



# Children with Special Health Needs (CSHN) Connection September 2024



**AHS - VDH CSHN**  
AHS

Dear Colleagues and Community Partners,

A sharpened pencil, a crisp apple, and cool mornings that grow into hot afternoons - these are the signs of September and the start of a new school year. In this issue of *CSHN Connections* we bring you all things “Back to School” and hope that we've included some helpful tips and information to make the transition to school a bit easier.

We've got a new look to our newsletter - but our content will continue to bring a general theme we feel is useful, our regular feature of program spotlights, Medicaid policy updates, and a newly added regional highlight for things we'd like to mention that are region specific. We remain committed to ensuring that CSHN Connections is universally relevant to all corners of the state and always welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

CSHN Connections Team

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## **Program Spotlight: Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program**



### **Vermont Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (VTEHDI) Program**

**What does the VTEHDI Program do?**

- VTEHDI supports state-wide newborn and early periodic hearing screenings in collaboration with birth hospitals and other community providers, such as audiologists, Early Head Start, homebirth midwives and primary care professionals.
- We provide support and coordination of services for families and their babies throughout the newborn hearing screening process.
- Our partnerships ensure timely follow-up to screening and appropriate referrals for diagnostic hearing testing and early intervention services.

### Did you know?

- Every state and territory in the nation has an EHDI program.
- Most programs receive federal funding from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and/or the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- 1-3 per 1000 babies are born with some type or degree of hearing loss every year.
- VTEHDI works with state and national agencies and organizations to achieve the National 1,3,6 EHDI goals which are:
  - Screen before 1 month
  - Diagnose before 3 months
  - Early Intervention before 6 months
- Newborn, early childhood, and diagnostic hearing information are integrated into the state registry.

To learn more about our program and available resources visit our [website](#) .

## Community Partner Spotlight: Special Needs Support Center

The **Special Needs Support Center** in White River Junction has been working in the Upper Valley of Vermont and New Hampshire for more than 40 years. SNSC started as a network of parents seeking support and help from other parents. This network grew into a center that creates community for people with special needs so they can have opportunities that support their goals.

SNSC has a variety of programs under 3 areas:

- **Youth and Teen Services**
- **Adult Services**
- **Community Services**

Program participants can also include families, volunteers, donors, staff, and external partners. SNSC further shares resources, events, and a newsletter to further support their community.

One recent program that has drawn a lot of attention in Vermont and New Hampshire is the Special Needs Information Program. This is a safety initiative that provides first responders with information about a specific individual's disability and needs.

*To learn more about the Special Needs Support Center, visit their website at [Home - Special Needs Support Center \(sns-c.org\)](https://www.sns-c.org) or call (603) 448-6311.*

# SNIP

## Special Needs Information Program

Sign Up [HERE](#)

<https://snsc-uv.org/snip/> to sign up



### What is SNIP?

The **Special Need Information Program** is a voluntary safety initiative aimed at providing first-responders with vital information regarding an individual's disability and specific needs.



### Participating Towns

#### Vermont

- Bridgewater
- Barnard
- Bradford
- Cavendish
- Chelsea
- Corinth
- Fairlee
- Hartford
- Hartland
- Norwich
- Plymouth
- Pomfret
- Reading
- Rochester
- Sharon
- Strafford
- Thetford
- Topsham
- Tunbridge
- Vershire
- West Fairlee
- Woodstock

#### New Hampshire

- Canaan
- Cornish
- Dorchester
- Enfield
- Etna
- Grafton
- Grantham
- Hanover
- Lebanon
- Lyme
- Meriden
- Orange
- Orford
- Plainfield
- Springfield



### Need Help?

If you or a loved one need assistance filling out the form, please contact your associated police department or contact SNSC at (603) 448-6311

### Participating Departments

- Woodstock Police, fire, and EMT
- Windsor Police, Fire, EMT
- Windsor County Sheriff, Fire, EMT
- Hartford Police, Fire, EMT
- Lebanon Police, Fire, EMT
- Hanover Police, Fire, EMT

SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT CENTER

Multi-colored green, tan, and charcoal marketing flyer describes Special Need Information Program.

## CSHN Updates





Two children packing a tan teddy bear into a tan moving box.

## Recruiting for Moving to Vermont Project

Our team at Vermont Department of Health, **Children with Special Health Needs (Vermont Department of Health)** is looking to engage with families who have a **child with special health needs (chronic medical condition or developmental disability)** and who have moved to Vermont from another state in the last 2 years.

We are seeking to better understand the experience of planning, preparing, and moving to the state within the context of transferring and accessing healthcare for children with complex needs. The work will inform the creation of recommended protocols and practices as well as materials to support families moving to Vermont in the future.

Please share widely to any families with a child with special health needs that is new to Vermont. **Participation is compensated up to \$50** (\$25 for a 10 min survey and \$25 for a virtual interview).

**If you or someone you know are interested in participating this study or have additional questions, please contact Marinell Newton at [Marinell.newton@vermont.gov](mailto:Marinell.newton@vermont.gov) or 802-578-2667.**

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## Resources for Families

### Vermont Team Based Care

Have you heard about Vermont Team Based Care (VTBC)? This is a new state-wide initiative that aims to improve care for Vermonters with the most complex care challenges. We are currently engaged in a 9-month project to assess the current state of team-based care in each Health Service Area (think region) and work collaboratively with state agencies and community stakeholders to make improvements. Health Service Areas will have opportunities to share learning and best practices with one another in quarterly state-wide convenings.

#### Goals:

- Health Service Area will select a single project
- Create space and support to document and improve VTBC practice in communities to address local challenges
- Strengthen cross- Health Service Areas knowledge sharing and collaboration
- Build Field Directors and Blueprint Program Manager dyad leadership

Facilitation and ongoing project support is provided by the Camden Coalition, including an online training curriculum specifically teaching Team Based Care philosophy and practice.

Health Service Areas are currently identifying stakeholders and thinking about the specific needs (including strengths and challenges) of their region.

## **School Nurse Liaisons**

Did you know that the Vermont Department of Health has school liaisons in each district office?

The School Liaison works to ensure the health and wellbeing of all school age kids. The School Liaison supports school nurses and school health staff, supervisory unions and school districts, community organizations, medical homes and practices, students, and families with strategies to improve health. The School Liaisons can be an incredibly helpful resource to work on your public health initiatives!

To learn more: [School Health Resources | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/school-health-resources)

To reach a VDH School Nurse Liaisons in your local district office, on this webpage [Local Health Offices | Vermont Department of Health \(healthvermont.gov\)](https://healthvermont.gov/local-health-offices), find your local Department of Health location, and click on "School Health" for that location.

## **Recreational Activities for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs**

Back to school might also mean back to recreation activities for some families. If the families you work with are looking for ways to engage their kids in sports, other recreational activities, or just try to fill in some non-school time with fun, here are a few organizations worth exploring! Some of these have no cost associated and those that do, often have scholarship options.

- [Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports](https://www.vermontadaptive.org/) has a variety of programming throughout the year and across the state.



- [Green Mountain Adaptive Sports](#) offers opportunities to participate in events, offers scholarships and grants, and can provide specialized adaptive equipment for Vermonters.
- [Inclusive Arts Vermont](#) features [CYCLES Inclusive Family Programs](#) with tours and art making in the Brattleboro area.
- [Vermont Afterschool](#) has numerous programs and opportunities.
- Find a new trail or park to explore! [Trail Finder](#) has map with information about each trail. You can filter by wheelchair accessibility to find 81 wheelchair accessible trails throughout Vermont and New Hampshire. State Park passes may be available through your local library!
- Speaking of libraries: check out your local library's event calendar for activities, classes, and events.

**Please consider sharing these resources with the families you serve and others at your organizations.**

## Policy Corner



Parent wearing black hat, glasses, and grey sweatshirt, leaning into car, securing toddler into booster car seat.

## Vermont Child Seat Law Updates

- A new Child Passenger Safety Law took effect in Vermont on July 1. A printable flyer with new law highlights can be found at [beseatsmart.org](http://beseatsmart.org).
- A child under 2 years of age must be properly secured in a federally approved rear-facing child car seat with a harness.
- A child in a rear-facing car seat must not ride in front of an active airbag.
- A child over 2 years of age but under 5 years of age must be properly secured in a federally approved rear-facing or forward-facing car seat with a harness.
- A child under 8 years of age who is not properly secured in a harnessed car seat must be properly secured in a booster seat.
- A child under 13 years of age must, if practical, ride in the back seat.

To find more information, please refer to [UVMMC Injury Prevention - Child Seat Safety Guide for Pediatricians](#) found at: [Car Seat Safety \(uvmhealth.org\)](#) That website also has a multilingual flyer available upon request.

## Regional Happenings

### **LIT Extravaganza September 18, 2024**

Register for the next LIT Extravaganza, Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 9:30am-3:00pm at the Waterbury State Office Complex.

In person and hybrid option available.

The Local Interagency Team (LIT) Extravaganza is an annual gathering of LIT Teams, community partners, and providers in Vermont. This is a learning and networking opportunity. This year's theme is "Back to The Basics"; topics discussed will include the current System of Care Report as well as reviewing elements of a well facilitated Coordinated Services Plan.

To register, email [Joanne.Crawford@vermont.gov](mailto:Joanne.Crawford@vermont.gov) . Please include in the email: your name, affiliation, LIT region/s, your email and phone number, and if you will attend in person or virtually.



*Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.*  
Ryunosuke Satoro

## **Assume They Can, Raising the Bar for Youth**

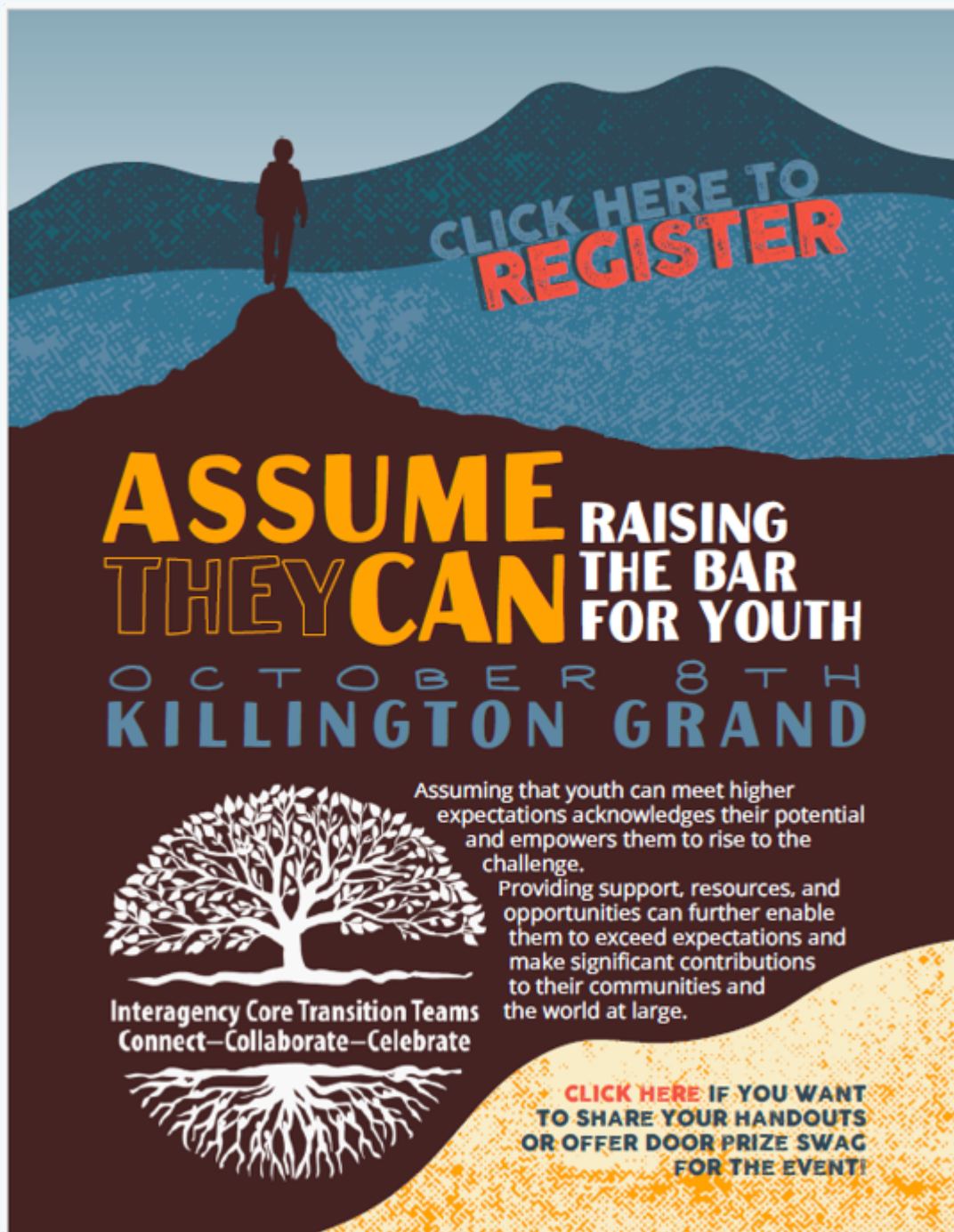
HireAbility Vermont and Vermont Agency of Education hosting the **2024 Interagency Core Team Event** on October 8th at Killington Resort.

Assuming that youth can meet higher expectations acknowledges their potential and empowers them to rise to the challenge.

This event is for professionals and volunteers who work with youth in your communities on transition to adulthood services.

Registration link shown in flyer below: [Registration for October 8, 2024 Interagency Core Team Event](#)

If you have handouts, click this link: [Assume They Can Handouts Registration](#)



Blue sky and mountains, brown mountain with youth standing on top of peak.

September is **Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month**.

**Vermont's Suicide Prevention Symposium** is on September 13, 2024, from 8:30am-4:30pm. This day-long in person conference takes place at the Vermont State



University Randolph campus (113 Judd Drive in Randolph). This year's focus is comprehensive education for providers, mental health clinicians, peer support workers, advocates, families, and community members. Additional topics include youth mental health, healthcare systems and community focused topics. Registration and detailed information are available at <https://www.vtcpi.org/events/vsps> .

CSHN supports children with complex, chronic health conditions and/or developmental disorders, ages birth to-21, and their families, with flexible, experienced, and proactive services. If you'd like to learn more about CSHN programming and resources, please see the [CSHN Website](#).

Do you have feedback or content for this newsletter? Please [let us know!](#)



# VERMONT

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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

[View in SharePoint](#)