

**From:** Margot Holmes [margoth@sapcc-vt.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 18, 2019 8:13 PM  
**To:** Theresa Utton  
**Subject:** BAA comment re: Reach UP caseload savings

Dear Theresa Utton-Jerman,

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.

---

Margot Holmes  
Executive Director  
Springfield Area Parent Child Center  
6 Main St  
North Springfield, VT 05150