



Kentucky Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

State Fiscal Year 2025

Report of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board

Pursuant to KRS 15.925

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (Board) is pleased to release this report on its work during State Fiscal Year 2025 (July 2024 – June 2025).

The Child Victims' Trust Fund

The Board administers the Kentucky Child Victims' Trust Fund. For 40 years, the Trust Fund has built awareness about and invested in the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child abuse and neglect. This work is supported through donations and contributions received from the following four sources:

- Income tax refund designations
- Specialty license plate sales
- Kentucky Employees Charitable Campaign
- Private donations

By partnering with nonprofit organizations dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child abuse and neglect, the Trust Fund supports the principles that children deserve a safe, nurturing environment and the well-being of Kentucky's children is a shared responsibility.

About the Board

The Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board was codified in the Kentucky Revised Statute in 1984. In 2022, the General Assembly and leaders within the state began evaluating the Trust Fund's role in influencing the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The name and focus of the Board shifted to encompass addressing all forms of child maltreatment.

The core of our mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect.

The mission of the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board is to help provide for the safety of Kentucky's children by preventing child sexual abuse and exploitation, and child abuse and neglect through educating the public, funding innovative programs, and shaping public policy.

Pursuant to KRS 15.920, the duties of the Board are as follows:

- Develop a biennial state plan for the distribution of funds from the trust fund. This plan will cover the period of 2024-2026.
- Provide for the coordination and exchange of information on the establishment and maintenance of prevention programs.
- Develop and publicize criteria for the receipt of trust fund money by eligible community resource organizations and eligible prevention programs.
- Review, approve, and monitor the expenditure of the trust fund money by community resource organizations and prevention programs.
- Provide statewide educational and public informational seminars for the purpose of developing appropriate public awareness regarding the prevention of child abuse and neglect; encourage professionals and groups to recognize and deal with prevention of child maltreatment; encourage and coordinate the development of community resource organizations; make information about the prevention of child maltreatment available to the public and organizations which deal with child maltreatment problems; and encourage the development of community prevention programs.
- Establish a procedure for an annual, internal evaluation of the functions, responsibilities, and performance of the state board. In a year in which the biennial state plan is prepared, the evaluation shall be coordinated with the preparation of the state plan.

Year In Review

This year marked the implementation of the Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board's two-year strategic plan. Recognizing the need for greater intentionality in its grant funding, the Board decided a full assessment of the grant funding process was needed to better align grant funding with the Board's strategic plan. After careful deliberation, the Board voted to pause grant applications during this evaluation.

The Board worked diligently to identify current gaps in child abuse and neglect prevention efforts throughout the Commonwealth and align the grant process with those gaps. The Board also undertook the task of refining its governance structure. Committed to accomplishing these objectives, the Board created three standing committees: the Annual Report Committee; the Governance Committee; and the Grants Management Committee. Assisted by the work and recommendations of these committees, the Board met its goals for Fiscal Year 2025 and established a strong foundation for the work to be done in the second year of its strategic plan.

FY25 Accomplishments:

- Approved mission statement, bylaws, 2-year strategic plan for FY 2025 and 2026 (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026), and logic model
- Developed the gap analysis survey and circulated to stakeholders throughout the state for responses
- Approved a timeline for the award process (Board vote on funding priorities in January, announcement of grant funding opportunities in February, application process open mid-February through March, Board vote on prevention proposals in May, approved projects executed July through June)
- Revised the application for conference sponsorship proposals

- Created a methodology and structure for reviewing and approving conference sponsorship proposals
- Requested legal guidance from the Office of the Attorney General on funding available through the Child Victims' Trust Fund
- Implemented recommendation from Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel to work collaboratively with community partners to fund and raise awareness regarding safe storage of firearms
- Collaborated with and evaluated the work of trust funds in other states
- Conducted a gap analysis via a survey to gather information on Kentucky's child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. Feedback from the survey assisted the Board in determining what prevention efforts are needed in Kentucky and efforts that could be strengthened or supported. A particular focus was placed on child abuse and neglect prevention strategies along the continuum of prevention including primary, secondary, and tertiary. The findings from the survey are summarized below.
 - 50 responses were submitted with representation from 28 unique counties
 - 92% of respondents were concerned, moderately concerned or very concerned about the incidence or frequency of child abuse and neglect in their community.
 - Respondents overwhelmingly emphasize prevention through education, greater access to family supports and services, and reducing stigma. There's a strong call for systemic improvements (better funding, coordination, and outreach) alongside practical safety tools and community-based resources to reduce risks of abuse, neglect, and family breakdown.

A small workgroup analyzed the results and developed recommendations for the full Board's consideration.

Consistent with KRS 15.910, the Board is comprised of the following members and their designees if applicable:

- *Chairman of the Board*, Attorney General, Russell Coleman, Designee: Serah Wiedenhoefer
- Education & Workforce Development Cabinet, Secretary Jamie Link (July 1, 2024-March 2025), Designee: Lynn Baker (March 2025-Present)
- Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Secretary Doctor Steven Stack, Designee: Mary Carpenter
- Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Secretary Keith Jackson, Designee: Mona Womack
- Kentucky State Police, Phillip J. Burnett, Commissioner, Designee: Captain Bradly Stotts
- Kentucky Youth Advocates, Terry Brooks, Executive Director, Designee: Shannon Moody
- Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, Jill Seyfred, Executive Director
- Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocates Network, Inc., Andrea Bruns, State Director
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky, Caroline Ruschell, Chief Executive Officer
- Children's Alliance, Michelle Sanborn, President
- Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Mary P. York, Executive Director, Designees: Dr. Christina Howard (January 2024-September 2024), Dr. Melissa Currie (September 2024-August 2025)
- Kentucky Association of Regional Programs, Steve Shannon, Executive Director
- Administrative Office of the Courts, Zachary Ramsey, Director, Designee: Eboni Thompson
- Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, David Meade
- Member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, Julie Raque Adams

No one organization or program working alone will reverse the rising and troubling trend of poor outcomes with regards to the safety and well-being of Kentucky's children.