



<https://vtparentchildcenternetwork.org/>
Supporting Vermont's Parent Child Centers
through **leadership, advocacy** and **collaboration**
with key partners to achieve the best outcomes
for families.

Parent Child Center Network FY2024 Budget Request

Increase Base Funding for the PCC Integrated Grant by \$5.2million

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Parent Child Center Network. Parent Child Centers (PCCs) were established in Vermont statute in the late 1980s. Vermont's 15 PCCs provide eight core services to families with young children on behalf of the state. Last year, with the passage of Act 150, the Parent Child Center Network of providers was recognized and codified as a partner working with the State to provide these services and supports. The Parent Child Center Network has been working for several years to ensure consistency and quality in service delivery for families across the state. PCCs are service hubs 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.

Ongoing Challenges – Workforce Competition

The legislature supported an increase in base funding for FY2023 for the PCCs Integrated Grant, which is spread across the 15 Parent Child Centers to deliver services to all families with young children in Vermont. This increase has definitely made a difference for our families and also our staff. However, the decades of level underfunding prior to that year have caused significant challenges for paying our staff competitive wages.

Our Request – Increase Base Funding to Support our Staff & the Families We Serve

Increasing the PCCN base funding (Dept ID 603650) by \$5.2 million would get us to our goal of \$10 million statewide. This increase in the PCC Integrated Grant funding would allow the Parent Child Centers to increase wages and/or benefits to be competitive in the workforce marketplace so that families with young children can receive consistent, high-quality services and supports from people that they know and trust.

This base funding increase request has been a long-standing request to bring PCC staff closer to parity with similar positions in the education and state sectors. Parent Child Centers provide supports and services to families with young children, and these supports and services are delivered by staff people. Because of decades of underfunding, the PCCs are not able to compete in the (ever tighter) workforce market, which creates situations where positions are not filled for long periods of time and/or they turnover frequently. Because these services require strong relationships with families over time, consistent and qualified staff people are important.



Thus, increasing the funding for the Integrated PCC Grant, which funds the 8 Core Services that all 15 Parent Child Centers deliver on behalf of the state, is critical.