

Testimony to the House Committee on Human Services

VPCCN FY27 Budget Request and Program Impact



Tuesday, February 17, 2026

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Child Center Network

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The Network is comprised of 15 Parent Child Centers serving all of Vermont

- The VPCCN was established in 1988 and authorized in Statute provide 8 core services.
- Parent Child Centers cover all regions of the State.
- In FY23 the legislature passed Act 150 authorizing the Network to administer the PCCN **Integrated Grant**.
- \$7,029,750 in statewide funding through the **Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division (CDD)** (FY25 and FY26).
- By deepening our collaboration as a **Network comprised of leaders from each Center**, we are building statewide standards and increasing our collective impact.

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



Impact and Outcomes In FY25: a few highlights

PCCs served more than **22,000 parents**, an increase of about **3,000 over the previous year**

Provided **concrete supports to 4,220 families**, a **28% rise** over the previous year

Hosted **3,000+ playgroups** providing opportunities to prevent social isolation and strengthen parenting

Served **1,707 families** through **Welcome Baby** supports, packages and home visits--reaching **one-third of all babies** born in Vermont



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.



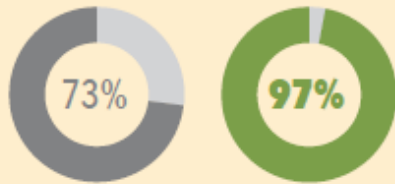
PCCs follow the **Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening** which operationalizes a research-informed approach to building **five key protective factors**:

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**

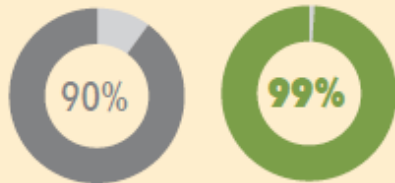
FY25 Protective Factors Parent Survey Results (n=978)

● Before working with PCCs ● After working with PCCs

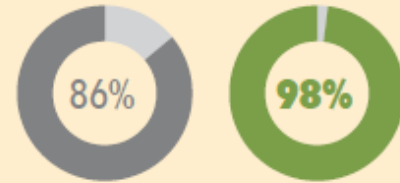
I understand my child(ren)'s development.



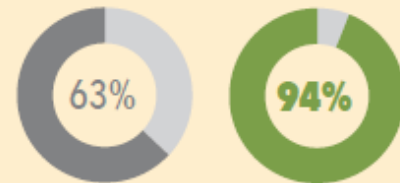
I take good care of my child(ren) even when I have personal problems.



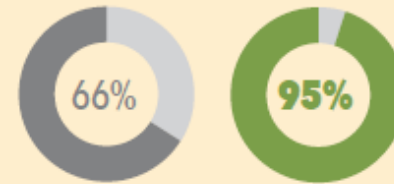
I manage the daily responsibilities of being a parent/caregiver.



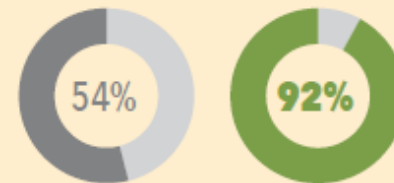
When I am worried about my child, I have someone to talk with.



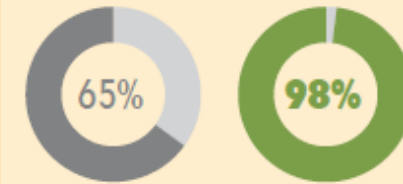
I feel strong and confident as a parent.



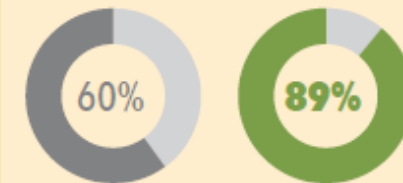
I have relationships with people who provide me with support when I need it.



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



I feel able to handle stressful events.



Key Findings: PCC Integrated Grant report (Dec. 2025)

NORC's 1115 Waiver Medicaid Program Evaluation*

- PCCs are effective in supporting families with young children.
- Respondents consistently reported high satisfaction with 97-98% affirming positive impacts on their families.
- The IG promotes stability of PCCs but does not fully address resource constraints. Persistent challenges such as limited funding for concrete support and competitive staff wages affect service capacity and workforce retention.
- PCCs tiered support model ensures that families with varying levels of need can access services, positioning PCCs as a preventive resource that mitigates risks of social isolation and economic hardship.

*NORC University of Chicago. *Understanding the Impact of Vermont's Global Commitment to Health Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver 2023-2030* Dec. 2025

Note: 11.6% of the PCCN IG comes from Federal Medicaid and State Global Commitment funds.

VPCCN requests a FY27 increase of \$1.88M in the Integrated Grant for a total of \$8.9 Million

- **Concrete Supports + \$180k (\$12k per PCC)**

For services and resources to address immediate and short-term needs of families and to prevent situations from becoming worse.

- **Benefit Assistors: +1.2 M (\$80k per PCC)**

Each PCC to have staff trained to help families apply for and remain on essential safety net benefits such as SNAP, Medicaid, housing programs and others to protect against the adverse effects of poverty.

- **Increased Capacity & Support for Staff: \$500,000**

Enable PCCs to maintain staffing levels, adequate wages, and meet increased need for services.

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 are 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.
- Research shows that family experiences of material hardship for children under 6 are associated with poor developmental outcomes and increased rates of child welfare system involvement.

*Community Based Child Abuse Prevention

Benefit Assistors

**1.2 M (\$80k per
PCC)**

- Losing Medicaid and/or SNAP is devastating for families.
- 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.
- When parents experience economic stress and anxiety about how to meet expenses, they are less able to provide the attention and nurturing that children need to thrive and that is critical during the most rapid period of brain development. This has long term consequences.

Increased Capacity & Support for Staff \$500,000

- PCCs have been level funded since in FY24 leaving them 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.



Parent Child Centers are integral to Vermont's system of care for families with 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 services.

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

Questions?

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[Vermont Parent Child Center Network](#)

[Read our 2025 Impact Report!](#)

[Watch our Video!](#)