



Child Protection Centers

Promoting & Protecting the Health of Iowans

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Child abuse. No one wants to imagine the mental and physical pain an abused child must endure. Unfortunately, the pain can sometimes be prolonged by the very systems designed to protect the victims. Child Protection Centers provide a safe environment where all exams and interviews can occur in one place.

It took great courage for “Allen,” a 16-year old boy, to reveal that his stepfather had sexually abused him for years. It was extremely difficult and embarrassing for Allen to share the details of his abuse. With the non-threatening environment of the Child Protection Center, he was able to give authorities enough details to take his case to trial, resulting in a guilty conviction and prison time for his stepfather.

Child Protection Centers work to ease the pain of abuse through understanding and awareness.

Did you know?

In state fiscal year 2012, 3,271 children were served in a Child Protection Center funded by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH).

Why are Child Protection Centers important to promoting and protecting the health of Iowans?

- Children who are victims of alleged child abuse are often further victimized by the numerous interviews and exams. At a Child Protection Center, all investigation can occur in one place.
- IDPH manages five Child Protection Centers in Iowa, including; Allen Child Protection Center in Waterloo, Mercy Child Advocacy in Sioux City, Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center in Muscatine, Regional Child Protection Center in Des Moines (Blank), and St. Luke’s Child Protection Center in Hiawatha.

Which Iowa Public Health Goals are we working to achieve?

Strengthen the public health infrastructure

What do Child Protection Centers do?

- Provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child-friendly setting.
- Provide a multidisciplinary team including; law enforcement, counties attorneys, physicians and nurses, mental health professionals, family advocacy, and child protection center staff to ensure children and families are not subjected to duplication of efforts.
- Provide a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for children.
- Build community awareness and understanding of child abuse.
- Coordinate and track investigation efforts so cases do not “fall through the cracks.”
- Improve prosecution of child abuse cases; thus, holding more offenders accountable.

How do we measure our progress?

- ❶ Number of new children served.
- ❷ Number that had a medical exam.
- ❸ Number that had a forensic interview.

Data Source: CPC Reports to IDPH. Data are available annually.

How are we doing?

Child protection centers first received state funding in state fiscal year (SFY) 2005. The CPCs have used this funding to increase capacity and infrastructure. Based on a comprehensive assessment of needs for additional CPC services throughout the state, the Iowa Chapter of National Children's Alliance is actively approaching and assisting the areas determined to have the highest need with forming a full service CPC or a satellite center.



What can Iowans do to help?

1. Iowans who are abused or suspect that a child is being abused should seek help. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected,
 - ✓ CALL a DHS local office 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday-Friday. For an interactive map of county office locations and contact information, go to www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Find_Help/MapLocations.html or
 - ✓ CALL Iowa's Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-362-2178.

For more information, go to

www.dhs.state.ia.us/Consumers/Safety_and_Protection/Abuse_Reporting/ChildAbuse.html.

2. All Iowans can support efforts to establish new Child Protection Centers or outreach efforts in new communities.
3. Public health professionals can build awareness of the Child Protection Centers and encourage use and support of their services. Go to www.nca-online.org to learn more.

Expenditures

Intra state receipts* (Dept of Human Services): K17-1764

| | State Fiscal Year 2011 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2012 Actual | State Fiscal Year 2013 Estimate |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| State Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Other funds* | \$977,800 | \$973,729 | \$1,288,285 |
| Total funds | \$977,800 | \$973,729 | \$1,288,285 |
| FTEs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

Note: Funding information is intended to provide an overview of funding related to the program area. It does not include all federal and state requirements and/or restrictions for the use of funds. Contact the program area for more detailed budget information.