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Scott Johnson

Parent Child Centers are the Answer

Legislative Platform 2016

Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of community-based non-profit organizations, serving all of Vermont. The focus of each PCC is to provide support and education to families with young children. The goal is to help all Vermont families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being, and build on family strengths.

Parent Child CENTERS Eight Core Services

1. Home Visits
2. Early Childhood Services
3. Parent Education
4. Parent Support
5. On-Site Programs
6. Playgroups
7. Information & Referral
8. Community Development

Increase base funding for Parent Child Centers and include a COLA.

PCCs provide direct services to families for the state of Vermont. When the Parent Child Centers were awarded state funding in 1988, a base level of funding was provided as a way to ensure that every Vermont community would have access to these services provided by the PCCs. The base has not been increased since 1995 and meanwhile, the demand increases every year.

Our request is to bring the base funding for each of the 15 Parent Child Centers to \$135,000, and to include a COLA so the amount is adjusted every year. To accomplish this goal, the total PCC base appropriation must be \$2,025,000.

- When each PCC provides high-need families with the support they need and thus prevents one birth to a teenager, one woman in prison, one child placed in foster care, one single mother receiving public assistance, they collectively save the state \$2,131,041.

Each PCC does this critical prevention work with MULTIPLE families each year, so the savings is even more!

Use the resources of the Parent Child Centers to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)

Parent Child Centers take a multi-generational approach to physical, social and emotional health that supports children and their caregivers at the same time. We know that some of the most important investments we can make need to happen early and with the right intensity to support the safe and healthy development of children. The latest brain science shows that 80% of a child's brain is developed in the first three years of life, building the foundation for future success. PCCs achieve better outcomes for families at lower costs overall by addressing adverse childhood experiences that current research shows are social determinants that can lead to disease later in life or premature death.

Our request is to support the recommendation in the January 2015 report entitled “Integrating ACE-Informed Practice into the Blueprint for Health” to allocate \$250,000 of Blueprint funds to each of the 15 PCCs to provide multi-generational services to prevent ACES. To achieve this goal, the total appropriation would be \$3,750,000.

Bring Strengthening Families to every Parent Child Center in Vermont.

The Strengthening Families Demonstration Project has been in place for 2 years, in Rutland, St. Albans, and Barre. Strengthening Families provides intensive family services to families who have open family support cases with the Family Services Division of the Department for Children and Families to keep children safe and families resilient.

Our request is to bring the Strengthening Families program to every AHS District through the Parent Child Centers in Vermont. To do this, a total of \$2,250,000 is needed.

The mission of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network is to provide children, youth and families with strength based, holistic and collaborative services across Vermont with a focus on early childhood education and prevention services. The Network provides leadership, support and advocacy on behalf of its membership and in collaboration with key partners in order to achieve the best outcomes for families.

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