

The Collaborative

Acceptance · Resilience · Engagement

With the guiding vision that everyone is a part of a healthy, safe, and supportive community and a mission to empower healthy youth, families, and communities, The Collaborative has been operating as a 501c3 nonprofit serving Windham, Windsor, and Bennington counties in Vermont since 1999.



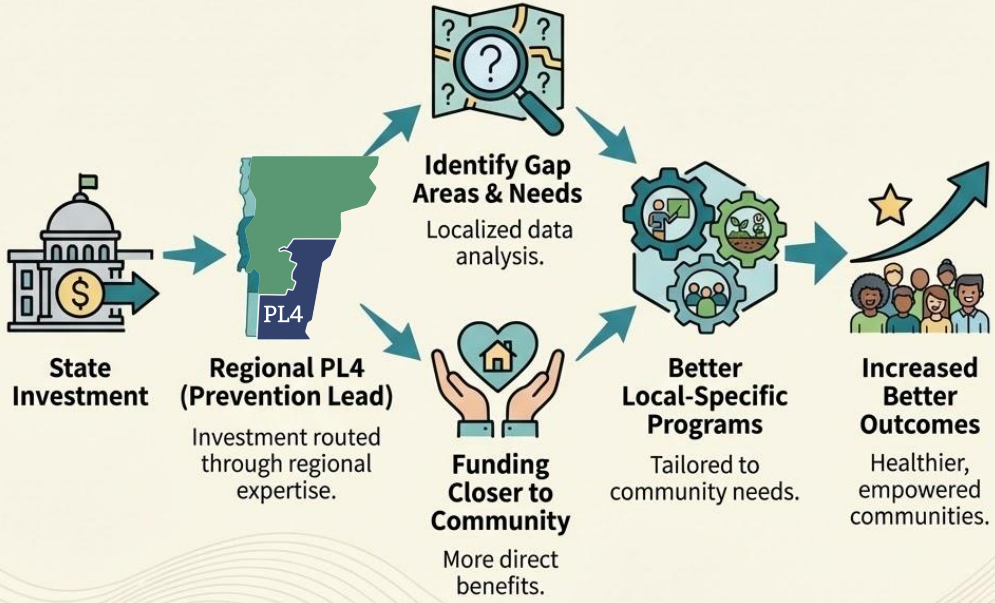
Prevention Lead Region 4

A High-Level Look at Our Work and Impact

Bennington, Brattleboro, Springfield & White River Junction Health Districts

www.pl4.org

From Investment to Impact: The Regional PL4 Model



Organizational Structure



The PL4 Advisory Committee provides high-level knowledge, networking, and multi-sector input.

The Prevention Coordination Team's goals include gathering and reviewing assessments, providing technical assistance, and enhancing communication. They recommend priorities and collaborate with the PL4 administrative team.

About PL4

- **Core Focus Areas:**
  - Substance Misuse Prevention
  - Youth Engagement & Empowerment
  - Mental Health & Well-Being
  - Community Partnerships & Capacity Building

- **Priority Areas**
  - Foster Belonging and Well-Being
  - Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection
  - Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health
  - Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care
  - Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation

3 Funding Opportunities

Each address our values aand requirements at different levels



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT 3 YEARS

Longstanding Organizations Working Primarily in Prevention. Must meet specific criteria for eligibility. Can be non competitive after a LOI.



PROJECT BASED SUPPORT 3 YEARS

Funding is allotted for a specific strategy including building capacity.
Orgs who apply for Operational Support can also apply here.



COMMUNITY MICRO FUNDING SHORT TIME FRAME

Released locally to PCT organizations so they can release at the district level to support community-level projects. Small amounts, simple application..

Funded Partners

Health District	# of Funded Partners
Bennington	**4**
Brattleboro	**6**
Springfield	**4**
White RIver Junction	**4**
All Districts	**6**

Priority Areas	# of Funded Partners
Foster Belonging and Well-Being	**15**
Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection	**5**
Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health	**7**
Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care	**7**
Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation	**11**

Funded Partners



This is an **ecosystem** with every part supporting the others.

Communities and Individuals

Partners:
Funded/Unfunded

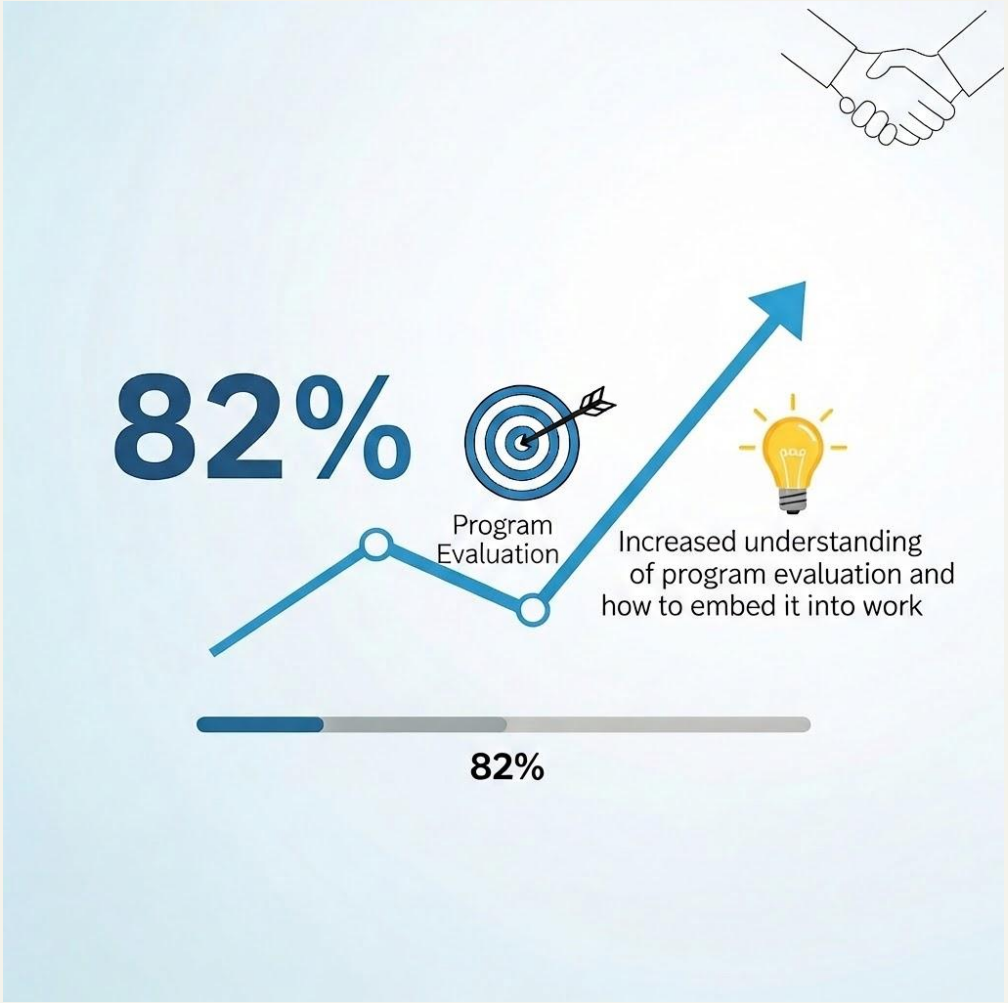
Networks:
Prevention Coordination Team/District Advisories/ Prevention Consultants

PL4 Leads:
PL4 Administrative Team/The Collaborative/ Regional Advisory Committee



Outcomes

Through targeted training and technical assistance, PL4 empowered funded partners to integrate Prevention Science into their operations, bridging the gap between evaluation data and program design to drive better outcomes.



PL4 Goals in action

- Foster Belonging and Well-Being
- Combat Loneliness and Cultivate Connection
- Increase Understanding of Prevention \ The Community's Health
- Increase Awareness of Resources \ Connection to Care
- Utilize Collective Impact for Community Transformation

Vermont's Investment in PL4

YOUTH







Youth Center Success Across the Region















Quotes from the Chester Teen Center





"For some kids in particular, you can tell that the teen center made a really big difference in their lives this past year. If they've been going through a lot or having a hard time at home, they come here because they know it's a safe space."

~ Chester Teen Center participant

"The teen center is a very fun place to hang out with friends and make new ones! There has never been a day where I said “oh I’m bored” at the teen center. It’s a very welcoming place for teens to hang out.”

~ Chester Teen Center participant

"[I like the teen center because] it's a reason to get out of the house. I get to see my friends, the adults are really cool, and I feel like I can just relax and be myself. The teen center is like a second home to me.”

~ Chester Teen Center participant

"When I turn 21 I'm coming back here to work at the Chester Teen Center! This would be such a fun job to have."

~ Chester Teen Center participant

Vermont’s Investment in PL4



Our prevention-funded youth space is more than a hangout—it’s a life-changing support system. By pairing trained staff with a focus on protective factors, we’ve created a "family" where disconnected youth find their voice. Whether they are tending the community garden or accessing our student-led hygiene closet, local adolescents are finding the belonging they need to thrive.

Vermont's Investment in PL4

C.H.O.I.C.E (Choose How Our Influence Changes Everything) are youth-led prevention teams at Mt. Anthony Middle and High Schools with the goal of promoting healthy behaviors among classmates and improving the school climate and broader community. Last June they presented to the Town of Bennington Select Board and shared recommendations on how municipalities can support healthy youth- such as liaising with a youth advisory. The Select Board agreed, and the Bennington Youth Council was born- the third youth council in the state!



Vermont's Investment in PL4

At BAPC, youth are not just participants — they are planning meetings, facilitating events, analyzing data, and leading community initiatives that strengthen both schools and the broader community. These investments are building the next generation of civic leaders while making our community safer, more connected and more responsive to the voices of young people.





"The Youth Council has shown me how to take initiative and trust the voices of youth in Brattleboro. I've learned alongside my peers that our voices together can make a change." ~ *Youth Member*

Vermont’s Investment in PL4

A 17-year-old showed up to our Windsor County class defensive and bracing for a lecture after an alcohol citation. Instead of the punishment he expected, he found a judgment-free space where our clinician, Colin, led a real conversation with other teens about making better choices moving forward.

On his anonymous survey afterward, he summed it up in his own words:
- “Pretty useful class in the sense to see you aren't the only one going through stuff.”
- “It was helpful, got a lot of good advice, and it caused me to rethink things.”

Vermont's Investment in PL4



"[At Resilience Through Understanding], we explore how to live by our values, seek healthier ways to cope with stress, make thoughtful decisions, and surround ourselves with positive influences."

- 9th grader RTU participant



Vermont's Investment in PL4



375 YOUTH PARTICIPATING ACROSS **10** LOCAL SCHOOLS

50 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY RTU REPRESENTATIVES

10 INCENTIVE PARTNERS

(All Returning)

Evaluation

	Quantity	*Quality*
Effort	***How Much We Do*** How much service did we deliver? **#Customers served** **# Services/Activities**	***How Well We Do It*** How well did we do it? **% Services/activities performed well**
Effect	***Is Anyone Better Off?*** What quantity/quality of change for the better did we produce? **#/% with improvement in:** **Skills** **Attitudes** **Behavior** **Circumstances**	

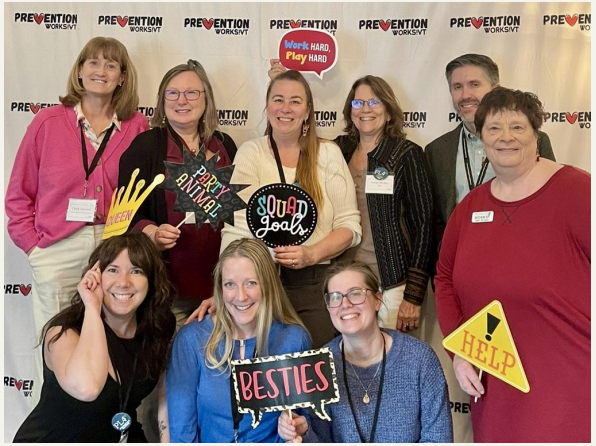
ClearImpact Dashboard
Goal: Foster Belonging & Well-Being

Strategy 1: Increase access to community-building events	Most Recent Period	Current Actual Value
PM How Much # of community-building events held	Qtr2 2026	35
PM How Much # of community members reached	Qtr2 2026	1,262
PM How Much # of small group discussions or matched resident pairs/groups	Qtr2 2026	77
PM How Much # of community members actively contributing to the program (e.g., co-facilitating events)	Qtr2 2026	100
PM How Much # of people participating in the program	Qtr2 2026	720

Community Outcomes	Most Recent Period	Current Actual Value
PM Better Off Average change in self-reported belonging	–	–
PM Better Off Average change in self-reported data on pre/post survey on feelings of belonging	–	–
PM Better Off Average change in self-reported number of meaningful social interactions or new connections	–	–
PM Better Off # of participants reporting new friendships or support systems formed through program	–	–







Team

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Manchester

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James Coleman
White River Junction

Prevention Lead
Region 4