

2/20/2025

Good evening! My name is Stephanie Carvey, and I am the Co-Executive Director of the Rutland County Parent Child Center. Our agency is one of 15 centers as part of the Parent Child Center Network, providing services for families in Rutland County.

I am here today to request \$500k from the Tobacco Settlement Fund for the base funding for our integrated Grant, allowing parent child centers to consistently and comprehensively provide tobacco cessation referrals and support for pregnant people and families with young children, as well as education and support to ensure infants and young children are not exposed to secondhand smoke.

Working primarily in early childhood education, I have a unique advantage of seeing families every day. Although our primary role is to support children reaching milestones and becoming kindergarten-ready, we often are imbedded into their personal lives at a deeper level. Working as part of a larger agency, we can support families with opportunities to reach new levels of success, in turn giving their children a stronger start in life.

Success in quitting and remaining smoke free is more likely among people who have social support and encouragement. Imbedding strategies for tobacco cessation into our work not only allows us to better assist individuals in reaching their quitting goals but also promotes collaboration in sustainable healthy habits in life. This foundation is crucial to maintaining the momentum of positive lifestyles for future generations.

Supporting families reaching their greatest potential is what we are here for. Which is why we would like to secure \$500k from the Tobacco Settlement Fund for the base funding for our integrated Grant, allowing parent child centers to consistently and comprehensively provide tobacco cessation referrals and support for pregnant people and families with young children, as well as education and support to ensure infants and young children are not exposed to secondhand smoke.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request!