

# The Parent Child Center Network Strengthening Families for Decades



## Parent Child Centers are the Strengthening Families Home Base

Parent Child Centers are a network of 15 community-based non-profit organizations, serving all of Vermont. The Parent Child Center Network (PCCN) has led the way on innovative social service delivery for decades by employing the Strengthening Families Framework™ that has now been adopted by the Agency of Human Services for all of its social service programs. The Parent Child Centers have been the hub of the Strengthening Families model, working with many community partners to make sure that families with young children have a home base where they can come for services, support, and education to build their protective factors. The Parent Child Centers are Vermont's primary resource for building resilience and strengthening families. Parent Child Centers were a remarkable innovation when they were first created nearly 30 years ago, and they are still on the cutting edge of prevention work with vulnerable families. Parent Child Centers help families to cope successfully with both the timeless challenges of all families with young children and the new challenges of the 21st Century.



## Protective Factors Strengthen Families

Strengthening Families™ is an evidence-informed, research-based approach that increases family strengths, enhances child development and reduces the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.

According to the Agency of Human Services *the most effective means to prevent child abuse and neglect and build resilience is by building "Protective Factors."* The Parent Child Centers have worked with families to build the five protective factors for decades – this work lowers custody rates, prevents and fights addiction, reduces unwanted pregnancies, lowers the dropout rate, and lowers short and long term medical costs for families and the state.

**The Five Protective Factors** are the foundation of the Strengthening Families Approach:

1. parental resilience
2. social connections
3. concrete support in times of need
4. knowledge of parenting and child development
5. social and emotional competence of children

Research shows when these Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes.



Raising a child is hard for everyone, and every parent wants to do the best for their children. The Parent Child Centers make it possible for families to succeed in raising a strong and healthy family by helping them identify and use their strengths to get their children off to a good start.

Fully Funding the Parent Child Center Network Master Grant will have an immediate, and long-term impact on Vermont's biggest cost drivers because the Parent Child Centers' Eight Core Services and commitment to the Strengthening Families Framework has been shown to prevent and mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences and other toxic stress. The Parent Child Centers have a Master Grant through the Department of Children and Families that incorporates performance measures, and increases efficiency and accountability. Through this Master Grant, the Parent Child Centers have been contracted by DCF to deliver essential state services to families with young children. However, the Master Grant does not adequately fund the state services that the Parent Child Centers are contracted to deliver. Parent Child Center staff across the state are paid 30% below comparable positions in education and state government. As a result, these Parent Child Center staff members are literally paying the costs of the state services they provide to families through their reduced wages. To adequately fund the state services that Parent Child Centers are providing for the Department of Children and Families, \$10 million should be allocated to the Master Grant – an increase of \$8 million.

## What can be done about ACEs?

*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 2Gen (two-generation) approach to both mitigate and prevent ACEs.**

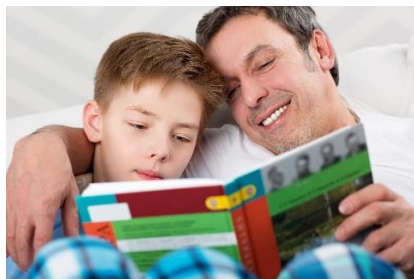
**The Centers for Disease Control recommends these strategies for preventing ACEs, which resonate with the 8 core services that PCCs offer:**

[https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource\\_center\\_infographic.html](https://vetoviolence.cdc.gov/apps/phl/resource_center_infographic.html)



### Parent Child Centers' Eight Core Services:

- Home Visits
- Early Childhood Services
- Parent Education
- Playgroups
- Parent Support Groups
- Concrete Supports
- Community Development
- Information and Referral



### 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.