

A Stronger CAPTA for Stronger Families and Communities



Child abuse and neglect are preventable, and with expert prevention, intervention and treatment, their effects can be limited. With proper funding, state and local systems can empower families and communities so they provide healthy, safe homes for children and reduce the need for foster care. Most federal child welfare funding supports foster placements for kids after they've already been harmed, not the services that keep them from harm in the first place. A stronger CAPTA will create stronger families and communities and keep children safer from harm.

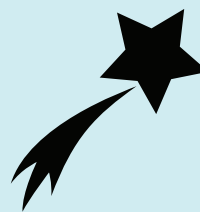
The trauma of child abuse and neglect can last a lifetime

- Children who are abused and neglected have higher rates of developmental delay, depression, suicide, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and school failure
- Children who are abused and neglected have poorer health as adults, including higher rates of heart disease, autoimmune disease, and obesity
- Children who are abused and neglected are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated as youth and adults
- Children who are abused and neglected are more likely to struggle financially as adults

Child abuse and neglect are a costly public health crisis we are barely addressing

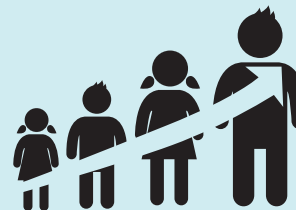
The CDC estimates:

- Each non-fatal case of child maltreatment will cost **\$830,928** over the life of the child
- The **696,785** substantiated cases in 2017 will cost **\$579,978,166,480** over their lifetimes



1,720* children died from child abuse and neglect in 2017

* Experts note data is incomplete and estimate the number is closer to 3,000



696,785 substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect in 2017

\$85million/year

CAPTA TITLE I STATE GRANTS for prevention, intervention, and treatment

\$39million/year

CAPTA TITLE II STATE GRANTS for primary prevention



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CAPTA Is Part of the Solution

Child abuse and neglect are preventable

For example, in Allegheny County, PA, a network of 28 Family Support Centers serve thousands of people each year with family strengthening services, like parenting support services, parent workshops, and access to resources and referrals. These hubs provide services at no cost to participants and are designed to be responsive to the needs and interests of the communities they serve. The University of Chicago determined that neighborhoods with centers had significantly lower rates of child abuse and neglect investigations than similar neighborhoods without them.

The impact of abuse and neglect can be treated

For example, Children's Advocacy Centers help law enforcement and child protection provide specialized forensic interviews to children who have experienced or witnessed violence and offer or set in motion multidisciplinary treatment and services to reduce the impact of that trauma.

CAPTA helps fund state systems and community programs and services focused on the **prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse and neglect**. But unlike the billions of dollars Congress provides for foster care maintenance payments, states receive less than \$125 million for these essential services.

CAPTA reauthorization should treat child abuse like the public health crisis it is. Reauthorization must signal the need for robust funding and key reforms to support a focused system that empowers families and communities to provide healthy, safe homes for their children, so that foster care is a system of last resort.

Title I must be reformed to:

- Focus research and technical assistance to high priorities and bring effective programs to scale
- Drive innovation dollars to provide better prevention intervention, and treatment to abused and neglected children through more comprehensive, family-centered approaches
- Increase transparency so long-time Congressional prevention and treatment priorities can be properly implemented
- Be funded – states receive a total of \$85 million for the intervention and treatment of nearly 700,000 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect

Title II must be reformed to:

- Drive expert services that help families build protective factors linked to the prevention of child abuse and neglect, including knowledge of parenting and healthy child development, parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, and social and emotional development of children
- Reduce stigma and make family strengthening services widely available
- Build local and state prevention systems that promote child and family wellbeing
- Be funded – states only receive between \$200,000 to \$3.28 million grants each year for these critical prevention services that can reduce child abuse, strengthen families, build stronger communities, and save money



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