



CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCILS (CAPCs)

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CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCILS (CAPCS)

I. What are Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)?

The CAPCs are community councils whose primary purpose is to coordinate the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

II. Authorities

California Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) Chapter 12.5 Section 18980 establishes the "Child Abuse Prevention Coordinating Council Act." It is the intent of the Legislature, as described Section 18981.1, to fund child abuse prevention coordinating councils in each county.

III. Purpose

According to WIC Section [18982](#), child abuse prevention coordinating councils (also known as CAPCs) are community councils whose primary purpose is to coordinate the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse.

IV. Funding

Each county shall fund Child Abuse Prevention coordinating councils which meet the criteria in Section [18982](#) **from the county's Children Trust Fund**. In the event that the county does not create a children's trust fund, the board of supervisors shall apply for funds from the State Children's Trust Fund. Initial funding of council shall be scheduled to accommodate ongoing funding of programs or fund already encumbered for other purposes. Funds for councils selected pursuant to this chapter shall not be considered administrative costs for purposes of Section [18967](#) and [18969](#).

Councils shall be incorporated as nonprofits corporations, or established as independent organizations within county government, or comparably independent organizations as determined by the office. New or existing councils may apply for funds using a fiscal agent pending incorporation.

Councils receiving funding under this chapter shall provide a local cash or in-kind match of 33 1/3 percent. For councils unable to raise the full match for the maximum allocation, a partial grant shall be provided in the amount of three grants dollars to each match dollar. A county may also utilize their Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) program, Promoting Safe Stable Families (PSSF), Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program or Kids Plate funds to financially support their CAPCs.

In the event that more than one council per county exists, the county board of supervisors shall develop a procedure for selecting a council for funding. More than one existing council may be funded in counties with geographically distant population centers.

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For counties without existing councils the county board of supervisors shall make every effort to facilitate the formation and funding of a council in that county.

V. CAPC Functions

Child Abuse Prevention Council functions include, but not be limited to, the following:

- To provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases.
- To promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment.
- To encourage and facilitate training of professionals in the detection, treatment, and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- To recommend improvements in services to families and victims.
- To encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs.

Councils receiving funding under this chapter shall develop a protocol for interagency coordination and provide yearly reports to the county board of supervisors.

VI. Council Participants

Councils funded by this chapter shall encourage representation from the following:

- Public child welfare services, including the following:
 - The county welfare or children's services department
 - The probation department
 - Licensing agencies
- The criminal justice system, including the following:
 - Law enforcement
 - The office of the district attorney
 - The courts
 - The coroner
- Prevention and treatment services communities, include the following:
 - Medical and mental health services
 - Community-based social services
 - Public and private schools

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- Community representatives, including the following:
 - Community volunteers
 - Civic organizations
 - The religious community

VII. References

[Assembly Bill \(AB\) 783 \(Chaptered 603, Statutes of 1989\)](#)

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections:

[18980](#), [18981](#), [18981.1](#), [18982](#), [18982.1](#), [18982.2](#), [18982.3](#), [18982.4](#), [18983](#), [18983.3](#), [18983.4](#), [18983.5](#), [18983.6](#), [18983.8](#)

VIII. Program Resources

California Family Resource Association

<http://californiafamilyresource.org/pages/2>

Prevent Child Abuse California

<http://core2.thecapcenter.org/pca-ca>

Strategies

<http://www.familyresourcecenters.net/>