

Hello, my name is Katy Leffel. I am a home visiting nurse and the supervisor of the maternal child health programs at Central Vermont Home Health, I administer the nursing portion of CIS. My daughter attends the FCWC childcare and I am a parent rep on the board. I strongly believe in the vital importance of PCC programs in our communities.

We currently have a mother, a 19 year old, homeless. She was homeless for her entire pregnancy and now has come home with her baby, born prematurely and having spent time in the neonatal intensive care unit. Our nurses visited over the weekend, but the work for the coming days is to get them connected to the FCWC housing programs and EI for her infant. She is a parent that will require intensive, wrap around services to find and keep housing, finish high school and learn to parent.

Our state has an amazing system of PCCs which provide these wrap around services to our families struggling the most. This strong and versatile network of PCCs is unusual in our country – Vermont is recognized and celebrated for this network. The PCCs support resilience and self-sufficiency skills in our families – with upstream, creative supports, the PCCs cut future costs and make our state a safer and more caring place.

Support the Parent Child Center Bill and increase state funding for Parent Child Centers

Please fully fund the Parent Child Centers - Master Grant funding must increase by \$6,700,000 to close funding gap. Total PCC Master Grant funding must be \$10,000,000. Our request for FY2021 is to increase the Master Grant base by \$4million. We also request \$1.5million in one-time funding to continue to “catch up” on deferred administrative and maintenance expenses that have been delayed as we have dealt with continued under-funding for decades. \$1million in one-time funding was allocated in FY2020, and this money is being directed to critical projects at PCCs.