

Montpelier, VT – The Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality Affordable Childcare Announces Community Forums

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality Affordable Child Care was formed because the state recognizes Vermonters’ need to access high-quality affordable childcare. Combining the fact that 90 percent of brain development occurs in the first five years of life and the fact that more than 70 percent of Vermont children under age six have all available parents in the labor force, making high quality programs available to all children in Vermont is essential. Such programs are crucial to giving children a strong foundation for future success in school, relationships and life. Additionally, easing childcare challenges for working parents creates a stronger, more stable workforce. Moreover, every dollar invested in high quality early education and care is helping to ensure a more prosperous future for the entire state.

To help ensure the Blue Ribbon Commission on Financing High-Quality, Affordable Child Care learns from Vermonters about their child care needs and challenges, it will be holding community forums in the following locations at the following times:

Monday July 25th

5:00 – 6:30pm	St. Johnsbury	Vermont Department of Health, AHS Conference Room 107 Eastern Avenue
5:00 – 6:30pm	Burlington	Champlain Senior Center, 241 N. Winooski Ave.
7:30 – 9:00pm	Barre	Aldrich Public Library, 6 Washington St.

Tuesday July 26th:

5:30 – 7:00pm	Rutland	CVPS-Leahy Community Education Center at Rutland Regional Medical Center (Conference Rooms B and C) 160 Allen St.
5:30 – 7:00pm	Brattleboro	Winston Prouty Center, Vermont Hall, 209 Austine Dr.

These will be listening forums, where the purpose is to hear from the public on the following three questions:

1. What would help you the most with respect to accessing high-quality child care?
2. What are the responsibilities of Vermont to help ensure all Vermonters have access to high-quality child care?
3. What should we do to make accessible, high-quality child care more affordable in Vermont?

We would emphasize that these forums are for all Vermonters, not just parents of young children, but also providers, businesses, community members, and anyone who has an opinion about how we, as a state, should support our children and families. Additionally, we will be sending out an online survey after the forums to ensure everyone has a chance to respond to these questions even if they cannot attend.

The Blue Ribbon Commission thanks you in advance for your input and participation. We look forward to hearing from you.