

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

The Administration for Children and Families (or, Administración de Familias y Niños, ADFAN), one of four administrations of Puerto Rico's Department of the Family, is in charge of child welfare and violence prevention programs. The Assistant Administration for Prevention and Community Services within ADFAN is responsible for all the prevention and community-based programs, and administers CBCAP grant funds. The Assistant Administration establishes and implements primary, secondary and limited tertiary prevention services in communities throughout Puerto Rico with the goal of strengthening families and promoting a culture of peace.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program (CBCAP) funds are used in Puerto Rico to improve the wellbeing of children, youth, and women, with an emphasis on the prevention of child abuse, and to expand the continuum of services for children and families. The following four program objectives have been defined by the administration for the CBCAP program: to help strengthen community-based programs already in operation, primarily focused in preventing child abuse and neglect; to strengthen parenting skills in parents including parents who have children with mild to moderate disabilities; to prevent teen pregnancies in adolescents including adolescents with mild to moderate disabilities; and to include and or strengthen programs that promote strengthening families, healthy marriages, responsible fatherhood and outreach to faith and community-based organizations.

During the reporting period, CBCAP Programs focused on education to develop skills in responsibility, developing confidence in parenting abilities, communication under stress, alternatives in parenting behaviors, mechanisms for coping, support, and parents' self-esteem. Funded programs and services also provided activities geared towards strengthening responsible fatherhood and emphasizing the importance of a father's role in the upbringing of children. Parent education services include workshops, promotional and educational activities, support groups, activities to build a healthy self-esteem, and respite care in two regions.

- **Policy achievements:** In April 2009, the Governor of Puerto Rico signed an official Proclamation declaring April Child Abuse and Neglect (CA/N) Prevention Month.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence:** The Lead Agency funds a wide array of programs, including programs addressing inequality and poverty, programs for victims of domestic violence (shelters and support services), and statewide parenting programs (primary, secondary and tertiary prevention). Programs addressing inequality and poverty are of special importance to child abuse prevention efforts given the correlation between inequality and violence. During the reporting period there has been a continued emphasis on offering services in areas where services are limited, such as rural areas or areas experiencing many social problems.
- **Parent involvement/leadership:** ADFAN continued to promote parent leadership and involvement in all faith- and community-based organizations receiving CBCAP funds. Funded programs took necessary measures to promote parents as full partners, encouraging parents to become: active members of the Parents and Teachers Committee or other groups of parents organized in the schools attended by their children; advocates for families, residents, and communities on issues that have an effect on families and children; certified trainers for the School of Healthy Living and Parenting, taking the message of non-violent relations to their families and communities; promoters of recreational and sports activities and organized sports groups in their communities, for children and youths; and collaborators in investment strategies within their communities, such as



educational and tutoring activities for children and youths. The Lead Agency also requires that Peer Review Committees must include a parent or community parent member from each organization in all meetings. Further, workshops offered by the School for Healthy Living and Parenting continue to strengthen parents' capacities and to promote non-violent family and community relations.

- Evaluation:** During the funding period, an Evaluation Plan was designed in order to determine the degree to which CBCAP funded projects were implemented as planned. The plan included interviews of key program personnel, and administration of an evaluation instrument aimed at determining the fulfillment of the goals and objectives outlined in the work plan of the projects to be evaluated. Also during the reporting period, each CBCAP program evaluated the workshops, lectures and other activities offered to the participants in order to examine the level of satisfaction among the families that received services, to gain insight into their opinions, to solicit recommendations, and to introduce changes based on the feedback received.
- Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** ADFAN's 2008-2009 Plan for Support included Training, Technical and Evaluation Assistance, and activities geared towards Parent Involvement and leadership.

Participants receiving direct services	# individuals	5,015	# families	2,737
			# children and parents with disabilities	289
Reach	# local grantees	10		
Spread	# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices		# professionals participating in training	

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Puerto Rico Child Protection Act (PR Law #177, August 1, 2003) established the Multi-sector Coordination Council to coordinate support and to promote collaborative efforts among government and nongovernmental organizations in order to guarantee that the most efficient and effective services are given to child abuse/neglect and institutional abuse/neglect cases.

Key partners:

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Differential or alternative response
- Public health/ maternal and child health
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Head Start and Early Head Start
- Child Care
- Home visiting
- Mental health
- Substance abuse
- TANF or cash assistance



- Fatherhood programs

Private Sector

- Advocacy organizations

- Parent organizations
- Foundations
- Faith community
- Adolescent pregnancy organizations
- Other

SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFRS/PIP):** During the reporting period, the lead agency was involved in the planning and organization process for the CFRS scheduled for July 2010. As part of the process, a statewide assessment was developed and different system factors were evaluated. The CFRS committee will also evaluate the Program Improvement Plan already developed and examine outcomes Puerto Rico achieved after its 2003 review.
- **Home Visiting:** ADFAN, with the collaboration of the Department of Health, has developed a Nurse Home Visitation Program for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. With state funding, the Assistant Administration for Prevention and Community Services has been implementing the nurse-home visiting program, *Family Nests*, which serves pregnant high-risk adolescents.
- **Interagency Child Abuse Prevention Task Force:** The Multi-sector Coordination Council, which coordinates support and promotes collaboration among government and nongovernmental organizations in order to guarantee that the most efficient and effective services are given to child abuse/neglect and institutional abuse/neglect cases, includes representatives from the following organizations: State Departments of Health, Education, Housing, Correction, State Administrations for Mental Health and Addiction, State Administration for Children and Families, University of Puerto Rico's Graduate School of Social Work, Center for Social Investigation, community representatives, and representatives from not for profit organizations experienced in the field of child welfare.
- **Other:** As part of Puerto Rico's system change efforts, the Lead Agency completed the implementation of a safety assessment model in the evaluation of referrals for CA/N during the Federal Fiscal Year. After the application of standardized criteria, step-by-step information collection and data analysis are used to guide all decisions made from intake to care closure. The Lead Agency also developed a National Plan for Prevention Services that has been under review during 2008-2009



FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

The Community-Based funded programs have established and maintained various fund-raising activities in order to operate and enhance their programs including: pharmaceuticals industries/galas donations; special funding from foundations; cake sales; breakfast/lunch sales; T-shirt sales; Senate donations; food and fast food donations; clothes donations; and golf tournaments.

State Allowable Claims	457,000
Population-based Allocations	338,618
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	18,209
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	448,528

EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE-INFORMED PRACTICES

Level per Program Assessment Rating Tool	CBCAP Funding
Programs Lacking Support or Positive Evidence/Undetermined/Harmful	0
Emerging and Evidence-informed Programs and Practices	\$359,000
Promising Programs and Practices	0
Supported Programs and Practices	0
Well Supported Programs and Practices	0



TRAINING TOPICS

During this reporting period three training and technical sessions were held that included all the CBCAP organizations and some of the PSSF organizations. The following topics and aspects were covered:

Administrative and Management Topics

- Collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- Project visits
- Evaluation and data management and analysis
- Changes in the administration
- Statistics
- Grant reporting requirements
- Peer review

Programmatic and Service Topics

- Cultural competence
- Research on prevention and child maltreatment
- Evidence-based and evidence-informed programs and practices
- Home visiting
- Prevention programs and family support
- New incentives for community- and faith-based organizations

RESOURCES

- www.pr.gov/GPRPortal/StandAlone/AgencyInformation.aspx?Filter=177
- Annual State Profiles: www.friendsnrc.org/

