

# CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAPAC)

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## PURPOSE OF THE CAPAC

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The role of the CAPAC, formerly known as the Governor's Advisory Council (GAC), is to assist the Department in the planning and implementation of the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP), the Iowa Department of Human Services' (IDHS) foremost approach to the prevention of child maltreatment. The duties of the advisory committee, as outlined in Iowa Code §217.3A, include all of the following:

- Advise the director of human services and the administrator of the division of the department of human services responsible for child and family programs regarding expenditures of funds received for the child abuse prevention program.
- Review the implementation and effectiveness of legislation and administrative rules concerning the child abuse prevention program.
- Recommend changes in legislation and administrative rules to the general assembly and the appropriate administrative officials.
- Require reports from state agencies and other entities as necessary to perform its duties.
- Receive and review complaints from the public concerning the operation and management of the child abuse prevention program.
- Approve grant proposals.

## ICAPP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

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For State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2014-2015, 61 Community-Based Volunteer Coalitions or "Councils", serving 82 of Iowa's 99 counties, were awarded a total of 122 unique service contracts under ICAPP. Services are especially geared toward families with one or more risk factors for abuse, such as young parents, families at or near poverty, families parenting a child with a disability, families with young children (0-5 years), and families with a history of abuse/neglect, mental illness, substance abuse, or domestic violence.

Funds were awarded to local Councils for the following types of services:

- ❖ Community Development—public awareness, community needs assessments, and community engagement
- ❖ Parent Development—parent support, education, and leadership
- ❖ Outreach and Follow-up Services—voluntary home-visiting and resource/referral
- ❖ Respite/Crisis Care Services—short term child care services for families at risk
- ❖ Sexual Abuse Prevention—healthy sexual development, and adult/child focused instruction

The CAPAC reviewed all proposal scores, along with comments provided by an independent team of evaluators, before making the final award recommendations to the IDHS Adult, Child and Family Services (ACFS) Administrator. For SFY 2015, all ICAPP contractors were required to submit an application for renewal. The CAPAC assisted the IDHS with renewal decisions by reviewing compliance scores for SFY 2014. Based on compliance scores, IDHS offered renewal contracts on 105 service contracts for SFY 2015.

## FUTURE ICAPP DIRECTION

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IDHS and the ICAPP Administrator (PCA Iowa) continue to encourage the establishment and expansion of services that rely on evidence-based and evidence-informed best practices in the prevention of child maltreatment. In SFY 2012, the program implemented a web-based data collection tool to gather pre/post data on participant protective capacities ([www.iowafamilysurvey.org](http://www.iowafamilysurvey.org)). Early data is already indicating measurable increases in protective factors in follow-up surveys of ICAPP participants. The CAPAC plays an important role in helping Iowa continue on this path of outcome-informed practice.