



Monadnock
UNITED WAY

**OUR MONADNOCK, OUR
IMPACT**

LETTER FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT



Community-Led Solutions to Improve Outcomes for Children

Dear MUW Supporters,

New Hampshire's [Early Childhood Region 1](#) (ECR1) was launched nearly four years ago, in the fall of 2021. Today, I want to share an update (ok, brag) about the program's impact and success in our region. The initiative aimed to improve educational, health, and social-emotional outcomes for children from birth to age eight across 61 towns in the Greater Monadnock, Greater Sullivan, and Upper Valley regions of NH. Initial funding came through New Hampshire's statewide Preschool Development Grant.

In its role as Lead Agency for ECR1, MUW's [Impact Monadnock](#) leveraged our collective impact expertise to forge collaborative partnerships between schools, early care providers, family support agencies, mental and public health professionals, families, and community partners – basically everyone who works to improve the experiences of families with young children.

ECR1 strived to create an environment throughout our region that:

- Enhanced childcare programs
- Retained skilled childcare staff
- Supported high-quality childcare
- Increased family access to community support services



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SAVE THE DATE!
**Our Monadnock, Our
Impact
Campaign Kickoff!**

WHEN: September 16
8:30-10:00 am

WHERE: Heberton
Hall, Keene Public
Library

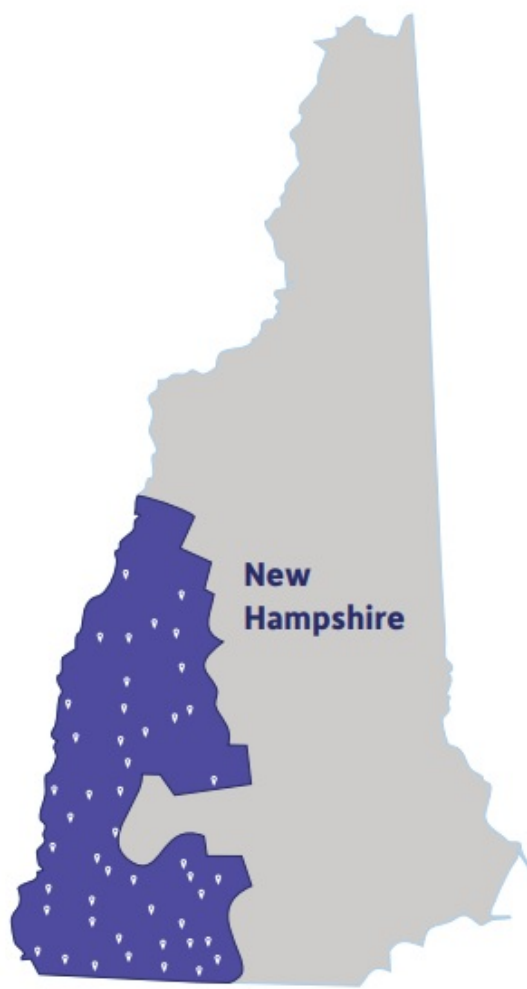
*Join us as we kickoff
our campaign with
energy, inspiration,
and community
connection!*

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ECR1's geographic region extended beyond the Monadnock Region and included Sullivan County and the Upper Valley Regions.

Furthering Expertise in Early Childhood Care

The early childhood workforce in ECR1 engaged in a variety of trainings and mentorships, covering essential topics like trauma-informed practices, infant-toddler best practices, nature-based education, and supporting social-emotional learning through the [Pyramid Model](#).

These experiences fostered professional growth, enhanced onboarding processes, and strengthened collaboration among educators.

With **222 professionals trained, 28 mentor-coach partnerships formed, and 22 training sessions held**, participants reported significant improvements in teaching practices and stronger support networks.

Coaches, in particular, gained greater confidence in sharing their knowledge, underscoring the power of personalized, one-on-one support in advancing professional development and peer-to-peer connections.

“I’m incredibly proud of what we’ve

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[Check out our
newsletter archive.](#)

accomplished together through ECR1. This work is making a real difference for children, families, and providers across the region—and it's all driven by the strength of our community."

--Ellen Taetzsch, Senior Manager of Early Childhood Initiatives

Impacting Families

Parenting in our region comes with real challenges. Through ECR1's [Strengths and Opportunities Assessment](#), families told us they were looking for more ways to connect—with each other and with community resources, both formally and informally. At the same time, access to childcare remains a major hurdle: nearly half of the towns in our region have no licensed childcare program.

In response, ECR1 invested in community-driven programs and targeted grants that helped families feel more supported and connected:

- **978 parents and children** participated in enriching experiences like story walks, scavenger hunts, and parenting education.
- **18 mini grants totaling over \$25,000** supported local projects designed to strengthen child and family interactions—each selected by a parent-led review committee.
- **Partnerships with 20 libraries** expanded inclusive, welcoming spaces for families, with a special focus on improving access and equity in rural communities.
- **16 home-based childcare providers** received grants of \$3,500–\$8,500 to improve their facilities, creating **69 new childcare slots** across the region.

By listening to families and investing in their priorities, ECR1 helped build stronger, more connected communities across the region.

MUW remains committed to sustaining the strong relationships, learning communities, and collaborative momentum built over the past four years. Please join me in celebrating ECR1's accomplishments!

Sincerely,

Liz LaRose, President

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