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I am asking you to please secure funds to increase the Vermont Parent Child Center Network's Integrated Grant Appropriation by \$1.88 million for a total appropriation of \$8,909,750 for Vermont's 15 Parent Child Centers. This increase in funding would allow each Parent Child Center location to provide more concrete supports to families with young children having immediate needs and provide resources to expand the skillsets of existing staff members and create new roles and programs that reflect the specific needs of the families in their region.

Through working in Windham County over the past 6 years I have seen an increase in families with young children seeking financial supports from organizations like Early Education Services. My role within EES is Resource Specialist, which means I am focused on connecting families to local, state and federal resources. I recently had a mother of two reach out to me requesting help paying for tires because she did not qualify for other local funding pools due to not facing an eviction notice or termination of utilities. While she was not facing an official notice, if she could not transport her children safely to daycare she would not be able to make it into work, impacting her ability to provide for them. She is also a student, and not having safe transportation was a very stress-inducing barrier to her already very busy every day schedule. By accessing our organizations' low barrier financial supports this allowed her to get new tires to safely transport her children and herself this winter without compromising her ability to pay their rent. If more families across our state are able to access concrete supports we will see our Vermont families strengthened and thus create a stronger sense of trust between our families with children and providers of services.

Again I am asking you to please secure funds to increase the Vermont Parent Child Center Network's Integrated Grant Appropriation by \$1.88 million for a total appropriation of \$8,909,750 for Vermont's 15 Parent Child Centers. With these funds Parent Child Centers across the state will be able to use the increased concrete support to meet the changing needs of the families within their region through expanded or new programs.