

VERMONT PARENT CHILD CENTER NETWORK



Universal Access Across Vermont

15 centers in 12 regions – serving all families

Agency of Human Services Health Districts



The Parent Child Center Network

PARENT CHILD CENTERS = RESULTS

The mission of the Vermont Parent Child Center Network is to provide children, youth and families with strength based, holistic and collaborative services across Vermont with a focus on early childhood education and prevention services. The Network provides leadership, support and advocacy on behalf of its membership and in collaboration with key partners to achieve the best outcomes for families.



Named in VT statute in 1988 – Statute was enhanced in FY23 (Act 150) which codified the 8 core services and peer review process.

PCCs Support Children and Families Comprehensively

- PCCs are service hubs for families with young children –families are always welcome and can always get the support they need, regardless of economic or family status.
- Universal access (every caregiver/family served) to broad prevention work – perinatal supports, playgroups, intensive home and center-based services including Learning Together.
- Supports for vulnerable populations - developmental barriers, social/emotional work, family services involved, substance dependence, homelessness, food insecurity, generational poverty, etc.
- In FY22 PCCs served over 50,000 caregivers, children, and youth



8 Core Services

Playgroups

PCCs provide and support opportunities for parents and children to come together on a regular basis for socialization, peer support, healthy snacks, and information and resource sharing in a developmentally-appropriate setting.

Parent Support Groups

PCCs facilitate opportunities for families with common experience and interests to gain mutual support in a peer group setting.

Concrete Supports

Families have access to a welcoming environment which offers support and information about community services and resources to address the immediate needs of the family and/or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family.

Community Development

PCCs advocate for and contribute to family-centered services and events by taking a supportive and/or leadership role in broad-based promotion, prevention and early intervention efforts in the community. PCCs actively participate in the regional Building Bright Futures (BBF) Council to ensure that direct service activities funded or supported by this grant are aligned with the Vermont Early Childhood Action Plan and regional priorities as identified by the regional BBF Council.

Parent Education

PCCs offer parent education opportunities in a variety of formats and on a range of topics and themes responding to family issues. Educational opportunities are supportive, practically-oriented, and empowering. Information to assist families in understanding and coping with transition issues is included in education services and are also embedded in other services.

Information and Referral

PCCs serve as a clearinghouse for general information about child development and parenting as well as information about local and statewide resources for families. They contribute to the long-term health and well-being of children and families by sharing information about health care (insurance programs, medical homes and related resources). Service is provided through direct referral and follow-up, if requested. PCCs support services to welcome babies into the community.

Home Visits

PCCs provide home visits to families with young children who request home-based support. The frequency and content of visits is determined by family goals and interest.

Early Childhood Services

PCCs provide developmental, inclusive, child care on-site or in strong collaboration with other early childhood services providers to ensure that families have quality options to meet full-time and part-time child care needs and children have group experiences with their peers. PCCs provide services through Learning Together and Strengthening Families programming.

What can be done about ACEs?

These wide-ranging health and social consequences underscore the importance of preventing ACEs before they happen. Safe, stable, and nurturing relationship and environments (SSNREs) can have a positive impact on a broad range of health problems and on the development of skills that will help children reach their full potential.

The Parent Child Centers use the Strengthening Families Framework and have a two-generation approach to both mitigate and prevent ACEs.

The Centers for Disease Control recommends these strategies for preventing ACEs, which resonate with the 8 core services that PCCs offer (see back of this sheet):

https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource_center_infographic.html



Home visiting to pregnant women and families with newborns



Parenting training programs



Intimate partner violence prevention



Social support for parents



Parent support programs for teens and teen pregnancy prevention programs



Mental illness and substance abuse treatment



High quality child care



Sufficient Income support for lower income families



The PCCN – Part of a National Network of Family Resource Center Networks



- We are part of the National Family Support Network – statewide network of family resource centers across the country to ensure coordinated quality support for families
- We have adopted the National Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support – continuity of care; high quality services, continuous quality improvement, annual assessment process
- Each center has a director and at least one other staff certified in the standards; centers have begun the initial self-assessment process

Addressing Family Needs through Diverse, Cross-Sector Partnerships

Strongly Leveraged + Strongly Integrated

- Local partnerships with cross-sector service providers in each region – childcare & schools, mental/physical health, business sector, shelters, food shelves, etc.
- Active in the VT legislature & connected to our federal delegation
- Regular communication with state agency leadership – agency of human services, agency of education, department of health, department of mental health, department of children a families, Economic Services, etc.
- Children's Integrated Services (local partners and department of mental health, agency of education, department of health)
- Childcare referral and financial assistance program support agencies embedded directly in communities



Responsive and Innovative

- DULCE in 6 Vermont sites
- Families Learning Together
- HEART (Helping Everyone Access Resources and Thrive) program
- Therapeutic Childcare
- COVID response and recovery support
- Family Supportive Housing
- National Standards rollout
- PCCs as the diaper bank for each region
- Kids-A-Part
- Fatherhood Program/Perinatal Partners
- Building Strong Families Clinic
- Grief/Loss Statewide Coalition
- Healthy Lamoille Valley



Legislative Ask – Increase Base Funding

**\$5.2 million increase
in PCCN base funding**

**Long-standing request to bring
PCC staff closer to parity with
similar positions in education and
state sectors**

**Would allow Parent Child Centers to
increase wages/benefits to be competitive
in the workforce marketplace so families
with young children can receive
consistent, high-quality services and
supports from people they know and trust.**



CONTACT INFORMATION



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