

# Vermont Parent Child Center Network

## 2025 Impact Report



A statewide organization of 15 Parent Child Centers that provides **leadership, advocacy, and accountability in the delivery of 8 core services** that nurture child development, prevent child abuse and neglect, protect against economic hardship, and build family resilience.





## Parent Child Centers: Strengthening Families Throughout Vermont

15 Parent Child Centers cover all geographic regions to provide a range of services and programs to families with children under age six. Each Center is a community-based hub with services that reach families in their homes and in community locations. Together they form the VPCC Network with a shared vision and purpose to provide Eight Core Services. PCCs build healthy communities and ensure that all children and families have access to the supports and services they need to encourage safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments that are critical to helping children thrive and reducing the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. By working together as a Network comprised of leaders from each Center, standards of quality are maintained, innovations are shared, and our collective impact is amplified.



Scan the QR code to visit our new website, [vtparentchildcenternetwork.org](http://vtparentchildcenternetwork.org), and watch our video!

## A message from the VPCCN Director and Chair

**W**e have completed our first full year as a professional Network working collaboratively to strengthen Parent Child Centers as a cornerstone of Vermont’s system of care for families and young children. Through shared leadership, the 15 center directors who serve as the Network’s Board are building stronger standards, deepening our commitment to quality, and aligning our work to meet both local needs while achieving statewide impact.

From the Network’s beginnings in 1986 when the Center leaders began working together, to the implementation of Act 150 in 2024—authorizing the Network to administer the statewide grant—our collective impact has grown. We are pleased to share this report highlighting how PCCs improve outcomes and strengthen families of all backgrounds and circumstances.

This year tested our shared purpose and collective strength. Economic stability for many Vermont families became increasingly fragile. The government shutdown, shortages of affordable housing, and rising costs of utilities and necessities made our work more urgent. When families experience economic instability, it is harder for parents to provide the consistent, nurturing care that is essential for healthy brain development in the earliest years.

The Network rallied together to meet these needs. PCCs are trusted places where families turn in times of need—places of stability, connection, and support. In addition to ensuring access to quality childcare, conducting home visits, and supporting parents with child development information, Centers provided increased concrete supports to help families weather immediate challenges. By continuing to work in partnership with the state, our communities, and—most importantly—the families we serve, we are advancing our vision of a universal, accessible system of care that supports all Vermont families.

**Ellen Amstutz, MSW, PhD, VPCCN Director**  
**Carol Lang-Godin, VPCCN Chair and Executive Director, Lamoille Family Center**

### Last year Parent Child Centers served:

**22,593**

**Parents** ↴

**23,682** →

**Children**

*This includes 1,170 children with developmental, physical or health related special needs.*

**NOTE:** We use the term “parent” to encompass all caregivers who play a parenting role.

# 8 Core Services

All Parent Child Centers in Vermont offer these eight core services:

CORE SERVICE	HOW IT WORKS	OUR RESULTS
<b>1. Parent Support</b>	Families gain strength through peer connection and individualized support that is adapted to their diverse life circumstances and child's developmental stages. When parents feel supported, they are better able to provide responsive, nurturing care for their children.	<b>746 group parent support sessions</b> held statewide
<b>2. Parent Education</b>	PCCs provide practical, empowering information on child development, behavior, and family transitions. Education opportunities strengthen parenting confidence while honoring that each child develops at their own pace.	<b>915 caregivers</b> participated in one-time or multi-session <b>learning opportunities</b>
<b>3. Concrete Supports</b>	PCCs help families meet immediate needs such as food, diapers, transportation, and utility or rent assistance. Reducing financial stress supports nurturing and responsive parenting and helps prevent child welfare system involvement.	<b>4,220 families received concrete supports</b> (28% increase over previous year)
<b>4. Home Visits</b>	Trained family support staff provide home visits based on family goals and needs. Using evidence-based and research-informed approaches, home visiting strengthens parent-child relationships and improves early developmental outcomes.	<b>27,373 home visits</b> provided to over <b>4,000 families</b>
<b>5. Playgroups</b>	Playgroups reduce social isolation for caregivers and support children's social-emotional development. Through partnerships with community spaces like libraries and parks, PCCs extend their geographical reach and offer inclusive programming for diverse families.	<b>2,959 playgroup sessions</b> held across Vermont
<b>6. Information &amp; Referral</b>	Using a no wrong door approach, PCCs connect families to public benefits, health care, and community resources. Staff provide navigation, application assistance, advocacy, and follow-up to ensure successful access.	<b>Increased requests</b> addressed for <b>food, diapers, utility assistance, and housing support</b>
<b>7. Early Childhood Services</b>	PCCs are key providers of high-quality childcare and offer information and application assistance for early childhood education. They provide consultation to community childcare providers using their expertise in supporting children with developmental challenges and in assisting parents who face a range of adversities.	<b>12 PCCs</b> operate licensed programs serving <b>684 children</b> <b>6 PCCs</b> serve as state <b>Community Child Care Support Agencies</b>
<b>8. Community Development</b>	PCCs play a vital role in building strong, family-centered communities. They are part of local and cross-sector coalitions spanning early childhood education, mental health, housing and homelessness, and the business community. PCCs elevate parent voice, foster parent leadership, and ensure families help shape the systems that serve them.	Active <b>participation or leadership</b> in <b>30+ coalitions</b> statewide

# Tiered Support to meet each family's individual needs

## High Intensity

Holistic support drawing on a range of supports and services is provided to families and children who face the most persistent challenges.



HIGH INTENSITY

“I have never felt as supported in my parenting until coming here. I came here towards the end of my pregnancy. . . and a year later **I'm still so grateful to have had this chance to grow as a mother and become stronger** with my recovery.”

## Targeted

Individualized services help proactively address emerging needs before they become problems.



TARGETED

“I had fallen on hard times . . . becoming unemployed. I received a disconnection notice for my electric bill. I was referred to [PCC] . . . and not only did I receive help with my bill but I also received a gift card for necessities for my children. **I am overjoyed with the help I received**, and I plan to pay it forward as soon as I'm able to.”

## Universal

All families are welcomed, regardless of economic or individual circumstances. All 8 core services are offered universally.



UNIVERSAL

“[PCC] is a gem. Not only does it help my baby get to meet other friends, but it helps me to feel supported in times when isolation hits. **It's a big boost to my confidence in being a parent** and I feel a sense of belonging there.”

## PCCs Listen to Caregivers and Build Family Leadership

**400+** trained & caring professionals statewide.

Caregivers give us feedback in our annual survey:

**98%** report that **the services had a positive impact** on them or their family.

**97%** report that they **received the help that they needed**/was right for them.

**97%** would **recommend the services** to a family member or friend.

**98%** report that **staff members are welcoming & respectful**.

## PCCs Build Family Leadership

Caregivers sit on Center's Boards of Directors and Family Advisory Councils. This year, through a grant from the Building Bright Futures, PCCs are building a shared leadership model with experts from Chapin Hall, a nationally recognized child and family policy leader.

“[PCC staff] is **absolutely amazing at her job**. She makes sure to really listen to what I'm saying. She goes out of her way to help and never makes me feel ashamed for needing it.”

# Innovative Approaches Research-Informed Programs

Model programs include:

## DULCE

Developmental Understanding and Legal Collaboration for Everyone. PCC Family Specialists partner with pediatric health care practices to promote healthy infant development and support parents during a child's first six months. This nationally recognized interdisciplinary model brings together medical, legal, mental health, and early childhood expertise to reduce family stress and support healthy beginnings. **Offered at six PCC locations.**

## Welcome Baby

PCCs reach families who are expecting or have newborns to provide a gift bag of useful items, community resources, and an introduction to their local PCC.

Families can receive a home visit from a PCC Family Support Specialist, who provides guidance on infant care and parenting. The postpartum period is a critical time for child wellbeing, parent mental health, and bonding. **PCCs reached 1,707 families with Welcome Baby support – one-third of all babies born in Vermont.**



## Learning Together Program

This longstanding PCC program is a state-approved alternative high school completion program for pregnant or parenting youth and young adults. Participants receive wrap-around support to earn a high school degree, gain work experience, and build parenting and life skills in a supportive, peer-based setting.

**Offered at two PCCs.**



## Families at the Center

**Offered by two PCCs** through private foundation support, Families at the Center connects service providers and parents together in one place to address challenges and remove barriers. Dignified, family-driven support helps families meet education, health, and other goals. Funding continues based on successful outcomes.

## Evidence-Based Home Visiting

**All PCCs offer home visiting services** tailored to families' individual goals and needs. Using research informed models such as Parents as Teachers (PAT), Early Head Start and responsive home visiting, PCCs support families from pregnancy through early childhood. National Home Visiting evaluations show increases in prenatal care, improved health and cognitive outcomes for babies, safer home environments, and more responsive parenting, leading to reductions in child maltreatment. Long-term outcomes show higher educational attainment and increased earnings among parents demonstrating a strong return on investment.

## Family Supportive Housing

Funded by the state, **three PCCs** have grants to reduce the incidence and duration of child and family homelessness by providing intensive, individualized support to families at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Babies and young children are particularly vulnerable to the stress and disruption of housing instability. When supports are delivered through PCCs, the harmful effects on young children and families can be mitigated.

## ...and others

**PCCs provide a range of other services** including;

- Community Childcare Support Agencies
- Children's Integrated Services
- Licensed PreK programs
- Head Start
- HEART Perinatal Support and others.

## Maintaining Quality through National Standards

The Network is a member of the **National Family Support Network**, an organization of 41 State Networks and 3,000 Family Resource Centers, which follow the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support. All PCCS are trained in implementing these Standards and using the self-assessment tool to identify areas for improvement and action.

## Evaluating impact using the Protective Factors Framework

The protective factors framework, developed by the Center for the Study of Social Policy is a research-informed approach to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. These five protective factors, when strengthened, act to mitigate risks and promote positive well-being and healthy development.

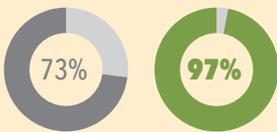
- **Parental resilience:** Managing stress and functioning well when faced with challenges, adversity, and trauma.
- **Social connections:** Positive relationships that provide emotional, informational, instrumental, and spiritual support.
- **Knowledge of parenting and child development:** Understanding child development and parenting strategies that support physical, cognitive, language, social and emotional development.
- **Concrete support in times of need:** Access to concrete support and services that address a family’s needs and help minimize stress caused by challenges.
- **Social and emotional competence of children:** Family and child interactions that help children develop the ability to communicate clearly, recognize, and regulate their emotions and establish and maintain relationships.

## Our FY25 Evaluation Results

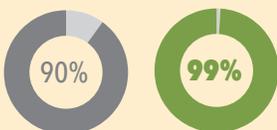
An annual survey of PCC participants assesses satisfaction, seeks feedback, and measures support related to the Protective Factors Framework. The results (7/24 - 6/25) show the percent of respondents (n= 978) who answered “always” or “most of the time” to the statements before participating or receiving services through their local PCC, and after receiving services.

### ● Before working with PCCs ● After working with PCCs

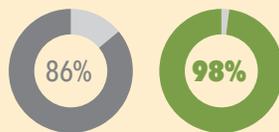
I understand my child(ren)’s development.



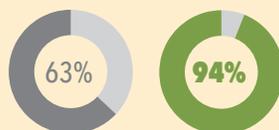
I take good care of my child(ren) even when I have personal problems.



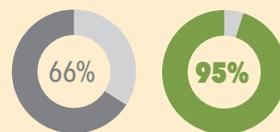
I manage the daily responsibilities of being a parent/caregiver.



When I am worried about my child, I have someone to talk with.



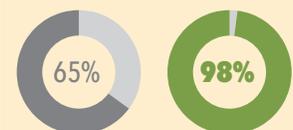
I feel strong and confident as a parent.



I have relationships with people who provide me with support when I need it.



I know where I can get helpful information about parenting and taking care of children.



I feel able to handle stressful events.



# Our Statewide Reach

## Third Annual PCC Innovations Conference

PCC staff from all corners of the State gathered at Lake Morey resort in May 2025 for a day of learning, connecting and inspiration. With over 200 staff in attendance, the conference opened with a keynote presentation on transforming trauma. 21 workshops were led by PCC staff sharing their expertise and innovative approaches. Supported by the A.D. Henderson Foundation and the Couch Family Foundation.

## PCCN Integrated Grant

In FY25 the Parent Child Center Network received an appropriation of \$7.03M from the Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division for funding 15 Centers. PCC grants comprised between 10-25% of individual PCCs total revenue, thereby providing an essential resource to maintain financial stability.

Each year Network members work with their local legislators to ensure the continuation of these vital services in all communities of Vermont. Network members are active in the Statehouse during the legislative session and throughout the year to ensure families' voices are represented in state policies.

## Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Funding for FY26

All 15 Parent Child Centers are integrating smoking and vaping cessation education, referrals, and support into core services and programs through a \$250,000 appropriation. Vermont continues to experience high rates of tobacco use during pregnancy and

secondhand smoke exposure in homes with young children. Through this partnership with the Vermont Department of Health Tobacco Control Program PCCs are contributing to statewide efforts to reduce tobacco use and promote healthier outcomes for families.

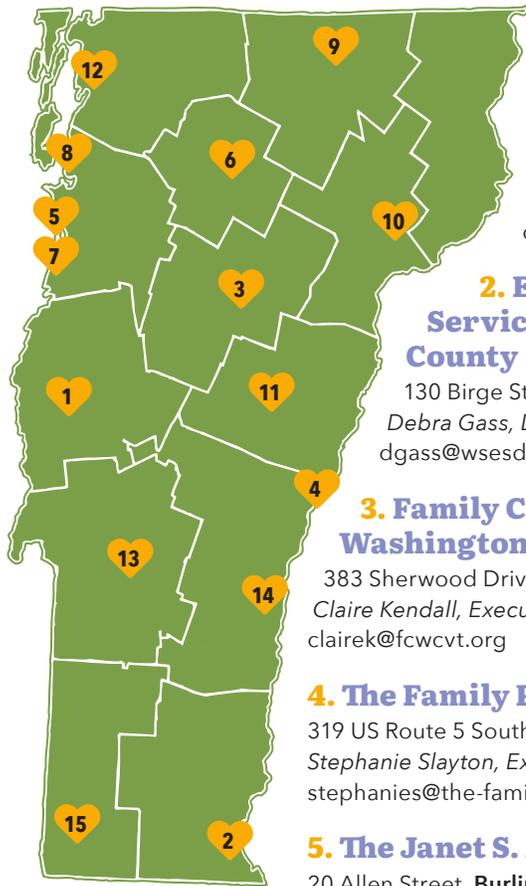
## Statewide Partnerships

PCC's impact is strengthened through collaboration with local community and state-wide organizations and government agencies. Thank you to our statewide partners:

- Adult Education Council
- Building Bright Futures
- Common Good VT
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Empty Arms Vermont
- Housing and Homelessness Alliance
- Hunger Free Vermont
- Let's Grow Kids
- Prevent Child Abuse Vermont
- VDH Division of Family and Child Health
- VDH Tobacco Control Program
- Vermont Association for the Education of Young Children
- Vermont Child Health Improvement Program (VCHIP)
- Vermont Department of Children and Families (DCF), Child Development Division
- Vermont Early Childhood Advocacy Alliance
- Vermont Foodbank
- And others



# Parent Child Centers in Vermont



## 1. Addison County Parent Child Center

126 Monroe Street, **Middlebury**  
*Donna Bailey, Director*  
 dbailey@addisoncountypcc.org

## 2. Early Education Services/Windham County

130 Birge Street, **Brattleboro**  
*Debra Gass, Director*  
 dgass@wsesdvt.org

## 3. Family Center of Washington County

383 Sherwood Drive, **Montpelier**  
*Claire Kendall, Executive Director*  
 clairek@fcwcvt.org

## 4. The Family Place

319 US Route 5 South, **Norwich**  
*Stephanie Slayton, Executive Director*  
 stephanies@the-family-place.org

## 5. The Janet S. Munt Family Room

20 Allen Street, **Burlington**  
*Jackie Reno, Executive Director*  
 jackie@thefamilyroomvt.org

## 6. Lamoille Family Center

480 Cady's Falls Road, **Morrisville**  
*Carol Lang-Godin, Executive Director*  
 clang-godin@lamoillefamilycenter.org

## 7. Lund

50 Joy Drive, **South Burlington**  
*Kim Laroche, Director of PCC Services*  
 kiml@lundvt.org

## 8. Milton Family Community Center

23 Villemaire Lane, **Milton**  
*Nicole Sener, Executive Director*  
 nsener@miltonfamilycenter.org

## 9. NEKCA Family Resource Center at Lakemont

76 Lakemont Road, **Newport**  
*Katie Foster, Associate Director of Early Childhood*  
 kfoster@nekcvt.org

## 10. NEKCA Family Resource Center at Lyndon Institute

78 Matty House Circle, **Lyndon Center**  
*Nancy Powers, Director of Early Childhood and Family Services*  
 npowers@nekcvt.org

## 11. Orange County Parent Child Center

693 VT Route 110, **Tunbridge**  
*Lindsey Trombley, Executive Director*  
 lindsey@orangecountypcc.org

## 12. Parent Child Center of Northwestern Counseling & Support Services

130 Fisher Pond Road, **St. Albans**  
*Margaret Walsh, Director of PCC Services*  
 margaret.walsh@ncssinc.org

## 13. Rutland County Parent Child Center

61 Pleasant Street, **Rutland**  
*Stephanie Carvey and Corissa Burnell, Co-Executive Directors*  
 stephanie.carvey@rcpcc.org & corissa.burnell@rcpcc.org

## 14. Springfield Area Parent Child Center

80 Jack & Jill Lane, **North Springfield**  
*Danna Bare, Executive Director*  
 danna.bare@sapcc-vt.org

## 15. Sunrise Family Resource Center

244 Union Street, **Bennington**  
*Denise Main, Executive Director*  
 dmain@sunrisepcc.com



**Vermont Parent Child Center Network**  
 Ellen Amstutz, Director  
 ellen@VPCCN.org  
 vtparentchildcenternetwork.org

