

What is the big deal about the base grant?

We were established in statute with a mandate to provide services to communities Title 33; chapter 37 3701-3703. "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 parenting 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." PCC's have had to close programs in areas and are continuing to struggle with keeping open The Family Room, Early Education Services in the Brandon area and other vital programs. In addition the reality is we are not remaining as competitive with salaries and benefits so we lose staff costing families consistency and increasing our workload tremendously. We need to stabilize our PCC's as our contracts and base grants are remaining level funded.

Top 5 or 6 funding sources, and the amounts for the past 5-6 years.

ECE, Reach-Up, CIS-EI, Strengthening Families, BBF – no increases in any for the last several years, cuts in CIS.

How many kids do you have in childcare?

We serve on average 90 kids per day

Do they get CCFAP subsidy?

Across both sites we average 80% subsidy – in our Rutland site 95% are subsidized

The current proposed increase is \$1million for caseload.

Brings level to 2010 – we are significantly behind and if you receive Strengthening Families Child Care Grants then you are not allowed to charge co-pays.

Does that help you?

No help in the big picture – we are currently running a 90k deficit in ECE annually that is covered by other fundraising.

If market rate or FPL were updated, would that help? How?

We would be able to maintain staff thereby providing stability for the parents in their comfort that we are not continually having to transition kids to new teachers ensure continued professional development, be able to access the most current curriculums and best practices across the ECE.

Funding sources have been level funded or close to it for the past few years, how has the level of service changed?

We have seen an incredibly increase in the complexity of behaviors across the board. Our caseloads are requiring much more in depth work. In addition, the level of involvement with, addiction to opioids, involvement with corrections and family services has increased putting even greater challenges in home visiting.

Are you serving the same number of families for the same amount?

We are serving more with less resources as the same amount of funding represents a cut as all costs have increased.

Are the families presenting essentially the same issues?

We are working a great deal more with families struggling with addictions to opioids and heroin. The children are suffering – as family services has shown the number of children under the age of five that are in custody has more than doubled – we are serving these children with resources not keeping up with the increased challenges, staff are burning out and moving on to other positions that pay more.