

ABC  LOL
Child Care Center
& Preschool

1448 Memorial Drive St Johnsburry, VT 05819

February 8, 2021

I am writing this letter to advocate for funding to be allocated for Prevent Child Abuse Vermont to be able to continue to provide trainings, at no cost to the attendee.

As a licensed childcare center, trainings held by Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (specifically ACT 1 – What is Child Sexual Abuse?) are required for all staff members. Currently, this is one of 4 that are mandated by the state: VT Orientation Training, Medication Administration, and 1st Aid/CPR are also included in this. VT Orientation Training and 1st Aid/CPR both have a fee as well. To start in the childcare field, there is a cost before employees can even start to work. For our center, with almost 45 employees, the cost of the single training would be \$1,125 if all employees needed to take it. This would be a huge cost to either the owner, who also pays for the time it takes to complete the training, or for the employee, who is essentially paying to enter a field after already earning credentials through higher education or other means.

There is more than a monetary cost to the trainings if the grant is not received. The statistic that attendance dropped from 109 attendees a month to 21 was staggering to read. Our center serves more than 90% of children who fall below the poverty line in Vermont. Those children are more susceptible to experiencing adverse childhood experiences, and it is imperative that our staff members are able to support the children and their families to the best of their capabilities. For those who have not grown up with their own struggles, these trainings provide employees with the knowledge to recognize warning signs and also the means to support and report. These trainings also provide basic information that employees may not recognize is important – such as labelling anatomy with the appropriate names in order to ensure that the child is understood if they are reporting abuse to another adult in their life.

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont is an amazing resource for our center, and we would love to support the program however possible, as this resource in turn benefits not just our staff members, but our children, families and community as well.

Please let me know if I can provide any more information and thank you for your time.

Michelle Parson
Director