



CITY OF BURLINGTON, VERMONT
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT &
NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE
c/o Community & Economic Development Office
City Hall, Room 32 • 149 Church Street • Burlington, VT 05401
802-865-7144 VOX • 802-865-7024 FAX • www.burlingtonvt.gov/cedo

Councilor Brian Pine, Chair, Ward 3
Councilor Sarah Carpenter, Ward 4
Councilor Zoraya Hightower, Ward 1

Thursday, March 31st, 2021
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
When: Mar 31, 2021 05:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Topic: CDNR Committee Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85386318474>

Telephone: +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 853 8631 8474

To participate in public forum please email Christine Curtis before or during the meeting: ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov. Comments can also be made during the meeting by using the raise hand function or the chat function.

Draft Agenda

1. Approve agenda
2. Approve minutes: 2/25/21
3. Public Forum
4. Early Learning Initiative (ELI) update – Rebecca Reese, CEDO
5. Continued discussion about creating a local "Council on Aging" and other ideas to support the needs of older Burlington residents
6. Other business
7. Set date for next committee meeting/Adjournment

The programs and services of the City of Burlington are accessible to people with disabilities.
For accessibility information, call 865-7144. For questions about the meeting,
contact Christine Curtis at ccurtis@burlingtonvt.gov



Need help paying for child care?

Your child may qualify for the First Steps Scholarship Program



City of Burlington Early Learning Initiative
CDNR March 2021 Update

ELI Community Success

1. Capacity Grant Program

38% increase in number of high-quality child care slots for children 0-3

2. First Steps Scholarship Program

57 scholarships awarded to eligible families: **81% enrollment rate**

23 children placed in the pilot year, 2019-2020

34 children placed in 2020-2021

ELI Capacity Grant Program Results

Three years, **\$681,624** capacity grant funds spent to create up to **92** new high quality spots, stabilize **166** spots, and 4 grant funded projects create **8** new full-time positions:

Center	Total spots	Funding totals
YMCA	38 newly created, opened early 2020	\$130,000
Sara Holbrook Community Center	8 newly created, opened 2020	\$150,000
Burlington Children's Space	51 stabilized through building ownership	\$150,000 (2-installments)
Champlain Valley Head Start	23 newly created, opened 2020	\$90,849
Pine Forest	69 stabilized and future expansion planning	\$50,000 (2 grants)
Full Circle Preschool	4 newly created and already enrolled	\$19,000 (2 grants)
Robin's Nest	46 improved by teacher/director certification	\$10,275
The Family Room	Community center stabilized; CCFAP start	\$45,000
Fletcher Free Library	50 students reached at home-based centers	\$17,300
Next Generation – Burlington	18 newly created, opened 2020	\$19,200

First Steps Scholarship Program



Eligibility requirements

- Be Burlington residents
- Meet income requirements
 - 65% AMI - \$59,540 for family of 4
 - 80% AMI - \$73,350 for family of 4
- Child must be under 3 by September 1, 2021
- Must be enrolling in full time care – at least 26 hours a week

First Steps is designed to layer local dollars on top of state subsidy funding (CCFAP)

Adjustments ensured success despite pandemic

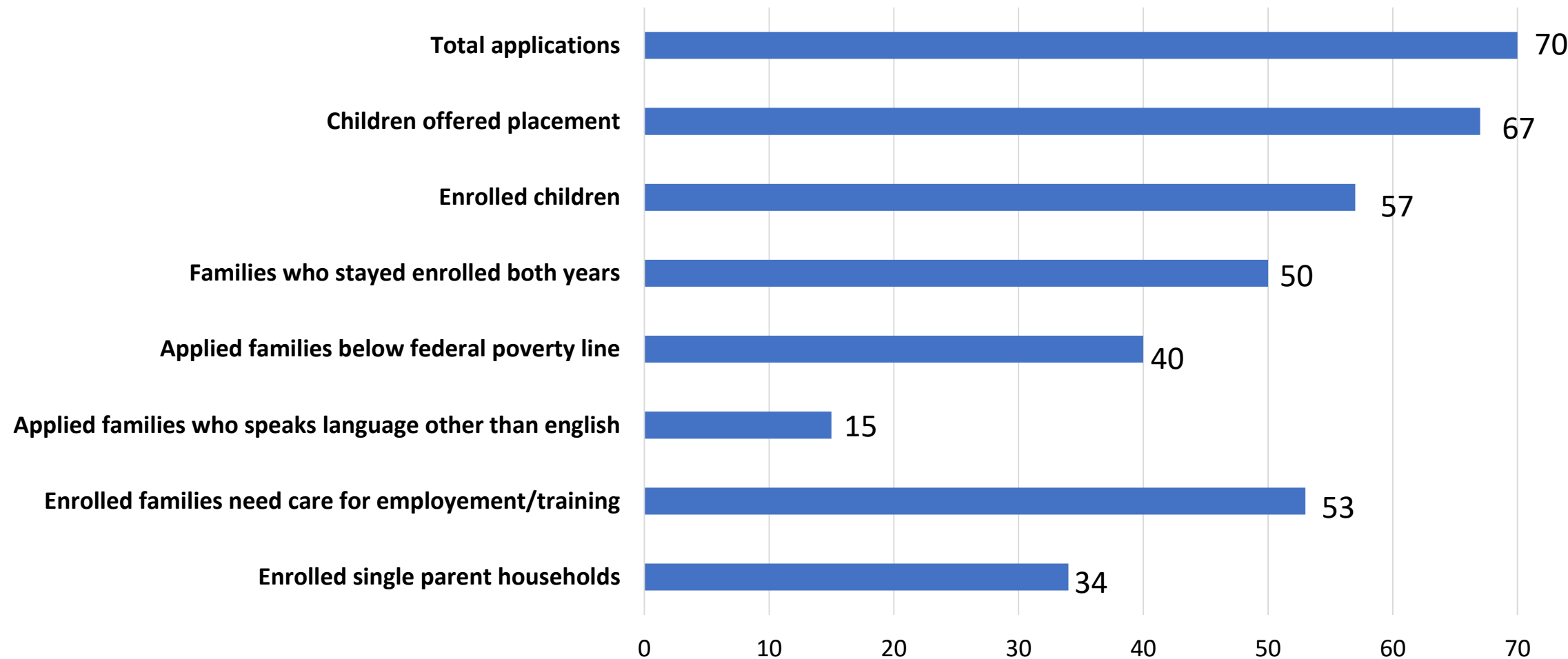
Initial adjustments for 2020-2021 school year

- Limiting copayments to 5% of family income
- Creating a scholarship tuition minimum paid to partner programs

Further adjustments directly related to COVID-19 pandemic

- Allowing children already enrolled in care, but experiencing a financial hardship to apply
- Rolling applications and enrollments
- Increasing qualifying household income to 80% AMI - \$73,350 for family of 4
- Increasing scholarship totals to support families and remove copays through June 2021

ELI First Steps Scholarship Program Families



Number of student enrollments, organized by partner program

Program Name	Town	2019-2020 Enrolled	2020-2021 Enrolled
Little Lakers Academy	Colchester	4*^	1
Ascension Childcare, Inc.	Shelburne	2	1
Robin's Nest Child Center	Burlington	3	4
Burlington Children's Space	Burlington	3^	5
Pine Forest Children's Center	Burlington	5	7*
King Street Center	Burlington	1	1
Twin Oaks Kids & Fitness	South Burlington	1	3
Greater Burlington YMCA	Burlington	3*	3*
Stonewood North School	Shelburne	1*	
Frog and Toad Child Care and Learning Center	Burlington		1
Next Generation Burlington Campus	Burlington		6
Heartworks Preschool	Burlington	1	1
Carolyn's Red Balloon Enrichment Center	Colchester		1*

*one of these children no longer participates in First Steps

^one of these children changed to a different program

13 partner programs, 11 with active enrollments

Scholarship costs and increased tuition dollars

Scholarship totals

- Total for 2019-2020 \$92,777.49
\$4,034/ family average
 - Estimated total for 2020-2021 \$168,485.11
\$ 5,106/ family average
- *with increased scholarships Jan to June 2021

CCFAP totals, **nearly a 2:1 ratio of state vs local dollars**

- Total for 2019-2020 \$222,957
- Estimated total for 2020-2021 \$293,245

Community Testimonials

The additional and reliable ELI First Steps Scholarship funding has allowed -

- 4 partner programs to increase teacher compensation.
- 6 partner programs the ability to accept more CCFAP students.
- 1 partner program to keep tuition rates stable for the first time in years.

Families are equally impacted --

- An enrolled family was able to stay in high-quality care because the sibling was allowed to enroll in the scholarship.
- A family had their work-hours cut and the scholarship allowed them to afford childcare and keep their job.

2021-2022, coming school year

- Up to 20 new spots already committed
- Marketing outreach starting April/May for June and September enrollments
- Outreach partnership with BSD and Head Start
- Addressing findings from the New American Childcare Needs Survey
- Working closely with City economic recovery team

Questions or Comments?



**Department of Disabilities, Aging and
Independent Living
Commissioner's Office**
280 State Drive/HC 2 South
Waterbury, VT 05671-2020
www.dail.vermont.gov

[phone] 802-241-2401
[fax] 802-241-0386

Agency of Human Services

March 26, 2021

Dear Members of the Burlington City Council Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee,

This letter is to express the support of the Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living (DAIL) for the creation of a Burlington "Council on Aging." DAIL's mission is to make Vermont the best state in which to grow old or live with a disability - with dignity, respect and independence. DAIL oversees the development and implementation of the Vermont State Plan on Aging, and we work collaboratively with a multitude of partners in the Aging Services Network, including Area Agencies on Aging, long-term care facilities, home health agencies, SASH, senior centers and many more, to ensure that older Vermonters' voices are heard, their many contributions are valued, and their needs for safety, care and support are met in the setting of their choice.

We also recognize that the work to make Vermont an age-friendly state requires engagement and investment at the local level and across all sectors. Every Vermont city and town has a critical role to play to ensure older Vermonters are treated equitably and that our communities are welcoming and inclusive places for people of all ages. By creating a council on aging with a focus on supporting older residents of Burlington, the city has an opportunity to make Burlington a more livable community for all and become a model for other municipalities across the state.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of having a strong network of support for older Vermonters who were more vulnerable to serious illness and death. Now is the time to build on the good work done in Burlington to protect older residents during the pandemic and strengthen the community even further through ongoing, dedicated focus on aging well via a council on aging.

DAIL is supportive of this proposal and looks forward to working with the council in the future to further align statewide and local efforts.

Sincerely,

Monica White

Monica White, Interim Commissioner
Vermont Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living



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Committee members: Chair Brian Pine (BP), Sarah Carpenter (SC), Zoraya Hightower (ZH)

City staff: Christine Curtis

Other Attendees: Christie Delphia; Rebecca Reese, CEDO; Cameron Segal, Living Well Group; Angela Smith-Dieng; Heather Filonow; Kelly Stoddard-Poor, AARP; Marcella Gange, CEDO; Megan Humphrey, HANDS; Molly Dugan

Wednesday, March 31, 2021

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Draft Minutes

Meeting Started at 5:30 PM

1. Approve agenda

MOTION by Councilor Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to adopt the agenda as presented

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

2. Approve minutes: 2/25/21

MOTION by Councilor Hightower, SECOND by Councilor Carpenter, to approve the minutes as presented

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.

3. Public Forum

Christie Delphia – reported on housing issues and Code Enforcement.

4. Early Learning Initiative (ELI) update – Rebecca Reese, CEDO

- Discussed the Annual Report for ELI.

- Presented on ELI Community Success and First Steps scholarship program (57 scholarships awarded).
- SC asked what City funds are contributed to this program. RR responded utility funds.
- BP asked if there is a decrease in slots. RR stated that some facilities closed recently but, have not seen an impact yet.
- ZH asked how many households does this program reach. RR said a general number is 70% are looking for care/161 families each year.
- The Committee thanked Rebecca for the presentation and stated she might want to present to City Council as well.

5. Continued discussion about creating a local "Council on Aging" and other ideas to support the needs of older Burlington residents

- Cameron Segal presented to the Committee "Framework Development for a Burlington Aging Council".
- Unlike other Boards and Committees, this group recommends this Council be created by City Council resolution.
- Older residents of Burlington must be valued members of the community.
- Focus areas this Council will focus on: Health Prevention, Access and Quality, Food Security, Multimodal Transportation, Accessible Outdoor and Indoor Public Spaces, Housing, Social Inclusion, Technology, Civic Engagement & Volunteerism, Industry Support, Family caregiver support.
- Membership makeup: No more than 15 members serving 2-year, staggered terms with an elected Committee Chair. City of Burlington support as a representative from CEDO.
- Burlington Plan on Aging that would be updated every 4 years based off of the Vermont State Plan.
- Potential State-wide model for other towns and cities in Vermont.
- The community is massively supporting this effort and letters are forthcoming.
- BP stated that budget season is coming up for City Council so if CEDO staff will be needed to support this Council, they should put together a budget now to provide funding.
- SC stated the CDNR Committee needs to wrap this in a resolution soon and present it to City Council. A discussion needs to happen with CEDO to ensure support can be provided.
- ZH brought up the continued engagement point from the presentation and wanted to hear more. Would also like this Council to engage more with CDNR. Kelly Stoddard-Poor stated that they want to set some benchmarks

and have a direct line of communication with City Council and Mayor. Quarterly or mid-year check-ins to discuss recommendations.

- SC stated this Council will need staff support and structure, will need to engage CEDO and discuss their budget and staff availability.
- Next steps: BP is assuming that this CDNR Committee will remain the same and if so, would like to draft a resolution soon to present to City Council. BP is going to send presentation to a staff person to begin drafting a resolution to move forward.
- Marcella will follow up with CEDO Acting Director on supporting this new Council. BP wants Marcella to draft a staff budget.

6. Other Business

Christine Curtis requested that CEDO be allowed to present the Annual Action Plan at an upcoming April meeting. Tentatively, the Committee is thinking of an April 15th date. If CEDO needs more time to present a more completed Action plan to CDNR, SC stated they might be able to schedule a meeting in early May before the Action Plan goes to City Council for approval.

7. Set date for next committee meeting/Adjournment

MOTION by Councilor Carpenter, SECOND by Councilor Hightower, to adjourn meeting at 7:11 PM.

VOTING: unanimous; motion carries.