

Date: February 13, 2017
To: Members of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees
From: John Duffy, Morrisville VT
Contact: duffyjohn52@yahoo.com
RE: Parent Child Centers

I am writing as an 8-year member of the Board and in my current role as the Treasurer of the Lamoille Family Center. I know the value of the programs, quality of the staff and have seen first-hand the positive results for children, youth and families. Two decades of level funding for these critical, non-profit, community agencies must stop.

I have volunteered in the Family Center's youth programs involving taking youth to the NYC Arthur Ashe Tournament, snowboarding and other activities over the years. The ways that the Family Center enriches young people has a lasting impact for the rest of their lives.

The Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of 15 community-based non-profit organizations, serving all communities across Vermont with a variety of state funded services. The purpose of each PCC is to provide a two-generational approach of prevention oriented support and education to families with young children. They use the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework with the goal of helping families get off to a healthy start, promote well-being and build on family strengths.

The PCCs deliver critical & essential state services to families with young children.

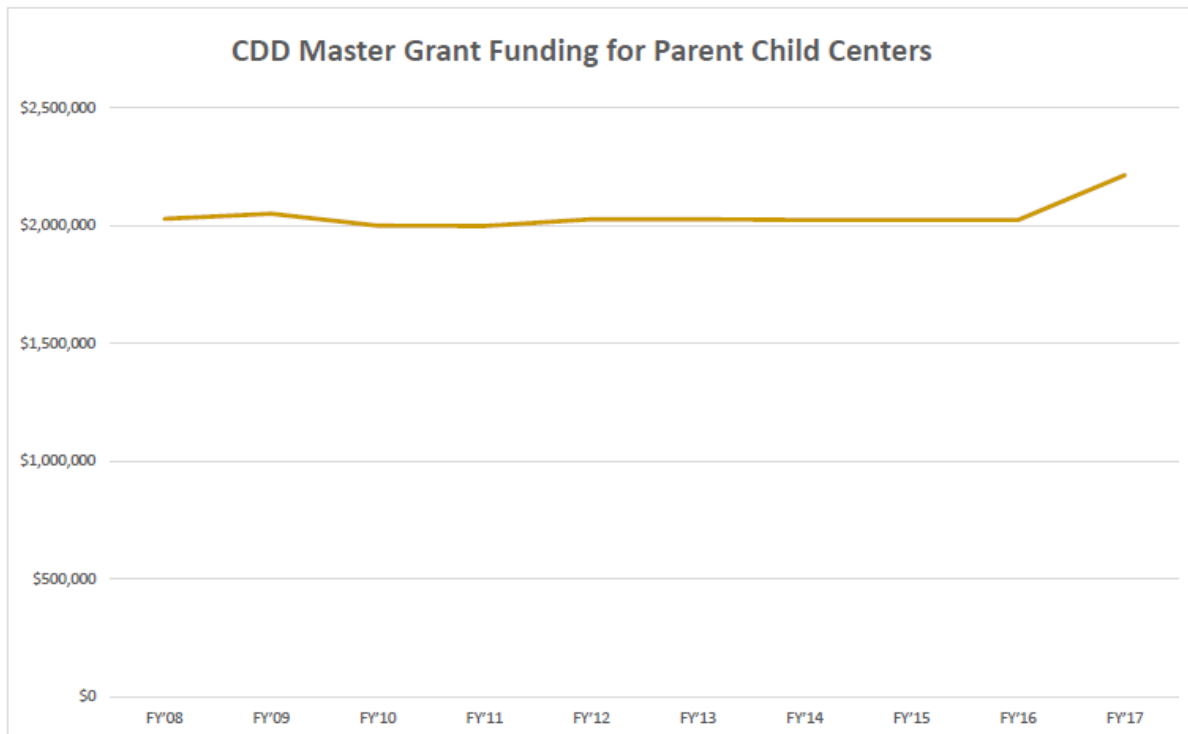
Parent Child Center staff wages and benefits are continually 30% below market rates to comparable positions in education and state government. If PCCs are expected to continue to provide high quality state services, PCC wages and benefits must sustain the highly skilled people who do the work.

While there are many challenges across State government it is critical that we see a funding increase for Parent Child Centers. ***Research has proven that prevention services, such as those provided by PCCs, targeted at reducing and treating***

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) can dramatically reduce long term health care costs.

Please increase the PCC Master Grant to \$10 million dollars to close the nearly \$8 million dollar wage and benefit gap.

This 10-year trend line on Master Grant funding tells the story well.



#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.

Thank you.