



CDCI Year in Review 2024

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am happy to share this summary of our work from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Also called *Fiscal Year 2024*.

This year was special because it was the first year of a new 5-year work plan.

We kicked off several new efforts for our work including:

- Designing a new community needs assessment.
- Focusing on accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work.
- Finding new ways to work together across our many projects at CDCI.
- Exploring how to better support students and accessibility at UVM.

We launched a new project this year: [Vermont Pathways to Partnerships](#). We worked with partners in Summer 2023 to write a \$10 million grant application. It had a delayed start, and we started work in Spring 2024. CDCI will lead the evaluation and provide employment training and technical assistance.

Finally, 2024 is the Center's 50th anniversary! We are planning a celebration for November 14, 2024. Please save the date and more details will be sent soon!

All my best,

Jesse Suter, Executive Director

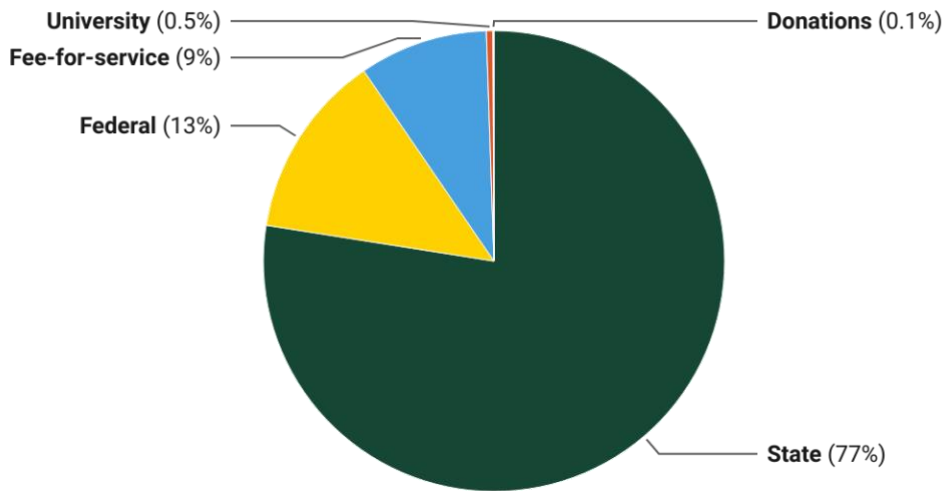
PEOPLE

This year 106 people worked at the Center. They include:

- 36 Student Employees (Think College Peer Mentors)
- 29 Temporary Hourly Employees
- 21 Affiliate Employees
- 20 University of Vermont Employees

FUNDING

Total Center funding for fiscal year 2024: \$6,564,540



Source	Amount	Percent
State	\$5,086,575	77%
Federal	\$851,576	13%
Fee-for-service	\$591,584	9%
University	\$30,247	0.5%
Donations	\$4,558	0.1%

Note: Funding numbers may change after fiscal year ends (June 30, 2024).

ACADEMICS

Goals	Progress
1. Keep supporting Think College Vermont as a college option	ACHIEVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 students enrolled and 3 graduated • 36 peer mentors hired.
2. Create a smaller version of the Certificate in Disability Studies .	IN PROGRESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a new micro-certificate is under review with the Graduate College
3. Review how diversity, equity, and inclusion is part of CDCI teaching.	IN PROGRESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joined small number of faculty to review courses this year. • Plan to support other teaching at CDCI.
4. Design online classes in disability studies and accessibility	IN PROGRESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All disability studies courses are online. • Accessibility course is under development. • Developing online community education modules; collaborating with the VT State Independent Living Council.
5. Better support students with disabilities at UVM.	ACHIEVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting UVM Disabled Student Union. (Jesse became their advisor.) • Advocating for better accessibility at UVM. • Identifying internships and other opportunities for students at CDCI.

QUESTION: Who should we design community education modules for?

Goals	Progress
<p>1. Support Vermont Leadership Series</p>	<p>ACHIEVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financially supported leadership series. • Supported 3 regions to lead cultural and linguistic competency in disability services.
<p>2. Provide trainings, consultation, and resources to improve access to services in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention • Education • Employment • Healthcare • Assistive technology 	<p>ACHIEVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented new "Eat, Poop, Sleep" training to 100+ early childhood providers. • Extensive training in evidenced-based interventions for young Autistic children. • Redesigned Early Intervention Certification for professionals providing early intervention services to families. • Think College made the Zero Project Shortlist for Inclusive Education in 2024! • Led year-long training on Co-Teaching for a Burlington elementary school. • Served on the New England Consortium on Deafblindness Sensory Access Instruction and Leadership Team. • Led another summer training institute on social, emotional, behavioral, well-being. • Performed comprehensive assessments for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and DeafBlind (DHHDB) throughout Vermont. • Led Remote Peer Groups for DHHDB students of all ages throughout the state.

Goals	Progress
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 8000+ hours of technical assistance to support students with intensive needs. • Researched community resources to support New American families with children with disabilities. Helped a family apply for SSI, Medicaid and Guardianship. • Hosted Employer Engagement and Job Development training for 80+ employment service providers and educators. • Created 30+ plain-language informational and instructional videos to support children's continence. • Continued Assistive Technology Tryout loans and technical assistance to schools.
<p>3. Find new ways to support mental health and housing.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased our work in early childhood social, emotional, and behavioral supports. • Using 2023 housing report by Vermont Developmental Disabilities Council to inform next Community Needs Assessment.

QUESTION: How can we best learn about people's experiences with services?

RESEARCH



Goals	Progress
1. Collect and share data on needs in Vermont.	OTHER: This goal begins next fiscal year.
2. Write annual report on disability in Vermont.	IN PROGRESS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finishing first report before July. • Second report due December 2024.
3. Partner with people with disabilities and others to do more research.	ACHIEVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Villemaire completed researcher training for Think College study. • Survey of attitudes on accessibility in Vermont’s outdoor spaces. • Finishing research project on school-based wraparound supports.
4. Secure new funding through university and community partnerships.	ACHIEVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped secure \$10 million grant to create Vermont Pathways to Partnerships for high school students with disabilities.
5. Write accessible summaries and reports so more people can learn from research about disability.	ACHIEVED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We wrote 4 accessible research summaries. • We presented to AUCD on our accessible research format. • Thank you to Skye Peebles for all the help with plain language reviews!

QUESTION: How do you want to be involved in Community Needs Assessment?

COMMUNICATION

Goals	Progress
<p>1. Provide more trainings and resources on accessibility.</p>	<p>ACHIEVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We provided 3 new accessibility trainings for CDCI staff this year. • We partnered with UVM Communications and presented on accessibility to all communicators at UVM.
<p>2. Help UVM create a policy on language access. “Language access” means what languages every document and resource are available in.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We wrote a draft of a Language Access Plan. This fall we’ll send it out for feedback.
<p>3. Continue to provide accessible and high-quality communications</p>	<p>ACHIEVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We produced 11 podcast episodes and 65 new videos. • We re-designed all the CDCI project websites to make them easier to understand.
<p>4. Find new funding to expand our communication work.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS:</p> <p>We are working on two grant applications to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide accessibility training to UVM departments. 2. Host a Vermont accessibility conference.

QUESTION: Who would you like to see on the podcast next year?