



Prevention Mindset Institute: *Embracing Prevention Across Systems*

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."
—Francis of Assisi*

The FRIENDS National Center for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention has convened the *Prevention Mindset Institute: Embracing Prevention Across Systems*. CBCAP State Lead Agencies were invited to assemble a team of those best suited to enable a mindset shift in their state. Chosen teams may include the SLA, other prevention leaders in their state and representatives of the child protection agency. These state teams along with parents with lived experiences in kinship and/or foster care as well as birth parenting, and national organizations are working together to identify strategies that will contribute to substantial change in the child welfare system.

This national group seeks to infuse an authentic prevention mindset, equity, and family strengthening approaches into organizations, communities, states, and at the national level.



The Prevention Mindset Institute (PMI) is more than a one-time event

The collaborative group meets virtually every quarter leading up to an in-person two-day Institute planned for August 2021, in Baltimore, MD. Over a period of 24 months, the group seeks to produce the outcomes and resources described below.

A newsletter informs and maintains connections among the group members. Each edition is written by one of the PMI national partner organizations, incorporating ideas underpinning the Institute and offering food for thought between meetings.

Between Institute sessions, state teams continue their ongoing work, integrating ideas sparked from participation in the PMI and generating lessons learned to share each time the Institute convenes. To support this work, FRIENDS provides technical assistance to the states to help move their work forward. In addition, state teams raise questions that other states respond to, providing for peer sharing and learning.

Outcomes and Resources to Come From the Institute:

- FRIENDS National Center will provide coaching and technical assistance (T/A) to additional CBCAP State Lead Agencies (SLAs) involved in systems change. T/A will be improved by lessons learned from the PMI.
- A webpage on the www.friendsnrc.org website will offer resources that emerge from the Institute, like best practices for moving from traditional child protection to family strengthening. Resources are based on the real-world experiences of parents, agency directors, and practitioners.
- The original six state teams' goals and approaches will be bolstered by sharing and strategizing with other states, national experts, and those with lived experiences.
- Meaningful contributions to the diverse efforts being implemented throughout the country to emphasize primary and secondary prevention and community-level services that are available to all families without stigma and that reduce the unnecessary removal of children from their homes.
- Meaningful participation in the dialogue occurring on the local, state, and national level related to:
 - ◆ Changing social norms regarding help-seeking
 - ◆ Arriving at a shared definition of primary prevention
 - ◆ Rethinking the child welfare system to transform it into a child and family wellbeing system
 - ◆ Expanding understanding of the critical structures, strategies, and mechanisms needed to create supportive communities that keep families healthy and children safe.

