

Good afternoon! My name is Stephanie Carvey, I live in Rutland and am the Co-Executive Director of the Rutland County Parent Child Center. I am here to request an increase in base funding for the Parent Child Center Integrated Grant by \$721,945 to cover health insurance cost increases and support PCCN administration.

Our agency supports a plethora of services, including Learning Together, a high school program for pregnant, parenting and at-risk youth, multiple food pantries available to all families, regardless of income, Gaining Ground, a new program, ready to boost families to the next level of their education and careers, children's integrated services teams families up with case workers who provide a wide array of early intervention services and family supports, and my personal favorite, and area of expertise, early childhood education.

As a licensed educator, my heart will always belong to the young children we serve, but I always felt there was so much more work to do outside of the classroom to help their families who are ultimately their foundation. Even if we create all the magic during the day in our ECE programs, if we are sending them home to an unsupportive environment, what is the point? RCPCC is dedicated to 'removing barriers'; we want to see families get to the next step. This 2 generation approach is what our community needs to positively pave the way for new opportunities for our children.

Our staff are our family too. They deserve the same support, which is why we are working equally as hard to provide them with benefits equal to other fields, such as access to affordable healthcare. That's just one tiny piece of the puzzle, and why we are asking for your support in increasing the base funding to the Parent Child Center Integrated Grant by \$721,945 to cover health insurance cost increases and support PCCN administration. Thank you for your ongoing support to Vermont's children and families and thank you for your time today.