

Children's Trust Fund



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Report Released on the State of Child Abuse Prevention Efforts in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund (CTF) and the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) released a report today titled "Child Maltreatment Prevention: Where We Stand and Directions for the Future." The report is one in a series titled "What it will take: Investing in Wisconsin's future by keeping kids safe today."

"It is critical that we have a comprehensive understanding of what prevention services are being offered to children and families in Wisconsin," said Mary Anne Snyder, Executive Director of the Children's Trust Fund. "Our goal is to ensure that all children and families have the same access to quality family support services regardless of where they live in the state. This information will help us when we consider where we need to improve access to prevention services."

CTF and WCCF, in partnership with the Department of Children and Families and the University of Wisconsin Madison School of Social Work and Institute for Research on Poverty, conducted a scan of the state of child maltreatment prevention programs and services in Wisconsin. The findings showed that families have access to very different services depending on where they live, and the amount spent on prevention services per child varies from \$0 to \$100.

"The fact that in some counties of our state we spend no money at all on maltreatment prevention services is unacceptable," said Ken Taylor, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families. "Research is quite clear that making investments early in the lives of children, especially those at risk of abuse or neglect, has huge cost savings in the long term. When children and families have the opportunity to access evidence-based prevention services, we are much more likely to keep them out of our deep end systems."

The report makes a number of recommendations to improve the scope and effectiveness of prevention services in Wisconsin, including an increase in financial resources to support prevention efforts, dedicated resources for rigorous evaluation of programs, and the development of a unified, consistent tracking system for prevention dollars and services.

The Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund promotes the development of a sustainable, comprehensive prevention infrastructure that reflects research and promising practices in child abuse and neglect prevention. Through strategic partnerships and investments, the Children's Trust Fund supports Wisconsin communities in the provision of services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families provides research, policy analysis, public education and advocacy that lead to improved outcomes for children in the areas of health, economic security, safety and education.

The full "What it will take" series can be found on the WCCF website at www.wccf.org/what_it_will_take.php

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