

My name is Mary Zigman and I am proud to come before you as the executive director of the Rutland County Parent Child Center. RCPCC is home to 53 committed and talented staff members and is a vibrant and joyful home to hundreds of vulnerable families in Rutland who come to us with their needs.

RCPCC has a one stop shop model for families. When entering our community, not only are you surrounded by encouragement and support -- you are automatically and seamlessly connected to all available social services with a warm hand off within our organization. Reach Up parents (the youngest recipients of TANF) and VCFCR parents (closed child abuse cases) are connected to career and education pathways, early childhood education, early intervention, playgroups, parenting classes, home visits, and our food pantry which are all provided through our Master Grant. At RCPCC -- vulnerable families find their place in the Rutland community and are able to grow from that place with your commitment of funding.

Level funding is a cut. RCPCC has received level funding on the Master Grant for years now. Every year our professional well-educated staff make less and less money in addition to the absence of basic health insurance. Yet they continue because they are committed to the model of service delivery. It makes sense.

The proposed cuts for fiscal year 2020 would eliminate four case management positions at RCPCC -- 2 Reach Up and 2 VCFCR. These combined proposed cuts by the governor would have a ripple effect for us to even deliver childcare -- it is basically destroying our organization's infrastructure. **We stand to lose a total of nearly \$300K from our budget -- a 15% overall budget.**

RCPCC is set to open its 2Gen Whole Family education center mid-summer where we will be serving over three hundred families monthly in our wrap around services. This whole family education center is poised to radically shift the landscape of poverty in Rutland. The hub of this center is reliant upon the Reach Up contracts that have been successfully place with the state of Vermont for years.

RCPCC delivers state services in a comprehensive, holistic, and effective manner. RCPCC is grateful for this continued partnership to do this work. Please invest in prevention and intervention by increasing the PCC Master Grant by \$1.5 million AND allocating a one-time investment of \$1.5 million so PCCs can pay for needed projects, such as basic things like a roof on our building, heaters for our buildings, and crumbling roads, which have been put off because of chronic underfunding.

Please do not allow administration to end the PCC Reach Up Case Management Contracts as well as end funding for the VCFCR pilot program that addresses the needs of low to moderate risk families with closed child abuse cases.