

What is the SSIP Phase III?

Begun in 2015, Vermont’s State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is now in the Implementation and Evaluation phase, commonly referred to as Phase III. During this phase, the State will assess and report on how well:

Families are able to help their infants and toddlers develop and learn functional social and/or emotional skills, and infants and toddlers substantially improve their social and/or emotional functional development.

Four Main Interconnected Strategies:

Targeted Supports:

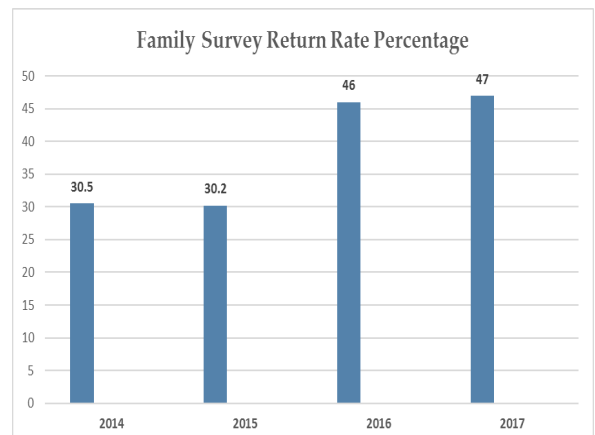
The regions implementing targeted supports to improve children’s social and emotional development have been fully applying their identified strategies and collecting data since January 2017. Brattleboro, Hartford, and Bennington will meet in September to review their data and determine any opportunities or adjustments that need to be made within their strategies. Every region has noted based on data collection, that they are seeing gains within their identified cohorts of children. It is too soon to tell if this is due to the general increased focus of practitioners on functional social and emotional skill development or due specifically to the targeted supports being used with these children and their families. The regions are hoping to have sufficient data by January 2018 to share what they are seeing with the full state.

Infrastructure Alignment:

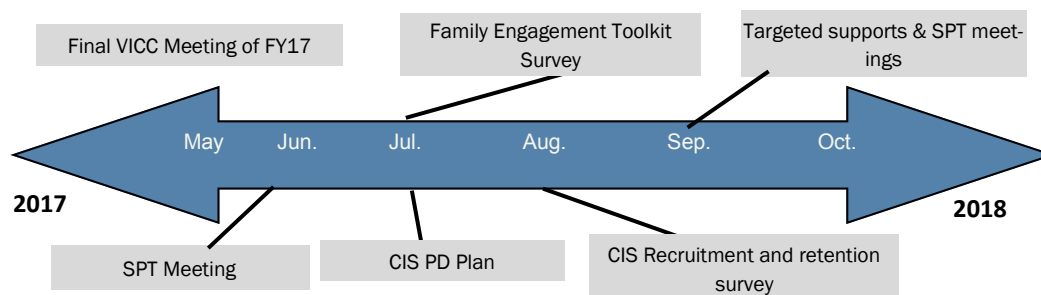
Integration and alignment across the early childhood system as well as ongoing evaluation are the foundation of all SSIP work.

Quality Improvement Spotlight:

The family survey asks families to evaluate how well CIS-EI has helped them to know their rights, communicate their child’s needs, help their children develop and learn, and to feel that they have received quality care from their providers. In an effort to increase the reliability of the family survey data, the state implemented a hand delivery methodology for all active children in 2016, and saw a remarkable increase in the rate of return. This year’s survey builds on last year’s success.



Estimated SSIP Schedule of Projects



Four Main Interconnected Strategies continued...

Fostering Family Connections

VICC needs your voice!

We need more members from providers representing all CIS services across the state on the Vermont Interagency Coordinating Council (VICC). The input of the VICC informs plans for the statewide Part C Program and the broader Children's Integrated Services program. The priorities identified by the VICC for the coming year are:

- ◆ Recruitment & Retention: High Turnover <=> Livable wage
- ◆ Insufficient number of therapists/specialists and child care leading to long waits or services not being delivered
- ◆ Consistent provision of services across the state

For further information and to apply for gubernatorial appointment including a basic resume, please contact Heather Case at heather.case@partner.vermont.gov or see the website at: <http://cisparkers.vermont.gov/icc>.

Family and Community Engagement Toolkit Survey

The Early Childhood Family and Community Engagement Toolkit is in development. Family engagement is a partnership where programs and families work together in an intentional and reciprocal manner. The toolkit is intended to support family engagement within any early childhood program: CIS, child care, etc. If you serve children and families pre-natal through age six, this toolkit is for you. Please provide input to the DRAFT Vision, Core, and Promotion Statements for Family and Community Engagement.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FamilyEngagementStatements>

We look forward to these statements reflecting significant input from diverse early childhood service providers and programs.

Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD):

Strategic Planning Teams

The Strategic Planning Team had its one year anniversary on June 5th, 2017. Four important outcomes were discussed using research and diverse stakeholder involvement to make data-driven decisions about the priorities, structure, and content of the CIS CSPD. The next SPT is scheduled for Monday September 25, 2017.

Integration Workgroup

This workgroup meets bi-weekly to discuss the CDD transformation, and aligning VT's Early Childhood Professional Development System, and CIS CSPD. Building Bright Futures Professional Preparation and Development committee has adopted a system-wide Vision and Mission statement.

Inservice Professional Development:

The June SPT made recommendations to improve the structure of the CIS inservice PD system using the following research-based criteria:

- ◆ Explicit explanation and illustration of practices to be learned.
- ◆ Job embedded opportunities to learn and practice new skills.
- ◆ Multiple opportunities to reflect on their understanding and mastery.
- ◆ Coaching, mentoring or performance feedback by a specialist.
- ◆ On-going follow up supports by coaches, supervisors and peers.
- ◆ Sufficient duration and intensity of PD to become proficient in the practice.

CIS Institute

The 2017 CIS Institute – Examining Family Engagement brought together over 190 CIS practitioners. The Institute evaluation had a 70% response rate: 68% of respondents said the Institute was Very Good or Excellent. 87% of respondents said the skills and knowledge they gained will improve their practice.