

## **Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)**



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**April 2009**

*Questions may be directed to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960*

## **Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)**

### **I. Purpose**

The Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs) are community councils whose primary purpose is to coordinate the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

Councils should be incorporated as nonprofit corporations, or established as independent organizations within county government, or comparably independent organizations as determined by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

The CAPCs were created in response to the Legislature's findings of the following:

- Child abuse is one of the most tragic social and criminal justice issues of our times.
- Victims of child abuse and their families face a complex intervention system involving many professionals and agencies.
- Coordination by child protection agencies and personnel improves the response to a victim and his or her family.
- The prevention of child abuse requires the involvement of the entire community.

### **II. Funding**

Each county shall fund the CAPC from the county's children's trust fund. Councils are required to provide a local cash or in-kind match of 33 and 1/3 percent. Councils unable to raise the full match for the maximum allocation are provided a partial grant in the amount of three grant dollars to each match dollar. In addition, councils must develop a protocol for interagency coordination and provide yearly reports to the county Board of Supervisors.

A county may also utilize their Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) program, Promoting Safe Stable Families, Family Support Services funds, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program or Kids Plate funds to financially support their CAPCs.

### **III. CAPC Functions**

Child Abuse Prevention Council functions include:

- provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment and legal processing of child abuse cases
- promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment

- encourage and facilitate training of professionals in the detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect
- recommend improvements in services to families and victims
- encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs

Additionally, Councils may form committees to carry out specific functions, such as committees for interagency coordination, multidisciplinary teams, professional training, public awareness, service improvement, advocacy and/or fundraising committees.

#### **IV. Council Participants**

Child Abuse Prevention Councils work in collaboration with representatives from various disciplines, including: public child welfare, the criminal justice system and the prevention and treatment services communities. Councils shall include representation from the county child welfare or children's services department, probation department, licensing agencies, law enforcement, district attorneys offices, courts, coroner and community service providers such as medical and mental health services, community-based social services, community volunteers, civic organizations, tribes and faith-based communities.

#### **V. Resource**

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections 18963; 18980; 18981-18981.1; 18982-18982.4; 18983-18983.8

## **County Children's Trust Fund (CCTF)**



# **COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND (CCTF)**

**March 2009**

*Questions may be directed to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960*

## **COUNTY CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND**

### **I. Purpose**

In 1983, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 2994, which authorized the creation of a County Children's Trust Fund (CCTF) in any county in which the board of supervisors establishes a commission, board or council to coordinate child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention activities.

The purpose of the CCTF is to fund child abuse prevention coordinating councils (CAPCs), along with child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs operated by private nonprofit organizations or public institutions of higher education, with recognized expertise in fields related to child welfare.

### **II. Fund Features**

The Board of Supervisors in each county is responsible for the fund and determines what programs and/or projects are funded. The commission designated by the Board of Supervisors performs the following:

- establishes criteria for determining those programs which shall receive funding;
- accepts all program proposals that meet criteria set by the commission;
- prioritizes the proposals; and
- recommends to the Board those proposals that the commission feels should receive funding.

### **III. Funding**

Revenue sources for the CCTF consist of:

- Federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) grants;
- Fees from birth certificates;
- Restitution fines for child abuse/molest crimes;
- Fees from "Help Our Kids" special license plate sales; and
- Donations, i.e. gifts, bequests, etc.

#### **IV. Fund Oversight**

Assurances are required that the county will provide to the California Department of Social Services' (CDSS) Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) all information necessary to meet federal reporting mandates for receipt of any federal funds for deposit in the CCTF.

The county commissions designated by the board of supervisors are required to collect and publish annually the following:

- descriptions of the types of programs and services funded from the CCTF;
- target populations benefitting from these programs;
- amount of each revenue source (e.g. CBCAP grants, birth certificate fees, Kids Plate fees, and donations, etc.) in the CCTF as of June 30 of each year; and
- amount disbursed in the preceding fiscal year.

Administrative expenses are limited to 5 percent of the fund.

#### **V. References**

Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 18285, 18965, 18966.1, 18967, 18968 and 18970(c)(1-2));18983

Health and Safety Code Section 103625

Penal Code Section 294

Vehicle Code section 5072

## **Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) Program**



# **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, and TREATMENT (CAPIT) PROGRAM**

**March 2009**

*Questions may be directed to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960*

## **THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT (CAPIT) PROGRAM**

### **I. Purpose**

Assembly Bill 1733 (Chapter 1398, Statutes of 1982) provided the first major commitment of State General Fund dollars to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to fund child abuse and neglect prevention projects in all 58 counties. The Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention and Treatment (CAPIT) Program requirements are now contained in Welfare and Institution Code Sections 18960-18964. The intent of the program is to encourage child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention programs by the funding of agencies addressing needs of children at high risk of abuse or neglect and their families.

Assembly Bill 2779 (Chapter 329, Statutes of 1998) augmented funding for CAPIT, but the additional funding was subsequently rescinded due to budget constraints.

### **II. Funding**

#### **Funds to the State**

The CAPIT funding is 100 percent State General Fund and is subject to appropriation in the annual Budget Act. These funds are used to fulfill federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant matching and leveraging requirements. The State Children's Trust fund receives seven (7) percent of the funds. Of the remainder, the CDSS receives about eight (8) percent of the funding for its use for state contracts for training, technical assistance, innovative projects and are also used as a match for the five year federal Linkages grant.

#### **Funds to Counties**

A little more than ninety two (92) percent of the remainder of the funds are allocated to counties. Small counties receive a minimum funding level, and the remainder is allocated to counties using a formula that considers a county's child population, children receiving public assistance and the number of child abuse reports.

Applicant agencies must demonstrate the existence of a ten (10) percent cash or in-kind match (other than funding provided by the CDSS), which will support the goals of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention. Funding can be used to supplement, but not supplant, child welfare services.

### **III. Program Features**

Service priority is to be given to prevention programs provided through nonprofit agencies, including, where appropriate, programs that identify and provide services to isolated families, particularly those with children five years of age or younger. Service



priority is also to be given to high quality home visiting programs based on research-based models of best practice, and services to child victims of crime.

Projects funded by CAPIT should be selected through a competitive process, and priority given to private, nonprofit agencies with programs that serve the needs of children at risk of abuse or neglect and that have demonstrated effectiveness in prevention or intervention.

In order to be eligible for funding, agencies must provide evidence, submitted as part of the application, to demonstrate broad-based community support. In addition, the application must contain that proposed services cannot be duplicative of other services in the community, must be based on the needs of children at risk, and are supported by a local public agency. These are including, but not limited to, one of the following:

- the county welfare department
- a public law enforcement agency
- the county probation department
- the county board of supervisors
- the county public health department
- the county mental health department
- a school district

Services provided shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate to the population served and may include, but not be limited to, family counseling, day care, respite care, teaching and demonstrating homemaking, family workers, transportation, temporary in-home caretakers, psychiatric evaluations, health services, multidisciplinary team services, and special law enforcement services.

Training and technical assistance shall be provided by private, nonprofit agencies to those agencies funded by CAPIT. Training and technical assistance shall encompass all of the following: multidisciplinary approaches to child abuse prevention, intervention and treatment; facilitation of local service networks; establishment and support of child abuse councils; dissemination of information addressing issues of child abuse among multicultural and special needs populations.

#### **IV. Target Population for CAPIT**

Priority for services shall be given to children who are at high risk, including children who are being served by the county welfare departments for being abused and neglected, and other children who are referred for services by legal, medical, or social services agencies.

Projects funded by CAPIT needs to clearly be related to addressing the unmet needs of children, especially those 14 years of age and under. Services for minority populations shall also be reflected in the funding of projects.

## **V. Program Oversight**

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been designated as the single state agency to administer and oversee the funds.

Counties are required to submit annual reports to OCAP on program services. The board of supervisors of each county shall provide a list of projects funded in the prior fiscal year. The report shall include by each of the listed projects: the amounts granted to the projects; the expenditures; a description of services provided; the population served; and the results of the provision of services.

Each county shall monitor the projects that are funded by CAPIT. The OCAP provides administrative oversight and consultation to ensure that each county (1) allocates revenues through the use of an accountable process that utilizes a multidisciplinary approach and (2) ensures compliance and adherence with the county plan and the legislative intent.

## **VI. References**

Welfare and Institution Code sections 18960-18964 establishes the funding

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 18961(2) (A-G) contains the definition of services

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 18961(7) (A-D) contains the definition of training and technical assistance

## **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP)**



# **COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM (CBCAP)**

**March 2009**

*Questions may be directed to the office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960*

## **THE COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION (CBCAP) PROGRAM**

### **I. Purpose**

The CBCAP Program was established by Title II of the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Amendments of 1996 and most recently reauthorized in June of 2003 (P.L. 108-36). The purpose of the CBCAP Program is:

- to support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and where appropriate, to network initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect,
- to support networks of coordinated resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect, and
- to foster an understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations in order to be effective in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect.

### **IV. Funding**

#### **Funds to States**

The CBCAP federal funding is distributed to states and territories under a formula grant. Each state must provide a cash match in non-federal funding of the total allotment. The match funds may come from state or private funding.

#### **Funds to Counties**

In accordance with California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Section 18966.1(a), CBCAP funds are allocated annually to counties. The allocation formula is contained in each annual fiscal allocation letter. Once the county allocations are received, the following must be insured:

- Counties receiving less than twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) per year in their county Children's Trust Fund from birth certificate fees must use the amount of CBCAP funds necessary to bring the trust fund balance up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).
- If sufficient funds exist after meeting the above Children's Trust Fund requirement, the remaining funds may be used to fund allowable CBCAP activities.

Currently, 57 counties have elected to participate in the CBCAP allocation process. Counties must apply for the funds annually and submit all required reporting information. No more than ten (10) percent of the funds may be used for administrative costs.

### **III. Program Features**

Counties receiving CBCAP funds are authorized to fund child abuse prevention programs in their service area that provide a multitude of services and supports. These services and programs may include, but are not limited to:

- Comprehensive support for parents
- Promoting meaningful parent leadership
- Promoting the development of parenting skills
- Improving family access to formal and informal resources
- Supporting the needs of parents with disabilities through respite or other activities
- Providing referrals for early health and development services

The CBCAP funds can be used to foster the development of a continuum of preventive services through public-private partnerships; finance the start-up, maintenance, expansion, or redesign of specific family support services; maximize funding through leveraging of funds; and finance public education activities that focus on the promotion of child abuse prevention.

There are three levels of prevention services; primary prevention, secondary prevention, and tertiary prevention. Primary and secondary prevention activities are allowable activities under CBCAP funding.

- **Primary Prevention**

- Primary prevention consists of activities that are targeted toward the community at large. These activities are meant to impact families prior to any allegations of abuse and neglect are made. Primary prevention services include public education activities, parent education classes that are open to anyone in the community, and family support programs. Primary prevention can be difficult to measure because it is an attempt to impact something before it happens, an unknown variable.

- **Secondary Prevention**

- Secondary prevention consists of activities targeted to families that have one or more risk factors, including families with substance abuse, teen parents, parents of special need children, single parents, and low income families. Some examples of secondary prevention services include parent education classes targeted for high risk parents, respite care for parents of a child with a disability, or home visiting programs.

Activities not eligible for funding under CBCAP include tertiary prevention activities, which are targeted towards families who are known to the child welfare system.

- **Tertiary Prevention**

- Tertiary prevention consists of activities targeted towards families that have confirmed or unconfirmed child abuse and neglect reports. These families have already demonstrated the need for intervention, either with or without court supervision. These are families that qualify for services under child welfare programs and are not a focus of CBCAP programs.

#### **IV. Target Population for CBCAP Programs**

The CBCAP funds should be used to target services to vulnerable families with children that are at risk of abuse or neglect. These families include:

- Parents, especially young parents and parents with young children (all, new, teens, etc.)
- Children and adults with disabilities
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Members of underserved or underrepresented groups
- Homeless families and those at risk of homelessness

The CBCAP funds should also be used to fund activities available to the general public, such as public awareness and education regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

#### **V. Program Oversight**

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been designated by the Governor as the single state agency to administer and oversee the funds. The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), an office within the CDSS, is responsible for the oversight of CBCAP funds.

The OCAP is required to submit an application for funding each year and to report annually regarding activity from the previous year.

The OCAP provides training and technical assistance through OCAP consultants and departmental resources, as well as its training and technical assistance contracts.

All programs receiving federal assistance are reviewed under the federal Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART). The CBCAP Program's outcome measure is to decrease the rate of first-time victims of child maltreatment. The CBCAP Program also has an efficiency measure to increase the percentage of total CBCAP funding in support

of evidence-based and evidence-informed child abuse prevention programs and practices.

The intent of this effort is to:

- Promote more efficient use of CBCAP funding by investing in programs and practices with evidence that they produce positive outcomes for children and families.
- Promote critical thinking and analysis across the CBCAP Lead Agencies and their funded programs so that they can be more informed funders, consumers, and community partners in preventing child abuse and neglect.
- Foster a culture of continuous quality improvement by promoting ongoing evaluation and quality assurance activities across the CBCAP Lead Agencies and their funded programs.

## **VI. References**

The (federal) Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, Title II—Community Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Sec. 201-210)

Welfare and Institutions Code sections 18965; 18966; 18966.1; 18967; 18968

<http://www.friendsnrc.org/prevention/index.htm#prevention>

County Fiscal Letters: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/PG960.htm>

## **Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF)**



# **PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES (PSSF)**

**March 2009**

*Questions may be directed to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960*



## **THE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILY (PSSF) PROGRAM**

### **I. Purpose**

The primary goals of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program are to prevent the unnecessary separation of children from their families, improve the quality of care and services to children and their families, and ensure permanency for children by reuniting them with their parents, by adoption, or by another permanent living arrangement.

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 established the Family Preservation and Support Services Program, geared toward community-based family preservation and support under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act and according to the United States Code, Title 42, Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part B, subpart 2, commencing with section 629a. In 1997, the program was reauthorized under the Adoption and Safe Families Act (Public Law 105-89), and renamed the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program (PSSF) with two additional services put in place: time-limited reunification, and supportive adoption services. The PSSF Amendment of 2001 (H.R. 2873) (Public Law 107-133) extended the program through 2006.

Recently, the PSSF Program was reauthorized through federal fiscal year 2011 by the Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-288).

### **II. Funding**

#### **Funds to States**

The PSSF federal funding is distributed to states under a formula grant. There is a required 25 percent match required by each state. California meets the required 25 percent federal match using funds from the State Family Preservation Program.

Eighty five (85) per cent of PSSF funds are allocated to the counties. The State is permitted to use fifteen (15) percent of the funding for state overhead costs. California has chosen to use about twenty (20) percent of the total amount allocated for overhead for state support costs, and the remaining roughly eighty (80) percent is used to fund state contracts. These contracts are used to provide training and technical assistance for community based organizations, for kinship support services, post adoption services, permanency mediation services, etc.

#### **Funds to Counties**

The funds that go to counties are allocated to each county based on the number of children zero to 17 years of age in the county, as well as the number of children in poverty. The minimum PSSF county allocation is \$10,000 to ensure a minimum level of funding for smaller counties. Counties can utilize all funds provided in this allocation without a match at the local level (as the match is provided by the State), but no more than ten (10) percent of the funds may be used for administrative costs.

Counties submit a three-year plan outlining their PSSF services to the CDSS Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) and submit annual reports on the plan. All of California's 58 counties receive PSSF funding, and each county is responsible for the use of PSSF funding at the local level.

### **III. Program Features**

The PSSF funding is used to support services to strengthen parental relationships and promote healthy marriages, to improve parenting skills and increase relationship skills within the family to prevent child abuse and neglect, while also promoting timely family reunification when children must be separated from their parents for their own safety. The PSSF funds are also to be used by child welfare agencies to remove barriers which impede the process of adoption when children cannot be safely reunited with their families and to address the unique issues adoptive families and children may face.

With the reauthorization under the Adoptions and Safe Families Act, PSSF funds must be expended with a minimum of twenty (20) percent designated under each of four service components. Failure to do so will require the state to provide a strong rationale if the funds are below the required twenty percent in each category. The four service components are:

#### **Family Preservation**

The term "family preservation services" means services for children and families designed to help families (including adoptive and extended families) at risk or in crisis. Services include:

- Services designed to help children, where safe and appropriate, return to families from which they have been removed, or to be placed for adoption with a legal guardian, or, if adoption or legal guardianship is determined not to be safe, in some other planned permanent living arrangement
- Pre-placement preventive services programs, such as intensive family preservation/maintenance programs, designed to help children at risk of foster care placement remain safely with their families
- Service programs designed to provide follow-up care to families to whom a child has been returned after a foster care placement
- Respite care to children to provide temporary relief for parents and other caregivers (including foster parents)
- Services designed to improve parenting skills (by reinforcing parents' confidence in their strengths, and helping them to identify where improvement is needed and to obtain assistance in improving those skills) with respect to matters such as child development, family budgeting, coping with stress, health and nutrition

- Infant safe haven programs to provide a way for a parent to safely relinquish a newborn infant at a safe haven designated pursuant to state law (i.e. Safely Surrendered Babies).

## **Family Support Services**

The term “family support services” means community-based services to promote the safety and well-being of children and families designed to:

- Increase the strength and stability of families (including adoptive, foster, and extended families)
- Increase parents’ confidence and competence in their parental capacity
- Afford children a safe, stable, and supportive family environment
- To strengthen parental relationships, promote healthy marriages, and otherwise to enhance child development

## **Adoption Promotion and Support Services**

The term “adoption promotion and support services” means services and activities designed to ensure permanency for children through family reunification, by adoption or by another permanent living arrangement. Such activities include but are not limited to:

- Pre- and post-adoptive services as necessary to support adoptive families so that they can make a lifetime commitment to their children.
- Activities designed to expedite the adoption process and support adoptive families.

## **Time-Limited Family Reunification Services**

The term “time-limited family reunification services” means the services and activities that are provided to a child that is removed from their home and placed in a foster family home or a child care institution, and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child, safely, appropriately and in a timely fashion, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date the child is considered to have entered foster care. Services and activities include but are not limited to:

- Individual, group, and family counseling
- Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services
- Mental health services
- Assistance to address domestic violence
- Services designed to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries
- Transportation to or from any of the services and activities described above

## **VI. Target Population**

The PSSF Program provides grants to states and Indian tribes to help vulnerable families remain intact by establishing and operating integrated, preventive family preservation services and community-based family support services for families at risk or in crisis.

## **V. Program Oversight**

The Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) within the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has been designated by the Governor as the single state agency to administer and oversee the funds.

In accordance with federal Title IV-B Plan mandates, the CDSS submits an Annual Progress and Services Report that includes an annual report regarding PSSF activity from the previous year.

The OCAP provides training and technical assistance through its consultants and departmental resources, as well as its training and technical assistance contracts.

## **VI. References**

P.L. 109-288, September 28, 2006

Definitions of the four required components are found in United States Code, Title 42, Chapter 7, Subchapter IV, Part B, subpart 2, section 629a.

Welfare and Institutions Code section 16600

County Fiscal Letters: <http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/lettersnotices/PG960.htm>