

From: Floyd [fnease@lamoillefamilycenter.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 22, 2019 9:10 AM
To: Theresa Utton
Subject: BAA Comment re: Reach-Up "Caseload Savings"

We urge you to reject the concept of “caseload savings” in the Reach Up program and reinvest every penny available into the benefits for families with children. As you know, the Reach Up benefit is currently well below the statutory goal of a basic needs budget, which even at 100% would only be subsistence survival for a household. When fewer families with children need Reach Up, the funds allocated should be used to increase the benefit for the current and future recipients. Reach Up is fundamentally a program designed to ensure that children are safe, warm, sheltered, clothed and fed.

Scooping “caseload savings” out of the budget is essentially taking much needed funds away from children living deep in poverty. The UN Declaration on the Rights of a Child declares that “mankind owes to the child the best that it has to give.” We believe this is the state of Vermont’s commitment and aspiration, and so we ask that you reject the Reach Up caseload savings and direct DCF to direct every available dollar to increasing benefits for Reach Up recipient families.

It also needs to be said that the Reach-Up staff at Lamoille Family Center are paid 40% less (not including benefits) than state employees doing exactly the same job. In fact, one of our staff, a single mother, is forced to be on public benefits herself.

To simply scoop \$200k away from our poorest citizens and those who serve them is fundamentally wrongheaded. It will have little to no impact on the state’s budget challenges. However, investing it in Vermont’s poorest and those who serve them would have a much greater positive impact on the budget challenges faced by these citizens.

With appreciation for the hard work you all do. Floyd

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The Results Based Accountability (RBA) step by step process starts with Lamoille Family Center managers caring about the quality of their services. Our managers, individually or in groups, use the following thinking process: **Step 1:** Who are our customers? **Step 2:** How can we measure if our customers are better off (customer results)? **Step 3:** How can we measure if we’re delivering services well? **Step 4:** How are we doing on the most important of these measures? **Step 5:** Who are the partners that have a potential role to play in doing better? **Step 6:** What works to do better, including no-cost and low-cost ideas? **Step 7:** What do we propose to actually do?

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