



<https://vtparentchildcenternetwork.org/>

## Please Support an Increase for the Vermont Parent Child Center Network's Integrated Grant of \$1.88million in FY2027

The Vermont Parent Child Center Network (VPCCN) is a statutorily created [partner with State of Vermont](#). The PCC Network represents Vermont's 15 Parent Child Centers (PCCs) which are located throughout the state and provide a range of in-home and community-based services to families with young children. We are funded by the State through our Integrated Grant to deliver 8 Core Services that build family resilience and responsive parenting, support child development, protect against economic hardship, and prevent child maltreatment. In addition, PCCs are partners in Vermont's system of care and provide a range of contracted services for families with young children, including those funded with Medicaid and other federal sources.

The VPCCN Integrated Grant supports our partnership with the state to provide the services that families with young children need. Our request this year focuses on a few key issues that we know are present across the state, as well as a modest increase to support our staff, who are on the front lines of providing critical primary prevention services to families with young children.

### Concrete Supports: +\$180k (\$12k/PCC)

Concrete Supports are one of the 8 Core Services that the PCCs are required to provide to families with young children, and they are defined in our PCC Statute: "Concrete supports" means community services and resources to address the immediate needs of the family or contribute to the long-term well-being of the family, or both.

It is essential that funding for Concrete Supports is flexible and able to be offered at the discretion of the worker at a PCC who is processing the application from the family. Concrete Supports are vital for families. They reduce economic stress, meet acute and immediate needs and prevent situations from getting worse. They also serve to build trust with families – offering a chance to work with families who may be otherwise reluctant to seek help with parenting and caring for their children. Currently, PCCs are each allocated just under \$12k in the PCCN Integrated Grant which comes from Federal CBCAP (Community Based Child Abuse Prevention) funds, the purpose of which is to support families to prevent child maltreatment. PCCs allocate additional funds from other sources as the CBCAP funds have never been adequate to meet the need. PCCs would use additional state funds in a number of ways, to meet ever-increasing needs for families, such as:

- provide more diapers and baby formula
- prevent evictions and utility cut offs
- purchase clothing for children or work clothes for caregivers
- assist with transportation
- and other supports to ensure families are buffered from severe economic hardship, which is shown to help prevent child abuse and neglect



### Benefit Navigators: +\$1.2million (\$80k/PCC)

Loss of Medicaid and/or SNAP would be devastating for families. Helping people apply and remain certified for benefits is a critical role that PCCs play now and want to do more of. These programs bring critical federal safety-net funding into the state to support Vermont families most in need. Each PCC would ensure that staff trained in benefits navigation are available to help families navigate Medicaid and SNAP including screening, applications and recertification, finding affordable and subsidized housing, and identifying other supports and services to ensure families have access to safety net benefits. This role is aligned with work that PCCs already do and would be integrated into provision of the core services of Information and Referral and Concrete supports.

### PCC Increased Capacity & Support for Staff: +\$500,000

The VPCCN Integrated Grant was level funded in FY2026. PCCs did not have funds to cover salary increases and increased health insurance premiums for PCC staff. Positions remain open for long periods because PCCs cannot always provide competitive salaries. PCCs would be able to serve more families in their areas and more adequately provide the 8 core services that are required in our Vermont Statute with increased funding. Families are coming in with more complex needs that include economic challenges, mental health issues, substance use and housing instability, in addition to the support they need with their children.



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**NORTHEAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY ACTION (two Centers)**

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**NEKCA Family Resource Center at Lyndon Institute**

78 Matty House Circle, Lyndon Center VT 05850

**NEKCA Family Resource Center at Lakemont**

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**ORANGE COUNTY PARENT CHILD CENTER**

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**PARENT CHILD CENTER OF NORTHWESTERN COUNSELING & SUPPORT SERVICES**

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