



## Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

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# NURTURE.

To prevent child abuse and neglect, the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council advocates for safe and nurturing communities and supports programs that help strengthen families through activities such as parenting classes, home visitation, family-focused social events, helping families meet the need for food, clothing and health care and creating safe places for children to play, learn and grow.

# PROTECT.

To prevent child abuse and neglect, the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council educates family support professionals about the most recent research in the field and advocates for sufficient services to address parental risk factors such as substance abuse, domestic violence, perinatal mood disorders and family stress.

# PREVENT.

The twenty-five members of the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council work together to prevent child abuse and neglect by raising awareness about effective prevention, offering education, training and resources to parents and communities, and providing direct prevention and early intervention services to families and children.

## WHO WE ARE

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is a **membership council with the purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect by educating and engaging the community.** Current membership includes representatives from public and non-profit agencies, community groups, volunteers and parents. The CAPC meets regularly to allow members to share information and identify and prioritize projects for the council. Members volunteer time and resources to execute and implement the selected projects.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties CAP Coalition





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### WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

Approximately 4,000 children are referred annually for child abuse and neglect in Santa Barbara County. Locally, statewide and nationally, the majority of cases legally determined to be child abuse are due to neglect, which means the child is not receiving adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision from their parent or caretaker. Neglect is often related to chronic problems in the family, such as a parent's mental health or substance abuse problems, or domestic violence. Evidence shows that families who have access to supports and services, who learn about positive parenting, and who know how and where to ask for help are stronger and less likely to abuse their children even when risk factors are present.

### WHAT SERVICES DO WE PROVIDE?

The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council works to:

- Raise community awareness about child abuse and neglect;
- Provide resources and education to organizations and community groups to assist parents and educate the public;
- Encourage and facilitate public and community support for child abuse and neglect prevention that responds to local needs;
- Educate service providers working with families about the Mandated Reporting Law, Risk and Protective Factors for families and how to prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Support agencies that provide prevention or at-risk services to the community; and
- Engage parents as leaders in child abuse and neglect prevention.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Effective child abuse and neglect prevention depends on support from the community. There are many ways to get involved.

**Learn about the problem.** Many people do not know that child abuse and neglect can be prevented through supporting families and strengthening communities. The CAPC provides training and educational resources.

**Volunteer.** Member agencies offer a number of ways to help families. The council appreciates volunteers for outreach and office work.

**Donate.** Donations and support to the Children's Trust Fund are distributed to our member agencies and are used for direct prevention services for families and children, such as parent education, at-risk intervention service or support services for basic needs. Please visit our website to find out more or to make a donation.

**Become a Member.** Learn more at [www.PreventChildAbuseSB.org](http://www.PreventChildAbuseSB.org), email [b.finch@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:b.finch@sbcsocialserv.org) or call us at (805)681.4678. Membership is free.