



Vermont State Project

Vermont Grantee
Covering Kids Vermont

GRANT AMOUNT: \$624,099

START DATE: September 1, 1999

INTERVENTION: Schools
Incentive payments
Electronic Application
Americorp Volunteers

TARGET POPULATIONS: Adolescents

Grant Overview

The number of uninsured children in Vermont in 1997 was estimated to be 6,183, or 3.8 percent of all children, based on a statewide household survey conducted by the State Department of Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration (BISCHA). Since that survey, the income eligibility level for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as Dr. Dynasaur, has increased from 225 percent to 300 percent of the federal poverty level. It is safe to estimate that the number of uninsured children in Vermont, therefore, has decreased since 1997, and today may well stand below 5,000. New information on the estimated number of uninsured children by county should be released by BISCHA in July 2001. For Vermont, the challenge is locating the last group of hard to find children who have been missed by the array of efforts in place to present information about, and encourage enrollment in, Dr. Dynasaur. The goal of the Covering Kids project is to see how close to universal enrollment it is possible to achieve in a program where enrollment is voluntary.

To do this, the Project is funding the work of 12 regional partnerships that together cover the entire state. The partnerships, which variously follow a public-private coalition model, have been closely aligned with the efforts of the Agency of Human Services for several years. Focusing on social outcomes, these partnerships have developed initiatives in health, education and social services arenas. For some, focusing on health care and Dr. Dynasaur enrollment is a new emphasis, while for others it dovetails nicely with other work already in progress.

The effort is overseen by an informally organized public-private initiative called the Integration Task Force. Members of the Task Force represent a wide range of statewide interests, including: several state agencies; hospitals and health systems; the college of medicine; mental health services; and, private foundations. In addition, a state coalition has been developed to provide advice and counsel to the effort.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Integration Task Force
148 Main St.
Montpelier, VT 05602

CONTACT: Peter Holman
p (802) 223-3461
f (802) 223-0364
peter@vahhs.org

STATE PILOT PROJECTS: [People in Addison County Together](#)
[Franklin/Grand Isle Community Partnership](#)
[The Champlain Initiative](#)
[Alliance for Building Community](#)
[Rutland Regional Board for Family Services](#)
[The River Connection](#)
[Catamount Partnership for Community Health](#)
[Community Partnership of Orange County](#)
[Orleans Northern/Essex Governance Board](#)
[Central Vermont Community Partnership](#)
[People in Partnership](#)
[St. Johnsbury Community Coordinating Council](#)



Vermont Pilot Project

People in Addison County Together

INTERVENTION: Businesses
Americorp

TARGET POPULATIONS: Adolescents

Pilot Overview

PACT intends to use community forums as a tool to collect information on the best ways to reach the hard-to-find children. In particular, the group is interesting in reaching older children and to that end will use their Americorp worker to spread the word about the Dr. Dynasaur program. Teen events will be targeted as sites to spread information. Teens also will be used to staff program events at which insurance information will be passed out to the public, such as the annual County Fair and various parades in the region. The partnership also intends to work with the business community on ways to disseminate word about the program.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: People in Addison County Together (PACT)
P.O. Box 574
Middlebury, VT 05753

CONTACT: Jeannie Harden
p (802) 388-8010
f (802) 382-9340
pact@sover.net



Vermont Pilot Project

Franklin/Grand Isle Community Partnership

INTERVENTION: Providers
Schools
CBO Training

Pilot Overview

During the first year of the Covering Kids program, this coalition is concentrating on involving a wider range of local-area organizations and individuals in outreach to eligible populations. Primary care providers have been visited throughout the region to inform them about the program and leave information for distribution. Schools, soup kitchens and shelters have been targeted to receive information as well. The group has also worked to engage seniors in the task of spreading the Dr. Dynasaur word.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Franklin/Grand Isle Community Partnership
8 North Main Street
St. Albans, VT 05478

CONTACT: Julie Concannon
p (802) 527-9665
f (802) 524-3952
julieconcannon@hotmail.com



Vermont Pilot Project

The Champlain Initiative

INTERVENTION: Providers

TARGET POPULATIONS: Moderate Income Families

Pilot Overview

The group, which covers the most populated and wealthiest area of the state in and around Burlington is focusing on whether the misconceptions among target populations that Dr. Dynasaur is a welfare program can be overcome through a combination of education, communication and expanding awareness of the level of services covered by the program. The group also wants to explore how new information technologies might be used to enhance enrollment. Finally, it will be working with primary care practitioners to see if questions about the type and extent of insurance coverage can be worked into the basic periodicity schedule of these providers.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: The Champlain Initiative
95 St. Paul Street
Burlington, VT 05401

CONTACT: Lisa Schilling
p (802) 847-2475
f (802) 847-6545
lisaschilling@vtmednet.org



Vermont Pilot Project

Alliance for Building Community

INTERVENTION: CBO Training
Schools

Pilot Overview

This partnership has chosen to spend the majority of its funding to support outreach workers attached to two community service agencies whose clients are often uninsured. These are the homeless drop-in center and the food pantry for the community. The group also will investigate whether peer parents can be recruited to conduct program outreach and will work with the local school districts to test their willingness to link uninsured children with the program.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Alliance for Building Community
325 Partridge Road
East Dummerston, VT 05346

CONTACT: Melinda Bussino
p (800) 852-4286
f (802) 257-1738
badic@together.net



Vermont Pilot Project

Rutland Regional Board for Family Services

INTERVENTION: Businesses

TARGET POPULATIONS: Adolescents

Pilot Overview

The Rutland Partnership is testing whether an enrollment contest for eligible families can be designed to increase the enrollment of hard-to-find children. The group also exploring local businesses' willingness to provide program information to their employees. The Partnership wants to focus on older children using organizations in the community that work with this age group. Finally, the groups will try to develop a follow-up program for children who do not annually re-enroll.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Rutland Regional Board for Family Services
P.O. Box 222
Rutland, VT 05702

CONTACT: Karen Gennette
p (802) 775-4340 x.116
f (802) 747-7695
karengenn@yahoo.com



Vermont Pilot Project

The River Connection

INTERVENTION: CBO Training
Door-to-door

Pilot Overview

The River Connection will hire a dedicated outreach worker to increase the effectiveness of the Partnership members in identifying eligible children for Dr. Dynasaur. It also will attempt to conduct a household survey to better understand the reasons why families do not enroll in the program. The group also will concentrate on providing training to the partnership members regarding outreach and enrollment for the program.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: The River Connection
370 River Street
Springfield, VT 05156

CONTACT: Marty Hammond
p (802) 886-2138
f (802) 886-2141
jake@vermontel.com



Vermont Pilot Project

Catamount Partnership for Community Health

INTERVENTION: Schools
Businesses

Pilot Overview

The Catamount Partnership is trying to expand the number of local organizations involved in outreach of Dr. Dynasaur. It is using the schools as a key focus of this effort, in part because Bennington is the home of the national First Day of School effort, which encourages employers to provide time off for parents to accompany their children to school the first day — presenting one more opportunity to get information about insurance in the hands of parents. Finally, the partnership plans a local media campaign to spread the word about coverage availability in their region.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Catamount Partnership for Community Health
P.O. Box 746
Bennington, VT 05201

CONTACT: Robin Stromgren
p (802) 442-1515
f (802) 442-3893
catpart@sover.net



Vermont Pilot Project

Community Partnership of Orange County

INTERVENTION: Providers
Schools

Pilot Overview

This area is a particularly challenging one for Vermont. Its eastern border lies on the Connecticut River, and the market center for the region is really the Lebanon/Hanover, New Hampshire area. So while there are several villages and towns in the region, none are natural market centers for the entire population of the region. Many people living in this area work in New Hampshire and use that state for multiple services, including health care.

Dartmouth/Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon is a major provider of services to Vermonters, who make up 40% of their business. The parents involved in this partnership will be used to find ways to improve the existing outreach materials regarding Dr. Dynasaur. To get this input into the process, the partnership will offer travel reimbursement and child care services. The region includes schools from three different supervisory unions, two headquartered outside the technical border of the region. This presents a challenge to the partnership to work cooperatively with those schools to be addressed. Finally, the partnership will work with local providers to make sure they are conversant with the Dr. Dynasaur program and have appropriate information to share with their patients.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Community Partnership of Orange County
P.O. Box 618
Thetford, VT 05074

CONTACT: Carla Hodgdon
p (802) 295-8820
f (802) 295-8832
chodgdo@vdh.state.vt.us



Vermont Pilot Project

Orleans Northern/Essex Governance Board

INTERVENTION: Schools
Businesses
CBO Training

Pilot Overview

The work of this Partnership focuses on whether schools can and will readily share information on students' health insurance status to help identify the hard-to-find children. The group is also exploring what role businesses might play in finding these children. Understanding that re-enrollment is a problem, the group also will work with the Department of Social Welfare to see what role a private, community-based organization might play in increasing re-enrollment rates. The group has developed and distributed Dr. Dynasaur band-aid dispensers throughout the community to get the information out. Finally, it is working with local utilities to provide Dr. Dynasaur information in a flier to be sent with the monthly utility bill.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Orleans Northern/Essex Governance Board
1203 Shattuck Hill
Newport, VT 05855

CONTACT: Laura Dolgin
p (802) 334-2568
f (802) 334-2568
dolgeis@together.net



Vermont Pilot Project

Central Vermont Community Partnership

INTERVENTION: Incentive payments

Pilot Overview

To expand the group's understanding of why eligible populations do not enroll in Dr. Dynasaur, this Partnership has planned a rebate program designed to encourage new families to enroll the program, while also giving the Partnership information on the barriers to enrollment. It also seeks to determine whether using local media can heighten the awareness of the Dr. Dynasaur program and whether strategic placement of printed materials in places frequented by the target populations will result in increased enrollment.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: Central Vermont Community Partnership
255 N. Main Street, Suite 5
Barre, VT 05641

CONTACT: Paula E. Francis
p (802) 479-4284
f (802) 476-1654
paulaf@wpgate1.ahs.state.vt.us



Vermont Pilot Project

People in Partnership

INTERVENTION: Schools
Providers
CBO Training

Pilot Overview

This Partnership is exploring whether interactions with the schools and a number of other agencies and organizations in the region regarding Dr. Dynasaur eligibility will enhance enrollment. Whether provider training builds capacity at the local level, increases enrollment and provides information on the nature of hard-to-find children also is being considered. The group runs regular advertisements in the local media regarding Dr. Dynasaur and plans a survey of the local population to identify target children.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: People in Partnership
63 Professional Drive, Suite 1
Morrisville, VT 05661

CONTACT: Scott Johnson
p (802) 888-1376
f (802) 888-1343
pip_vt@yahoo.com



Vermont Pilot Project

St. Johnsbury Community Coordinating Council

INTERVENTION: CBO Training

Pilot Overview

This Partnership is testing whether a set of local Encounter Points can be identified and engaged in providing consistent, ongoing outreach, follow-up and enrollment for Dr. Dynasaur in the region. It is also looking at whether existing state data on enrollment are sufficient to do their work or whether local information can and/or should be collected to assist in the enrollment of children. For outreach, the group has designed and constructed a Dr. Dynasaur costume, which has been worn in several local events to spread the word about Dr. Dynasaur.

LEAD ORGANIZATION: St. Johnsbury Community Coordinating Council
67 Eastern Avenue, Suite 2
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

CONTACT: Lucy Hickey
p (802) 751-8408
f (802) 751-3203
cdh8837@compuserve.com