

 <b>VERMONT</b> DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	<h1>GM: 15.2</h1>
Children's Integrated Services Guidance Manual	Chapter 15: Community Partnerships
Updated as of: June 2016	

## CIS and Head Start/Early Head Start Memorandum of Understanding

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### MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

#### **Vermont Department for Children and Families Vermont Head Start Association May 2011**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Agreement is to reinforce our commitment to supporting operating partnerships between the Department for Children and Families, Family Services, Child Development and Economic Services (Reach Up) Divisions and Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Head Start Collaboration Office. These partnerships focus on outreach and services to children and families to improve access and continuity of comprehensive, high quality services which promote child wellbeing and family strength.

This Agreement is designed to offer guidance for developing statewide, regional and local agreements intended to improve coordination of services to children and families and to strengthen relationships between agencies and programs.

#### **Strengthening Families**

Strengthening Families, an initiative of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, is an approach to work with children and families which focuses on building five research-based, protective factors with families aimed at:

- preventing child abuse and neglect,
- promoting optimal child development, and
- building financial security.

Those protective factors have been identified as hallmarks of family strength and they allow families to create healthy, nurturing environments which promote the positive development of children.

**Participants in this Agreement pledge to focus on the reduction of risk for children and families through the constructive building of the following protective factors to ensure the safety, health and financial stability of families so that children can be raised successfully in their own homes.**

- ✦ **Parental Resilience:** the capacity to cope with all types of challenges
- ✦ **Social Connections:** positive relationships with friends, family members, neighbors, and others who can provide concrete and emotional support to parents