reliable child care isn't just a convenience: it's essential to their ability to work. I'm honored to be able to provide this service and support my community in such a meaningful way." -Tysea K., Londonderry VT

"This grant helps us invest in essential technology, staffing, and benefits, ensuring a safe, nurturing, and play-based learning environment for infants and toddlers. We're proud to expand access to high-quality care that respects the diverse needs of children and families in Middlebury. Strengthening infant and toddler care builds a village of support, allowing parents to work and study with peace of mind, knowing their children are growing, exploring, and thriving in a secure and caring community." Tessa D., Middlebury VT

Questions about grant availability? Email vtgrants@firstchildrensfiance.org

If you need capital for your child care business and these grants are not a good fit, consider our Loan Program. FCF has a limited pool of loan funds available in Vermont. For more information, visit FCF's [business loan inquiry](#) site.

Business Sustainability

April brings showers, sunshine, and many more opportunities for professional development! All of our business services, including professional development, are available to you at NO CHARGE. Head to [Northern Lights](#) and register for any of these opportunities.

Upcoming trainings you don't want to miss:

April 17 | Planning for the Future: Accounting and Financial Statements for Family Child Care Home

May 6 | Policies and practices for Child Care Business Management
May 15 | Leveraging Technology for Child Care Businesses
May 29 | Precision Pricing for your child Care Center

Register for
Trainings

Are you interested in joining our Business Planning Cohort? The last Business Planning Cohort will be this summer. These cohorts support child care business owners and directors that are just starting out in their business or are in the planning stages of a strategic change in direction (e.g., serving a new age group, adding a second location). You can reach out to us for more information!

Get More Information on Our Business Planning Cohort

Questions about how FCF VT can help your business? Reach out to infovt@firstchildrensfinance.org or watch this fun video about [FCF in VT](#).

Extra, Extra!

In partnership with VTAEYC and SPARQS, SharedServicesVT has some new resources for you!

Resource of the Month:

[Cyber Security Attacks, Know What to Look For](#) Know what to look for; phishing and identifying phishing emails; anti-virus software, protection and security

SharedServicesVT is your resource HUB for all things child care and ECE. You need a membership, but it's free!

Sign Up for Shared
Services



FCF News!

The FCF VT team traveled to 1st Roots-Wild Roots in Hinesberg last month to celebrate our second birthday with their staff. Wild Roots was nominated via our social media birthday bash celebration in January and picked at random to have a party provided by us.

The celebration involved cake, presents, and good times! FCF VT is thankful to be able to join programs and celebrate successes together. Who knows how we will celebrate year three years? Stay tuned!

The State of Child Care Businesses in Vermont survey received over 200 submissions. Thank you to those who were able to fill out the survey this year! Your insight as ECE providers and leaders helps us to better support the field.

FCF VT will be hosting a webinar to review the results in mid-May, so mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled for more information about this.

Also, congratulations to our three prize winners who completed the survey: Tammie Hazlett, Danielle Wilder and Amaryah Pendlebury.



It's Riddle Time!

You made it to the end! Now, it's time for the FCF monthly challenge:

Can you guess what this riddle is about?

- *What kind of coat is best put on wet?*

First person to reach out to infovt@firstchildrensfinance.org with the correct answer will win a prize!

Find Where You Need to Go!

[FCF Website](#)[Shared Services](#)[SPARQS intake Form](#)[Request Consulting/TA](#)[Inquiry Form](#)[Northern Lights](#)

The Vermont Business and Technical Assistance Program (BTAP) provides expert business training, technical assistance and consulting to help start, sustain, and grow child care businesses. The BTAP is made possible through a grant to FCF by the Vermont Agency of Human Services, Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division. The Vermont BTAP is a partnership between [First Children's Finance](#) and [Let's Grow Kids](#).

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