



Caring for Families • Caring for the Future

My name is Corissa Burnell, and I am a VCFCR case manager at Rutland County Parent Child Center. I want to start by explaining why the work my coworkers and I do plays such an important role in your communities. For many years society has been very good at band aiding food insecurity, mental health, early childhood education, housing, poverty and other fundamental community needs. It wasn't until most recently that you have begun to see health care services, community partners and organizations begin to streamline and shift into wrap around patient and client care. Rutland County Parent Child Center has always been at the forefront of prevention and embedded services. We are one of the pioneers and these programs on today's agenda are an essential part of our community.

As a VCFCR case manager I sit with our most vulnerable population during some of their darkest moments and also stand beside them as they celebrate success. I am doing more than just handing them phone numbers to call. Because of embedded services, I am able to bring resources to them and guide them through services and processes. I am able to help participants with transportation to make sure they attend necessary appointments, sit with them in their homes while guiding them through parenting goals and strategies in the moment, provide housing resources, and connect them with reach up for insurance, schooling or benefit help. It is when these families are at their lowest point and are at high risk for their children entering custody that we intervene.

It is imperative that this program continues. My families cannot be cut off from supports. Referrals are not slowing down, rather increasing which is a testament to the need of the program. We are receiving referrals at a critical point when families are in need of service coordination and by cutting VCFCR and Reach up you will cause a costly ripple effect. Families would be forced to over utilize already overcrowded and under funded programs. 120 families would be cut loose from the support net they have here at Rutland County Parent Child Center. With caseloads increasing we need more funding not cuts. Our request for FY2020 is to increase the Master Grant base by \$1.5 million, and a 1.5 million in onetime funding to catch up on expenses that have been delayed due to prior budget cuts. It does not make sense to cut VCFCR and Reach up, our community does not need less, we need more.