



## Senate Appropriations Committee

Tuesday, April 5, 2016 - 4:00pm

On behalf of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network

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### 1988 - Vermont Statute, Title 33: Human Services, Chapter 37: Parent Child Center Program, Part III.

§ 3701. Parent-child center program; eligibility

For purposes of this chapter, "parent-child center" means a community-based organization established for the purpose of providing prevention and early intervention services such as parent education, support, training, referral and related services to prospective parents and families with young children including those whose children are medically, socially, or educationally at risk.

#### Increase base grant funding for Parent Child Centers (PCCs) and include a COLA.

- When the Parent Child Centers were first 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 the services provided by the PCCs. That base grant has not increased since 1995 and meanwhile, demand for service 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. This amount would represent an **increase of \$1,335,140 over the Governor's current recommended FY'17 base allocation of \$689,860.**

#### Health Promotion and Preventing Chronic Disease

- **8 Core Services:** home visiting, early childhood services, parent education, parent support, on site services, playgroups, information and referral, and community development.
  - **A basic set of upstream services in every community ensures family needs are met and help to prevent deeper end services.**
- **Focused on Prevention:** helping all families get off to a healthy start, promoting well-being, building on family strength, keeping children safe, and preventing problems (i.e. illiteracy, poor health, welfare dependency, family violence, sexual, physical and emotional abuse) that have proved to be so costly to our society in both human and financial terms.
  - **Providing early interventions and a two-generation approach ensures holistic services where both the child and parents needs are addressed.**
- **Strengthening Families Protective Factors:** promoting parental resiliency, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete supports, and the social/emotional competence of children.
  - **Talking about what's right with someone rather than what's wrong with them helps to promote resilient kids and families.**

### What does level funding for 20 years mean?

- It means...
  - A deeper erosion of the social safety net of services that, as we know from research, demonstrate better long term health outcomes for Vermonters.
  - A diminished capacity to meet the basic needs of Vermonters.
  - More kids in the deep end of the system because we didn't support upstream services.
  - Staff leaving for higher wages and better benefits in education, health or state positions.

### What does 20 Years of level funding look like?

- 1998 = Parent Child Centers (PCCs) were established in Vermont Statute
  - Total base grant funding for all fifteen PCCs in 1995 = \$737,000
  - Total base grant funding in Governor's recommend for all PCCs in 2017 = \$689,860

**REQUEST: Increase the total PCC base grant appropriation to \$2,025,000. This amount would represent an increase of \$1,335,140 over the Governor's FY'17 recommended base allocation of \$689,860.**