

The Reach Up Case Manger position at NEKCA Parent Child Center is more vital now than ever. Vermont is experiencing the lowest number of people receiving states assistance in many years. This is great news! This means there are jobs available.

What this also means is that the people who are on assistance need the most support. They are living with homelessness, lack education, have no work history, no transportation, live in generational poverty, and mental health and substance abuse issues connected to trauma.

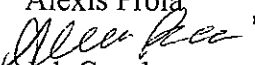
Having a case manager available at the Parent Child center gets families connected to much needed services quicker. As you already heard from Deb's speech

I have a unique position as a Job Coach at the center that tells a compelling story. I receive referrals from all of the case managers. This includes the case manager at NEKCA Parent Child Center and three case managers based out of the state building on Route 5. We are currently working on a plan to support individuals on Reach Up getting connected to services quicker. Our data is showing that our case manager from the parent child center has better outcomes. This is because families have and want a one stop shop. They need to be able to connect to the needed services in the moment. This is what is so valuable about the parent child center's Reach Up case management position! They meet with her and are immediately connected!

Almost 2 years ago the state office had to move. During the transition all case managers were housed at NEKCA. We saw a huge increase in follow through and support for families receiving assistance. The directors at the time wanted to have all Reach Up case managers at the Parent Child Center because they saw the benefit!

In the four short years I have worked for the parent child center I have witnesses so much success. We have graduated over 10 adolescent/young adult parents, connected over 12 individuals to CCV, over 100 people have engaged in work programs offering certificates such as licensed nursing assistance, welding, and CNC machining, the parent child center Reach Up case manager has supported numerous participants getting a car through Good News Garage.

Most compelling is our staff! We have staff on site who are graduates of the Reach Up program who have developed their skills on site with one graduating from Lyndon State College with her Bachelor's Degree.

Alexis Proia

Job Coach