



# A Call to Action

Sharing Resources, Supporting Families, Creating Solutions

# Welcome

- Introduce Ourselves
- Share the Data
- Ask for Your Partnership in Building Solutions



WHO WE ARE

# Lower Grafton Council for Young Children and Families

**We are a community driven collaborative.  
Funded by multiple grants, we build solutions.**

Our mission is to provide a forum focusing on comprehensive activities **in support of all families with young children ages birth – 5** in lower Grafton County, identify needs and gaps in services, and, as a community, **develop collaborative strategies** to address these needs.



## MEET THE COLLABORATIVE

- **Whole Village Family Resource Center**
- **Grow and Thrive Counseling**
- **Center for Young Children and Families, Plymouth State University**
- **Plymouth Head Start**
- **SAU 48**
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Lakes Region**
- **Tri-County CAP — Head Start**
- **Lakes Region Mental Health Center**
- **Mid-State Health Center, Children's Learning Center**
- **Voices Against Violence**
- **Plymouth Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine**
- **Lakes Region Community Developers**

## FUNDING & ACTIVITIES



**NH DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

iSocial  
Community Collaborative  
Grant

Preschool  
Development  
Grant

## CURRENT PROJECTS

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Needs  
Assessment  
& Action  
Planning



## COMMUNITIES SERVED

Alexandria  
Ashland  
Bridgewater  
Bristol  
Campton  
Dorchester  
Ellsworth  
Groton  
Hebron  
Holderness  
Lincoln  
New Hampton  
Plymouth  
Rumney  
Thornton  
Warren  
Waterville Valley  
Wentworth  
Woodstock

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

# Preschool Development Grant

As part of NH's statewide partnership between NH Department Health and Human Services and NH Department of Education, **we have completed a needs assessment for lower Grafton County.**

Focused on data collected from **community members** and **key leaders** from organizations serving families within those communities.

## DATA OVERVIEW

### Community Input

Data was collected through an online questionnaire and two virtual focus groups

### Leadership Input

Data was collected through an online questionnaire and conversations with the LGCYCF Advisory Group and Leadership Teams

79

COMPLETED COMMUNITY SURVEYS

8

FAMILIES IN FOCUS GROUPS

40

KEY LEADER SURVEY  
RESPONSES

A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a bright green hooded coat, is shown in profile, reaching out with both hands towards a large, iridescent bubble. The bubble is in the foreground, slightly to the left of her hands. In the background, another smaller bubble is visible in the air. The setting is an outdoor park with green grass, trees, and a wooden fence. The overall scene is bright and cheerful.

WHY WE'RE HERE

# Sharing the Findings

Emerging themes, needs, and opportunities



## EMERGING THEMES

Lack of awareness around services



Fear of hitting the benefits cliff



Inability to navigate process

## KEY FINDING #1

# Supports intended to strengthen families often provide greater challenges and stifle growth and economic wellness.

- Risk losing some benefits to gain others when income, employment or other status changes.
- Expense, a lack of open spots, and a lack of transportation
- Not knowing how to apply or request services/supports
- Difficulty understanding applications



## EMERGING NEEDS

Mental health service shortage



Preschool crowding



Trauma informed care



Transportation and affordable housing

## KEY FINDING #2

# There is insufficient capacity to meet the demand from families.

- Supports and services needed included mental health service shortage, preschool crowding, trauma informed care, transportation and affordable housing
- Top three reasons given for not signing up for childcare services: too expensive, no open availability, couldn't find a quality program

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

Direct personal support



Early supports and services entry point to other services



Childcare centers may provide link to resources



Help navigating housing and financial assistance

## KEY FINDING #3

# A desire for better coordinated and more compassionate communication as well as promotion of available services.

- Simplify access to information, raise awareness to the broad range of programs and services
- Tailor to family's communication preferences and situations like cell phone reception and internet access in the home

Cultivate trust  
in community  
systems



Create connection  
space for children  
and caregivers



Consider non-  
traditional days /  
times to access  
resources

## KEY FINDING #4

# Caregivers expressed the importance of having trust and connectedness with their community (schools, peers, etc.).

- Playgroups for children to create a sense of community as well as formal peer support
- Challenge: Families report feeling hesitant to ask for help from schools and providers for fear and uncertainty for how they may be treated and/or judged.

WHAT'S NEXT



# Eye Towards Action

Sharing resources, supporting families, and connections to peer learnings

HOW MIGHT WE ...



**RAISE**

Awareness & Access



**INCREASE**

Resources & Supports



**BUILD**

Trust & Connection

**REGIONWIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR SOLUTIONS**

## GOAL #1

Caregivers are aware of and able to access supportive programming and resources to keep their family strong without sacrificing their families' economic growth and development

### Objectives

- 1.1** Build awareness of available supportive programming and resources
- 1.2** Create opportunities for better access coordination
- 1.3** Provide education to policy makers about impact of benefit cliffs on the community





## GOAL #2

**Programs that support families with young children are resourced to meet the needs of those they are intended to serve.**

### Objectives

**2.1** Educate policy makers on the importance of funding family strengthening and early education programs.

**2.2** Provide coordinated training opportunities to support a well-trained workforce.

**2.3** Promote and partner with existing workforce development initiatives to strengthen the pipeline.



## GOAL #3

Caregivers feel a sense of trust and connectedness with their community, including peers and providers.

### Objectives

**3.1** Create more opportunities for peer connection through parenting and caregiving groups, and play groups.

**3.2** Engage family leaders in planning and implementation work.

**3.3** Provide a networking space for service providers in the region to share updates, knowledge, and problem solve.





## **Join Our Collaborative**

Come to the table and share your ideas!

Action planning sessions:  
December 3, 10, and 17