

# Children's Integrated Services

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The Family Place

# Overview of CIS services

**Children's Integrated Services (CIS)** is a unique model of service delivery only offered in Vermont



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graph TD; A[Children's Integrated Services (CIS) is a unique model of service delivery only offered in Vermont] --> B[Evidence-based, informed and integrated services to families with young children]; B --> C[Requires CIS providers to take a step beyond cooperating or collaborating to integrate the care they provide families.]; C --> D[Reduces burden on families of multiple home visitors, multiple appointments and multiple, sometimes contradictory, plans of care.];
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Evidence-based, informed and integrated services to families with young children

Requires CIS providers to take a step beyond cooperating or collaborating to **integrate the care** they provide families.

Reduces burden on families of multiple home visitors, multiple appointments and multiple, sometimes contradictory, plans of care.

## Children's Integrated Services (CIS):

Effective, Innovative  
Service Delivery

4 Core Services  
enhanced by Service  
Coordination for  
each family



## CIS OVERVIEW: SYSTEM STRUCTURES

There are 10 CIS  
Regions in Vermont

- **CIS State Team:** Staff in Waterbury provide program oversight and support
- **Fiscal Agent Contractor:** A single agency in each region holds the CIS contract
- **Regional CIS Admin Team:** A coalition of providers and partners governs regional CIS system and ensures service delivery
- **Local CIS Coordinators:** An individual in each region coordinates partners, reporting, etc.
- **Regional Intake & Referral Team:** Weekly meetings triage referrals and collaborate

## CIS Coordinators by AHS District

### **BARRE**

Family Center of Washington County \*

### **BENNINGTON**

Sunrise Family Resource Center \*

### **BRATTLEBORO**

Winston Prouty Center

### **BURLINGTON**

Howard Center

### **MIDDLEBURY**

Addison County Parent Child Center \*

### **MORRISVILLE**

Lamoille Family Center \*

### **NEWPORT**

Northeast Kingdom Community Action \*

### **RUTLAND**

VNA & Hospice of the Southwest Region

### **ST. ALBANS**

Northwestern Counseling/Support Services \*

### **ST. JOHNSBURY**

Northeast Kingdom Community Action \*

### **SPRINGFIELD**

Springfield Area Parent Child Center \*

### **WHITE RIVER JCT. (HARTFORD AREA)**

The Family Place \*

### **WHITE RIVER JCT. (TUNBRIDGE AREA)**

Orange County Parent Child Center \*

[\* = Parent Child Center]

# Program Details

## WHAT:

- CIS provides health promotion, prevention, and early intervention services

## WHO:

- pregnant and postpartum women
- infants and children birth to age six, their families, and child development providers.
- Specialized childcare serves children up to age thirteen.
- The program supports over 1600 children around the state each month.
- There are no income restrictions for CIS services.



# Program Details

- Early Intervention (EI) services are mandated by Federal law
- EI is an entitlement for all children deemed in need of services, through Part C of IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), or through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) Medicaid benefit.
- CIS was designed to lessen, if not eliminate, the need for future services that are costlier and less efficient by providing effective interventions for developmental issues before children enter school
- The prevention and early intervention services that compose CIS have immediate and long-term benefits. CIS focuses on whole families and support's children's social, emotional and cognitive development; family preservation, stability and unification; and supports parents' contribution to Vermont's workforce.
- CIS services enhance and improve outcomes of complementary services such as DCF Family and Economic Services.





## Family Story

- When Julia and Andy had concerns about their daughter's development, they reached out to The Family Place and participated in the Children's Integrated Services (CIS) program for Early Intervention, Developmental Education, and Speech and Language support.
- "The Family Place gave us reassurance, hope, and relief as parents. They gave us **practical strategies** that made life easier for everyone in our family. They supported our young daughter to **overcome challenges** that used to be a source of anxiety for us with methods that were **fun** for our daughter, as well as **convenient** in our busy schedules. For example, they visited our house even though we live in a rural town."







## CIS per child/per month Rate and Budget Changes -- 2019 to 2024

	PM/PM	BUDGET IMPACT
2019 Burns and Assoc. PM/PM cost estimate	\$634	
FY20 and 21 Budget	\$502-518	
FY22 Budget rate increase	\$600	\$1.5 million
FY23 Budget rate increase	\$650	\$889,000
FY24 Budget -- for caseload increase	\$650	\$950,830
2024 Burns and Assoc. PM/PM cost estimate	\$738	
FY26 Budget – HHS proposal	\$675	\$450,000

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# CIS FUNDING CHALLENGES

- In 2023, Burns and Associates completed a second case rate study and determined the per month, per child cost at \$738
- CIS remains critically underfunded
- In addition, many CIS regions have experienced an increase in the percentage of children enrolled in the program who are not eligible for Medicaid
- CIS caps funding for children who are not eligible for VT Medicaid at 20% of pre-determined caseloads
- When regions exceed the 20% cap, they are no longer reimbursed for their services
- Regions are required to continue to provide services to children without VT Medicaid in Early Intervention
- Most regions continue to provide services to children without Medicaid in all CIS programs
- There is a critical lack of capacity to serve children and families that struggle with multiple risk factors including increased child welfare involvement, exposure to parental opiate use, poverty, homelessness, and autism prevalence.

# CIS Funding – Ongoing Challenges

## CIS Funding: Results of Resource Challenges



**Delayed Services:** Timeliness indicators suffering, impacting federal compliance



**Inadequate Capacity:** Resources cannot keep up with increasing population need



**Staffing Shortages:** Significant challenges in staff recruitment and retention, low wages cited



**Crisis-Driven:** Reactive by necessity at a system level

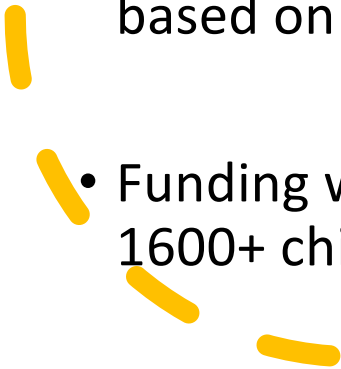


# CIS Funding Request

- It has been challenging to explain the impact of the Medicaid funding cap as it varies by region
- It is still a goal of CIS programs to advocate for a review of the funding cap
- In the meantime, we are advocating for an increase in the case rate based on the Burns' Study

• **\$650-\$675**

- Funding will support adequate staff capacity to continue to serve 1600+ children per month



# How can you support CIS?

- The Funding Request has strong support in the House Human Services Committee
  - They are sending a letter to the House Appropriations Committee requesting that this funding increase be considered in the budget recommendation
- [House of Human Services Committee Budget Recommendations](#)
- Encourage/thank your House of Human Services legislator for supporting this request: [Legislators](#)
- Contact your House of Appropriations Legislator and ask them to support this increase: [Legislators](#)
- Talk to your representative and share your CIS story...ask them to contact their colleagues to request they support the funding increase