



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: James Reardon, Commissioner of Finance & Management  
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst  
Date: March 18, 2011  
Subject: JFO #2483, #2484, #2485, #2486, #2488, #2489, #2490, #2491

No Joint Fiscal Committee member has requested that the following items be held for review:

**JFO #2483** — \$194,800 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to the Vermont Department of Economic, Housing and Community Development. These funds will be used to support repair and restoration work on 13 landmark historic buildings around the state. [JFO received 2/09/11]

**JFO #2484** — \$561,915 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to establish an evidence-based nurse home visiting program for families with young children who are identified to be “at risk” by pre-set parameters. This grant is awarded under the Affordable Care Act. **One limited service position is associated with this request.** [JFO received 2/09/11]

**JFO #2485** — \$211,840 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to the Vermont Department of Corrections. This grant funds two modules for the Vermont Automated Notification Service (VANS) to provide services to victims of domestic violence, and expand services currently available to victims. [JFO received 2/09/11]

**JFO #2486** — \$420,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to expand the capacity of the Office of Minority Health by funding **one limited service position.** [JFO received 2/09/11]

**JFO #2488** — \$1,250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to establish evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education for high risk and vulnerable youth in Vermont. This grant is awarded under the Affordable Care Act. **One limited service position is associated with this request.** [JFO received 2/14/11]

**JFO #2489** — \$2,803,443 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Children and Families. These funds will be used to implement the Learning Together Program, a parent training initiative for adolescent parents and parents-to-be.  
[JFO received 2/14/11]

**JFO #2490** — \$48,505 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Department of Education. These funds will be used to provide grants to low-income designated schools for investment in their food service programs.  
[JFO received 2/14/11]

**JFO #2491** — \$33,393,402 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA). These funds will be used to construct an approximately 770 mile fiber optic communications network designed to provide high-capacity connections to specific community anchor institutions.  
[JFO received 2/23/11]

The Governor's approval may now be considered final. We ask that you inform the Secretary of Administration and your staff of this action.

cc: Noelle MacKay, Commissioner  
Harry Chen, Commissioner  
Andrew Pallito, Commissioner  
Dave Yacovone, Commissioner  
Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner  
Chris Campbell, Executive Director



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Joint Fiscal Committee Members  
From: Nathan Lavery, Fiscal Analyst  
Date: February 24, 2011  
Subject: Grant Requests

Enclosed please find five (5) grants that the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the administration. One limited service position request is associated with these items.

**JFO #2488** — \$1,250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Health. These funds will be used to establish evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education for high risk and vulnerable youth in Vermont. This grant is awarded under the Affordable Care Act. **One limited service position is associated with this request.**  
*[JFO received 2/14/11]*

**JFO #2489** — \$2,803,443 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Vermont Department of Children and Families. These funds will be used to establish evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education for high risk and vulnerable youth in Vermont.  
*[JFO received 2/14/11]*

**JFO #2490** — \$48,505 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the Vermont Department Education. These funds will be used to provide grants to low-income designated schools for investment in their food service programs.  
*[JFO received 2/14/11]*

**JFO #2491** — \$33,393,402 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to the Vermont Telecommunications Authority (VTA). These funds will be used to construct an approximately 770 mile fiber optic communications network designed to provide high-capacity connections to specific community anchor institutions. This grant is awarded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and **expedited review of this item has been requested. Joint Fiscal Committee members will be contacted by March 8 with a request to waive the statutory review period and accept this item.**  
*[JFO received 2/23/11]*

**JFO #2492** — \$1,527,630 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to the Vermont Department Transportation. These funds will be used to provide disaster assistance for damages to public facilities (state, local, non-profit) in Chittenden, Franklin, and Lamoille counties caused by the December 1, 2010 storm.  
*[JFO received 2/23/11]*

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Nathan Lavery at (802) 828-1488; [nlavery@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:nlavery@leg.state.vt.us)) if you have questions or would like an item held for legislative review. Unless we hear from you to the contrary by March 11 we will assume that you agree to consider as final the Governor's acceptance of these requests.

cc: James Reardon, Commissioner  
Harry Chen, Commissioner  
Dave Yacovone, Commissioner  
Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner  
Chris Campbell, Executive Director  
Brian Searles, Secretary

**State of Vermont**  
 Department of Finance & Management  
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building  
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

Agency of Administration

[phone] 802-828-2376  
 [fax] 802-828-2428

**STATE OF VERMONT  
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

<b>Grant Summary:</b>		This grant is for three years and will be used to increase capacity to implement the Learning Together Program, a parent training initiative for adolescent parents and parents to be. This grant allows DCF and the 15 Vermont Parent Child Centers to expand this program throughout the state.			
<b>Date:</b>		12/27/2010			
<b>Department:</b>		Department of Children and Families			
<b>Legal Title of Grant:</b>		Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens			
<b>Federal Catalog #:</b>		93.500			
<b>Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>		U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 550, Rockville, MD 20852			
<b>Grant Period:</b>		<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>		
		9/1/2010	8/31/2013		
<b>Grant/Donation</b>		\$2,803,443			
	<b>SFY 1</b>	<b>SFY 2</b>	<b>SFY 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$749,481	\$1,119,481	\$934,481	\$2,803,443	
<b>Position Information:</b>		<b># Positions</b>	<b>Explanation/Comments</b>		
		0			
<b>Additional Comments:</b>		Most of these funds will be subgranted to the 15 Parent Child Centers in Vermont to carry out the program.			
<b>Department of Finance &amp; Management</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>		(Initial)	
<b>Secretary of Administration</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>		(Initial)	
<b>Sent To Joint Fiscal Office</b>		2/10/11		Date	



STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)

BASIC GRANT INFORMATION				
<b>1. Agency:</b>	Agency of Human Services			
<b>2. Department:</b>	Department for Children and Families			
<b>3. Program:</b>	Child Development Division, Children's Integrated Services			
<b>4. Legal Title of Grant:</b>	Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens			
<b>5. Federal Catalog #:</b>	93.500			
<b>6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Grants Management 1101 Wootton Parkway Suite 550 Rockville, MD 20852			
<b>7. Grant Period:</b>	<b>From:</b>	9/1/2010	<b>To:</b>	8/31/2013
<b>8. Purpose of Grant:</b>	This grant funds the development, implementation, and enhancement of programs to assist pregnant and parenting teens with parenting and job placement skills.			
<b>9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:</b>	Areas without these services will not be able to implement them, and existing programs will not be able to expand and increase services			
10. BUDGET INFORMATION				
	SFY 1	SFY 2	SFY 3	Comments
<b>Expenditures:</b>	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	
Personal Services	\$19,831	\$19,831	\$19,831	
Operating Expenses	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	
Grants	\$723,150	\$1,093,150	\$908,150	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$749,481</b>	<b>\$1,119,481</b>	<b>\$934,481</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$744,481	\$1,114,481	\$929,481	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source HHS)	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$749,481</b>	<b>\$1,119,481</b>	<b>\$934,481</b>	
<b>Appropriation No:</b>		<b>Amount:</b>	\$2,803,443	
			\$	

**STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)**

			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		<b>Total</b>	\$

**PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION**

**11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts?**  Yes  No  
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
	0	
<b>Total Positions</b>		

**12a. Equipment and space for these positions:**  Is presently available.  Can be obtained with available funds.

**13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT**

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: <i>Patrick Flood</i>	Date: <i>12/16/10</i>
	Title: Agency of Human Services Secretary	
	Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>12/15/10</i>
	Title: Deputy Commissioner	

**14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>02/02/11</i>
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**15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>2/10/11</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected	(Governor's signature)	Date:

**16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

**Required GRANT Documentation**

<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement	<input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget	

**End Form AA-1**

## Summary of the "Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens" grant

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, has awarded Vermont funding of \$934,481 per year for three years to increase statewide capacity to implement and enhance the *Learning Together* program. *Learning Together* is an intensive, pre-vocational, parent training program proven to provide adolescent parents and parents-to-be with the opportunity to move forward in their lives. The program consists of six basic components: on-the-job training, counseling, academics, parenting skills, job readiness, and interpersonal skills. These six components, while representing a general framework, are balanced through a schedule that is individualized for each participant. Each participant is assigned a case manager to link her to other supports such as child care, health care, and housing.

The funds will be used by DCF in partnership with Parent Child Centers and other community partners to expand access to *Learning Together* throughout the state. By providing teen parents and parents-to-be with the skills and support they need to succeed, we can expect to see improved health outcomes for both mothers and babies and increased levels of parent education.



Object Class Categories	Per Center	15 Parent Child Centers in VT	Program Enhancements	State	TOTAL
	A	B=15 x A	C		G=D+E+F
a Personnel	35,000.00	525,000.00		3,763.00	528,763.00
b Fringe Benefits	11,200.00	168,000.00		1,068.00	169,068.00
c Travel	450.00	6,750.00		1,500.00	8,250.00
d Equipment					
e Supplies	560.00	8,400.00			8,400.00
f Contractual				15,000.00	15,000.00
g Construction					
h Other		-	200,000.00		200,000.00
i Total Direct Charges	47,210.00	708,150.00	200,000.00	21,331.00	929,481.00
j Indirect Charges				5,000.00	5,000.00
k Totals	<b>47,210.00</b>	<b>708,150.00</b>	<b>200,000.00</b>	<b>26,331.00</b>	<b>934,481.00</b>

**Notes**

a	Expenses under Personnel relate to 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) at each Parent Child Center. The amount is calculated based on \$35,000 annual salary for a Master level FTE. The actual work will be performed by Learning Together Coordinators, Education Supervisors/Teachers and Program Directors at the respective Parent Child Centers. Additional costs at the State level include 5% of the Principal Investigator's time.
b	Fringe Benefits are based on a 32% benefit rate, which is comprised of social security taxes, disability and life insurances, retirement benefits and health insurance premiums for eligible employees.
c	Travel expenses relate to expenses incurred for program meetings and coordination and for the Principal Investigator's travel to Washington, DC to attend a state level grantee meeting
e	Expenses for supplies relate to materials and supplies needed for the Learning Together Program
f	These funds will be used to pay for a program evaluation contractor

h Expenses under Other relate to program enhancement expenditures.

j These funds will support the indirect costs to the State for managing the federal grant and sub-grants.

Name of State: Vermont  
Project title: Improving Outcomes for Pregnant and Parenting Teens  
through *Learning Together*  
Applicant Agency: Vermont Department for Children and Families  
Child Development Division  
103 South Main Street, 2 North  
Waterbury, VT. 05671-5500  
Contact name: Karen Garbarino, MPA  
(802) 241-1255 (voice)  
(802) 241-1220 (fax)  
[karen.garbarino@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:karen.garbarino@ahs.state.vt.us)

Vermont is applying for funding under Section 2. Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens at High Schools and Community Service Centers.

The Vermont Department for Children and Families works closely with its many community partners to improve the lives of pregnant and parenting Vermonters and their families. A longstanding, effective partnership has existed with the 15 Parent Child Centers, located throughout the state. For over 20 years, the Parent Child Centers have been providing a variety of social and educational services to Vermont families. With a primary mission of getting families off to the right start, Parent Child Centers have a strong track record of success in connecting with disenfranchised populations, particularly families living in poverty. They bring together the myriad of state initiatives under one roof to assure that services are delivered in a way that is family-centered, family-driven, cost effective, and integrated. This project will bring resources to the Parent Child Centers in order to focus even more intensely on pregnant and parenting teens through expansion and enhancement of *Learning Together* programs.

*Learning Together* is an intensive pre-vocational, interpersonal parent training program that has proven to provide adolescent parents and parents-to-be the opportunity to receive the services they need in order to move forward in their lives, while making a contribution to their community. As young adults, they are expected to be self-supporting, contributing workers and citizens, as well as good parents – yet they lack the most basic information and skills they need to meet the multiple demands they face in the world. This program was developed to fill that gap.

*Learning Together* consists of six basic components: On-the-job training; Counseling; Academics; Parenting; Job Readiness Activities; and Interpersonal Skills. These six components, while representing a general framework, are balanced through a schedule that is individualized for each participant. In addition, each participant is assigned a case manager who will help her link to other supports such as child care, health care, housing and material resources.

JAMES H. DOUGLAS  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 30, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Grant Application Center  
Attention: Office of Adolescent Health  
1515 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 11  
Arlington, VA 22209

RE: Vermont's application for funding for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to the requirements outlined in Section III. 1. of the Announcement of Availability of Funds for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women, I hereby certify that the Vermont Department for Children and Families is authorized to apply for and administer any grant awards received under this announcement.

Thank you for considering Vermont's grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James H. Douglas", written over a circular embossed seal.

James H. Douglas  
Governor

JHD/pht

An early external evaluation of *Learning Together* has shown positive results for teens and their families, including: reduced dependency on public supports, especially TANF; increased sense of competence as parents; improved health outcomes for parents and their babies; more appropriate use of health services; increased levels of parent education; reduced family violence; improved life skills; and reduced rates of repeat pregnancy.

We see *Learning Together* as an integral part of our efforts to fulfill the Department for Children and Families mission: to promote the social, emotional, physical, and economic well being and the safety of Vermont's children and families. Combined with other major department initiatives, we believe *Learning Together* can help us make a real difference in the lives of Vermont children and families.

## **A. Description of Need**

Although Vermont's birth rate for teens between 15 and 19 of 21.3/1000 (2008) is lower than the preliminary national average for non-Hispanic white teens (15 – 19) of 26.7, there are regions within the state where those rates are significantly higher than the state rate. Data from the Vermont Department of Health shows, for example, that the Newport district, located in the most northern part of the state, had a preliminary rate of 47.4/1000, followed by Springfield, located in the south eastern part of the state, with a preliminary rate of 35.7/1000. The St. Albans region, in the north western part of the state, had a preliminary rate of 28.1/1000, also significantly higher than the state rate.

Even more disturbing is the rate of repeat pregnancies among women aged 15 – 19. For the years 2006 – 2008, there were 1596 first pregnancies among women age 15 to 19. Of those women, 583, or 36%, had a second or higher pregnancy while in that age cohort.

If we further analyze the Department of Health data, we can identify some specific regions with high percentages of new families at risk (defined as first births to unmarried women under 20 years of age with less than a high school education). Again, the Newport district stands out with 12.5% (preliminary 2009) of first births born to families at risk, significantly higher than the preliminary 2009 state rate of 5.3%. St. Albans and Springfield also have significantly higher preliminary 2009 rates, at 9.8% and 9.5% respectively.

Other available data also points out the need to support pregnant and parenting teens. If we look at PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring) data (combined 2004-2008), we see that 70.1% of the pregnancies for women under age 20 were unintended, compared to 26.5% for women age 25-34. We also see that 42.4% of parenting women under age 20 experience emotional stress, compared to 30.2% of women age 25-34. In terms of financial stress, 72.7% of

Vermont Department for Children and Families  
Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens  
9/1/10 – 8/31/11 budget justification narrative

**A. PERSONNEL \$3,763**

.05 FTE Principal Investigator at \$75,260/year

The Principal Investigator for this project is Karen Garbarino, MPA, Children's Integrated Services Director for the Vermont Department for Children and Families. Ms. Garbarino will provide strategic leadership for all community partners, administration of grant funds, project coordination, and is responsible for ensuring the successful implementation of *Learning Together* throughout the state.

**B. FRINGE BENEFITS \$1,068**

Fringe benefits are calculated on a 32% benefit rate, which includes all required employer-borne taxes, disability and life insurances, retirement benefits, and health insurance premiums.

**C. TRAVEL \$1,500**

These funds will cover the costs associated with the Principal Investigator's travel to Washington, DC to attend a required grantee meeting.

Airfare	\$750
Lodging	\$150 per night x 3 nights = \$450
Per diem	\$75 per day x 4 days = \$300

**D. EQUIPMENT \$0**

**E. SUPPLIES \$0**

**F. CONTRACTUAL \$15,000**

These funds will be used to pay the costs associated with a contract for development of a project evaluation plan and preliminary data analysis. The contractor will be selected using the State of Vermont's simplified bid process, which involves submitting a Request for Proposals to three qualified bidders. The successful bid will be determined using an objective review process, with input on selection provided by a sub-group of the parent child centers offering *Learning Together*.

**G. CONSTRUCTION \$0**

**H. OTHER \$908,150**

\$708,150 of these funds will be provided through grants to the 15 parent child centers that provide *Leaning Together*. The table and narrative below details how these funds are budgeted.

Budget categories	Cost per Parent Child Center	Total (per center cost x 15)
A. Personnel	\$35,000	\$525,000
B. Fringe	\$11,200	\$168,000

h Expenses under Other relate to program enhancement expenditures.

j These funds will support the indirect costs to the State for managing the federal grant and sub-grants.



C. Travel	\$450	\$6,750
D. Equipment	\$0	\$0
E. Supplies	\$560	\$8,400
F. Contractual	\$0	\$0
G. Construction	\$0	\$0
H. Other	\$0	\$0
I. TOTAL	\$47,210	\$708,150

A. Personnel

These funds will pay the annual salary costs associated with 1 FTE *Learning Together* coordinator at each parent child center. The *Learning Together* coordinator is a Master's level staff person who is responsible for oversight and implementation of *Learning Together*, in partnership with other professional staff housed within each parent child center.

B. Fringe

Fringe benefits are calculated on a 32% benefit rate, which includes all required employer-borne taxes, disability and life insurances, retirement benefits, and health insurance premiums.

C. Travel

These funds will pay the costs associated with mileage for staff to travel to attend programmatic planning and oversight meetings as required by the Vermont Department for Children and Families, as well as local inter-agency meetings relevant to the work of the grant. Travel will be reimbursed as the current rate of \$.50 per mile.

D. Supplies

These funds will provide a small budget to purchase program materials (pens, paper, poster board, supplies for hands-on learning, etc.), copies of the *Learning Together* manual, and food for meetings,

The remaining \$200,000 will be held by the Department for Children and Families as a program enhancement fund. These funds will be primarily targeted to the three highest risk regions (Newport, St. Albans, and Springfield) and available to address unique needs faced by these regions in fully implementing *Learning Together*. Some potential uses of the funds include:

- Stipends to Phase 5 program directors to mentor regions needing intensive technical assistance
- Adding an on-site adult literacy instructor or alternative high school education teacher
- Transportation costs to bring *Learning Together* participants on-site

Funds from the program enhancement fund will also be available to other regions through an application process. While the details of the application have not been finalized, the review process will include the Principal Investigator, the Child Development Division Deputy Commissioner, and representation from the Parent Child Network.

I. **TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES** ) \$929,481

J. **INDIRECT CHARGES** \$5,000

The State of Vermont uses a positive time reporting system which allocated indirect costs based on salary and time spent working directly on the project.

K. **TOTAL** \$934,481

State of Vermont  
 Department of Finance & Management  
 109 State Street, Pavilion Building  
 Montpelier, VT 05620-0401

Agency of Administration

[phone] 802-828-2376  
 [fax] 802-828-2428

**STATE OF VERMONT  
 FINANCE & MANAGEMENT GRANT REVIEW FORM**

<b>Grant Summary:</b>		This grant is for three years and will be used to increase capacity to implement the Learning Together Program, a parent training initiative for adolescent parents and parents to be. This grant allows DCF and the 15 Vermont Parent Child Centers to expand this program throughout the state.			
<b>Date:</b>		12/27/2010			
<b>Department:</b>		Department of Children and Families			
<b>Legal Title of Grant:</b>		Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens			
<b>Federal Catalog #:</b>		93.500			
<b>Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>		U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Grants Management, 1101 Wootton Parkway, Suite 550, Rockville, MD 20852			
<b>Grant Period:</b>		<b>From:</b>	<b>To:</b>		
		9/1/2010	8/31/2013		
<b>Grant/Donation</b>		\$2,803,443			
	<b>SFY 1</b>	<b>SFY 2</b>	<b>SFY 3</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Grant Amount:</b>	\$749,481	\$1,119,481	\$934,481	\$2,803,443	
<b>Position Information:</b>		<b># Positions</b>	<b>Explanation/Comments</b>		
		0			
<b>Additional Comments:</b>		Most of these funds will be subgranted to the 15 Parent Child Centers in Vermont to carry out the program.			
<b>Department of Finance &amp; Management</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>		(Initial)	
<b>Secretary of Administration</b>		<i>[Signature]</i>		2/10/11 (Initial)	
<b>Sent To Joint Fiscal Office</b>		2/10/11		Date	

**RECEIVED**  
 FEB 14 2011  
 JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

**STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)**

<b>BASIC GRANT INFORMATION</b>				
<b>1. Agency:</b>	Agency of Human Services			
<b>2. Department:</b>	Department for Children and Families			
<b>3. Program:</b>	Child Development Division, Children's Integrated Services			
<b>4. Legal Title of Grant:</b>	Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens			
<b>5. Federal Catalog #:</b>	93.500			
<b>6. Grant/Donor Name and Address:</b>	US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Grants Management 1101 Wootton Parkway Suite 550 Rockville, MD 20852			
<b>7. Grant Period:</b>	<b>From:</b>	9/1/2010	<b>To:</b>	8/31/2013
<b>8. Purpose of Grant:</b>	This grant funds the development, implementation, and enhancement of programs to assist pregnant and parenting teens with parenting and job placement skills.			
<b>9. Impact on existing program if grant is not Accepted:</b>	Areas without these services will not be able to implement them, and existing programs will not be able to expand and increase services			
<b>10. BUDGET INFORMATION</b>				
	<b>SFY 1</b>	<b>SFY 2</b>	<b>SFY 3</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	<b>FY 11</b>	<b>FY 12</b>	<b>FY 13</b>	
Personal Services	\$19,831	\$19,831	\$19,831	
Operating Expenses	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	
Grants	\$723,150	\$1,093,150	\$908,150	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$749,481</b>	<b>\$1,119,481</b>	<b>\$934,481</b>	
<b>Revenues:</b>				
State Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Cash	\$	\$	\$	
In-Kind	\$	\$	\$	
Federal Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
(Direct Costs)	\$744,481	\$1,114,481	\$929,481	
(Statewide Indirect)	\$	\$	\$	
(Departmental Indirect)	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Other Funds:	\$	\$	\$	
Grant (source HHS)	\$	\$	\$	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$749,481</b>	<b>\$1,119,481</b>	<b>\$934,481</b>	
<b>Appropriation No:</b>		<b>Amount:</b>	\$2,803,443	
			\$	

**STATE OF VERMONT REQUEST FOR GRANT ACCEPTANCE (Form AA-1)**

			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
			\$
		<b>Total</b>	\$

**PERSONAL SERVICE INFORMATION**

**11. Will monies from this grant be used to fund one or more Personal Service Contracts?**  Yes  No  
 If "Yes", appointing authority must initial here to indicate intent to follow current competitive bidding process/policy.

Appointing Authority Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Agreed by: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial)

12. Limited Service Position Information:	# Positions	Title
	0	
<b>Total Positions</b>		

**12a. Equipment and space for these positions:**  Is presently available.  Can be obtained with available funds.

**13. AUTHORIZATION AGENCY/DEPARTMENT**

I/we certify that no funds beyond basic application preparation and filing costs have been expended or committed in anticipation of Joint Fiscal Committee approval of this grant, unless previous notification was made on Form AA-1PN (if applicable):	Signature: <i>Wick Flood</i>	Date: <i>12/16/10</i>
	Title: Agency of Human Services Secretary	
	Signature: <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>12/15/10</i>
	Title: Deputy Commissioner	

**14. SECRETARY OF ADMINISTRATION**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved:	(Secretary or designee signature) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>02/02/11</i>
-----------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------

**15. ACTION BY GOVERNOR**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Check One Box: Accepted	(Governor's signature) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date: <i>2/10/11</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rejected	(Governor's signature)	Date:

**16. DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED**

**Required GRANT Documentation**

<input type="checkbox"/> Request Memo <input type="checkbox"/> Dept. project approval (if applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Award <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Agreement <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Budget	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Donation (if any) <input type="checkbox"/> Grant (Project) Timeline (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Extension (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Form AA-1PN attached (if applicable)
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**End Form AA-1**

## Summary of the "Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens" grant

The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, has awarded Vermont funding of \$934,481 per year for three years to increase statewide capacity to implement and enhance the *Learning Together* program. *Learning Together* is an intensive, pre-vocational, parent training program proven to provide adolescent parents and parents-to-be with the opportunity to move forward in their lives. The program consists of six basic components: on-the-job training, counseling, academics, parenting skills, job readiness, and interpersonal skills. These six components, while representing a general framework, are balanced through a schedule that is individualized for each participant. Each participant is assigned a case manager to link her to other supports such as child care, health care, and housing.

The funds will be used by DCF in partnership with Parent Child Centers and other community partners to expand access to *Learning Together* throughout the state. By providing teen parents and parents-to-be with the skills and support they need to succeed, we can expect to see improved health outcomes for both mothers and babies and increased levels of parent education.

3097 Stage Road  
Jericho, VT 05465

Phone 802-434-4815 (h)  
802-241-1255 (w)

E-mail  
karen.garbarino@ahs.state.vt.us

## Karen Garbarino

### Education

May, 1997 University of Vermont Burlington, VT  
**Master of Public Administration**

December, 1979 University of Kentucky Lexington, KY  
**Bachelor of Science, with honors**

### Professional experience

2009-present Vermont Department for Children and Families  
Waterbury, VT

#### **Children's Integrated Services Director**

- Provide managerial, administrative, and policy development leadership in the Child Development Division
- Move the Children's Integrated Services initiative forward to full implementation
- Ensure compliance with federal and state mandates
- Supervise a professional and clerical staff of employees and contracted positions

2007-2009 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT

#### **Division Director**

- Provide leadership and vision for the Division of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention
- Manage the Division's 40 staff persons and \$12 million budget
- Oversee and coordinate the Division's federal grants and programs to ensure coordination with other Department initiatives

2006 – 2007 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT

#### **Public Health Supervisor**

- Provide supervision of public health nurses, nutritionists and other staff working in the Health Department's Burlington District Office
- Provide technical assistance in specific program areas such as lead poisoning, environmental health, cancer screening, substance abuse, and chronic disease
- Work with communities to implement health promotion and disease prevention programs

2003 – 2006 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT

#### **Chronic Disease Director**

- Provide management oversight of the Tobacco Control, Injury Prevention, Comprehensive Cancer Control, Physical Activity, and Arthritis Programs
- Ensure coordination and collaboration among all Department chronic disease programs
- Grant writing, budget preparation, development and implementation of program objectives, collaboration with external partners, public speaking

f. Contractual: These funds will be used to pay the costs of an independent evaluator to provide program evaluation. The contractor will be selected using the State of Vermont standard bid and contracting process.

h. Other: The Child Development Division will maintain a Program Enhancement Fund which will be allocated to regions based on a formula that looks at demographic and needs data.

Possible uses of these funds include:

- Mileage for a Phase 5 program to travel – to a developing *Learning Together* program for the purpose of consultation and technical assistance
- Adding an on-site adult literacy instructor or alternative high school education teacher
- Transportation to bring program participants to a *Learning Together* site

j. Indirect charges: These funds will be used by the Department for Children and Families to cover costs associated with management and oversight of grant award, sub-grants and contracts.



2000 - 2003 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT  
**Tobacco Control Program Health Chief**

- Responsible for development and management of the Tobacco Control Program
- Responsible for supervision of staff involved with Vermont's comprehensive tobacco control program
- Responsible for management of \$4 million per year budget
- Grant writing, budget preparation, development and implementation of program objectives, coordination of activities with other departments and agencies, collaborations with external partners
- Drafting and testifying on state legislation, commenting on federal legislation, policy development
- Department liaison to the Tobacco Evaluation and Review Board

1995 - 2000 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT  
**Children's Environmental Health Chief**

- Responsible for management of the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and the Healthy Homes initiative
- Responsible for supervision of staff involved with radon testing and mitigation, indoor air quality, and private drinking water
- Grant writing, budget preparation, developing and implementing program objectives, coordination of activities with other departments and agencies
- Drafting and testifying on state legislation, commenting on federal legislation, policy development

1991-1995 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT  
**Public Health Program Coordinator**

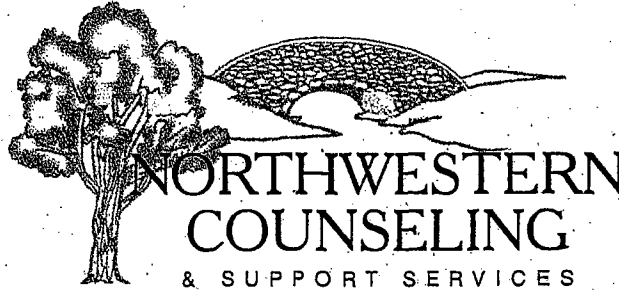
- Responsible for developing Vermont's lead poisoning prevention program
- Developed informational sheets, gave lectures on lead poisoning to public and government organizations, worked with providers on screening recommendations
- Developed environmental follow-up and medical management protocols for lead poisoned children

1989-1991 Vermont Department of Health Burlington, VT  
**Water Supply Compliance Coordinator**

- Developed a monitoring system for public drinking water systems
- Determined if there was a risk to consumers on a system with bacteriologically or chemically contaminated water

107 Fisher Pond Road  
St. Albans, VT  
05478

Telephone:  
(802) 524-6554  
Toll Free in VT:  
(800) 834-7793  
Fax:  
(802) 527-7801



July 22, 2010

OPHS Office of Grants Management  
c/o Grant Application Center  
1515 Wilson Blvd., Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22209

To the Office of Grants Management, the Office of Public Health and Science, and the Department of Health and Human Services:

Please accept this letter as verification of my support for the State of Vermont Department for Children and Families Child Development Division as the applicant for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant.

This opportunity would be extremely beneficial to the state of Vermont and would promote the availability of support to vulnerable teens and women who are pregnant or parenting. Many of our local communities are limited to the resources that are available in order to further connect this particular population with the necessary supports in education, health care and child care. In addition, this funding would encourage and allow for our current system of care to provide a seamless network of supportive services and resources to pregnant or parenting moms at a local and state level.

As the Parent Child Center Director and host of our local Learning Together Program which supports education, provides service coordination, and offers childcare for pregnant and parenting teens, I can not stress what a viable and invaluable resource and impact this would make upon our current programming locally. This funding would allow expansion of program capacity and enhancement of service delivery to pregnant and parenting teens through increasing outreach capability and collaboration among community partners.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Public Health and Science is providing with this grant. Again, I strongly recommend awarding of this grant to the Child Development Division through the State of Vermont:

Sincerely,

*D. Lindley* LICSW

Danielle Lindley, LICSW  
Parent Child Center Director  
Northwestern Counseling and Support Services  
130 Fisher Pond Road  
St. Albans, Vermont 05478



NEKCA Parent Child Center-South  
115 Lincoln Street  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802)-748-6040  
Fax: (802)-748-6042

July 21, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health  
Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Reviewers:

I am writing in support of the State of Vermont/Vermont Parent Child Center Networks proposal for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund Grant. Our Parent Child Center is one of two nestled in a part of the state affectionately known as the Northeast Kingdom. It is one of the most rural parts of the state with some of the most disenfranchised families. Many of these young families have never ventured outside the borders of their town limits and have a very restricted view of the world. We have a higher rate of pregnant and parenting teens not completing their high school education through the traditional path due to the unique dynamic of having the two largest sending high schools being private schools with no public school options. These two schools have a history of not providing the flexibility that teens, who find themselves in this situation, so desperately need.

Our Learning Together program has excellent staff who have pieced together a wonderful program that meets participant's "basic" needs, however staff also believe with all of their hearts with additional resources these bright, creative young people, who are the future of our community as well as our nation, could really soar if there were more opportunities available to them. Additional resources would allow staff to expose these young families to a much more broad based experience and an even more brilliant future.

If funded this proposal would allow staff to enhance the opportunities offered to these young families, thereby strengthening the scope of possibilities for their lives and the lives of their children.

If you have any questions regarding our Parent Child Center, please feel free to call me at: 802-748-6040.

Sincerely,

Jan Lee Rossier

Jan Lee Rossier, Director



LAMOILLE  
FAMILY  
CENTER

480 Cadys Falls Road  
Morrisville, Vermont 05661  
Phone - (802) 888-5229  
Fax - (802) 888-5392  
Web - [www.lamoillefamilycenter.org](http://www.lamoillefamilycenter.org)

July 23, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the State of Vermont, Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division's application for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women - CFDA Number: 93.500.

The Lamoille Family Center is one of fifteen Parent/Child Centers serving north central Vermont by providing information and support to young families. Our Learning Together program, entering its tenth year in 2010, is a recognized school by the State Department of Education providing education and support services to pregnant, parenting and at-risk youth, age twenty-one and under. The program allows participants to pursue their education by earning their diploma through a curriculum approved by their own high school, by completing an academic program through the Family Center (which is certified to issue high school diplomas), or by earning their General Education Diploma (GED). The program operates three semesters each year (including a summer session). Participants engage in program activities for 21 hours per week including academic course work, community service, physical fitness, meal preparation, individual and group counseling, and parenting education and support (as appropriate). Staff from the Lamoille Family Center, the Lamoille Family Literacy Center, and Adult Basic Education, as well as community volunteers, provide course instruction and tutoring.

A licensed child care center, also operated by the Lamoille Family Center, is available for children of participants, age six weeks to two years. This component of the program is critical as it allows the children to be placed in high quality care while the participants focus on completing their education. In addition, the child care center offers comprehensive opportunities for parent education and support and volunteer/work experience.

I encourage you to select Vermont as a recipient of the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women grant; doing so will build on a statewide foundation of successful programs that can respond quickly and efficiently to expanded supports and services to young women. If I can be of any additional assistance please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Scott Johnson  
Executive Director

*Encouraging, Educating and Celebrating Families*

A United Way Community Partner





**The Family Place**  
**The Upper Valley's Parent Child Center**  
**Building a Better Future, One Family at a Time**

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my agency's enthusiastic support for the Pregnancy Assistance Fund grant application being submitted by the State of Vermont in support of the Vermont Parent Child Centers' Learning Together Programs.

The Family Place is the designated Parent Child Center for northern Windsor County, Vermont. We launched our Learning Together program in 2005, naming it Families Learning Together (FLT). In keeping with the model, FLT is a parenting and life skills program that helps young parents address barriers to self-sufficiency and become better able to care for themselves and their children. Each year, we have expanded the number of families served and the number of hours per week. In the year just ended, we served 16 mothers and 8 infants and toddlers for 14 hours each week.

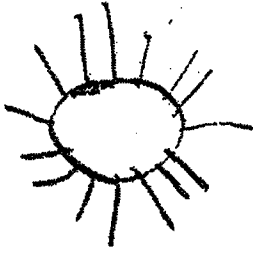
From the start, positive gains and feedback from participants encouraged us to expand FLT so that we could provide all needy families and their infants and toddlers with comprehensive, high quality education and support services. Thanks to our community's generous response to this year's fund-raising campaign, we are gearing up to serve 20 moms, 16 infants and toddlers, and provide 20 hours of programming each week in the coming year.

It is important to note that we are still seeking resources to fully fund this level of programming. A grant from the Pregnancy Assistance Fund would be put to immediate use to support the additional staffing necessary for the program expansion we are undertaking. We would be pleased to answer any questions you might have about our work. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

*Elaine Guenet*

Elaine Guenet, Executive Director



# Sunrise Family Resource Center

"Strengthening Families"

July 21, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whomever It Concerns,

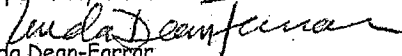
I am writing in support of the State of Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division and their application for funding for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women through the HHS Initial Competitive Grants to States, CFDA 93.550.

Sunrise Family Resource Center, Inc. is one of Vermont's 15 designated Parent/Child Centers. Sunrise has been providing services to young pregnant and parenting families since becoming a Parent/Child Center in the mid-1980's, and has participated in the Learning Together program since its initial roll-out in 1990. We have been very successful in our high school graduation rates, as well as overall outcomes across the six basic components of Learning Together. This grant will allow us and the other Parent/Child Centers to be more comprehensive in our services, reach more young pregnant and parenting families earlier and in a more thorough manner, and establish more intentional, responsible relationships with the other supports - child care, health care, housing, transportation, material resources - so critical to the well-being of children and their families.

Sunrise Family Resource Center was incorporated in 1969 as Bennington Child Day Care and has a long and rich history of successfully partnering with the State of Vermont, the Vermont Parent/Child Center Network, and community partners to provide services to families and children. Sunrise is recognized as an advocate for both family-centered and early childhood services and as a leader of collaboration in our catchment area. At the core of our work and critical to our voice is our commitment to strength-based, family-focused and family-engaging services - reflective of the philosophy and values of the Vermont Parent/Child Center Network and the cornerstone of our working relationship with the State of Vermont Department for Children and Families.

Through the partnership between DCF and PCCN this grant will be well invested in the population of teen parents and their families, including during their pregnancies - a time when resources are most limited.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Linda Dean-Farrar,  
Executive Director

---

244 Union Street • P.O. Box 1517 • Bennington, VT 05201 • (802) 442-6934  
fax: (802) 442-1663 • e-mail: [sfrc.sunrise@comcast.net](mailto:sfrc.sunrise@comcast.net)



United Way Member Agency

July 21, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to support Vermont's application for *Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women*.

The Springfield Area Parent Child Center has been serving pregnant and parenting teens since 2002 after receiving start up funding through the Addison County's replication grant from the federal Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs. Our program began with 3 parents and 3 of the six "critical components". Today we have 16 pregnant and parenting teens and all of the components. But we have a waiting list and ur ability to serve all referrals has expired. We are in the process of building a new, larger building and will be able to expand our program by March 2011 if we are able to afford more staff time. Funding from this grant would allow us to do that.

I hope this application receives funding – it is critical to the success of so many young women and their children in Vermont. This year alone we had four young women graduated from high school, two who completed a Licensed Nursing Assistant program, three who went to work in jobs that will support their families and others who completed goals towards excellent parenting and good jobs.

More information about our PCC can be found at [www.sapcc-vt.org](http://www.sapcc-vt.org).

Sincerely,

Betty Kinsman  
Executive Director

2 Main Street • North Springfield • Vermont • 05150-9739 802-886-5242  
fax: 802-886-2007 www.sapcc-vt.org email: sapcc2@vermontel.net

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern,

Brattleboro Town School District's Early Education Services is southeastern Vermont's designated Parent-Child Center and Head Start/Early Head Start grantee, serving Windham County. We are a part of the Windham Southeast Supervisory Union. Over 50% of Brattleboro families are considered poor, as measured by the number of school children who qualify for free assistance in the federal school lunch program. Many surrounding towns fare much worse.

Our home visiting program for pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers has been a vital link for our most rural, vulnerable families. Many young families in our region are housebound and lack reliable transportation, and so we must bring services to their door. Through the home visiting model, built on a case management approach, we are able to establish positive relationships with families, and bring them to participate in the myriad of services we offer in our centers, aimed at improving their lives. We offer infant/toddler and preschool classroom programming in high quality environments for young families who are more mobilized. One of our infant classrooms is housed in the local high school, with enrollment prioritized for teen parents who are working to earn a diploma or GED. Through our relationships and services, families are able to access the supports they need, understand and enhance their parenting skills, build interpersonal relationship skills, gain knowledge about healthy child development, establish medical and dental homes for themselves and their children, make social connections, learn job skills, access counseling, enjoy recreational activities with other parents, and attain goals they set with the assistance of their case manager. Our link to the public schools raises the importance of our work with parents to promote literacy skills in their young children, so that children come to school ready to learn.

By incorporating the *Learning Together* model along with *Brazelton's Touchpoints* framework, *Ruby Payne's Framework for Understanding Poverty*, and *Head Start* philosophies, EES staff conduct their work with families from a strength based, asset building perspective. We believe that by addressing the needs of all parents, particularly those who are young and/or, pregnant, we have the best opportunity to build positive parenting skills. Additionally, the comprehensive nature of Early Head Start addresses the whole child, the whole parent, and the particular needs of a pregnant mother. When parents build confidence, they are able to move beyond the barriers that stand in their way toward achieving self-sufficiency.

We are one of fifteen Parent-Centers in Vermont, all networked to deliver quality, comprehensive services that close public service gaps. Our intensive approach, based on building individual relationships with participants, has proven successful for over twenty years. Our continued existence in our communities is essential. We rely on support such as yours to keep this possible. Thank-you for considering this application.

Sincerely,

Debra J. Gass, Executive Director Early Education Services Brattleboro, VT 05301





**Addison County  
Parent/Child Center**

P.O. Box 646 ♦ Middlebury, Vermont 05753 ♦ Tel: 802-388-3171  
Fax: 802-388-1590 ♦ E-Mail: thepcc@sover.net ♦ www.sover.net/~thepcc

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern,

As a member of the Parent/Child Center Network and as a Center who has operated Learning Together for almost thirty years, the Addison County Parent Child Center is excited to be a part of the application for the grant "Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Girls and Women". This program works and needs to be supported throughout the state.

As a rural state, it is essential that we have social and educational services where people in need can gather for a "one stop shopping" approach to accessing services. Parent/Child Centers are those sites across the state. The Centers are in need of financial supports that can allow us to provide services to young parents and parents to be in a comprehensive and consistent way.

The Addison County Parent/Child Center has been operating in this capacity for thirty years and has positive statistics to show for the approach. Replication of the Learning Together model has happened across the state and there is a need for more financial support for the programs. The programs are at various phases of development. Our center staff and participants are willing and able to help with technical assistance to other centers to help them develop further.

Learning Together is a program that works. It is efficient, creative and flexible. It is a program that meets people where they are and is able to help lift families from poverty through increased parent education, academic advancement, job training, counseling and access to high quality child care. we are able to work with two generations at one time- children and parents are receiving high quality interventions in order to help families to grow up healthy and strong.

Sincerely,

Donna Bailey  
Co-Director



Member  
United Way of  
Addison County

*Helping Young Families Get The Right Start*



# MILTON FAMILY COMMUNITY CENTER

*Serving Milton and the Surrounding Communities • Est. 1985*

July 23, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the State of Vermont proposal for the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women grant provided through the Office of Public Health and Science, Department of Health and Human Services.

As the director of a parent child center with a Learning Together program, I am very excited about this funding opportunity and fully support this proposal. The Milton Family Community Center is located in the northern, rural portion of Chittenden County, Vermont. Transportation to access services and childcare are two major barriers for families struggling to succeed and thrive. The Milton Family Community Center offers a Learning Together Program, providing services to young families to improve their job, life skills, and the opportunity to finish their high school education and pursue further training. The Learning Together program at the Milton Family Community Center provides participants, work sites at the Center, opportunity to pursue a G.E.D. or High School Diploma, parent education and life skill development workshops. Transportation is provided for participants. The Learning Together program provides twenty hours per week of job site, life skill development, parent education skills training and G.E.D. education services for participants.

The Milton Family Community Center receives both state and private funding sources for the program, however, funding is not sufficient to expand the program to provide the much needed childcare and necessary supervision and coordination of participants while in their job sites. If successful in achieving this grant, funds will be used toward providing childcare at the Milton Family Community Center and will allow us to expand our program and services to more participants.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to expand and continue the sustainability of the Learning Together program.

Sincerely,  
Brett A. Chornyak  
Executive Director

PO Box 619 • 23 Villemare Lane • Milton • Vermont • 05468 • 802-893-1457  
Fax 802-893-1776 • email: [mfcc@miltonfamilycenter.org](mailto:mfcc@miltonfamilycenter.org) • Website: [www.miltonfamilycenter.org](http://www.miltonfamilycenter.org)



Member Agency  
United Way  
of Chittenden County



**Family Center**  
OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

383 Sherwood Drive  
Montpelier, VT 05602  
(802) 262-3292 Fax: (802)  
262-6071  
[www.fcwcv.org](http://www.fcwcv.org)

July 23, 2010

Office of Grants Management Office of Public  
Health and Science Department of Health and  
Human Services

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the State of Vermont Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division's application for Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women (CFDA # 93.500).

The Family Center of Washington County is a state designated Parent Child Center located in Montpelier. We have many years experience working with and supporting Central Vermont's pregnant and parenting teens and young women. Our Learning Together program addresses many of the core issues young women face in our region: lack of education, lack of job skills, lack of support resources, and a lack of interpersonal skills. Learning Together addresses these issues through on-the-job training, job readiness activities, academic and parent education classes, and through personal and resource counseling. Our program has proven its value to participants and, with additional resources, will be expanded to enhance the program's positive impact throughout our region.

The Family Center strongly urges the Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Adolescent Health to approve the Vermont application for this support. The positive impacts will be felt immediately and will have life-long benefits to participants, their children, and the community.

Thank you for considering this application.

Lee S. Lauber  
Executive Director

Sincerely,



Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

July 23, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

Lund Family Center is one of the fifteen designated Parent Child Center's in the State of Vermont. In addition to Parent Child Center services, Lund Family Center offers Residential and Outpatient treatment services to pregnant and parenting young women with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders and their children. Women in the program received integrated, gender responsive treatment that is family centered and family driven.

The Learning Together model is essential to successful outcomes for the young families that Lund Family Center is serving. While substance abuse and mental health treatment is important, if young parents don't have the skills necessary to sustain their family with employment, and a support system in place to help them all along the continuum of recovery, their prognosis is poor. Research has long indicated that the primary motivation for a woman's success in treatment is her children. The Parent Child Center Network recognizes the importance of families being able to stay together with a focus on safety and well being. If we are to truly impact the future of Vermont, it is essential that we support these families that are most vulnerable and at risk.

It is with great enthusiasm that the Lund Family Center supports this application for increased funding to support Vermont families in this proven model through the comprehensive services offered in the Parent Child Center Network.

Please feel free to contact me if I can offer and further information.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly-Ann Coe*

Kimberly-Ann Coe  
Director of Residential and Community Treatment Programs  
Lund Family Center  
76 Glen Road  
Wilmington, Vermont 05401



**Rutland County Parent Child Center**  
61 Pleasant Street  
Rutland, Vermont 05701

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
c/o Grant Application Center  
15 Wilson Blvd, Suite 100  
Arlington, VA 22209  
July 26, 2010

Re: Support for State of Vermont Pregnancy Assistance Fund grant application

To Whom It May Concern;

On behalf of the Rutland County Parent Child Center, this letter is being submitted in support of the request by the State of Vermont, Department for Children and Families, Child Development Division application for funding under the Pregnancy Assistance Fund grant.

The Rutland County Parent Child Center believes the proposed funding would allow the Learning Together model to be available to more young families throughout the state. The Learning Together Program has a proven track record with regard to the promotion of academic achievement, employability and parenting skills. The success of participants in the Learning Together Program is in part due to the individualized program developed to meet the needs of each unique participant; the very nature of the program recognizes one size does not fit all. Further, the wrap around support services, provided within the Learning Together Programs, provide the safety net which encourages participants to set and strive for goals which may have seemed out of reach.

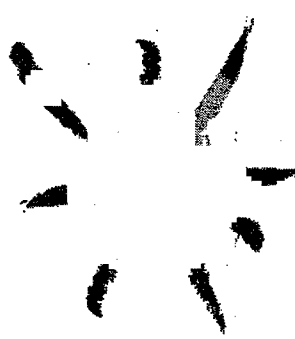
The Learning Together Program is a research based model with a history of success within the state of Vermont. The Rutland County Parent Child Center strongly encourages the Office of Public Health and Science to provide funding to the continued efforts of the Vermont State Department for Children and Families to support the young and disenfranchised families.

If you have need of further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 802.775.9711 ext 200.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A. Fortier  
Youth Development Director

Cc: ED-RCPCC



**Orange County Parent Child Center**

**361 Vermont Route 110**

**Chelsea, VT 05038**

July 26, 2010

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support the application of the State of Vermont submitted by the Vermont Department for Children and Families Child Development Division to support Learning Together Programs in the 15 Parent Child Centers in Vermont.

The Orange County Parent Child Center is one of Vermont's fifteen Parent Child centers. Our mission is to connect families with young children to their communities and wellness opportunities through education, support, and advocacy allowing families to thrive and build a sense of place in their communities. Our Learning Together program is critical to fulfillment of this mission.

Orange County has a high number of children and families living in poverty. The challenges for families in our region are immense. These challenges are compounded for parenting teens lacking parenting experience and skills, familial support, education, and employment. Rural isolation is particularly powerful and limiting in Orange County. Our catchment area is divided into four distinct hubs - largely created by the difficult geography of the region. This compounds the struggles faced by our youngest parents and parents-to-be. Our Parent Child Center and Learning Together program offer the one-stop shop for resources that are otherwise widely scattered throughout the region.

Learning Together Programs throughout Vermont present young parents the opportunity to grow in confidence and competence in an environment uniquely designed to address their needs. We find that these young women have a strong desire to contribute in positive ways as parents and members of their communities. These comprehensive, holistic supports offer young parents the opportunity for change and the ability to choose a better outcome for their young children.

Parent Child Centers in Vermont work closely with our partners at the state level to insure that we are achieving the best outcomes for Vermont families. This proposal would significantly support this valuable effort.

Sincerely,

*Mary Ellen Otis*

Mary Ellen Otis, Executive Director



NEKCA  
Northeast Kingdom Community Action, Inc.

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Parent Child Center North  
32 Central Street  
Newport, VT 05855  
(802) 334-4072

Office of Grants Management  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services

July 26, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write in support of the "Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women" grant proposal as submitted by Vermont's Child Development Division. The proposed project is completely aligned with the work that NEKCA's Parent Child Center North is currently undertaking in support of teen parents and would greatly enhance our efforts.

The project as proposed would enable us to outreach and provide services to more teen parents and to improve the quality of those services. It would also reinforce efforts to coordinate the statewide network of agencies providing such services by setting common benchmarks as indicators of program quality and overall impact. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Laura Jacoby  
Director

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State of Vermont  
Department of Health  
Division of Maternal and Child Health  
108 Cherry Street - P.O. Box 70  
Burlington, VT 05401  
healthvermont.gov

[phone] 802-863-7347  
[fax] 802-863-7229

Agency of Human Services

August 28, 2010

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Vermont's application for statewide funding through the U.S. Health and Human Services *Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women* grant. Vermont communities are currently working toward achieving positive outcomes for pregnant teens and young moms through a program called *Learning Together*.

The *Learning Together* program provides support and education to families and assures that all young children in each community get off to the right start with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and productive. Award of this grant funding will assist Vermont to fully develop the program in all twelve regions of the state. The Vermont Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division will work closely with other departments in the Agency of Human Service as well as Parent Child Centers in the state to support families in the integration of this educational program to all regions of Vermont.

The Department of Health, in partnership with the Department of Children and Families, is committed to ensuring that our programming for pregnant teens and women is medically accurate and complete. The Maternal and Child Health Division looks forward to working closely with *Learning Together* as part of our Integrated Family Services in each region around the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Breena Holmes".

Breena W. Holmes, MD  
Director, Maternal and Child Health





State of Vermont  
Department for Children and Families  
Family Services Division  
103 South Main Street, Osgood 3  
Waterbury, VT 05671-2401  
[www.dcf.state.vt.us/fsd/](http://www.dcf.state.vt.us/fsd/)

[phone] 802-241-2131  
[fax] 802-241-2407

Agency of Human Services

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20201

July 23, 2010

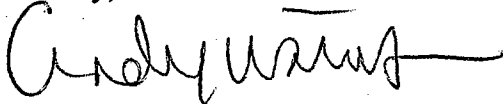
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Vermont's application for statewide funding through the U.S. Health and Human Services *Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women* grant. Vermont communities are currently working toward achieving positive outcomes for pregnant teens and young moms through a program called *Learning Together*.

The *Learning Together* program provides support and education to families and assures that all young children in each community get off to the right start with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and productive. The Vermont Department for Children and Families, Family Services Division works with Parent Child Centers to support young parents who have come to the attention of the division due to allegations of child abuse and neglect.

The Family Services Division relies upon Parent Child Centers to provide basic support and educations to families with young children across the state. Our goal is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect and to assure that all families are off to a good start.

Sincerely,



Cindy Walcott, Deputy Commissioner  
Department for Children and Families  
Family Services Division



**State of Vermont**

**Joe Patrissi, Deputy Commissioner**

Department for Children and Families

Economic Services Division

103 South Main Street

Waterbury, VT 05671-1201

[phone] 802-241-2800

[fax] 802-241-2235

[Toll Free] 1-800-479-6151

July 27, 2007

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20201

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Vermont's application for statewide funding through the U.S. Health and Human Services *Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women* grant. Vermont communities are currently working toward achieving positive outcomes for pregnant teens and young moms through a program called *Learning Together*.

The *Learning Together* program provides support and education to families and assures that all young children in each community get off to the right start with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and productive. Award of this grant funding will assist Vermont to fully develop the program in all twelve regions of the state. The Vermont Department for Children and Families Economic Services Division works closely with Parent Child Centers to support single parents and two parent families in our Reach Up program funded with TANF dollars.

Economic Services is deeply committed to the success of healthy parents, children and families. We achieve this through wrap around education, support, and case management services and teaming with our statewide networks of service providers in all sectors. We believe it is critical to the developmental process to work with parents in the earliest stages of parenting as possible. This grant will afford us the opportunity to create additional supports and services to achieve our goal.

Thank you for every consideration of funding this opportunity for the young parents and children who live in Vermont.

Sincerely,



Joseph Patrissi, Deputy Commissioner

Department for Children and Families

Economic Services Division





July 27, 2010

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to support Vermont's application for statewide funding through the U.S. Health and Human Services *Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens and Women* grant. Vermont communities are currently working toward achieving positive outcomes for pregnant teens and young moms through a program called *Learning Together*.

The *Learning Together* program provides support and education to families and assures that all young children in each community get off to the right start with the opportunity to grow up healthy, happy and productive. Award of this grant funding will assist Vermont to fully develop the program in all twelve regions of the state.

The Vermont Department of Education (DOE), through its administration of the High School Completion Program, supports relationships between Learning Works (Vermont's adult education and literacy system) and *Learning Together* programs around the state. This provides an opportunity for eligible students to work toward a high school diploma with the support of the Learning Together program, and with the financial support of the state. The DOE also supports local coordination and establishment of partnerships between community-based childcare/family resource and support agencies with local school districts. Act 62 was signed into law in 2007 and reaffirms a long-standing practice of state and local support for publicly-funded prekindergarten education for three- to five-year-old children by schools and community-based programs.

As a state, we all *learn together* about current research and evidence-based practices to support young children and families. We work equally as hard to develop the necessary policies to ensure that young parents in each region of the state have equal access to learning opportunities in order to attain the best possible outcomes for themselves and their children. If awarded, this grant will certainly enhance each *Learning Together* program's outreach to families and will ultimately increase the competence, confidence and positive outcomes for pregnant and parenting teens and women across the state.

Thank you for considering Vermont's application,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate B. Rogers".

Kate Rogers, Early Childhood Special Education/619 Coordinator  
Vermont Department of Education

**“Love, Laughter and Leadership”**

**Critical Issues in the  
Replication of the**

**Learning Together Program**

**Executive Summary**

Prepared by Cheryl Mitchell, PhD  
Vermont Research Partnership  
University of Vermont

For the  
Addison County Parent/Child Center  
And the  
Office of Population Affairs

December 17, 2005

## Executive Summary

### Project Goals and Objectives:

**Goals:** The two primary goals of the replication of the Addison County Parent/Child Center's Learning Together Project were:

1. To lower the adolescent pregnancy rate in Vermont, particularly the repeat pregnancy rate for existing adolescent parents.
2. To enhance the ability of adolescents to parent their children well, by increasing parenting skills and knowledge of child development and by increasing job readiness and life skills.

### Program Objectives:

**Objective One:** To establish the Addison County Parent/Child Center as a training and technical assistance center to support the replication of **Learning Together** in the other Parent/Child Centers in the state.

**Objective Two:** To replicate **Learning Together** in three other Vermont communities in the first two years of the project and in two additional communities in each of the three subsequent years of the project.

**Objective Three:** To effect, within two years, 25% drop in teen pregnancy rates in communities sponsoring **Learning Together**.

**Objective Four:** Within two years, 80% of program participants will demonstrate enhanced ability to provide for their children by accomplishing one or more of the following: 1) attain a High School diploma or equivalent, 2) increase basic literacy, 3) enroll in post secondary education program, and/or 4) secure and maintain employment.

### Intervention:

**Learning Together** is an intensive pre-vocational, interpersonal and parent training program offered within the context of a broadly based family support service. It provides adolescent parents and parents-to-be the opportunity to receive the services they need in order to move forward in their lives while making an invaluable contribution to families in their community. The program consists of six basic components:

- On-the-job.
- Counseling.
- Academics.
- Parenting.
- Job readiness activities.
- Inter-personal skills.

The original program in Middlebury, Vermont, had very positive results for teens and their families, including:

- ♦ Reduced dependency on public supports, especially TANF.
- ♦ Increased sense of competence as parents.
- ♦ Improved health outcomes for parents and their babies.
- ♦ More appropriate use of health services.
- ♦ Increased levels of parental education.
- ♦ Reduced family violence.
- ♦ Improved life skills.
- ♦ Reduced rates of repeat pregnancy.

An Abstinence Education Care Demonstration grant from the Office of Population Affairs was awarded to the Addison County Parent/Child Center replicate this program at other Parent/Child Centers in Vermont. There are 16 legislatively designated Parent/Child Centers in the State of Vermont. All provide a broad array of services to families with very young children. The directors of these centers decided that replication of **Learning Together** in each site would have a tremendous positive benefit for their program participants and their communities. This replication was rolled out statewide through the following activities:

- ♦ Staff from the original **Learning Together** site provided technical assistance to two or three new sites each year. This included provision of materials and videotapes, presentations to Boards and community members, on-site consultation, phone consultation, and arrangements for peer-to-peer support.
- ♦ Replication sites each received a one-time grant to hire a replication coordinator who spent time in Middlebury and then implemented the program at home.
- ♦ Staff from all replication sites were invited to monthly replication meetings.
- ♦ Staff from 5 of the Learning Together sites are participating in Learning Together Plus, a Masters Degree Program in Educational and Human Service Leadership.

**Client Population** The families involved in **Learning Together** at the replication sites share most of the following characteristics with the Middlebury Group:

- Young parents or parents-to-be (typically in the 14-20 year old range some programs also included girls at high risk of pregnancy).
- Female (95% of participants; partners and extended family received some services from the program).
- Family of origin history of violence, neglect, abuse, or substance abuse.
- Incomplete high school education.
- History of special education, school failure, or learning disabilities.
- Not married (although 50% were living semi-consistently with a partner).
- Had experienced generational or situational poverty.
- Few experiences with employment.
- Poor self-esteem.

- Rural (only one site was considered urban and that was in a city of 35,000).
- At intake, were experiencing insecurity related to (one or more) housing, food, transportation, income, relationships, parenting skills, ability to plan, safety, health care (including dental and mental health), future prospects.

**Control or Comparison Group:** Outcomes for clients at the replication sites were compared to outcomes for clients at the Middlebury site.

**Evaluation Model:** A qualitative evaluation that included interviews, group discussions, site visits, and review of program, community, and state level data. **Hypothesis:** critical factors in the Addison County Model must be replicated for new sites to achieve similar client outcomes.

**Outcome findings:**

The goals and objectives of the original grant were almost fully achieved.

The Teen Birth Rate dropped from 23.4 births per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 to 18.9: A 19.2% decrease.

The young teen pregnancy rate dropped from 19.2 to 14.1 per 1,000 girls aged 15-17: A 26.5% decrease.

The percentage of New Families at Risk (first births to unmarried women younger than age 20, with fewer than 12 years education) dropped from 9.8 to 5.0. A 48.9% decrease.

The percent of repeat births to teen parents showed a small (6%) increase: from 13.5 to 14.3. The n is too small to disaggregate communities with Learning Together from those without the program.

**The ability of teens to successfully parent their children was evident at all sites.**

In particular, the replication sites were, over time, able to achieve outcomes for their participants similar to those listed above for Middlebury. The strongest improvements were in the areas of:

- Reduced dependency on TANF
- Increased education
- Increased sense of self esteem
- Increased confidence in and satisfaction with parenting skills
- Increased life skills

**Process findings:** The availability the key structural components identified by the staff of the Addison County Parent/Child Center greatly facilitated the implementation and success of the replication sites. These key components were hypothesized to be: On the job training, on-site child care, counseling, crisis intervention, support groups, stipends, education, and home visitors. Sites varied in the extent to which these components were fully actualized. During the evaluation, the following three values emerged as being the most critically important to success.

- **Love:** It was critical that staff working with participating families had and were able to express unconditional love for the parents and children, that they loved their jobs, and that they loved the higher goals of the program. This word is also used as a proxy for staff ability to see each participant and child as a unique and special human being and to tailor the program to his or her needs.
- **Laughter:** Walking into successful sites, one was immediately greeted with the sounds of babies and children gleefully playing; of young parents enthusiastically engaged in the program, and of staff and community members excitedly planning for the future. The word is also a proxy for the ability of the programs to create a sense of total safety for vulnerable families such that they can let their defenses down and work on becoming happy, healthy, and whole.
- **Leadership:** The attitude and commitment of the Center Director, Program staff, and Board were critical factors in making the replications work. The churning of staff during the early phases of replication created challenges that needed clear leadership skills to overcome. Leadership was also critical in developing integrated services within the agencies and strong partnerships with the community.

**Conclusions:** The Learning Together Program is an extremely effective intervention for vulnerable young parents with young children. It can be successfully implemented in a variety of rural communities within the context of more broadly based family support programs. It shows potential for equal success in more urban communities and for other populations of vulnerable families. Replication of program outcomes does not depend on total program component fidelity although it does require a similar values orientation. Technical assistance can be provided that will greatly enhance the timeliness and effectiveness of replication.