

Status of H.171 / Act 45

Implementation Status as of May 2022

In 2021, with the tri-partisan passage of H.171/Act 45 (the child care bill), Vermont set the stage for true child care reform. This bill laid the foundation for the accessible, affordable, high-quality, equitable child care system our children, families, communities, and economies need in the future, as well as \$12.7 million in immediate investments to stabilize Vermont's early childhood education system.

H.171/Act 45 charts a course for a transformed child care system in Vermont, guided by two goals:

1. Families do not spend more than 10% of their gross annual income on child care, and
2. Early childhood educators receive compensation that is commensurate with peers in other fields.

See below for an update on the status of implementation of this important piece of legislation:

INVESTMENT	STATUS
<p>Family Affordability: \$5.5 million to continue the transformation of Vermont's Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) by expanding eligibility to more families, reducing family co-pays, and increasing reimbursements made to child care programs. Made possible by a \$4.5 million investment in FY22 budget to upgrade the IT system used to administer Vermont's early childhood education system.</p>	<p>DELAYED. Implementation of CCFAP changes on hold until completion of the first module of the new child care IT system, which is delayed until July 3, 2022. CDD is currently offering a temporary 20% increase in CCFAP payments through the current IT system. Eligibility expansion will not occur until IT upgrades are completed.</p>
<p>Workforce Supports: \$2.5 million to stabilize and strengthen Vermont's early childhood education workforce through scholarships for current and prospective early educators and a student loan repayment assistance program.</p>	<p>ON SCHEDULE. Funds for existing scholarships have been awarded. Contracts for new programs (scholarships for prospective educators and student loan repayment program) have been awarded. New programs expected to be in place by Summer 2022.</p>
<p>Systems Analysis: \$200,000 to conduct an analysis of Vermont's existing child care and early childhood education governance system.</p>	<p>ON SCHEDULE. Work underway, including an advisory group with legislative representation. Final report due to Legislature July 1, 2022.</p>
<p>Child Care Financing Study: Language authorizing a study to determine cost of and potential long-term, stable funding sources for a transformed child care system. (\$\$ not included in H.171/Act 45)</p>	<p>AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. JFO given authority in H.679 to move forward with study ahead of schedule. Joint Fiscal Office currently reviewing bids for contractor to complete study. Final report due to Legislature January 15, 2023.</p>

Thank you for your support of H.171/Act 45. Because of your work, this bill has and will continue to make a difference, and we are closer to achieving the early childhood system Vermonters need and deserve. We look forward to the work to come to achieve the goals and vision outlined in H.171/Act 45, and to ensure the bill is fully implemented. **When we're successful, Vermont will truly be the best place to live, work, and play.**

Questions about this document? Please contact:

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