

Parent Child Centers are the Answer

APRIL'S STORY

I got pregnant in my senior year and in June 2015 gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Being pregnant in high school was very difficult – I lost all of my friends and didn't feel safe or supported. I continued to go to school anyway and graduated. I had to stop working at seven months pregnant and it was then that I learned about the services offered at the Family Center. With the guidance of a case manager, we made plans for my boyfriend to continue going to high school while I decided to participate in a program called Family Works. That's when I really started to grow as an adult.



The Family Works program offered opportunities to help me keep my life on-track. I began as a volunteer in the Family Center's Early Childhood Program. I learned parenting skills while I worked and had access to educators who could answer all of my questions about my daughter's development. I learned that I wanted to work with young children and I'm now in a paid training position! I'm also working on earning my Child Development Associate credential and hope to be hired as an infant toddler teacher when I finish. Without the Family Works program and support of other Family Center staff, I wouldn't be moving forward as quickly as I am now. I have become more independent and well grounded, and have learned to problem solve situations that may have been very difficult in the past. I now have a career goal and I'm even thinking about going to college! That's a new thought for me!"

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The services April received relate directly to the outcomes that drive our decision making as a state under Act 186. *April's case shows how supporting Vermont's Parent Child Center moves us closer to achieving at least four of the eight population outcomes we have identified as essential to our state, and local communities.*

The Family Center helped April and her boyfriend stay in school.

- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive
 - Children succeed in school
 - Youths choose healthy behaviors
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood
- Vermont has a prosperous economy

April learned parenting skills, and volunteered to care for children in her community.

- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's communities are safe and supportive.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

PCC CORE SERVICES PROVIDED TO APRIL

Parent Supports

- Family Works – a program for pregnant or parenting teens and young adults. Services includes job skills, parenting support, work experience, peer group activities, access to child care, counseling services and more.

Parent Education

- Knowledge of Child Development
- Weekly Counseling
- Life Skills Groups

Early Childhood Services

- 4 STARS High Quality Care and Education
- Nutritious Meals Daily - including a healthy breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack

The Family Center helped April find a paid training position

- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's families are safe, nurturing, stable, and supported.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive
 - Youths successfully transition to adulthood

April is currently working on her Child Development Associate credential

- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
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The family center helped April identify her career goal and help her find a path to achieving it

- Vermont has a prosperous economy.
- Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential including:
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The help April received directly impacts five indicators tracked by AHS to measure positive population outcomes:

1. Rate of children and youth in out of home care per 1,000 children and youth; Rate of school attendance per 1,000 children;
2. Percent of children receiving child care subsidy attending quality early childhood programs.
3. Rate of high school graduation per 1,000 high school students
4. Percent of high school seniors with plans for education, vocational training, or employment.
5. High school graduates who graduated with a Regular High School diploma and enrolled in postsecondary education within 16 months after high school graduation.

Related language from the PCC Master Grant: (Outcomes)

- C. iii. Parent Child Centers provide eight core services which contribute to Vermont population-level quality of life indicators identified in 3 V.S.A. § 2311
 - (b) (5) Vermont families are safe, nurturing, stable and supported.
 - (6) Vermont's children and young people achieve their potential.
 - Pregnant women and young people thrive.
 - Children are ready for school.
 - Children succeed in school.



April's work with the Parent Child Centers improves both her and the state's economic future.

Wages Based on Degree: A person holding a high school diploma can earn 20% more, on average, than someone without that diploma. \$24,960 (@ \$12.48/hr) vs. \$30,000 (\$15/hr)

High Quality Child Care= 7 to 1 ROI: Child Care Financial Assistance payment of \$10,164 year results in a potential savings to the state of \$31,850 annually= \$7 "return to society" which is connected to lower special education costs, lower crime rate, higher earnings, better health behaviors, higher rates of employment

ACEs Intervention Savings= \$210,000 (2010 dollars): Individuals with a higher number of ACEs are more likely to smoke, abuse alcohol and illicit substances, be obese, be physically inactive, and exhibit high-risk sexual behaviors. In addition to profound health effects, child abuse and neglect is also associated: including \$33,000 in childhood health care costs, \$11,000 in adult medical costs, \$144,000 in productivity losses, \$8,000 in child welfare costs, \$7,000 in criminal justice costs, and \$8,000 in special education costs.

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.