

Date: February 13, 2017
To: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
From: Cathleen Corliss, MS Springfield, VT
Contact: cathleenc@vermontel.net
RE: Parent Child Centers

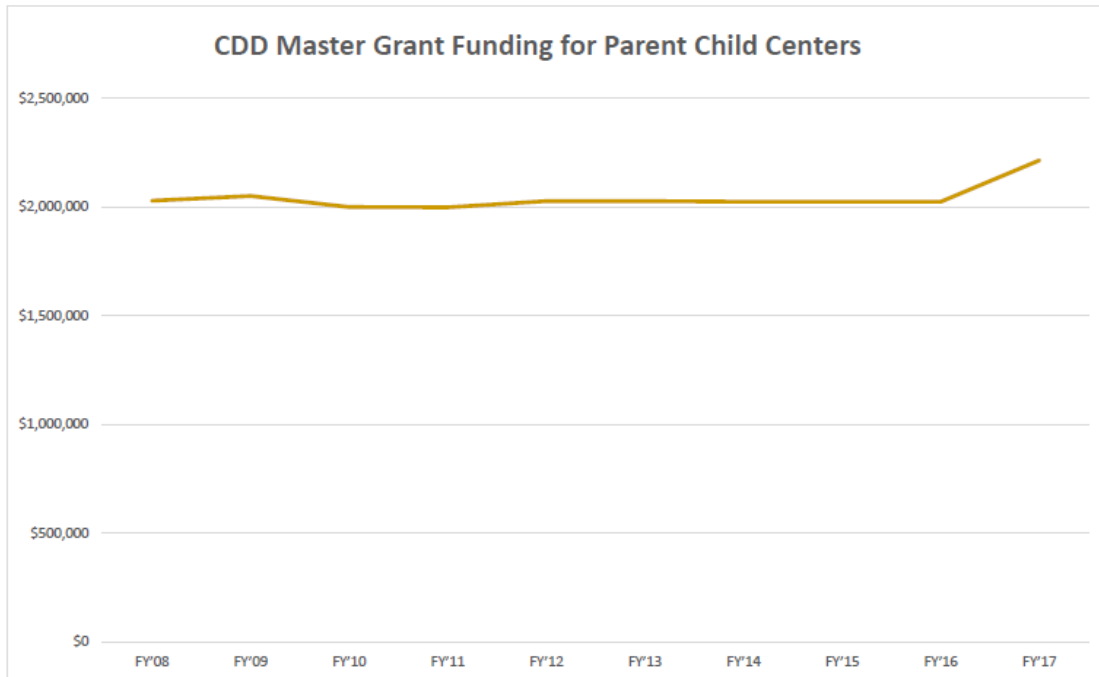
Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of our communities. I have been a home visitor for nine and half years with the Springfield Area Parent Child Center. Previously I have worked as a Child Protection Social Worker for DCF in Brattleboro for ten and half years. I have seen firsthand the difference the services provided by the Parent Child Centers make in the wellness and productivity of families.

Parent Child Centers deliver critical and essential state services using a two-generation approach, working with caregivers and children simultaneously. In the case of Home Visiting often three and four generations are experiencing the intervention. This means the prevention and education services targeted at reducing and treating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) are delivered to the whole family. Years of research indicate preventing ACES can dramatically reduce long-term health and mental health care costs, improve family productivity, improve educational outcomes and promote family and community wellness.

To serve the community well, Parent Child Center staff need to be skilled, able to meet the degree requirements set forth by the State of Vermont and able to afford to make a commitment to the family, the center and the community. To promote an individual and family dynamic where information, support and new ideas can be exchanged requires creating a stable, trusting and committed relationship.

Parent Child Center staff wages and benefits are continually 30% below market rates to comparable positions in education and state government.

As you can see in this graph, Parent Child Centers have essentially been level funded over the past ten years.



- #1 Note: The Master Grant represents four funding streams totaling \$2,200,000 that were combined into one grant in FY'17
- #2 Note: The Master Grant received a \$190,000 legislative increase in FY'17 for the first time in 10 years representing less than 1% per year growth.
- #3 Note: PCCs provide a total of \$24,000,000 in services from state, federal and private grant funding sources that have approximated the same level funding over the past ten years.

If Parent Child Centers are expected to continue to provide high quality state services, then Parent Child Center wages and benefits must sustain the highly skilled people who do the work.

Please increase the Parent Child Center Master Grant by \$8 million, bringing it to \$10 million, to close the wage and benefit gap.

Thank you for all of your hard work on behalf of our communities.

Respectfully,

Cathleen Corliss

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/cestudy/>