



Parent Child Centers 2019 Public Hearing – Springfield

Vermont House and Senate Committees on Appropriations

February 25, 2019

The work we do at the Springfield Area Parent Child Center provides wrap around, intensive support to families and their young children. We have no “right” door but provide all supports to anyone who comes through our door. One such example is a young couple that recently came in to our center to receive Reach Up Case Management. The mom is still in high school and the father has been looking for work. They have a 4 month old baby. During their first meeting at the Parent Child Center they were able to not only meet with their new Reach Up Case Manager but get a tour of our child care facility, get a referral to our Parent Education classes, and they left with baby clothes from our Family Resource Table, diapers from our Diaper Bank and a Welcome Baby bag complete with books, and resources for new parents. They are in frequent communication with our on staff Reach Up Worker to ask questions, get connected to more resources, and start making plans for their future. They may very soon be moved to the Reach Ahead program and be looking for their own independent housing. With the additional support of the Parent Child Center to provide home visiting support, Parent Education, as well as our continued Reach Up Case Management support, this family is on the road to success.

It is critically important to fund the Parent Child Centers for the valuable work we do in our communities. We are requesting an \$8 million increase to our Master Grant over the next three years starting this year with \$1.5 million to increase our Master Grant to be able to continue to provide these essential services. We are also seeking \$1.5 million in one time money to help off-set the deferment of capital improvement projects that has occurred for years due to underfunding.

As outlined in the story I just shared it is also critical that there are no cuts to the Reach Up program housed with the Parent Child Centers. This program is an indispensable aspect of our wrap-around services. The state of Vermont has a long history of partnering with non profit organizations to provide crucial state services to provide the best supports for our most vulnerable population.

Parent Child Centers being a part of the case management of Reach Up is critical to the success of families. By holding the RU case management contracts, PCCs have access to data, partnerships with local state workers, incentive dollars and supports, and common training.

We are a strong state with strong values and it is vital that we continue our efforts to support ALL families and children and I thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Margot Holmes
Executive Director
Springfield Area Parent Child Center