

Thank you for your time and attention to the needs of Vermonters.

My name is Josh Miller and I am here to speak on behalf of families who need Parent Child Centers. Our need and request is to increase the Master Grant by \$1.5 million dollars and allocating a one-time investment of \$1.5 million so PCCs can pay for needed projects that have been put off due to chronic underfunding.

PCCs are the answer...for fathers too. Here is a case study of a dad in our dads program.

At Early Education Services in Brattleboro, the program Dedicated Dads Making a Difference has been running since 2007. A probation officer called one day noting that he had been sending his guys, dads to this group for one year. He stated "Not one of my guys has gone back to jail since they have been going to this group." If you don't already know the price of incarceration- It's almost \$50,000 a year. Probation officers have from 20-50 fathers on their caseloads. Take half of the minimum of his caseload and multiply that times \$50,000. This particular probation officer worked mainly with men who had at least one felony charge and would talk about how he will sometimes have 3 generations of a family on his caseload at one time. And if you take half of those men and give them jobs- they become supporters of the Vermont economy, instead of a cost and one that goes beyond dollars.

Parent Child Centers...are the answer...for Families with young children. Playgroups are a place for families to connect and avoid harmful isolation. Parent education gives parents the necessary tools, child development knowledge, healthy discipline strategies and normalization of children's behaviors. Parent supports help moms, dads, grandparents and other caregivers get through challenging times when they need it most.

Parent Child Centers are innovative, nimble and are designed to meet the changing needs of families and create programming necessary for our specific communities. We do our best to provide as many resources for families in our centers, and at the same time, building relationships with State and community resources. The Department of Children and Families Family Services has the unimaginable task of keeping all families safe. DCF and PCCs continue to build a strong relationship and work together, so that we can minimize the reports of child abuse and neglect. PCCs and primary care institutions are combining efforts to develop whole health models, like DULCE (Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone) in Lamoille County and soon to be expanded to Burlington and St. Albans PCCs. At the Janet S. Munt Family Room, we are working with University Pediatrics to embark on an innovative project to combine health care and family education in our center.

Our need and request is to increase the Master Grant by \$1.5 million dollars and allocating a one-time investment of \$1.5 million so PCCs can pay for needed projects that have been put off due to chronic underfunding. Thank you for your time and attention.