



## Child Care Resource

My name is Elizabeth Meyer. I am the Executive Director of Child Care Resource and a member of the Vermont Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. Thank you for the opportunity to talk with you today. I am here to talk about the challenges created by the proposal in the Governor's Recommended Budget to level fund the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP) in FY '17.

The CCFAP is intended to help families access affordable, quality child care so that they can work and overcome life challenges.

When working as intended CCFAP makes quality child care affordable by reducing the family's portion of child care tuition to an amount that is realistic in relation to their household income.

In Chittenden County:

- There are approximately 1,166 families receiving assistance for 1,606 children under age one and through age 12.
- Among these families, 74% are working or in training. The rest (26%) are overcoming life challenges in order to stabilize and retain or gain employment.
- Among CCFAP children, approximately half attend a high quality program.

More generally, Vermont's consistent financial investment in CCFAP has led to:

- A 9% increase in the number of children statewide supported by the CCFAP from FY 2010 (7,755 children) to FY 2014 (8,444 children).<sup>1</sup>
- An 89% increase in the number of CCFAP children, almost doubling the number attending high quality early childhood programs between FY2010 (2,142 children) and FY2014 (4,039 children).<sup>2</sup>

At the same time, there is now a significant new demand on CCFAP because of the unprecedented number of children 0-5 coming into DCF custody due to Vermont's opiate crisis. In Chittenden County:

- The number of children in DCF custody eligible for CCFAP increased by 36% just in the seven months from February to September 2015.

The Governor's proposed budget for FY '17 level funded CCFAP, which is effectively a budget cut. Without an increase, the program will not keep pace with increasing needs. Program cuts will halt and damage important progress made to date including a CCFAP waiting list for the first time in Vermont's history - a serious challenge for families securing employment to work their way out of poverty.

CCFAP works because it helps families get and keep good paying jobs and supports children at the most important time in their lives. Please include the funding needed - approximately \$1 million - for CCFAP in FY '17.

Contact information: Elizabeth Meyer, 863-3367 x118, [emeyer@childcareresource.org](mailto:emeyer@childcareresource.org)

---

<sup>1</sup> Vermont Department for Children and Families. Outcomes for Vermonters. January 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Vermont Department for Children and Families. Outcomes for Vermonters. January 2015.