

Early Childhood Day at the Legislature 2026

VPCCN FY27 Budget Request and Program Impact



Wednesday, March 11th, 2026

Ellen Amstutz, Director, Vermont Parent Child Center Network

Claire Kendall, Executive Director, Family Center of Washington County

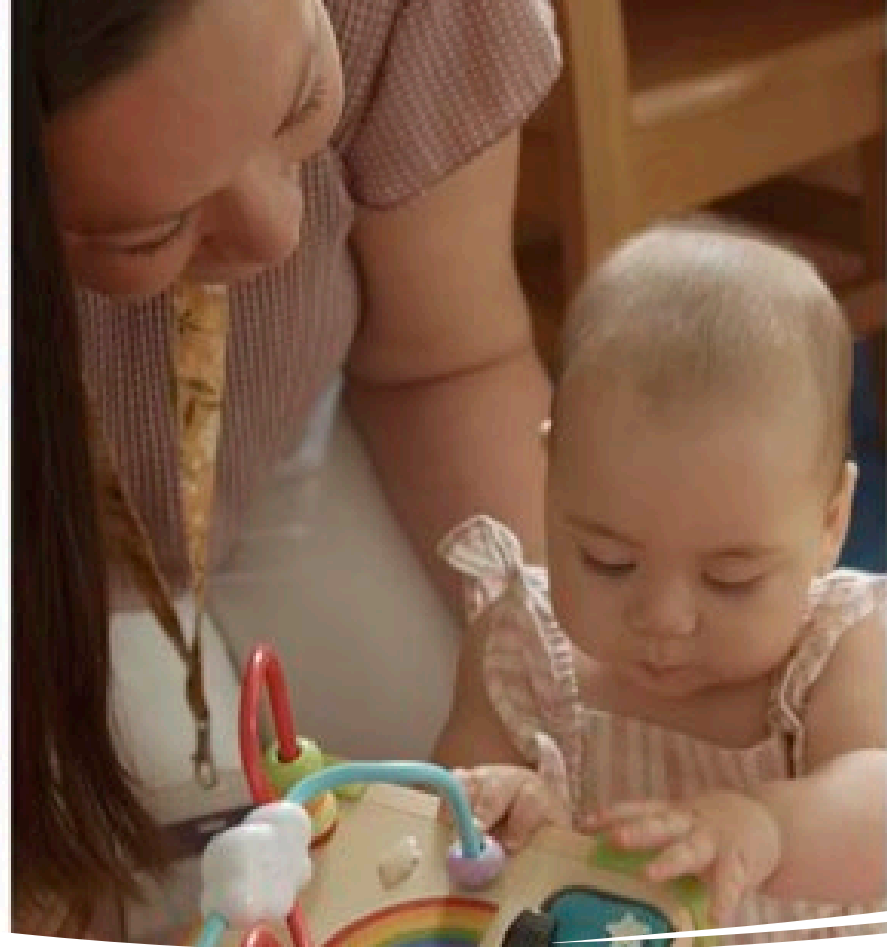
Carol Lang-Godin, VPCCN Chair and ED, Lamoille Family Center



15 Parent Child Centers
serving all of Vermont

Legislative History:

- Established in 1988 and authorized in statute to provide 8 core services.
- FY2023 Act 150 passed authorizing the Network to administer the **PCCN Integrated Grant**.
- FY25 began working as a Network we are deepening our collaboration, building statewide standards, and increasing our collective impact.
- Funded through the **Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division (CDD)**.
- FY25 and FY26 level funded at **\$7,029,750** (and for FY27 Governor's budget).



VPCCN Video

15 Centers are community-based welcoming hubs that are responsive to local needs.

In FY 25 Parent Child Centers
Statewide Served:

22,593 Parents

23,682 Children

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



Parent Child Centers Provide Eight Core Services

Parent Support

Parent Education

Concrete Supports

Home Visits

Playgroups

Information and Referral

Early Childhood Services

Community Development





Parent Support

- 746 group parent support sessions held Statewide

Parent Education

- 915 caregivers participated in one-time or multisession learning opportunities to support effective parenting

Concrete Supports

- 4,220 families received concrete supports (a 28% increase over FY24)

Home Visits

- 27,373 home visits were made to over 1,500 families.



Play Groups

- 2,959 playgroups were offered this year throughout the State.

Information and Referral

- Welcome Baby visits and/or packages reached 1,707 families with newborns.

Early Childhood Services

- 12 PCCs operate licensed childcare serving 684 children. 6 PCCs serve as state Community Child Care Support Agencies.

Community Development

- PCCs are active participants and leaders in over 30 coalitions and convenings in their communities and Statewide.



Parent Child Centers are a key part of Vermont's system of care for young children

PCCs provide essential state-contracted services including:

- Children's Integrated Services (10 PCCs)
- Community Child Care Support Agencies (6 PCCs) aka CCFAP
- DULCE (6 PCCs)
- Family Supported Housing (3 PCCs)
- Licensed Childcare providers (12 PCCs offering 684 slots)
- And other essential programs

PCCs provide a single point of entry to a range of services.

Co-location of services is cost effective and improves access and outcomes for families.

Maintaining Quality Through Research-Informed Standards

VPCCN is part of the **National Family Support Network**, a membership organization of 39 State Networks to build and standards for strengthening families.



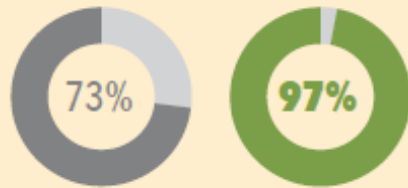
PCCs follow the **Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening** which operationalizes a research-informed approach to building **five key protective factors**:

1. **Parental resilience**
2. **Social connections**
3. **Knowledge of parenting and child development**
4. **Concrete support in times of need**
5. **Social and emotional competence of children**

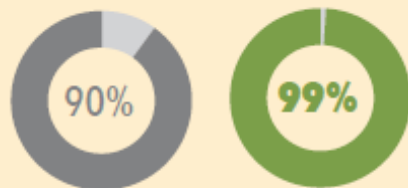
FY25 Protective Factors Parent Survey Results (n=978)

● Before working with PCCs ● After working with PCCs

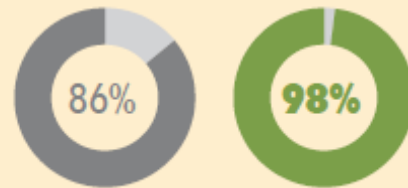
I understand my child(ren)'s development.



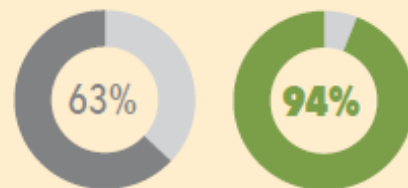
I take good care of my child(ren) even when I have personal problems.



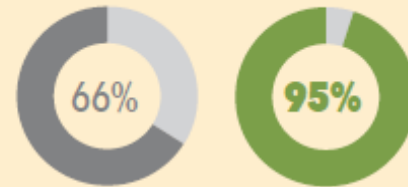
I manage the daily responsibilities of being a parent/caregiver.



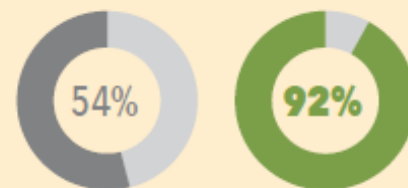
When I am worried about my child, I have someone to talk with.



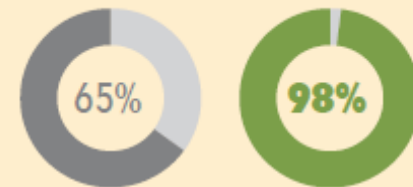
I feel strong and confident as a parent.



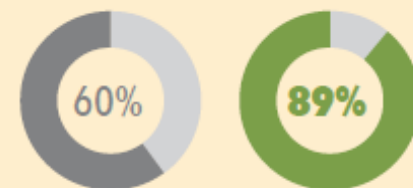
I have relationships with people who provide me with support when I need it.



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



I feel able to handle stressful events.



VPCCN FY27 Legislative Request: Increase of \$1.88M in the Integrated Grant to \$8.9M

The VPCCN is requesting:

Concrete Supports

+ \$180k (\$12k per PCC)

Benefit Assistors:

+1.2 M (\$80k per PCC)

Increased Capacity & Support for Staff

+\$500,000 (\$33k per PCC)

Concrete Supports

\$180k (\$12k/PCC)

- Concrete supports, a PCC Core Service, are resources to address immediate needs or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family.
- Funds can be used to prevent utility disconnections and evictions, transportation, e.g. gas cards and car repairs, diapers and baby needs, emergency food and other essential services.
- Currently, PCCs receive \$11,667 for concrete supports (from Federal CBCAP* funds) per year. This funding runs out before the end of the year.

*Community Based Child Abuse Prevention

Concrete Supports reduce economic stress

- Material hardship among families with children under age 6 is linked to **poorer developmental outcomes** and **higher involvement with the child welfare system**.
- Ensuring families can meet essential needs (food, housing, utilities) **buffers the negative effects of economic hardship** and supports nurturing and safe parenting and healthy brain development.

Reference
Stanford University Rapid Survey Project, Nov 2025

Harvard Center on the Developing Child (2016)



Benefit Assistors

1.2 M (\$80k per PCC)

VPCCN is part of a Statewide coalition of organizations who are working together to improve access to safety net programs

- Helping people apply for benefits is a critical role that PCCs play now and are prepared to do more of.
- Parents already turn to their local PCC as trusted places in the community.
- Federal safety net programs bring critical funding into the state to support Vermont's families.

Safety Net Programs Stabilize Families

- Policies that increase access to **SNAP and WIC** are associated with improved child safety and reduced risk for child welfare system involvement.
- Access to **Medicaid and Health Care** plays a critical role in safeguarding child well-being. Medicaid expansion and **continuity in coverage** are associated with lower risk for child Welfare system involvement.

References:

[Barr, A., Grewal- Kök, Y., Cusick, G., & Anderson, C. \(2025\). *Child safety and access to food assistance programs*. Chapin Hall.](#)

[Barr, A., Grewal- Kök, Y., Cusick, G., & Anderson, C. \(2025\). *Access to Medicaid & healthcare to promote child safety*. Chapin Hall.](#)

Increased Capacity & Support for Staff \$500K(\$33k per PCC)

- PCCs have been level funded in the past two years without funds to cover salary increases and health insurance costs.
- A base funding increase will help us maintain increased service levels and help individual PCCs remain financially stable.
- We are serving and expect further increases in numbers of families served across the state.
- Additional base funding will enable us to continue to build PCCs as partners with the State and the point of service for all families with young children.

Questions?

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[Vermont Parent Child Center Network](#)

[Read our 2025 Impact Report!](#)

[Watch our Video](#)