



Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition

Policy and Advocacy Platform

Mission: The mission of the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition is to provide leadership and support collaboration to the child abuse prevention community that promotes culturally responsive, fair, respectful and effective services to end child abuse and neglect. Any policy and advocacy activities will be conducted in accordance with this mission.

Background: Children should be safe, protected and loved. Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs) throughout California are mandated to develop community practice to ensure the safety of all children (California Welfare & Institutions Code Chapter 12.5 Section 18982):

- To provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment, and legal processing of child abuse cases.
- To promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment.
- To encourage and facilitate training of professional in the detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- To recommend improvements in services to families and victims.
- To encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs.

Towards this mandate, the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition (GBA CAPC) believes that Strengthening Families through five Protective Factors model effectively protects children and promotes their healthy development and well-being — especially during times of stress. The five Protective Factors are: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and social emotional competency of children. Building these strengths at every opportunity is a proven way to enable families to be more resilient and prevent child abuse.

Based upon the Strengthening Families Protective Factors, the GBA CAPC has developed its 2018-2019 Policy and Advocacy Platform to guide its advocacy at the local, state and federal levels. This Platform allows for a broad spectrum of collective and collaborative policy and advocacy efforts on behalf of children and their families who live, work, and study in the Greater Bay Area.

In addition to family-level Protective Factors, we also believe that the following community-level Protective Factors strengthen families and protect children:

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Policy and Advocacy Platform

- (1) Positive social norms to support families and positive parenting;
- (2) Strength-based, trauma-informed and culturally humble systems to support families for both prevention and intervention services;
- (3) Child abuse prevention and response systems that are sustainable;
- (4) Promotion of five family-level Protective Factors to strengthen families and keeps kids safe;
- (5) Equitable access for families to:
 - stable housing
 - necessary economic supports & resources
 - healthcare, social services, safe parks & community activities
- (6) For children, healthy attachments to parents, guardians or caregivers who nurture and love them from birth;
- (7) Access to quality care and education that promotes future success in school, career and life;
- (8) Support for children by the larger community along with a sense of hope for the future; and
- (9) Allowing children's voices and opinions in matters of interest to them, and development of their leadership capacity and engagement in their community.

The GBA CAPC establishes and maintains relationships with key partners who are aligned with this Platform. Partners include, but are not limited to: member organizations of the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Child Abuse Prevention Center (of Sacramento), Prevent Child Abuse California, First 5 California, First 5 Association, Children Now, 4-CA, CalNonprofits, and California Family Resource Association.



**Greater Bay Area
Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition**

Policy and Advocacy Platform

In accordance with all aspects of its mission, the Greater Bay Area Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition may express support for initiatives which:

PROMOTING PARENTAL RESILIENCE
Promote trauma-informed systems of care in order that all children and families affected by trauma receive access to the best possible care provided by a trained, compassionate, and supported workforce.
Promote 2-generation family support interventions that empower all parents and children.
Promote family-friendly workplace and community policies to increase supports for breastfeeding, family leave, and baby friendly policies in all settings.
Promote efforts that respect parents/caregivers seeking support and information, since this is how change and growth occurs and seeking support is a family strength, not a deficit.
PROMOTING SOCIAL CONNECTIONS
Support safe, all-age friendly communities.
Promote community engagement in efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect.
Assure services are offered in multiple languages and locations that are convenient and accessible for all parents and families.
Support sustainability of Family Resource Centers and other community hubs for integrated services to children and families.
Assure that services promote culturally and linguistically responsive, fair, respectful and effective supports to end child abuse and neglect.
PROMOTING CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED
Advocate for housing that is affordable and accessible.
Advocate for self-sufficiency wages.
Advocate for nutritious, affordable and accessible food in neighborhoods and schools.
Ensure that communities support adequate resources so when families encounter a crisis such as domestic violence, mental illness, or substance abuse, adequate services and supports are in place to provide stability, treatment, and help for family members.
Expand access to healthcare insurance and assure all children and pregnant women have a medical home.
Expand voluntary, early home visitation programs.
Advocate for nutritious, affordable and accessible food, in both neighborhoods and schools.

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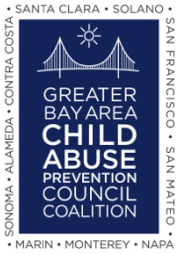


Greater Bay Area
Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition

Policy and Advocacy Platform

PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING & CHILD DEVELOPMENT
Support community and parent education and engagement practices that enhance parental competency,
Support parent engagement in child abuse prevention activities.
PROMOTING SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE OF CHILDREN
Support and promote universal developmental screenings, assessment, referrals and services.
Expand access to quality early care and education programs for children ages 0-5.
Support implementation, expanded access, and increased funding for high-quality universal preschool for all children, and high-quality transitional and statewide kindergarten.
Support a high-quality caregiver and early educational workforce focused on supporting children and families through strengthened qualifications, fair compensation, stability, diversity and robust professional development systems.
CREATING COMMUNITY PROTECTIVE FACTORS
Promote increased and sustainable funding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote inclusion of funding for children and their families through the expansion of existing funding and new revenue policy discussions to support child abuse prevention efforts in communities • advocate to state and local legislatures to create and fund family-friendly policies that protect children and promote their success in school and the workforce.
Conduct community education campaigns to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the needs of children and families and engage communities in meeting those needs.
Assure children as a community priority through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local jurisdictional policy that prioritize the needs of children and families.
Assure children have a voice and their opinion counts by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting legislation promoting national service opportunities • Advocating for accessible voting for youth and young adults • Promoting the inclusion of children in determining how they will be served by the community (student reps on boards, councils, commissions, etc.).
Support immigration legislation that protects children and youth from deportation, as well as legislation that prevents trauma from parental separation.
Improve the child abuse prevention and response system by:

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Child Abuse Prevention Council Coalition

Policy and Advocacy Platform

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating for legislation that supports collaboration and efficient delivery of services between the nonprofit sector and government • Advocating for family unification and reunification whenever it is safe and feasible.
Support programs that prevent and mitigate the commercial sexual exploitation of children.
BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES
Advocate for legislation that supports survivors of violence and takes steps to mitigate and prevent domestic violence (as a risk factor of child abuse).
Take steps to mitigate and prevent substance abuse.
Support community policies that screen and treat Adverse Childhood Experiences and promote resilience.
Support the development of walkable communities, safe bike routes, and public access to open space.
Support policies that protect clean air and water, and minimize the negative effects of climate change.

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