

Parent Child Center Network COVID Response Funding Request Updated June 3, 2020



Please Support Vermont Families with Young Children and the Parent Child Centers who serve them.

Parent Child Centers (PCCs) are a network of 15 community-based non-profit organizations, serving all of Vermont. PCCs were created through Vermont Statute, and the purpose of each PCC is to provide “prevention and early intervention services such as parenting, education, support training, referral and related services to prospective parents and families with young children, including those whose children are medically, socially, or educationally at risk.” PCCs are the hub of services for families with young children – an actual place in the local community where families are always welcome and can always get the support they need, regardless of economic status or family status.

Parent Child Centers’ Emergency Funding Need due to COVID-19 for a 3 to 6 month crisis situation is \$3.9 million for the 15 PCCs statewide.

This funding would ensure continuity of service after the crisis passes, as well as provide critical resources to Parent Child Centers to make sure families with young children receive the services and supports they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even before COVID-19, the Parent Child Centers were dealing with chronic underfunding of the services and supports they provide and contending with increased demand because families have increasingly complex needs. We need the state to recognize that this important part of our family services system needs to be strengthened during this time, not weakened even further.

We ask *first*, that Parent Child Centers are kept whole and all current funding streams are paid and remain intact, with the recognition that flexibility will be needed regarding outcomes and service delivery. *Second*, we ask for an additional \$3.9million for calendar year 2020, to help us support families now, during the crisis, and to be able to deal with increased demand as our state emerges from the crisis, and families are trying to put their lives back together.

We are actively engaged in the process of reopening childcare programs. We are problem-solving with colleagues and state partners to find workable solutions that keep everyone safe and healthy, so that we can feel ready to open and provide the childcare that families need. The following list of new expenses does not necessarily include those related to the restart of our childcare programs, as we have been engaged in that conversation more broadly.



Research has proven that prevention services targeted at reducing and treating ACEs can dramatically reduce long term health care costs. The PCCs use a family-centered, multi-generational, strength-based approach that both treats and prevents ACEs in families. We will continue this work throughout the COVID crisis and beyond, as families rebuild their lives after the crisis passes.

The \$3.9 million in emergency funds are urgently needed to cover:

- Additional costs due to Concrete Supports and emergency resources for families including supplies, meals distribution, diapers, wipes, solid baby food, donor milk, homemade masks and other unexpected things families may need during this unusual time.
- Health & Safety Supplies. Stocks are low and difficult to keep in supply. These are necessary for the essential work being done, whether it be in providing on-site concrete supports via a Food Shelf, Diaper Bank, or Child Care. This is a new & essential expense for the direct services that cannot be done without direct in-person contact.
- Expanded supports for families struggling with substance use.
- Housing and homelessness supports for families.
- **We will see an increase in referrals and will be serving an increase of new families that are struggling because of the COVID pandemic**, including an influx of DCF/FSD cases due to crisis and domestic violence.
- Continued and expanded crisis-focused community collaboration & coordination. Kinship support groups.
- Loss of funding due to multiple planned fundraising event cancellations and decreased income for contributors and philanthropists in our communities, which are critical sources of revenue for these lean agencies.
- Staff payroll and benefits. Some PCCs are self-pay unemployment, which is only covered in the federal package at 50%. Paid Family Leave option requires payroll expense up front, which has been a hardship. Some needed to keep staff available even if they were not needed during stay at home time. Many are working from home. Although payroll is a normal operating expense, we need to ensure that PCCs have the funding and cash flow needed to cover these expenses.
 - Additional travel expenses for delivery of goods to families who need supplies.
 - Additional staff time outside of regular positions to increase available workforce to deploy in assisting vulnerable families.
- Building expenses, including deep cleaning/sanitizing, maintenance of buildings during closure, and facility VOSHA changes necessary for supporting safe return to work. Again, some of these are normal operating expenses, but with loss of revenue may not be easily managed because most PCCs have very tight cash flow and little or no reserves.
- Remote workforce related expenses - laptops, teleconference subscriptions/licenses & fees, etc. Many staff do not have laptops and many PCCs do not have teleconference subscriptions now. In addition to work meetings, staff may be using these tools for direct service as COVID-19 stay at home protocols continue.
 - Virtual Services include: home visits, parent ed/support groups, music times, SF activities, playgroups; virtual logistics and deliveries, telehealth CIS/EI services, tele-mental health and family support; telehealth Welcome Baby.
 - We are also providing phone cards for pre-paid cell phone service to our clients because many of them are on minute-by-minute prepaid plans, and when we are providing services we are draining their minutes. Also, we want to ensure that our families have access to hotlines for various services, including domestic violence, suicide prevention, 2-1-1, and telehealth.



Raising a child is hard for everyone, and every parent wants to do the best for their children. The Parent Child Centers make it possible for families to succeed in raising a strong and healthy family by helping them identify and use their strengths to get their children off to a good start. Now, more than ever, families will need this support to identify their strengths and nurture their children.

A special need we want to highlight throughout the above list is the need for immediate and ongoing flexible funding for CONCRETE SUPPORTS for families as we go through this crisis and also begin the recovery period. Concrete Supports are actual things that PCCs pay for to address immediate and necessary family needs so that the families can access essential services they need and also meet their daily survival needs. We have seen some relief for families as moratoria have been placed on utility shut offs and evictions, and that has really helped, but we still see additional needs.



For example:

- Basic household & cleaning supplies
- Meals/Food distribution
- Infant/toddler needs, such as diapers, wipes, solid baby food, donor milk
- Homemade masks
- Phone cards for pre-paid cell phone service to our families
- Other unexpected things families may need during this unusual time to care for their children and keep their families healthy and safe.

This money is needed *in addition to other new federal supports available.*

- PCCs have been working hard to understand the CARES Act and what federal support is available to them, working with their Boards of Directors to apply for this funding and develop information tracking systems for reports and documentation.
- PCCs have been working with local supports, including foundations and banks to address cash flow challenges.
- PCCs have implemented cost cutting measures - looking at all expenses for reductions where possible; some Centers are looking at layoffs or redeploying staff wherever possible. The Parent Child Center Network is a central place where all directors are comparing notes, sharing strategies, and working together to ensure families are getting the supports and services they need.
- PCCs are working to get authorizations for designated funds and restricted funds to be released.
- We need to note that the PCC Master Grant does not pay for everything. Each PCC has several grants and contracts with the state to provide a variety of services and supports for families. At this time, it is unclear if these will be stable. As the new Budget is contemplated, it is important to acknowledge that other funding streams may be cut. Some of the other funding streams include the Strengthening Families grants, CIS grants including Early Intervention, Family Services Home Visiting, and specialized child care, Reach Up job coaches & Reach Up work sites, Prevention & Stabilization Services for Youth & Families funding, Family Supportive Housing, specialized transportation and others. The Master Grant at its current FY20 funding level represents about 14% of the total funding for PCCs across the state.

Short term funding will make it possible for PCCs to be here to provide long-term support to communities:

Communities will need PCCs more than ever after the peak of this crisis passes and it will be critical to get families back on track and return to whatever their new normal looks like. We know that the trauma that children and families are experiencing now will require additional supports from PCCs in the long term, including general trauma response, postpartum depression, substance use, isolation risks for children at risk of abuse and neglect and rebuilding social connections and parenting supports. ***PCCs need to be here for the immediate recovery time as well as the long term, and we need to be able to stand strong for Vermont's children and families.*** We continue to be committed to doing this work in partnership with the state, and we hope the state will support our efforts to support families with young children when they need that support more than ever.

COVID-19 PCC Budget- \$3.9 million divided equitably across 15 PCC's for 6 month time frame

COVID Estimated Expenses June-December	Totals	Notes
Concrete Supports: basic needs for families, paid for in real time (see list above)	\$700,000	Increased Concrete supports are core to essential services PCC's are currently providing to families due to COVID
Increased staffing needs and support for current staff/incentive pay to address increased need for family support services	\$1,500,000	Increased demand for services driven by post COVID surge ie, case management, parent support groups, parent education, child abuse prevention, resources & referrals, etc
Operations & Facilities: PPE, increased cleaning supplies and cleaning expenses, physical space alterations to meet safety needs, postage & copying for increased use of mail for families	\$250,000	We are needing to ensure staff have the PPE necessary for food and diaper bank usage and child care and must increase facility cleaning costs
Travel/Mileage	\$300,000	Staff are delivering essential emergency goods to families to ensure families have basic needs met to stay safe and healthy. And may be providing 1:1 services at people's homes or in other places.
Technology: I/T, internet, tech/web interface subscriptions, laptops, cell phones, telehealth	\$600,000	To work remote staff need laptops, cell phones, internet access, web based virtual & tele based apps and subscriptions
Staff Training- distance service delivery modalities & strategies	\$200,000	Training & TA for staff in all things related to serving families during COVID and after the crisis passes
Admin @ 10%	\$350,000	Administration costs for PCCN to manage the grant, ensure accurate and timely reporting, and for each PCC to dedicate resources to accurate accounting and reporting for these funds.
TOTAL FOR 15 PCCs	\$3,900,00	

PCC Contact Information:

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