

**Vermont:**  
**Family – Community Resource Report**

**Submitted by SWIFT Center**



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## Introduction

Trusting family-school partnerships and trusting community-school partnerships are two integral features of the Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT).

**Trusting family-school partnerships** contribute to positive student outcomes and occur when:

- family members and school staff have respectful, mutually beneficial relationships with shared responsibility for student learning
- family members have options for meaningful involvement in their children’s education and in the life of the school, and
- the school responds to family interests and involvement in a culturally responsive manner.

Family-school partnerships support the engagement of families in the life of the school and strongly influence student outcomes.

**Trusting community-school partnerships** contribute to positive student outcomes and occur when schools work collaboratively with community members, agencies, organizations, businesses, and industry around common goals that result in direct participation by community representatives in school leadership and enhanced school and community resources. Community-school partnerships often provide supports and resources to meet staff, family, and student needs that go beyond what is typically available through schools.

Trusting family partnerships can be strengthened when schools support families to access community resources. For such support to occur, schools need to be aware of organizations in their community that provide services and supports for students and their families. In addition, when community organizations and schools create partnerships, they can maximize resources for both parties. A few of the many benefits include sharing school and neighborhood facilities; promoting and staffing school events; mentoring; and collaborative fundraising.

Partnerships have a reciprocal nature. For example, one strategy that facilitates family-school partnerships is to have school staff learn the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of families in the school and incorporate this knowledge when planning school activities, celebrations, and opportunities for family involvement. Schools might partner with a community organization that supports immigrant and/or refugee populations that reflect the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the student population. In return, that organization can be a “cultural broker,” helping schools understand the families’ culture and how cultural differences can affect a student’s learning process and the role of the family in that process. Furthermore, such a partnership can assist educators to communicate with families in a more culturally responsive manner, thus potentially contributing to greater family engagement with the school.

As a technical assistance support for the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) the SWIFT Family and Community Engagement team has engaged in a “participatory asset mapping” process (Burns, Paul, & Paz, 2012) to create a Vermont Family-Community Resource Report. This mapping process involved family, community, and/or disability organization representatives identifying and providing information about existing resources in their own communities. *This report is intended to be a starting point for conversations and possible actions by the SWIFT VT-AOE Team.*

The Vermont Family-Community Resource Report contains the six sections described below. Supporting details can be found in the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report Appendices document.

**Purpose and Scope** provides a description of the topic and goals of the report as well as the report’s boundaries and guidelines for making decisions.

**Participatory Asset Mapping Process** provides information about the methods used in collecting resource data, which entailed a five-step, iterative process: (a) website review, (b) interview, (c) resource table completion, (d) member check, and (e) contact newly identified partners. This section also includes information regarding the limitations of the process and resulting report.

**Vermont Family-Community Resource Report Summary Observations** originate from an analysis of information about Vermont organizations, including commonalities and general themes, potential related action steps that schools may use to increase family and community engagement.

**Vermont Key Partners** list includes (a) a list of interviewed organizations identified as key partners, (b) a map of the geographical distribution of these organizations and the population density of Vermont, and (c) a categorized list of organizations identified as key partners that were not interviewed. The Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) and districts may use this information to identify existing connections and strong partnerships with community organizations. Schools can use this section to identify leaders in the community and potential regional partners to support their outreach to families and community organizations.

**Partner Organizations at a Glance** table provides a brief overview of each key organization interviewed for the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report, including the organization name, contact information, and organization description. The VT-AOE and districts may use this table as a quick reference to learn more about potential partner organizations in the state. More detailed information on each of these organizations can be found in the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report Appendices document.

**Resource Categorization by Organization** table categorizes the services and resources provided by each organization interviewed. These categories are based on the purpose/mission of the organizations and the services/resources they provide. The VT-AOE and districts may use this table to assist schools in identifying potential community partners that can address specific issues and/or unmet needs of the school and its families and students.

## Purpose and Scope

### Purpose

The purpose of the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report is to identify and map an initial set of available community-based resources within the state, which can be accessed by districts and schools to (a) address the needs of students and their families and (b) facilitate family-community-school partnerships.

The Vermont Family-Community Resource Report is not exhaustive. Rather, the report provides a starting point that can be expanded or enhanced by the VT-AOE to address the unique needs and context of the state with regard to community resources. Again, this report is intended to be a starting point for conversations and possible actions by the SWIFT VT-AOE Team regarding Family-Community Partnerships.

### Scope

The scope is defined by a list of criteria developed to determine which of the identified partner organizations to interview (see “Vermont Key Partners” section, p. 13).

The Vermont Family-Community Resource Report is scoped within the intended purpose of initiating conversations and possible actions to strengthen VT Family-Community Partnerships. Since the Resource Report is developed for the Agency of Education, the divisions/offices within the state’s public or independent (private) education systems are not included in the report (see Limitations section, p.10).

Criteria for organizations we interviewed included organizations that:

- Have a clear mission and purpose
- Are identified as a key partner in Vermont by another interviewee
- Have resources that can support children, families, and/or schools
- Value inclusive schools and communities
- Value diversity
- Exist outside of the state public or private education system
- Reside within Vermont

Due to limitations in the scope of this report, identified partner organizations were not interviewed if they did not meet the above criteria. However, this is in no way an indication of judgment of those organizations' quality or importance. The non-interviewed organizations were identified as key partners in Vermont and are recognized as such in the report. Such organizations include:

- Organizations whom we were not able to interview due to limited time or lack of response from the organization
- Groups of people who gather regularly for a purpose and routinely function like a team (e.g., workgroup, committee, task force) in the achievement of a common goal (e.g., policy reform)
- Large entities (e.g., hospitals, universities) identified as partners without a specific department or initiative within the entity specified
- State or county government department/agency (e.g., Human Resources, Rehabilitation Services, Health and Mental Health)
- Individual projects coordinated by a single organization

## **Participatory Asset Mapping Process**

We used a participatory asset mapping process to create the Vermont Family-Community Resource Map. This process involved family, community, and/or disability organization representatives identifying and providing information about existing resources in the state of Vermont. Participatory asset mapping enabled community members from a broad range of organizations to identify their key partners within the state and enabled us to ascertain connections between organizations, as well as identify resources that might not be readily apparent.

## **Participants**

We used a snowball sampling process to identify key family, community, and/or disability organization partners in Vermont to interview for inclusion in the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report. We started with the state's Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center, Vermont Family Network (VFN). The U.S. Department of Education funds PTI Centers in every state. PTIs provide information and advocacy support to families of children who have disabilities and special health care needs. The PTI Centers have a mission that is aligned with the objective of the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report. Additionally, starting with the PTI creates an anchor point within the state, allowing for the replication of this process within other SWIFT states.

We then used the snowball sampling process to identify new partners. We used criteria (See Scope, p. 6) for determining which identified key partner organizations to interview for inclusion in the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report.

## Data Collection

Our data collection was a five-step iterative process: (a) website review, (b) interview, (c) resource table completion, (d) member check, and (e) contact newly identified partners. With each identified partner organization, we proceeded through the five steps, described below. We engaged in this process repeatedly, stopping after a substantial number of interviews were conducted and partners identified. This process, described next, began with Vermont's PTI Center, Vermont Family Network (VFN), as the initial interviewee.

**Website review.** We first reviewed the VFN website, looking for (a) contact information, (b) descriptions of the organization and their services and resources, and (c) evidence that the organization values diversity and the inclusion of families and their members with disabilities in their schools and community.

**Interview.** After conducting a thorough review of the website, we interviewed the VFN executive director to (a) verify the information gathered via the website, (b) ask for additional information not found on the website, and (c) ask the director to identify key family, community, and/or disability organizations in Vermont with whom VFN directly partners. We asked the following questions:

1. What is the mission/vision of (organization name)?
2. What is (organization name)'s targeted population?
3. What types of services or resources does (organization name) provide?
4. How does (organization name) address the needs of diverse populations within Vermont?
5. Does (organization name) value and/or support the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in school and community environments?
6. What are the key family, community, and/or disability organizations in Vermont with whom your organization partners?
7. How does your organization partner with each of these organizations (e.g., share information and referral resources, collaborative teaming, shared workshops/training)?

**Resource table completion.** We then completed the resource table for the VFN, summarizing the information from the website review and VFN director. Information from the VFN resource table, as well as the resource tables for subsequently identified organizations, is included in the "At a Glance" table (p. 21), and in the "Detailed Information by Organization" tables in the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report Appendices document.

**Member check.** Finally, we sent the completed resource table to the VFN director (interviewee) for review. We requested that the director edit (e.g., change, add, delete) our table content to ensure accuracy and completeness of information and add contact information for the key partners identified.

**Contact newly identified partners.** Next, we contacted each of the key family, community, and/or disability organization partners identified by the VFN director (interviewee) that met the criteria for an interview to schedule an interview.

The five-step iterative process was repeated with subsequent organizations identified as key partners that met criteria for an interview.

## Limitations

There are limitations inherent in the process and product of this Resource Report. As stated in the Scope of the report (p. 6), the Resource Report is scoped within its intended purpose as a starting point, which influenced decisions made concerning criteria for determining which organizations to interview. For example, the Vermont Family-Community Resource Report does not include the divisions/offices of the Vermont State Agency of Education (VT-AOE). This decision was made because the report was developed for VT-AOE, and we sought to identify resources beyond their purview. In order to maximize the diversity of resources and inclusion of potentially unknown available community resources, we enacted criteria impacting the decisions for conducting interviews (e.g., not interviewing state or county government offices).

## Vermont Family-Community Resource Report Summary Observations

Analysis of the information collected about Vermont organizations yielded commonalities and general themes with potential related action steps (in italics) that schools and districts can use to develop targeted goals for increasing family and community engagement within the school.

- Most of the interviewed key partner organizations are clustered in the most highly populated regions of Vermont.
  - *An opportunity exists for the VT-AOE to expand this Resource Report by interviewing additional family, community, or disability key partner organizations and including them in the Resource Report. Additionally, the VT-AOE could specifically target identifying new partners in more rural, less densely populated areas of the state.*
- Many key partner organizations interviewed work within the mental health field (i.e., psychiatric services and addiction recovery services).
  - *An opportunity exists for schools to develop effective collaboration with community behavioral health partners to fully integrate mental and behavioral health services within the schools.*
  - *An opportunity exists for the VT-AOE to increase knowledge about mental health needs and services through education and training available through community resource organizations that are designed to target specific populations (e.g., students, family members, educators, emergency responders).*
- Many partner organizations are social service agencies that focus on supporting low-income and homeless individuals and families through the provision of supports related



to housing, food, employment, literacy and language learning, and secondary education adult learning (e.g., GED classes).

- *An opportunity exists for schools, possibly through a school family liaison, to collaborate with these social service agencies to ensure housing stability, meet material needs (i.e., food and clothing), and address the educational and emotional needs of children experiencing homelessness.*
- There are a multitude of disability-specific organizations (i.e., mental health, traumatic brain injury, blindness and visual impairment, developmental disabilities, multiple sclerosis) that exist within Vermont to provide direct supports to families as well as educational supports to professionals (e.g., health care, education), students, and the community at large (e.g., businesses, emergency responders).
  - *An opportunity exists for the VT-AOE, local Supervisory Unions, and schools to partner with these community organizations to increase education and knowledge of all individuals within the school community about the various ways to include and support individuals with disabilities.*

## **Vermont Key Partners**

The following section includes all interviewed organizations identified as key partners in Vermont through the participatory asset mapping process (see Appendix C for organizations identified as key partners but not interviewed due to not meeting criteria for interview or time constraints).

This section provides:

- A list of interviewed organizations and the representative interviewed for each
- A map of the geographical distribution of the interviewed organizations and the population density of Vermont

Schools and districts can use this information to identify existing connections and strong partnerships between community organizations. Schools seeking to enhance their family and community engagement can use this section to identify leaders in the community and potential regional partners to support their outreach to families and community organizations.

## **Interviewed Organizations**

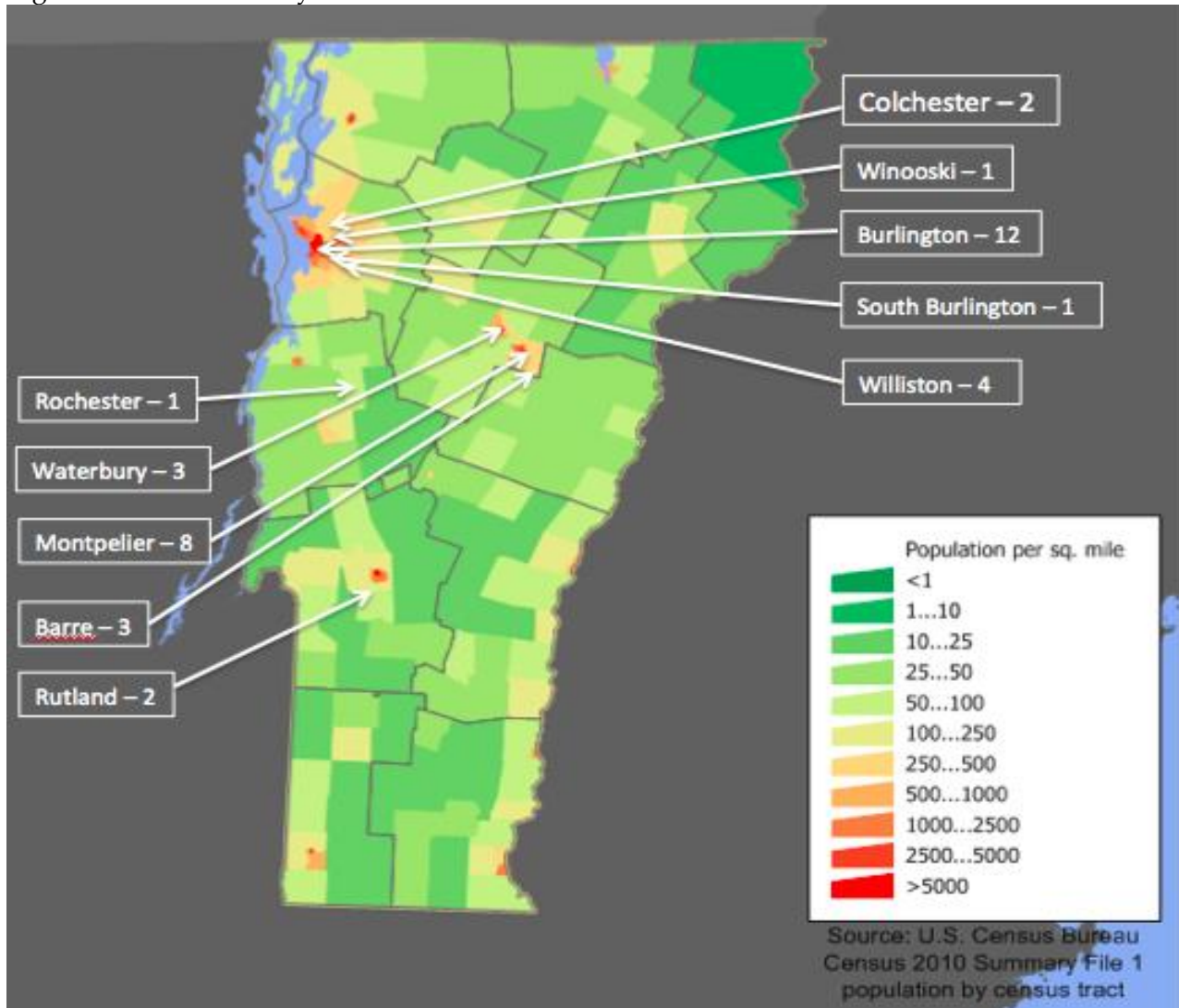
This list includes the partner organizations meeting the criteria for an interview and each organization's representative with whom we conducted the interview.

1. Alyssum, Gloria van den Berg
2. Another Way, Aimee Powers
3. BEST Project/Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI), Sherry Schoenberg
4. Bi-State Primary Care Association, Sharon Winn
5. Brain Injury Association of Vermont, Barb Winters

6. Capstone Community Action, Dan Hoxworth
7. Champlain Valley Head Start, Paul Behrman
8. Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO), Jan Demers
9. Disability Law Project/Vermont Legal Aid, Nancy Breiden
10. Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT), Ed Paquin
11. Downstreet Housing and Community Development, Eileen Peltier
12. Good Samaritan Haven, Brooke Jenkins
13. Green Mountain Self-Advocates, Karen Topper
14. Howard Center, Delaina Norton
15. King Street Center, Vicky Smith
16. National Alliance on Mental Illness/Vermont, Laurie Emerson
17. National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Vermont division, David Young-Hong
18. Pathways Vermont, Pat Gallagher
19. Sara Holbrook Community Center, Leisa Pollander
20. U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) / Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP), Amila Merdzanovic
21. Vermont Adult Learning, Josh Demers
22. Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Steve Pouliot
23. Vermont Association for Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, Peter Espenshade
24. Vermont Care Partners, Simone Rueschemeyer
25. Vermont Center For Children, Youth, and Families, Eliza Pillard
26. Vermont Center for Independent Living, Sarah Launderville
27. Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council, Kirsten Murphy
28. Vermont Family Network (VFN), Pam McCarthy & Karen Price
29. Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Kathy Holsopple
30. Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team)/Center on Disability and Community Inclusion (CDCI), Darren McIntyre
31. Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (VT LEND), Mary Alice Favaro
32. Vermont Legal Aid, Eric Avildsen
33. Vermont Medical Society, Jessa Barnard
34. Vermont Military Family Community Network, Miriam Boyle
35. Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Wilda White
36. Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council, Peter Kriff
37. Visiting Nurses Association of Vermont, Peter Cobb

## Organization and Population Density Maps

The following shows the distribution of the interviewed partner organizations on a Vermont population density map (Census 2010). Each box indicates the number of interviewed partner organizations in each city.



## Partner Organizations: At A Glance

This table provides brief overview information of each key partner organization interviewed in the development of this Resource Report, including the organization name, contact information, and organization description. This table may be used as a quick reference to learn about partner organizations within the state.

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Alyssum</b>	<p><a href="#">Alyssum, Inc.</a> 927 Route 100 North Rochester, VT 05767</p> <p>Phone: 802-767-6000 Email: <a href="mailto:information@alyssum.org">information@alyssum.org</a></p> <p>Gloria van den Berg, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:Gloria@Alyssum.org">Gloria@Alyssum.org</a></p>	<p>Alyssum is a peer-run, not-for-profit organization that offers free, short-term crisis respite for Vermont residents desiring an alternative approach to healing and connection with peers. It is funded by the state of Vermont.</p>
<b>Another Way</b>	<p><a href="#">Another Way</a> 125 Barre St. Montpelier, VT 05602</p> <p>Phone: 802-229-0920 Fax: 802-225-6562 Email: <a href="mailto:info@anotherwayvt.org">info@anotherwayvt.org</a></p> <p>Elaine (Eli) I. Martin, Peer Support Specialist &amp; Programming Coordinator &amp; Interim Community and Board Liaison Phone: 802-279-7636 Email: <a href="mailto:elaine@anotherwayvt.org">elaine@anotherwayvt.org</a></p>	<p>Another Way is a Community Center in Montpelier, Vermont. They provide voluntary alternatives to conventional mental health services. Through the combined efforts of the community and staff, Another Way provides advocacy, outreach, information, referrals, crisis intervention, access to housing resources, peer support, supported employment, and educational opportunities.</p>
<b>Bi-State Primary Care Association</b>	<p><a href="#">Bi-State Primary Care Association</a> 61 Elm St Montpelier, VT 05602</p> <p>Phone: 802-229-0002 Fax: 802-223-2336</p> <p>Sharon M. Winn, Esq., MPH – Director, Vermont Public Policy Phone: 802-229-0002 x 218 Email: <a href="mailto:swinn@bistatepca.org">swinn@bistatepca.org</a></p>	<p>Established in 1986, Bi-State Primary Care Association, serving Vermont and New Hampshire, promotes access to effective and affordable primary care and preventive services for all, with special emphasis on underserved people or regions. They develop strategies, policies, and programs that provide and support 12 federally qualified health centers and 3 rural health centers in ensuring access to health care in medically underserved areas.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Brain Injury Association of VT</b>	<p><a href="#">Brain Injury Association of VT</a> 92 South Main Street / P.O. Box 482 Waterbury, VT 05676</p> <p>Phone: 802-244-6850 Toll-free Helpline: 877-856-1772 Email: <a href="mailto:support1@biavt.org">support1@biavt.org</a></p> <p>Barb Winters, Program Manager/ Education and Outreach Coordinator/ Intake and Referral Specialist Email: <a href="mailto:braininfo1@biavt.org">braininfo1@biavt.org</a></p>	<p>The Brain Injury Association of Vermont is a statewide nonprofit organization that assists individuals with brain injuries and their families with gathering needed formal and informal supports. The Association has a toll-free helpline and support groups to help families and individuals meet the challenges of brain injuries.</p>
<b>BEST Project</b>	<p><a href="#">BEST Project</a> The Center on Disability and Community Inclusion University of Vermont Mann Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 208 Colchester Avenue Burlington, VT 05405-1757</p> <p>Phone: 802-656-5775</p> <p>Sherry Schoenberg, BEST Project Coordinator Phone: 802-656-9656 Email: <a href="mailto:sherry.schoenberg@uvm.edu">sherry.schoenberg@uvm.edu</a></p>	<p>The BEST Project is located at the Center on Disability and Community Inclusion and is supported by the Vermont State Agency of Education. The BEST Project supports Vermont schools by building capacity through more effective strategies and interventions to support students who are at risk of having or who have emotional or behavior challenges.</p>
<b>Capstone Community Action</b>	<p>Capstone Community Action 20 Gable Place Barre, VT 05641</p> <p>800-639-1053 802-479-1053</p> <p>Dan H. Hoxworth, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:dhoxworth@capstonevt.org">dhoxworth@capstonevt.org</a></p>	<p>Capstone Community Action is a nonprofit human service organization that provides comprehensive services to help people achieve economic well-being with dignity and develops partnerships to strengthen Vermont communities.</p>
<b>Champlain Valley Head Start</b>	<p><a href="#">Champlain Valley Head Start</a> 431 Pine Street Burlington, VT 05401</p> <p>Phone: 802-651-0983 Toll-free: 800-854-9648</p> <p>Paul Behrman, Director Phone: 802-651-4180 ext. 201 Email: <a href="mailto:pbehrman@cvoeo.org">pbehrman@cvoeo.org</a></p>	<p>Champlain Valley Head Start (CVHS) is a comprehensive early childhood development program servicing low-income children ages birth to five, and their families.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity</b>	<a href="#">Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity</a> 255 S. Champlain St. Burlington, VT 05401  Phone: 802-862-2771  Jan Demers, Executive Director Phone: 802-862-2771 ext. 740 Email: <a href="mailto:jdemers@cvoeo.org">jdemers@cvoeo.org</a>	The Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity (CVOEO) is a nonprofit corporation formed in 1965 to carry out the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in Vermont's Northwest Counties of Addison, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle. CVOEO provides individuals and families with the basic needs of food, fuel, and housing support in times of crisis, and to help them acquire the necessary education, financial skills, and assets to build a stable future in which they thrive. It is one of five Community Action Agencies in Vermont.
<b>Disability Law Project (DLP)/Vermont Legal Aid (VLA)</b>	<a href="#">Vermont Legal Aid</a> 57 North Main St., Suite 2 Rutland, VT 05701  Phone: 802-775-0021 Fax: 802-775-0022  Nancy Breiden, Director Email: <a href="mailto:NBreiden@vtlegalaid.org">NBreiden@vtlegalaid.org</a>	Vermont Legal Aid is a nonprofit law firm that provides free civil legal services for those living in poverty, with a disability, discriminated against in housing decisions, facing health care insurance or services challenges, and/or over age 60. The <b>Disability Law Project (DLP)</b> is a service of VLA. DLP provides a range of legal services from brief counsel and advice to full representation for eligible clients with developmental disabilities and their family members.
<b>Disability Rights Vermont</b>	<a href="#">Disability Rights Vermont</a> 141 Main St., STE. #7 Montpelier, VT 05602  Phone: 802-229-1355  Ed Paquin, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:Ed@DisabilityRightsVT.org">Ed@DisabilityRightsVT.org</a>	Disability Rights Vermont (DRVT) is a private, nonprofit corporation designated as Vermont's Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system to provide protection for the rights of persons with disabilities in Vermont through legally based advocacy.

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Downstreet Housing and Community Development</b>	<p><a href="#">Downstreet Housing and Community Development</a> 22 Keith Ave., Ste. 100 Barre, VT 05641</p> <p>Phone: 802-476-4493 Toll-free: 877-320-0663</p> <p>Eileen Peltier, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:epeltier@downstreet.org">epeltier@downstreet.org</a> Phone: 802-477-1335</p>	Downstreet Housing and Community Development is a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for long-term, safe, and decent housing for low income Vermont citizens and strives to create strong and diverse communities throughout Central Vermont.
<b>Good Samaritan Haven</b>	<p><a href="#">Good Samaritan Haven</a> 105 North Seminary Street Barre, VT 05641</p> <p>Phone: 802-479-2294 Email: <a href="mailto:info@goodsamaritanhaven.org">info@goodsamaritanhaven.org</a></p> <p>Brooke Jenkins, Executive Director Phone: 802-522-4493 Email: <a href="mailto:bjenkins@goodsamaritanhaven.org">bjenkins@goodsamaritanhaven.org</a></p>	Good Samaritan Haven is a nonprofit organization that offers short-term, emergency shelter to homeless adults in Washington, Lamoille, and Orange counties in Vermont.
<b>Howard Center</b>	<p><a href="#">Howard Center</a> 208 Flynn Avenue, Suite 3J Burlington, VT 05401</p> <p>Phone: 802-488-6000</p> <p>Delaina Norton Email: <a href="mailto:DelainaN@HowardCenter.org">DelainaN@HowardCenter.org</a> Phone: 802-488-6500</p>	Howard Center is the Chittenden County Designated Agency responsible for ensuring needed services are available to individuals with developmental disabilities, mental health, and/or substance abuse challenges by providing services directly or contracting with other providers or individuals.
<b>King Street Center</b>	<p><a href="#">King Street Center</a> 87 King Street P.O. Box 1615 Burlington, VT 05402</p> <p>Phone: 802-862-6736 Fax: 802-658-5328</p> <p>Vicky Smith, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:vicky@kingstreetcenter.org">vicky@kingstreetcenter.org</a></p>	King Street Center is a not-for-profit community organization that provides children and families the core life-building skills necessary for a healthy and productive future. King Street Center provides enriching activities, academic support, recreation activities, quality early childhood education and care for low-income families.

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Vermont</b>	<p><a href="#">National Alliance on Mental Illness</a> (NAMI) of Vermont 600 Blair Park Road, Suite 301 Williston, VT 05495</p> <p>Office: 802-876-7949 Toll-free: 800-639-6480 Email: <a href="mailto:info@namivt.org">info@namivt.org</a></p> <p>Laurie Emerson, Executive Director Phone: 802-876-7949 x 101 Email: <a href="mailto:lemerson@namivt.org">lemerson@namivt.org</a></p>	<p>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Vermont is a statewide volunteer organization comprised of family members, friends, and individuals living with a mental illness. NAMI Vermont offers family and peer recovery support groups as well as Family-to-Family, Mental Illness and Recovery, and Provider Education classes. With a dedicated board, over 100 volunteers, and four staff members, NAMI Vermont provides education, advocacy, and support to those in need.</p>
<b>National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Vermont</b>	<p>National Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society – Vermont 75 Talcott Rd, Suite 40 Williston, VT 05495</p> <p>Toll-free: 800-344-4867 Fax: 781-890-2089 Email: <a href="mailto:contactusnmss@nmss.org">contactusnmss@nmss.org</a></p> <p>David Young-Hong Phone: 781-693-5142 Email: <a href="mailto:david.young-hong@nmss.org">david.young-hong@nmss.org</a></p>	<p>The National Multiple Sclerosis Society helps each person affected by Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Vermont address the challenges of living with MS.</p>
<b>Pathways Vermont</b>	<p><a href="#">Pathways Vermont</a> 125 College Street, 2nd Floor Burlington, VT 05401</p> <p>Phone: 888-492-8218 Fax: 855-362-2766 Toll-free Support Line: 888-604-6412</p> <p>Patrick Gallagher, Community Relations Manager Phone: 888-492-8218 x 111 Email: <a href="mailto:pat@pathwaysvermont.org">pat@pathwaysvermont.org</a></p>	<p>Pathways Vermont is a nonprofit organization that provides choice, connection, and home to Vermonters who struggle with mental health challenges or homelessness.</p>



Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Sara Holbrook Community Center</b>	<p><a href="#">Sara Holbrook Community Center</a> Main Site 66 North Avenue Burlington, VT 05401</p> <p>Phone: 802-862-6342 Fax: 802-862-6342 Email: <a href="mailto:info@saraholbrookcc.org">info@saraholbrookcc.org</a></p> <p>Leisa Pollander, Executive Director Phone: 802-862-0080 Email: <a href="mailto:lpollander@saraholbrookcc.org">lpollander@saraholbrookcc.org</a></p>	<p>The Sara Holbrook Community Center (SHCC) is a nonprofit organization with two locations in Burlington, Vermont, that provides a myriad of programs to meet the needs of low-income children and their families, including immigrant and refugee populations.</p>
<b>U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) /Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (VRRP)</b>	<p><a href="#">USCRI/VRRP</a> 462 Hegeman Ave, Suite 101 Colchester, VT 05446</p> <p>Phone: 802-655-1963 Fax: 802-655-4020 Email: <a href="mailto:volunteer@uscrtv.org">volunteer@uscrtv.org</a></p> <p><a href="#">Facebook</a></p> <p>Amila Merdzanovic, Director Email: <a href="mailto:amerdzanovic@uscrtv.org">amerdzanovic@uscrtv.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program (USCRI/VRRP) opens doors in the Burlington, Vermont, area for people who have lost or left their homes, such as refugees and asylees. VRRP is Vermont's local field office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI).</p>
<b>Vermont Adult Learning</b>	<p>Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) 60 South Main Street Waterbury, VT 05676</p> <p>Toll-free: 800-322-4004 Fax: 802-244-0623 Email: <a href="mailto:info@vtadultlearning.org">info@vtadultlearning.org</a></p> <p>Pixie Loomis, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:mploomis@vtadultlearning.org">mploomis@vtadultlearning.org</a></p>	<p>Vermont Adult Learning (VAL) is a private, nonprofit organization that provides basic skills instruction, high school completion, transition to college and career services, and English language instruction for new Americans, including immigrants, refugees and asylees. VAL is a recognized essential partner in an integrated fabric of services assuring that every Vermonter has access to opportunities for advancement.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired</a>            South Burlington (Main Office)            60 Kimball Avenue            South Burlington, VT 05403</p> <p>Phone: 802-863-1358            Toll free: 800-639-5861            Email: <a href="mailto:general@vabvi.org">general@vabvi.org</a></p> <p>Stephanie Bissonette, Supervisor of Children’s Services            Email: <a href="mailto:sbissonette@vabvi.org">sbissonette@vabvi.org</a></p> <p>Dan Norris, Supervisor of Adult Services            Email: <a href="mailto:dnorris@vabvi.org">dnorris@vabvi.org</a></p> <p>Steve Pouliot, Executive Director            Email: <a href="mailto:spouliot@vabvi.org">spouliot@vabvi.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) is a nonprofit organization that offers training, services, and support to Vermont citizens with visual impairments.</p>
<b>Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery</b>	<p>Vermont Association for Mental Health &amp; Addiction Recovery            100 State Street, Suite 352            Montpelier, VT 05602</p> <p>Phone: 802-223-6263            Email: <a href="mailto:info@VAMHAR.org">info@VAMHAR.org</a></p> <p>Peter Espenshade, President            802-223-6263 x 101  <a href="mailto:peter@VAMHAR.org">peter@VAMHAR.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery (VAMHAR) is a statewide, nonprofit organization that assists Vermonters who are affected by mental health and addiction issues, as well as peers and professionals who are working in the field. The Vermont Association for Mental Health &amp; Addiction Recovery is also known as PEAR Vermont/PEAR-VT.</p>
<b>Vermont Care Partners</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Care Partners</a>            137 Elm Street            Montpelier, VT 05602</p> <p>Phone: 802-223-1773            Email: <a href="mailto:contact@vermontcarepartners.org">contact@vermontcarepartners.org</a></p> <p>Simone Rueschemeyer            Email: <a href="mailto:Simone@vermontcarepartners.org">Simone@vermontcarepartners.org</a></p>	<p>Vermont Care Partners (VCP) is a collaboration between the Vermont Council (VCP’s advocacy and policy arm) and the Vermont Care Network (VCP’s business and innovation arm). VCP is Vermont’s statewide provider network for 16 nonprofit, community-based agencies that specialize in mental health, substance use disorder, and developmental disability services.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Center for Children, Youth, and Families</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Center for Children, Youth, &amp; Families Clinic</a>            UHC Campus            Arnold 3            1 South Prospect            Burlington, VT 05401</p> <p>Phone: 802-847-4563            Intake number: 802-847-2224            Fax: 802-847-7998</p> <p>Eliza Pillard, Child Psychiatry Resource Consultant, Wellness Coach            Phone: 802-847-9759            Email: <a href="mailto:eliza.pillard@vtmednet.org">eliza.pillard@vtmednet.org</a></p> <p>James Hudziak, M.D., VCCYF Director, Professor, Psychiatry, Medicine, Pediatrics            Phone: 802-656-1084            Email: <a href="mailto:james.hudziak@uvm.edu">james.hudziak@uvm.edu</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Center for Children, Youth, and Families is housed within the Department of Psychiatry and encompasses research at the University of Vermont, patient care at the University of Vermont Medical Center, and information for Primary Care Providers in the State of Vermont. The Center brings together faculty, staff, and trainees from psychiatry, psychology, social work, nursing, and genetics to fulfill our multiple missions of helping children and families with psychiatric illness, training the next generation of clinicians in integrated family-based health promotion approaches, and performing critical research on genetic and environmental influences of important emotional and behavioral disorders of childhood and adolescence.</p>
<b>Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)</a>            11 East State St.            Montpelier, VT 05602</p> <p>Phone: 802-229-0501 (voice / TTY)            Toll-free: 800-639-1522 (voice / TTY)            Fax: 802-229-0503            Videophone: 802-662-1153            Email: <a href="mailto:info@vcil.org">info@vcil.org</a></p> <p>Sarah Launderville, Executive Director            Email: <a href="mailto:slaunderville@vcil.org">slaunderville@vcil.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL), a nonprofit organization directed and staffed by individuals with disabilities, works to promote the dignity, independence, and civil rights of Vermonters with disabilities. Like other independent living centers across the country, VCIL is committed to cross-disability services, the promotion of active citizenship and working with others to create services that support self-determination and full participation in community life.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC)</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council (VTDDC)</a>            103 South Main Street            One North, Suite 117            Waterbury, VT 05671-0206</p> <p>Phone: 802-828-1310            Toll Free: 888-317-2006            Fax: 802-828-1321            E-mail: <a href="mailto:vtddc@state.vt.us">vtddc@state.vt.us</a></p> <p>Kirsten Murphy, acting Executive Director and Policy Analyst            Email: <a href="mailto:Kirsten.Murphy@vermont.gov">Kirsten.Murphy@vermont.gov</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council is a statewide board that works to increase public awareness, policy advocacy, and leadership training about critical issues affecting people with developmental disabilities and their families. In addition to state agency and nonprofit representatives, 14 of its 23 members (61%) are self-advocates and family members.</p>
<b>Vermont Family Network</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Family Network</a>            600 Blair Park Road, Suite 240            Williston, VT 05495</p> <p>Phone: 802-876-5315            Toll-free: 800-800-4005</p> <p>Pam McCarthy, CEO/President            Email: <a href="mailto:pam.mccarthy@vtfm.org">pam.mccarthy@vtfm.org</a></p> <p>Karen Price, Education Director            Email: <a href="mailto:karen.price@vtfm.org">karen.price@vtfm.org</a></p>	<p>Vermont Family Network (VFN) promotes better health, education, and well-being for all children and families in Vermont, with a focus on children and young adults with special needs. Vermont Family Network serves as Vermont's Parent Training and Information (PTI) Center, Family to Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC), Parent to Parent, and Family Voices organization.</p>
<b>Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health</a>            600 Blair Park Road            P.O. Box 1577            Williston, VT 05495</p> <p>Toll-free: 800-639-6071</p> <p>Kathy Holsopple, Executive Director            Email: <a href="mailto:kholsoipple@vffcmh.org">kholsoipple@vffcmh.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (VFFCMH) is an organization staffed by family members, which supports families whose children are experiencing or are at risk to experience emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team)</b>	<p><a href="#">The Center on Disability and Community Inclusion</a>            University of Vermont            Mann Hall, 3rd Floor, 208 Colchester Avenue            Burlington, VT 05405-1757</p> <p>Phone: 802-656-1132            Fax: 802-656-3636</p> <p>Darren McIntyre, Director            Email: <a href="mailto:darren.mcintyre@uvm.edu">darren.mcintyre@uvm.edu</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team) is a team of Educational Consultants, Related Services Consultants, and Family Resources Consultants, which provides support to IEP teams for students with intensive needs. The I-Team is a project of The Center on Disability and Community Inclusion—The Vermont University Center on Disability and Community at the University of Vermont.</p>
<b>Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (VT LEND)</b>	<p><a href="#">The University of Vermont College of Medicine</a>            VT LEND            477 RE4 (Room 4318, Rehab Wing, UHC)            1 South Prospect St.            Burlington, VT 05401-3456</p> <p>Phone: 802-656-0204            Fax: 802-656-9523</p> <p>Mary Alice Favaro, Associate Training Director            Email: <a href="mailto:maryalice.favro@med.uvm.edu">maryalice.favro@med.uvm.edu</a></p>	<p>Vermont Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (VT LEND) program provides long-term, graduate level interdisciplinary training to health and education professionals. VT LEND is a competency based program aimed at inter-professional leadership training. The five competencies are cultural competence, family-centered care, inter-professional collaborative teaming, neurodevelopmental disabilities including autism, and leadership.</p>
<b>Vermont Legal Aid</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Legal Aid (VLA)</a>            264 North Winooski Avenue            Burlington VT 05402</p> <p>Additional offices in Burlington, Montpelier, Rutland, Springfield, and St. Johnsbury</p> <p>Phone: 802-863-5620            Fax: 802-863-7152</p> <p>Eric Avildsen, Executive Director            Email: <a href="mailto:EAvildsen@vtlegalaid.org">EAvildsen@vtlegalaid.org</a></p>	<p>Vermont Legal Aid (VLA) is a statewide, nonprofit firm that provides civil legal services for Vermont citizens living in poverty, with a disability, or over age 60. In addition, VLA provides services to individuals who experience discrimination in housing decisions and all who face challenges related to health care insurance or services.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Medical Society</b>	<p><a href="#">Vermont Medical Society</a>            PO Box 1457            134 Main Street            Montpelier, VT 05601</p> <p>Phone: 802-223-7898            Fax: 802-223-1201</p> <p>Jessa Barnard, Esq.,            Vice President for Policy            Phone: 802-223-7898 Ext. 16            Email: <a href="mailto:jbarnard@vtmd.org">jbarnard@vtmd.org</a></p>	<p>The Vermont Medical Society is the leading voice of physicians in the state and is dedicated to advancing the practice of medicine by advocating on behalf of Vermont's doctors and the patients and communities they care for. The Society serves its 2,000 members through public policy advocacy on the state and federal levels, as well as by providing legal, administrative, and educational support, producing a rich flow of news and information and offering member benefits that increase medical practice effectiveness and efficiency.</p>
<b>Vermont Military Family Community Network</b>	<p>Vermont Military Family Community Network            Task Source Inc. – Contractor            789 National Guard Road            Colchester, VT 05446</p> <p>Ms. Miriam G. Boyle, State Family Program Coordinator            Phone: 802-338-3364            Cell: 802-310-5609</p>	<p>The Vermont Military Family Community Network (VTMFCN) is a network of military and civilian service providers, Family Program staff, and community partners from around the state focused on improving the lives of veterans, service members, and their families in Vermont.</p>
<b>Vermont Psychiatric Survivors</b>	<p>Vermont Psychiatric Survivors            128 Merchants Row            Suite 606            Rutland, VT 05701</p> <p>Phone: 802-775-6834            Email: <a href="mailto:info@vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org">info@vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org</a></p> <p>Wilda L. White, Executive Director            Email: <a href="mailto:wilda@vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org">wilda@vermontpsychiatricsurvivors.org</a></p>	<p>Vermont Psychiatric Survivors, Inc. (VPS) is an independent, survivor-run, statewide organization founded in 1983 to provide education, advocacy, and technical assistance to people who have been marginalized because of psychiatric labels.</p>

Organization	Contact information	Organization description
<b>Vermont Statewide independent living council</b>	<a href="#">Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council</a> PO Box 56 Winooski, VT 05404  Statewide Independent Living Council PO Box 9374 South Burlington, VT 05407  Phone: 802-233-4908  Peter Kriff, Executive Director Email: <a href="mailto:vtzilcpeter@gmail.com">vtzilcpeter@gmail.com</a>	The Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, consumer controlled organization. The council is composed of 21 appointees from around the state— the majority of whom have disabilities— representing diverse cultures and needs in the state. The SILC is responsible for the development, implementation, and monitoring of the 3-year Statewide Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The Council is jointly responsible for the SPIL with its state plan partners —The Vermont State Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) and the Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI).
<b>Visiting Nurses Association (VNAs) of Vermont</b>	VNAs of Vermont 137 Elm Street, #3 Montpelier, VT 05602  Phone: 802-229-0579 Fax: 802-223-6218 Email: <a href="mailto:vnavt@comcast.net">vnavt@comcast.net</a>	The VNAs of Vermont is a nonprofit, professional trade association that provides one voice in the national and Vermont political arenas. The 10 nonprofit VNAs of Vermont (VNAVt) members provide home health care and hospice statewide.

## Resource Categorization By Organization

The information in this section presents categorization of the services and resources of each partner organization interviewed for the Resource Report. Categorization is based on the organization's mission/vision and the services/resources they provide. The information is provided in a table format (see following page) and is intended to assist schools in identifying potential community partners to address specific issues and/or unmet needs of the school and its families and students. These are all school-community resources that schools may use to address a variety of needs.

### Organizational Category Definitions

*Inclusive school resources* provide outreach or support services/resources that schools can use to establish effective, inclusive practices (e.g., facilitating school-community partnerships, training on specific disabilities for school staff, free student curriculum for schools on inclusion).

*Disability-specific resources* serve, support, and provide resources to and/or about individuals within a specific disability population (e.g., blind, developmental disability, Down syndrome, autism, mental health) and their family members.

*Advocacy resources* provide advocacy support related to individuals with disabilities and/or their families (e.g., policy and systemic, educational, and self) at the state, local, and individual level.

*Individual and family support resources* provide services or support to individuals and/or families across multiple domains (i.e., healthcare, information and referral, direct service provision, material/financial, social/emotional, recreational):

- *Healthcare services* support families in (a) navigating the health care system and/or (b) acquiring needed health care, including hosting dental clinics or mental health services in schools.
- *Information and referral services* provide families with information in various forms (e.g., workshops, trainings, webinars, individual consultation) and assist families in identifying key organizations that provide needed supports.
- *Direct service provision* provides services to an individual or family; may be free, private pay, or insurance pay.
- *Material/financial services* assist families in obtaining material goods (e.g., food, clothes) or financial assistance (e.g., funds for services, scholarships).
- *Social/emotional services* provide support such as family-to-family, peer-to-peer, family support groups, hotlines/helplines to support families and/or their family members.
- *Recreational services* provide opportunities for recreational activities or events.

*Professional support resources* are resources available to a variety of professionals (e.g., educators, community healthcare workers, emergency response teams) in the community and may consist of information, training, or resources to enhance professionals' capacity to meet the needs of families.



*Statewide organizations with individual projects or local affiliates* are organizations with (a) projects that provide training, technical assistance, service, research, and/or information sharing to individuals, families, professionals and/or community members or (b) local affiliates that provide various services/resources at the state level and act as a parent organization to local community affiliates (e.g., chapters, boards) that they support.

*Regional services* are services provided by an organization within a specific geographical region of the state.

## Resource Categorization by Organization Table

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity			•		•	•	•	•	•	•				•
Disability Law Project / Vermont Legal Aid			•	•			•	•						
Disability Rights Vermont			•	•			•	•						
<u>Downstreet</u> Housing and Community Development							•	•	•					
Good Samaritan Haven							•	•	•					•
Howard Center		•				•	•	•				•		•

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
King Street Center								•	•	•	•			•
National Alliance on Mental Illness of Vermont	•	•	•		•		•				•		•	
National Multiple Sclerosis Society – Vermont		•	•			•	•		•	•		•		
Pathways Vermont		•					•	•	•	•		•		
Sara Holbrook Community Center				•			•	•	•		•			•

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants / Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program						•	•	•	•	•				•
Vermont Adult Learning				•			•	•						•
Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired	•	•		•			•	•		•				
Vermont Association for Mental Health and Addiction Recovery		•	•				•	•		•	•			

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
Vermont Care Partners		•	•				•	•				•		
Vermont Center for Children, Youth, and Families		•					•	•						
Vermont Center for Independent Living			•		•		•	•	•	•				
Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council		•	•		•		•		•					
Vermont Family Network				•	•	•	•	•	•	•				

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health		•	•	•			•				•			
Vermont Interdisciplinary Team (I-Team)	•			•			•	•				•		
Vermont Leadership Education in <u>Neurodevelopmental</u> and Related Disabilities												•		
Vermont Legal Aid			•				•	•					•	
Vermont Medical Society			•									•		

Organization	Inclusive school resource	Disability-specific resource	Advocacy			Individual/Family support resources						Professional support resource	Statewide organization with individual projects or local affiliates	Regional service
			Policy and Systemic	Educational	Self	Health Care	Information and Referral	Direct Service Provision	Material/Financial Support	Social/Emotional Support	Recreational Support			
Vermont Military Family Community Network							•							
Vermont Psychiatric Survivors		•	•		•		•	•		•				
Vermont Statewide Independent Living Council	•		•				•				•	•		
Visiting Nurses Association of Vermont						•	•	•						•

## References

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