



A Greater Investment in Prevention Provides a Greater Return on the Dollar to the Federal Government: A Call to Action for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act

CAPTA State Grants FY 2014

State	CAPTA State Grant	Children under 18 years old in 2013	per child per year in state grants
Alabama	\$389,796	1,111,481	.35
Alaska	\$106,542	188,132	.56
Arizona	\$539,834	1,616,814	.33
Arkansas	\$264,828	709,866	.37
California	\$2,842,348	9,174,877	.31
Colorado	\$422,117	1,237,932	.34
Connecticut	\$289,813	785,566	.37
Delaware	\$111,966	203,558	.55
DC	\$83,085	111,474	.74
Florida	\$1,259,550	4,026,674	.31
Georgia	\$802,501	2,489,709	.32
Hawaii	\$141,570	307,266	.46
Idaho	\$178,935	427,781	.42
Illinois	\$975,923	3,023,307	.32
Indiana	\$530,945	1,586,027	.52
Iowa	\$268,477	724,032	.37
Kansas	\$268,884	724,092	.37
Kentucky	\$357,712	1,014,004	.35
Louisiana	\$387,800	1,112,957	.35
Maine	\$130,360	216,276	.60
Maryland	\$456,097	1,344,522	.34
Massachusetts	\$473,508	1,393,946	.34
Michigan	\$735,048	2,245,201	.33
Minnesota	\$435,652	1,279,111	.34
Mississippi	\$275,240	737,432	.37
Missouri	\$474,126	1,397,685	.34
Montana	\$117,082	223,981	.52
Nebraska	\$190,041	464,348	.41
Nevada	\$250,535	661,605	.37
New Hampshire	\$133,057	271,122	.49
New Jersey	\$662,372	2,022,117	.33
New Mexico	\$205,464	507,540	.40
New York	\$1,338,325	4,239,976	.31
North Carolina	\$740,987	2,285,605	.32
North Dakota	\$96,723	162,688	.59
Ohio	\$854,963	2,649,830	.32
Oklahoma	\$333,263	947,027	.35
Oregon	\$310,081	857,606	.36
Pennsylvania	\$877,843	2,715,645	.32
Rhode Island	\$155,418	213,987	.73
South Carolina	\$376,330	1,079,798	.35
South Dakota	\$111,700	207,959	.54
Tennessee	\$501,492	1,491,577	.34
Texas	\$2,161,028	7,041,986	.31
Utah	\$318,345	896,589	.35
Vermont	\$87,458	122,701	.71
Virginia	\$611,105	1,864,535	.33
Washington	\$528,977	1,595,795	.33
West Virginia	\$166,057	381,678	.43
Wisconsin	\$448,166	1,307,776	.34
Wyoming	\$90,945	137,679	.66

January 31, 2014 was the 40th anniversary of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), a historic law that was the first to recognize the need to address the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Thanks to CAPTA, states receive grants to address child abuse prevention and treatment, and while this law is currently the best avenue the government has to tackle this complex issue, in 2015 the federal government is funding CAPTA at a level of just 32 cents per child per year.

Thirty-two cents!

It is a time for all of us to make a commitment that every child deserves a great childhood and has an equal opportunity to become contributing members of our society.

Because children are our future.

Yet, last year almost 680,000 children were substantiated as victims of child maltreatment.

We know it's better to prevent a problem than to try and correct it later. But when prevention is not possible, *more than one-third* of all victims of child maltreatment do not receive follow up services. This is unacceptable.

It's time that federal policy prioritizes help for these children and focuses on the benefits of preventing child abuse and neglect from occurring in the first place.

Even though our current approach shortchanges effective prevention strategies, there must be equal consideration for both preventative programs and services for children that come to the attention of child protective services.



As part of the CAPTA law, the government provides additional support through the Community Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CB-CAP), yet just like CAPTA, these grants at their current funding of \$40 million a year amounts to just under 50 cents per child per year.

Under fifty cents!

What We Know

We know that when we prevent child abuse, it helps prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) that contribute to potentially lifelong physical and mental health issues.

In order to promote the great childhoods that all children deserve and to prevent child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs though, we need a national strategy and a public and political will by federal policymakers, including Congress to make child abuse prevention a higher priority than 32 cents a child a year.

Spending on child protective services and on prevention programs supporting healthy child development has not contributed to the growth in the federal deficit. In fact, investing in prevention is less costly to society and individuals than trying to treat problems later.

Prevent Child Abuse America estimates that implementing effective policies and strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect can save taxpayers \$80 billion per year. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determined that the lifetime estimated costs of child abuse totaled \$124 billion and that the cost to one individual survivor was over \$210,000.

The cost of doing nothing incurs direct costs in the future for foster care services, hospitalization, mental health treatment, and law enforcement, while indirect costs include loss of productivity, as well as expenditures related to chronic health problems, special education, and the criminal justice system.

To be more effective, both CAPTA state grants and CB-CAP grants require a substantial increase in funding and a long term commitments to these local community services throughout our country.

We spend less per child per year than we spend on an average cup of coffee.



\$2.10*
per day



32¢**
per child under 18
per year

* Estimates are based on a 16-ounce grande coffee at \$2.10 per cup (source USA Today, Starbucks brand).

** Based on total annual Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) state grants.

Prevention is Cost Effective

Child abuse and neglect affects over **one million children** every year and costs our nation \$220 million every day.¹ Meanwhile, a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study finds that total federal costs of providing initial prevention program funding for low-income populations were offset over four years.²

Further, the study also found longer term savings based on the cost reduction of social problems related to abuse,³ largely due to the fact that abused children have higher rates of juvenile delinquency and special health care needs than those who have not been abused.⁴

¹ Gelles, Richard J., & Perlman, Staci (2012). Estimated Annual Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect. Chicago IL: Prevent Child Abuse America.

² U.S. General Accountability Office. (1992). *Prevention Programs Need Greater Emphasis. Report to the Chairman, Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Committee on Governmental Affairs, U.S. Senate.* (GAO Publication No. GAO/HRD-92-99).

³ Ibid., 25.

⁴ Ibid., 27.



Ultimately, increased early funding surrounding child abuse prevention will save taxpayers over the long-term while protecting those children most at risk.

Brief History of CAPTA

In 1974, Congress passed CAPTA into law and helped establish national standards for specific reporting and response practices for states to include in their existing child protection laws. CAPTA is the only federal legislation exclusively dedicated to the continuum of child maltreatment services and supports, which include preventing, assessing, identifying, and treating child abuse and neglect.

CAPTA includes three programs:

- (1) Discretionary grants to the states to develop innovative approaches to improve their Child Protective Service (CPS) systems;
- (2) State grants to support state efforts to improve their practices in preventing and treating child abuse and neglect; and
- (3) The Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect that provides grants to states to support their efforts to develop, operate, and expand a network of community-based, prevention focused family resource and support programs that coordinate resources among a range of existing public and private organizations.

Since 1974 CAPTA has been amended many times and its mission of child abuse treatment and prevention has expanded. Unfortunately, its funding has not. Of particular note, in the 2010 reauthorization of CAPTA (PL 111-320), reauthorization required that if funding exceeds the FY 2009 funding level by \$3 million then the base grant for each state will increase to \$150,000 per state from the current total of \$50,000.

However, funding was not increased; in fact, it was reduced.

With funding from CAPTA, states are directed to implement several important protections and requirements in their child protective service systems.

However, in FY 2015 only **32 cents per child per year** was appropriated to prevent and address child abuse. That is 32 cents to investigate child abuse complaints, to refer and access child abuse treatment services, 32 cents to screen families and to support families that come to the attention of the child protective services, 32 cents to address new requirements mandated by Congress.



At those funding levels, we appropriate less than \$26 million in state grants through CAPTA, yet if we were to provide one dollar per year per child – less than a cup of coffee – we would be appropriating \$73 million a year. Similarly, the federal government provides \$42 million in CB-CAP for community based prevention. If we appropriated what it costs for the average cost of a cup of coffee to CB-CAP we would appropriate over \$153 million.

Lack of Federal Investment to Carry Out Mandates of CAPTA

State Grants

In FY 2015, CAPTA state grants provided less than \$26 million a year for all 50 states to cover child protection, reporting and investigations, and funds from these grants can be used for prevention services, training, workforce recruitment and data collection. If a state meets the requirements of CAPTA, they receive a base amount of at least \$50,000, with remaining funds given to states based on each state's share of the child population. This current funding level is so low that some states are receiving less than \$100,000 annually.

Under CAPTA, in order to be eligible to receive funding states are to have a plan that includes nearly two dozen assurances and elements including the basic requirement to have a system for reporting suspected cases of abuse and neglect, the establishment of mandatory child abuse reporter laws, procedures to assure that child victims in a judicial proceeding is assigned a guardian ad litem who has received training appropriate to the role, and dealing with issues around confidentiality, disclosure and due process.

It is difficult to imagine that the many important and critical elements required by CAPTA including requirements around legal representation, mandatory reporting of child abuse, referrals for safe baby plans and referrals for infant and toddler services can be effectively enforced if minimum allocations are limited to \$50,000 per state.

In more recent reauthorizations Congress has included additional needed practices without including additional funding, such as:

- policies and procedures to address the needs of infants born with and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;
- the development of a plan of safe care for the infant born and identified as being affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder;
- provisions and procedures for referral of a child under the age of 3 who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services funded under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and



- policies and procedures that promote collaboration among child protective service agencies, domestic violence service agencies, substance abuse treatment agencies, and other agencies in investigations, interventions, and the delivery of services and treatment provided to children and families affected by child abuse or neglect, including children exposed to domestic violence, where appropriate.

The reality though, is that, the lack of funding through CAPTA makes compliance with these mandates virtually impossible and limit enforceability. These conditions have resulted recently in the Department of Health & Human Services announcing they were repealing regulations for CAPTA because they haven't been updated since 1990.

CAPTA Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) Grants

We ask appropriators to set a policy that will reaffirm what members of Congress approved with the past reauthorization of CAPTA and to start a new gradual process of funding. In FY 2014, Community- Child Abuse Prevention (CB-CAP) Grant program was funded at \$40 million, half of the federal authorization cap of \$80 million.

The grants support state efforts to develop, operate, and expand a network of community-based, prevention-focused family support programs that coordinate resources among a range of existing public and private organizations. 70% of the funding is distributed to states based on the child population, and the remaining 30% is distributed based on the amount of private, state or other non-Federal funds leveraged from the preceding fiscal year.

The funds are intended to support a range of community based child abuse prevention efforts by targeting a number of vulnerable populations and families. States are required to have a strategy that assesses local needs, provides a continuum of services, develops local partnerships and involves a number of target populations and service providers.

- These grants provide a continuum of preventive services, allow the development of unique approaches and fosters understanding, appreciation and knowledge of diverse populations to address child abuse and neglect prevention efforts in our communities. These funds provide a multitude of services and supports in states.
- Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CB-CAP) are vital to providing funding to promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect and is structured to leverage local and private funds. Investing in prevention is less costly to society and individuals than trying to treat problems later.



CB CAP State Grants FY 2014

State	Children under 18 in 2013	CB CAP funding per state in 2014	\$ per child annually for CB-CAP
Alabama	1,111,481	\$431,472	0.38
Alaska	188,132	\$428,709	2.27
Arizona	1,616,814	\$521,638	0.32
Arkansas	709,866	\$237,474	0.33
California	9,174,877	\$3,346,642	0.36
Colorado	1,237,932	\$578,623	0.46
Connecticut	785,566	\$785,907	1.00
Delaware	203,558	\$207,266	1.01
DC	111,474	\$215,800	1.93
Florida	4,026,674	\$1,624,607	0.4
Georgia	2,489,709	\$801,360	0.32
Hawaii	307,266	\$317,933	1.03
Idaho	427,781	\$202,819	0.47
Illinois	3,023,307	\$1,125,977	0.37
Indiana	1,586,027	\$1,083,457	0.68
Iowa	724,032	\$455,966	0.63
Kansas	724,092	\$692,546	0.97
Kentucky	1,014,004	\$1,964,496	1.93
Louisiana	1,112,957	\$377,911	0.34
Maine	216,276	\$207,200	0.95
Maryland	1,344,522	\$631,278	0.47
Massachusetts	1,393,946	\$518,147	0.37
Michigan	2,245,201	\$784,181	0.35
Minnesota	1,279,111	\$1,871,270	1
Mississippi	737,432	\$253,750	0.34
Missouri	1,397,685	\$499,162	0.36
Montana	223,981	\$204,153	0.91
Nebraska	464,348	\$380,349	0.82
Nevada	661,605	\$269,397	0.41
New Hampshire	271,122	\$210,449	0.78
New Jersey	2,022,117	\$2,324,755	1.15
New Mexico	507,540	\$352,150	0.7
New York	\$1,338,325	4,239,976	.31
North Carolina	2,285,605	\$1,080,863	0.47
North Dakota	162,688	\$203,342	1.25
Ohio	2,649,830	\$1,086,176	0.41
Oklahoma	947,027	\$661,981	0.7
Oregon	857,606	\$278,764	0.33
Pennsylvania	2,715,645	\$902,193	0.33
Rhode Island	213,987	\$231,708	1.08
South Carolina	1,079,798	\$383,454	0.35
South Dakota	207,959	\$201,976	0.97
Tennessee	1,491,577	\$737,038	0.49
Texas	7,041,986	\$2,767,655	0.39
Utah	896,589	\$381,465	0.43
Vermont	122,701	\$200,000	1.62
Virginia	1,864,535	\$609,211	0.33
Washington	1,595,795	\$650,522	0.41
West Virginia	381,678	\$259,612	0.68
Wisconsin	1,307,776	\$490,501	0.37
Wyoming	137,679	\$201,627	1.46

*Numbers for children 18 from the Children's Welfare Bureau
<http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov/data/overview>

Conclusion

For less than the cost of a daily cup of coffee, we can promote the prevention of child abuse and neglect before it ever occurs.

It is time that our nation looks toward strategies that improve our return on investment and promotes our ability to be competitive and a leader in the global community and that our policies move our country towards a longer term solution for child abuse and neglect prevention.

By not prioritizing child protective services and prevention programs that support healthy child development the United States will continue to pay for services that are more costly than by preventing maltreatment from occurring in the first place.

We cannot continue to spend less than 32 cents per child per year and hope to solve the problem; a problem that should never have occurred in the first place.

CAPTA gives us the chance to do better by both protecting vulnerable children and by focusing on innovative programs that lay the foundation for every child's growth and development and helps reduce the possibility of more serious problems down the line.

As a strong supporter of CAPTA and CB-CAP funding, the Child Welfare League of America and Prevent Child Abuse America are focusing our efforts to see this funding continue so all children and our grandchildren can have a great childhood.