

Hello, my name is Heather Getty and I am the Team Leader of Adolescent Services at the Parent Child Center of NCSS in St. Albans, Vermont. I have worked at the PCC for almost 8 years. I am here to ask that you consider increasing the funding for PCCs across our state.

I started my career working with pregnant and parenting adolescents. I was able to see firsthand how important the PCC services are for young families. The young parents I saw called their Reach Up case managers for help with completing forms, applying for child care subsidy, finding out where they could go to connect with other parents, asking for help in finding a counselor, or going back to school. Their Reach Up case managers were often the ones who referred them for therapeutic supports that helped them learn the necessary independent living skills for success.

I think of a young woman who received Reach Up assistance through our PCC and the strides she's made since I first met her. She was parenting one child and pregnant with her second when I met her. She had Reach Up financial assistance, Child Care Subsidy, counseling, and therapeutic case management. In the year that I worked with her at the PCC, she was able to obtain her high school diploma, attend college part time, obtain employment, get a car, get off of financial assistance, and do a work experience with one of our community partners that led to her later competitive employment. Her Reach Up case manager helped connect her to Vermont Adult Learning, to mental health counseling, and helped set up the work experience at our community partner. She became an inspiration to other moms she met at the PCC through community events and playgroups.

The care given to the families that come to the PCC is individualized and provided where those families are at; in the home or the community because they often have no way to get to us. So, we have to get to them and that makes a huge difference in a rural community like ours. That can mean the difference between a family in need engaging in services or falling through the cracks. Any reduction in funding could mean a loss of staff and then a loss of services. I would ask that you keep the PCC Reach Up contracts in place across the state. Furthermore, it's imperative that we increase funding for our all of our PCCs across the state in the amount of \$8M, starting with \$1.5M in fiscal year 2020 added to our Master Grant and a one-time contribution of \$1.5M for shovel ready projects.

Thank you for your time.

Heather Getty
Fairfield, VT resident