



## FOR RAISING YOUR VOICES FOR VERMONT FAMILIES

Your voices were heard! You convinced legislators to make a core commitment to Vermont's children, their families and the early educators who support them. Thanks to your hard work:

**More Vermont families  
will be able to afford  
high-quality child care**



**Child care providers and  
families will benefit from  
increased assistance**

**Vermont will increase access  
to child care by being able to  
recruit and retain more early  
care & learning professionals**





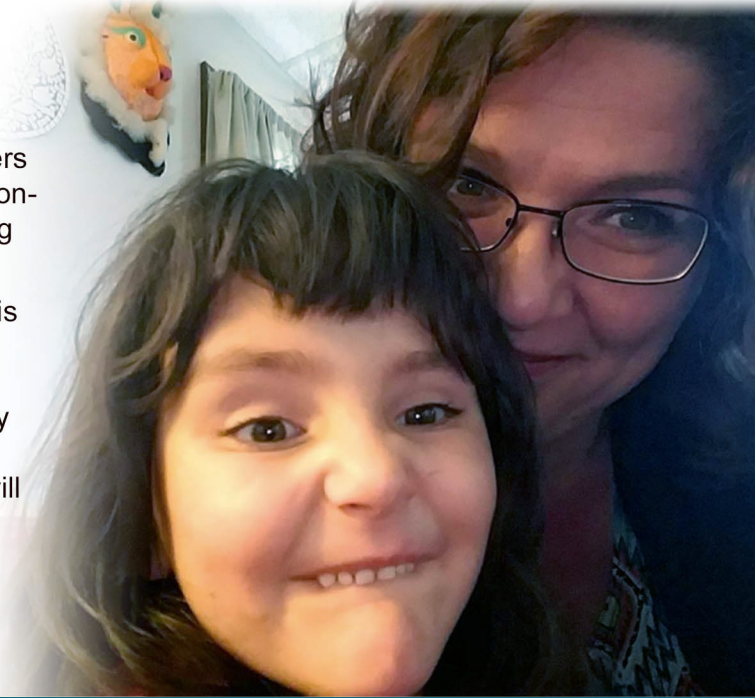
## Because of you, child care will be more affordable for Vermont families ...

Faye Longo grew up in poverty. She's worked hard to create a better future for herself and her young daughter, but Faye has repeatedly had to turn down raises and sacrifice the long-term financial wellbeing of her family to avoid falling off the child care benefits cliff.

"I'm working so hard to make it so that I can be self-reliant, but every time that my employer comes to me with a raise because I'm doing a great job, I have to decide, do I accept that raise, or do I sit down with her and explain to her why I can't take it?"

This year, because you convinced legislators to increase the level of support for families in the Child Care Financial Assistance Program (CCFAP), Vermonters like Faye will be better able to make the best choices for their families and their careers while also supporting employers who rely on talented professionals to be able to show up and focus at work instead of worrying about how they will pay for quality child care.

For many low-income families, child care financial assistance is a critical resource to help them remain in the workforce. The numbers are staggering. A single parent with two children earning \$15/hour is currently shouldering a \$250 weekly copay for child care. Thanks to your advocacy for increased financial assistance through CCFAP, the weekly copay for this family will be reduced to around \$153. That means the family will have almost \$416 more each month to spend on essentials like groceries or save for a home. **Your advocacy will help more low-income children get the best start in life.**



## You're helping to sustain & grow Vermont's early care & learning workforce ...

Noelle Cleveland is excited about fostering the development of young children. But despite her passion and her dedication to the kids she cares for, she's questioning whether she can stay in the field.

Since she began her career, Noelle has earned an average salary of about \$23,000 a year. Between her bachelor's degree in child development and her master's degree in early childhood education she has accrued \$80,000 in student debt. Noelle can't get a loan to buy a car and she and her partner pay a reduced rent to live in the basement of his parents' home. She can't afford to think about starting a family of her own.

Low pay and other factors have made it increasingly difficult for Vermont to recruit and retain talented and qualified early educators like Noelle, and the workforce shortage is a key contributor to Vermont's child care crisis. **By convincing legislators to invest in scholarships and other workforce incentives, you are making it possible for more professionals like Noelle to enter and stay in the early education field.**



**THANK YOUR LEGISLATORS** for their hard work! With your encouragement, they stepped up in an unprecedented way. Visit our Legislator Dashboard to contact them today.

Thank you for advocating on behalf of Vermont's children, families and the early educators who support them. We all benefit when we do right by our kids.