



For Immediate Release  
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**Hundreds Convene to Help Abused and Neglected Children**  
April 27 - 29, 2015 – Washington DC – Crystal Gateway Marriott

**Who:** Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), the nation's oldest and largest membership-based child welfare organization, has been known and respected as a champion for children since 1920.

**When:** Monday, April 27 - Wednesday, April 29, 2015

**What: CWLA's National Conference: *Advancing Excellence Through Innovation and Collaboration.*** CWLA will host hundreds of nonprofit leaders, legislative policymakers, child advocates and practitioners, and stakeholders whose efforts, contributions, and standards improve outcomes for children, youth, and families.

**Highlights:**

- Advocacy Day - the largest national advocacy event of the year focused on child welfare policy in Washington. On April 28th, hundreds of attendees will go make their voices heard on Capitol Hill. It will be an opportunity for both CWLA members and partners to educate Congress on what you do and what is needed. The Plenary Session: Policy Briefing on Monday afternoon will help prepare you for congressional visits. Congress will likely be in the middle of a major debate on the budget, appropriations, and the potential impact on child welfare and child welfare funding. With a new Congress in power led by many new members in key positions, this year's meetings will be very important.
- 60 workshops and supersessions throughout the conference that present cutting edge research and practice to enhance and improve the lives of abused and neglected children.

- Awards Gala – Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – 7:00 PM honoring with awards: Rep. Renee Ellmers, Republican, 2nd District of North Carolina; journalists Susan Ferriss and Amy Isackson; Thomas Safran Associates (TSA);. and highlighting Keynote address by: Marva Hammons, Executive Vice President of Child and Family Services at Casey Family Programs
- Closing Awards Program with Keynote address by Professor Richard Price and awards presented to the Honorable Ramon Luis Rivera Cruz, Mayor of Bayamon, Puerto Rico; Dr. Angelique Day of Wayne State University; and International Social Service – USA, Inc.

CWLA holds up a vision of an America in which families, neighborhoods, communities, organizations, and federal state and local governments work together to ensure that all our children have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. CWLA reshapes priorities, one community at a time, by bringing people together around common goals, sharing ideas that have been shown to work, and facilitating collaboration across sectors and systems.

For more information on CWLA, visit [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org). For more information on the conference, visit <http://www.cwla.org/2015NationalConference/>

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*Since 1920, CWLA has been the nation's preeminent membership-based organization dedicated to ensuring that disadvantaged and vulnerable children are protected from harm and have the tools and resources they need to grow into healthy and happy adults. CWLA is the trusted authority for professionals who work with children and the only national organization with public and private member agencies working across all sectors of the children's services field.*