



Joe Ferrada
Parent Child Center Network Representative
February 15, 2018

Good afternoon, I'm Joe Ferrada, Co-Director of Parent Child Center in Washington County (Family Center), and Parent Child Center Network Chair. Thank you so much for taking the time to listen to all the Parent Child Center testimony. I'm aware you've heard the \$8 million request multiple times. We appreciate all the opportunities you have given us to speak on behalf of children and families.

Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of 15 community-based non-profit organizations, serving all of Vermont. The purpose of each PCC is to provide support and education to families with young children. We use the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework with the goal to help all Vermont families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being and build on family strengths.

Parent Child Centers work alongside parents from pregnancy through early elementary years, supporting mothers, fathers and other caregivers to help children learn and grow, no matter what challenges they face - be it economic, medical, educational, mental health. We are designed to offer whole population services that support all children and families to thrive. The centers deliver upstream services that support families for optimal functioning. Our core Services include: home visiting, early childhood services, parent education, parent supports, on site services, playgroups, information and referral and community development activities.

Parent Child Centers were established into law in 1988 by the Vermont Legislature with the understanding that these family resource centers provided vital services to families. Vermont leads the nation as the first state to sponsor Parent Child Centers. We are the only state whose legislature has made this level of commitment and maintained it over time. Unfortunately, the funding hasn't kept pace with service needs and current market wages.

Our funding for delivery of core services comes from a master grant holding multiple sources of funding for increased efficiency and collective accountability through results-based outcomes and performance measures. The consolidated grant is a great step forward; however, it does not adequately fund the state services that it requires the Parent Child Centers to deliver. Parent Child Center staff wages and benefits are continually 30% below market rates to comparable positions in education and state government. If PCCs are expected to continue to provide high quality state services, PCC wages and benefits must sustain the highly skilled people who do the work.

Please help us by increasing the Master Grant funding by \$8,000,000 to close the salary and funding gap.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony.

Parent Child Centers are the Answer Legislative Platform 2018 Increase Master Grant Funding for PCCs



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Critical Need: Increased funding for Parent Child Centers

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PCCs now have a Master grant that adheres to the Sec. E.300.4 of the 2015 Budget Bill: *Human Services; Improving Grants Management for Results-Based Programs*. The Master Grant increases efficiency and clearly identifies Results Based Accountability population outcomes and program performance measures. However, the Master Grant *does not adequately fund* the state services that it requires the PCCs to deliver.

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Core Services**

- Home Visits
- Early Childhood Services
- Parent Education
- Playgroups
- Parent Support Groups
- Concrete Supports
- Community Development
- Information & Referral

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to close the salary and funding gap.
Total PCC Master Grant funding must be \$10,000,000.***



Research has proven that prevention services targeted at reducing and treating ACEs can dramatically reduce long term health care costs. The PCCs use a family-centered, multi-generational, strength-based approach that both treats and prevents ACEs in families.

PARENT CHILD CENTERS = RESULTS

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We, the undersigned ask the State of Vermont to fully fund the Parent Child Center Master Grant at a total of \$10 million for FY2019 to close the salary and funding gap. This total will represent an increase of \$8 million.

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White River Valley Supervisory Union
Royalton



Parent Child Centers are the Answer

Parent Child Centers can prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences.

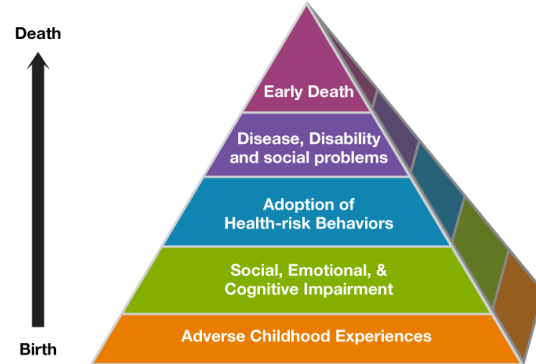
Childhood Sets the Stage for Everything

Childhood experiences, both positive and negative, have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. As such, early experiences are an important public health issue. Much of the foundational research in this area has been referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES:

1. Physical abuse
2. Sexual abuse
3. Emotional abuse
4. Physical neglect
5. Emotional neglect
6. Mother treated violently
7. Household substance abuse
8. Household mental illness
9. Parental separation or divorce
10. Incarcerated household member

57% of Vermonters have one or more ACEs and 22% have 3 or more ACEs.



Adverse Childhood Experiences have been linked to

- risky health behaviors,
- chronic health conditions, and
- early death.

As the number of ACEs increases, so does the risk for these outcomes. The wide-ranging health and social consequences of ACEs underscore the importance of preventing them before they happen.

What can be done about ACEs?

These wide-ranging health and social consequences underscore the importance of preventing ACEs before they happen. Safe, stable, and nurturing relationship and environments (SSNREs) can have a positive impact on a broad range of health problems and on the development of skills that will help children reach their full potential.

The Parent Child Centers use the Strengthening Families Framework and have a two-generation approach to both mitigate and prevent ACEs.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends these strategies for preventing ACEs, which resonate with the 8 core services that PCCs offer (see back of this sheet):



Home visiting to pregnant women and families with newborns



Parenting training programs



Intimate partner violence prevention



Social support for parents



Parent support programs for teens and teen pregnancy prevention programs



Mental illness and substance abuse treatment



High quality child care



Sufficient Income support for lower income families



Parent Child Centers are the Answer

Parent Child Centers provide eight core services across the state.

Home Visits

PCC's provide home visits to families with young children who request home-based support. The frequency and content of visits is determined by family goals and interest.

Early Childhood Services

PCCs provide developmental, inclusive, child care on-site or in strong collaboration with other early childhood services providers to ensure that families have quality options to meet full-time and part-time child care needs and children have group experiences with their peers. PCCs provide services through Learning Together and Strengthening Families programming.

Parent Education

PCC's offer parent education opportunities in a variety of formats and on a range of topics and themes responding to family issues. Educational opportunities are supportive, practically-oriented, and empowering. Information to assist families in understanding and coping with transition issues is included in education services and are also embedded in other services.



peer support, healthy snacks, and information and resource sharing in a developmentally-appropriate setting.

Parent Support Groups

PCC's facilitate opportunities for families with common experience and interests to gain mutual support in a peer group setting.

Concrete Supports

Families have access to a welcoming environment which offers support and information about community services and resources to address the immediate needs of the family and/or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family.

Community Development

PCC's advocate for and contribute to family-centered services and events by taking a supportive and/or leadership role in broad-based promotion, prevention and early intervention efforts in the community. PCCs actively participate in the regional Building Bright Futures (BBF) Council to ensure that direct service activities funded or supported by this grant are aligned with the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan and regional priorities as identified by the regional BBF Council.



Information and Referral

PCC's serve as a clearinghouse for general information about child development and parenting as well as information about local and statewide resources for families. They contribute to the long-term health and well-being of children and families by sharing information about health care (insurance programs, medical homes and related resources). Service is provided through direct referral and follow-up, if requested. PCCs support services to welcome babies into the community.

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