

**Date:** February 13, 2017  
**To:** Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees  
**From:** Carol Lang-Godin, Lamoille Valley CIS Program Manager  
**Contact:** [clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org](mailto:clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org)

First and foremost, I want to thank you for taking the time to serve as a legislator for our Vermont communities and for taking the time out of your busy day to read this letter related to the upcoming budget.

My name is Carol Lang-Godin and I am the Children's Integrated Services Coordinator for Lamoille Valley (covering the towns of Stowe, Morrisville, Elmore, Wolcott, Hardwick, Stannard, Greensboro, Craftsbury, Woodbury, Hyde Park, Eden, Johnson, Cambridge, Waterville, Belvidere and Jeffersonville). I am employed by Lamoille Family Center the regional Parent Child Center for the AHS Morrisville District. I grew up in Stowe and currently own a home in Wolcott and have made the choice to raise my family here – I'm invested in the success of Vermont's children and families because I am one of those families.

I am writing to ask that you support the request being made for an increase of approximately \$2.5 million for FY'18 in the Children's Integrated Services funding. This additional funding could come from increased Medicaid rates and additional General Fund investments.

**What is CIS and who benefits?**

Children's Integrated Services (CIS) provides home visits and early childhood program consultation that maximize children's health, development, and learning. Through CIS, families and early care and education providers gain access to a range of supports, from concrete financial assistance to nursing, specialized instruction, and the expertise of mental health clinicians. CIS serves Vermont's youngest learners, particularly those who have disabilities and are entitled to Early Intervention services mandated by Federal law. CIS was designed to lessen, if not eliminate, the need for future services that are costlier and less efficient.

**Where will the funding go?**

CIS funds are managed by 12 regional agencies across Vermont that contract with the State to disburse CIS funds and ensure delivery of CIS. The agencies include Visiting Nurses Associations, Parent Child Centers, and independent agencies. Community partners, such as child care resource and referral agencies and "designated agencies" (DAs) that provide mental health services, are also part of the network that delivers services to CIS clients.

**What would an increase in funding accomplish for families and children?**

An increase in Medicaid rates and the addition of General Fund dollars would ensure:

- Continued progress on family safety and stability;
- Optimal, healthy child development; and
- Young children's access to quality early care and education.

## In Lamoille Valley:

- CIS staff delivered 2,122 home visits to an average of 173 monthly clients in the 1st half of FY'17.
- Our monthly caseload target set by the state continues to be 113 Medicaid participants. We exceeded that monthly target over the past six months by serving **31 Medicaid clients over our target** or an average number of 144 Medicaid clients per month. Additionally, we served an average of **29 clients a month that have private insurance** (Early Intervention) or no insurance (typically Childcare Providers) for a **combined total of 60 participants over our target.**
- It is important to the overall success of CIS for our State partners to ensure an ongoing and sustainable per member per month payment that allows for annual growth that keeps pace with inflation and maintaining quality staffing. In total, Lamoille provided approximately \$92,628 of Medicaid service (31 clients x \$498/monthly PMPM x 12 months = \$92,628) and \$86,652 of service to clients with private or no insurance (29 clients x \$498/mth x 12mths = \$86,652) **for a combined total of \$179,280, of no cost CIS service in excess of our target in the first six months of the year.**

## A few of Lamoille's Data Points:

- 83% of those served by CIS in Lamoille achieved one or more of their goals leading towards more successful, healthy and happy Vermonters.
- 96% of those served by CIS in Lamoille received a screening or assessment within 45 days of their referral to CIS.
- 94% of those served by CIS in Lamoille were put on a One Plan with established goals driven by families within 45 days of their referral to CIS.
- 85% of those served by CIS in Lamoille had an Annual Review done within one year of services starting.
- Lamoille CIS received 150 referrals between July 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016

## The Challenges with the current system:

- ***We've seen 7 years of flat funding:*** CIS funding does not cover the cost of services provided with the essentially flat funding since the program's inception.
- ***Increased Need:*** During this time, changing population needs and increased workforce demands have generated new pressures on CIS. More young children are in state custody, more families struggle to meet basic needs, developmental screening and referral continues to expand, and CIS providers are required to spend a greater percentage of their time meeting multiple requirements for documentation.

Again – I thank you for your dedication, energy and responsiveness to the needs of Vermont's children and families. Supporting an increase in CIS funds is supporting our youngest Vermonters and their families. **Please consider supporting the \$2.5 million increase in CIS funding.**

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions regarding CIS in Lamoille or statewide.