



February 2nd, 2022

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The New York State Children's Alliance, Inc. (NYSCA) is the membership organization representing forty-seven Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) which provide a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse for 61 counties, several military installations, and multiple Native Nations throughout New York state.

The Mission of the New York State Children's Alliance, Inc. is to promote the development, growth, and continuation of Multidisciplinary Teams and Child Advocacy Centers throughout New York state to provide healing and justice to abused and neglected children, and their families.

We would like to thank the New York Legislature for its strong support of Child Advocacy Center (CAC) programs. Without the help you have provided in securing funds in the past several years, many CACs would be forced to cut essential services or, even worse, close their doors. **We are grateful for your continued support.**

We are here once again to ask the Legislature to provide the funds that CACs need to do the difficult work of responding to the state's most serious cases of child sexual and physical abuse. We are asking that state funding for CACs be increased to \$10,229,900.

Despite the past support from the Governor and the Senate, the need is still great. **The number of CACs/MDTs has grown from 40 to 47 (a 17.5% increase) in the last five years and the number of children served has risen by 7%.** However, our total funding through the Office of Children and Family Services has remained at the same level.

In 2021, the number of children seen at a NYS Child Advocacy Center totaled 23,578. These children come from every corner of our state and from all walks of life and they all still need your help. Trauma associated with childhood maltreatment can lead to toxic stress that can be so impactful it can change the architecture of children's brains. If left unaddressed, trauma and toxic stress can cause lifelong difficulties for children, hampering their ability to contribute to their communities as adults.

ONE One Child Abused is
TOO MANY #OneTooManyNY

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But a child's experience of abuse and trauma need not define their future. Healing is possible through the trauma-sensitive mitigation and prevention strategies provided by Child Advocacy Centers (CACs).

CACs are child-focused facilities that help abused children heal by coordinating the investigation and treatment of sexual and severe physical abuse. Together, they work with Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members including law enforcement, prosecutors, social services, advocates, medical and mental health professionals, and others to provide high-quality, specialized services for children and their families.

CACs are not only efficient, but they are also cost effective! Studies have shown that CAC/MDT investigations save as much as \$1000 per case when compared with the cost of traditional investigations. **CACs make financial sense for New York.**

In closing, we wish to reiterate our gratitude to this body for its support of the work that our network does and of the population that they serve. If we ensure that every Child Advocacy Center is fully equipped to support children who have experienced traumatic events like abuse or witnessing violence, we make resilience and healing a real possibility. But we can only do that with increased funding. **On behalf of the New York State Children's Alliance Board of Directors and the forty-seven Child Advocacy Centers, we are asking for your help in continuing this important work.**

Sincerely,

Linda Cleary

A funding history has been attached to this letter for your reference.

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Funding History for CACs

2022

Child victims of abuse and their families are not getting the trauma-informed, efficacious system response that they deserve. While CACs are serving more children and providing more services, state aid has plateaued and even shrunk. It has only been with the assistance of the State Legislature that we have been able to begin reversing this trend.

Year	CAC Funding in State Budget	Legislative Add-On	Total State Funding Available to CACs	Number of Children Served	Number of OCFS CACs
2007	\$6,308,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,808,000	10,763	16
2008	\$6,181,840	\$0	\$6,181,840	11,643	16
2009	\$5,811,000	\$0	\$5,811,000	13,744	22
2010	\$5,229,900	\$0	\$5,229,900	15,851	24
2011	\$5,229,900	\$0	\$5,229,900	17,154	35
2012	\$5,229,900	\$750,000	\$5,979,900	17,762	40
2013	\$5,229,900	\$750,000	\$5,979,900	18,349	40
2014	\$5,229,900	\$2,570,000	\$7,779,900	17,955	40
2015	\$5,229,900	\$2,570,000	\$7,779,900	18,223	40
2016	\$5,229,900	\$2,570,000	\$7,429,900	19,486	40
2017	\$5,229,900	\$2,200,000	\$7,429,900	21,905	40
2018	\$5,229,900	\$2,000,000	\$7,229,900	23,578	40
2019	\$5,229,900	\$2,000,000	\$7,229,900	23,443	40
2020	\$5,229,900	\$2,000,000	\$7,229,900	20,362	47
2021	\$5,229,900	\$2,000,000	\$7,229,900	23,578	47
2022	\$5,229,900	\$5,000,000- Requested	N/A	N/A	47