Washington DC

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
2009 State Profile

District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency
400 6TH Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
202-442-6160

POSITION IN STATE GOVERNMENT

Beginning in 2009, the District of Columbia's Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) became the designated CBCAP lead agency. CFSA is a cabinet level child welfare agency whose charge is the promotion of safety, permanence and well being of the District's abused and neglected children. CFSA is the lead agency coordinating public, private and charitable organizations to promote child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

KEY ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Core Services:** CSFA's array of direct services includes family preservation and stabilization, time-limited foster care, reunification, guardianship, adoption and supportive community-based services. The agency operates a network of coordinated community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities. In its second year as the CBCAP lead agency, CFSA has sought to expand the current array of child abuse and neglect prevention and intervention resources and to develop a network of providers including public outreach, parent education and support groups, enhanced parenting skills and knowledge training, and family support and resource services.
- **Policy achievements:** As part of Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, CFSA rolled out a new online training at http://dc.mandatedreporter.org. The training was developed by Western Illinois University's Center for the Application of Information Technologies, and it utilizes an award-winning curriculum. Because CFSA relies heavily on reports to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline to find out about children and youth who may need help, every mandated reporter or other community member who takes the training strengthens the local safety net.
- **Outreach to Special Populations/Cultural Competence**: CFSA's Parenting Education and Support Project grantees (PESP) include outreach to and services to accommodate the diversity of the region, including immigrant families, parents of young children, families of children with special needs, teens, and non-custodial fathers.
- **Parent involvement/leadership**: CFSA regularly engages with birth and resource families through its internal and external assessment processes. CFSA engages service providers and community members, including parents, in a series of group meetings, individual interviews and focus groups to determine gaps in prevention services and to help inform recommendations for addressing identified needs. The agency funds and supports an evidenced-based parent mentoring model to support birth parents who are child welfare involved. The Parent Advocate Project also engages parents in systemic advocacy including review of Agency protocol.
- **Evaluation:** Program and service evaluative processes, internal and external, occur on a regular basis. Ongoing process and outcomes-focused evaluations are being integrated into all prevention activities. CFSA provides training and support to grantees and oversees their performance. CFSA also supports development of a continuous quality improvement approach to program evaluation, providing grantees with evaluation tools and resources as needed. Pre- and post-tests are administered to participants and a semi-annual program evaluation include a review of the quality and timeliness of services, as well as achievement of program objectives.
- **Support Training, Technical Assistance, and Evaluation Assistance:** Grant monitors meet at least monthly with grantees to facilitate information sharing and gain feedback on program implementation. A grantee roundtable provides prevention programs with opportunities for ongoing program support.

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Participants receiving direct services	**# individuals**		**# families**	
	# children with disabilities		**# parents with disabilities**	
Reach	**# local grantees**			
Spread	**# training sessions on evidence-based and best practices**		**# professionals participating in training**	

***Not applicable – first year as lead agency, summary of programs receiving CBCAP funds will be reported in beginning next year**

ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaboratives: Community-based and resident governed organizations contracted by CFSA that provide a range of services and access to resources for the families in their communities, including support services to families to prevent child abuse and neglect

Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Collaborative Council: Group that provides leadership, advocacy, resource development, technical assistance, and training to the six (6) community Collaboratives.

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Child Welfare: Comprised of representatives from select government agencies; non-governmental members representing advocacy organizations that work on behalf of children and youth; community-based child welfare providers; foster, adoptive and birth parent advocacy groups; and universities, public policy organizations and research centers. This group advises the Mayor on all aspects of the District of Columbia's continuum of child welfare services, including prevention and early intervention.

Interagency Collaboration and Services Integration Commission: Addresses the needs of at-risk children by reducing juvenile and family violence, and promoting social and emotional skills among children and youth through the oversight of a comprehensive integrated service delivery system. Members include the directors of the city agencies that affect the health and well-being of children and youth in the District of Columbia.

Public Sector

- Child welfare
- Education and special education
- Early childhood
- Head Start/ Early Head Start
- Child care
- Fatherhood initiatives

Private Sector

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

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SYSTEM CHANGE EFFORTS

- **Maternal and Child Health**: Expansion of the evidence-based Healthy Families program model in the Wards with the highest incidence of substantiated child abuse and neglect in the District. Healthy Start Healthy Families provides long-term home visitation and community-based services to address medical, behavioral and educational needs of families.

- **Child and Family Service Reviews/Program Improvement Plan (CFSR/PIP)**: The agency is responsible for the implementation of the District's Program Improvement Plan. CFSA evaluates the progress of the PIP and strategizes policies to meet its goals.

- **Strengthening Families:** Parent Education and Support Project grantees provide groups and training to support parents to reduce child abuse and neglect but also to strengthen and empower parents to be advocates and informed regarding positive parenting.

- **City-wide Prevention Plan**: Through local funding, CFSA has awarded a grant to Prevent Child Abuse America. The goal of this project is the development a city-wide Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Plan. The development of a city-wide prevention plan complements CFSA's ongoing strategic planning efforts to sustain systems change for child welfare services, including child maltreatment prevention.

FUNDING AND FISCAL LEVERAGING

Fiscal Leveraging

Innovative funding mechanisms:

- Dedicated local dollars for child abuse and neglect prevention grants
- Inter-agency blending of available resources

State Allowable Claims	**$0**
Population-based Allocations	**$200,000**
Leveraged-Funds-Based Allocations	**$0**
Final FY 08 Federal Grant Amount	**$216,130**

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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	0
Promising Programs and Practices	0
Supported Programs and Practices	0
Well Supported Programs and Practices	0

Not applicable – first year as designated lead agency, will report on CBCAP funding in subsequent annual reports.

TRAINING TOPICS

Administrative and Management Topics

- collaboration and partnerships for prevention
- fiscal leveraging
- evaluation and data management
- program monitoring and continuous quality improvement

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
- marketing, messaging and public awareness

RESOURCES

- Child and Family Services Agency: www.cfsa.dc.gov
- Annual State Profiles: www.friendsnrc.org/...