



# **Child Advocacy Center Services FY 2018 Annual Report**

Criminal Procedure Article § 11-923(h)

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# Background

Chapter 453 of 2010 (House Bill 1043), *Criminal Procedure - Child Advocacy Centers*, required the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (Office) to establish and sustain Child Advocacy Centers in the State through the allocation of funds.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with § 11-923(g) of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Child Advocacy Centers:<sup>2</sup>

- May be based in private nonprofit organizations, local departments of social services, local law enforcement agencies, or a partnership among any of these entities;
- Shall be developed and located to facilitate their use by alleged victims residing in the surrounding areas;
- Shall investigate allegations of sexual crimes against children and sexual abuse of minors;
- Shall provide or facilitate referrals to appropriate counseling, legal, medical, and advocacy services for victims; and
- Shall be included in all joint investigation procedures developed in accordance with § 5-706 of the Family Law Article.

Pursuant to § 11-923(g) of the Criminal Procedure Article in Chapter 453 of 2010, money for Child Advocacy Centers shall be provided in the annual State budget and shall be used to supplement, but not supplant, money that the programs receive from other sources. The Act also required the Office to submit a report to the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year as it relates to the Child Advocacy Centers.<sup>3</sup>

Chapter 356 of 2011 (House Bill 739), *Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention*, amended the requirement of the Office to establish and sustain Child Advocacy Centers from § 11-923(g) of the Criminal Procedure Article to § 11-923(h) of the Criminal Procedure Article.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2010). [\*Chapter 453 of 2010 \(House Bill 1043\), Criminal Procedure - Child Advocacy Centers.\*](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Maryland General Assembly. (2011). [\*Chapter 356 of 2011 \(House Bill 739\), Sexual Assault Crisis Programs and Domestic Violence Programs - Transfer to the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention.\*](#)

## **Introduction**

As a nationally recognized model, Child Advocacy Centers provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, community response to child abuse and neglect. These centers coordinate the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse and neglect at the local level, and through a multidisciplinary team, comprised of the state's attorney's office, law enforcement, child protective services, medical providers, mental health practitioners, and victim advocates. Research shows that children who receive services from a Child Advocacy Center are more likely to:

- Have access to medical evaluations and other forms of medical care,
- Have a referral to therapeutic services, and
- Have greater access to community resources needed to help them recover.

Child Advocacy Centers also help to reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration among partner agencies and stakeholders. Through its multidisciplinary team approach, the centers successfully coordinate investigative and intervention services to ensure children are not traumatized by the very system designed to protect them. In addition, these centers promote and provide specialized training for professionals, and extend efforts to promote public awareness and prevention. These efforts support the Office's objective to reduce victimization in Maryland's children by protecting them from abuse or neglect.

# Child Advocacy Center Services Grant Program

In accordance with § 11-923(h) of the Criminal Procedure Article, the Office is required to submit a report to the General Assembly on or before January 1 of each year as it relates to the Child Advocacy Center Services (CACS) grant program. This program serves as a grant funding source, through the State's annual budget, and is administered by the Office. Through its program, funds are available to law enforcement, child protective services, social workers, and all who work to protect Maryland's vulnerable child victims of crime and abuse.<sup>5</sup>

The primary purpose of this program is to coordinate the investigation of child abuse and neglect, and to provide services to children and their non-offending family members without causing further trauma. Funds are used to assist subrecipients in providing victim assistance, advocacy, support, and other coordinated justice system responses. Funds are also used to assist Child Advocacy Centers become accredited by the National Children's Alliance.

## Grant Awards

In FY 2018, the annual State budget provided \$300,000 in general funds for the CACS grant program. Through this program, the Office awarded \$299,999 in available funds over the course of the grant period. A total of \$271,223 was awarded at the beginning of the grant cycle and additional supplemental funding totalling \$28,776 was provided to subrecipients to support a broad range of services, to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Counseling and psychological services for children who have been physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abused;
- Services to help child victims overcome trauma;
- Counseling and support for families of children who have been victimized and abused;
- Forensic and medical evaluations;
- Specialized equipment;
- Specialized personnel to include child protective service workers;
- Support for successful prosecution of all child abuse cases;
- Training; and
- Public outreach.

As indicated on the following pages, 20 subrecipients received CACS program funds to continue to coordinate the investigation of child abuse and neglect, and to provide services to children and their non-offending family members without causing further trauma.

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<sup>5</sup> Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. (2018). [Child Advocacy Center Services \(CACS\)](#).

<b>Award Number</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Implementing Organization</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
CACS-2018-0001	\$15,723	Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.	Baltimore City	The program provided assistance through the criminal justice process, courtroom advocacy, and referrals to mental health treatment and other services to victims and their families. Grant funds provided personnel and supportive services.
CACS-2018-0002	\$16,003	Baltimore County, Maryland	Baltimore County	The program provided a friendly environment committed to reduce trauma as it investigated allegations of physical abuse and sexual assault, assessed and protected the victim, and provided resources for the victim and their family. Grant funds provided equipment and training.
CACS-2018-0003	\$14,285	Washington County Department of Social Services	Washington County	The program provided a child-friendly environment during collaborative investigations, therapeutic/medical interventions, and criminal prosecutions of child abuse. Grant funds provided memberships, training, outreach material, and supplies.
CACS-2018-0004	\$14,285	Talbot County Department of Social Services	Talbot County	The program provided trauma centered psychological services and advocacy for child victims and their families, offered counseling to non-offending caregivers and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, rendered medical expertise in the evaluation of child sexual abuse, and supported training opportunities for multidisciplinary team members. Grant funds provided travel, supportive services, and supplies.
CACS-2018-0005	\$15,723	Jane's Place, Inc.	Allegany County	The program provided a support group for parents of sexually abused children. Grant funds provided supportive services, training, operating expenses, and memberships.
CACS-2018-0006	\$15,723	Harford County Child Advocacy Center	Harford County	The program improved public safety by supporting technological advancements, and training at the Child Advocacy Center. Grant fund improved the ability to investigate crimes and present evidence in court for child abuse and child exploitation cases. Grant funds supported training and equipment.
CACS-2018-0007	\$7,704	Carroll County Sheriff's Office	Carroll County	The program provided a friendly environment committed to reduce trauma as it investigated allegations of sexual and physical abuse and sexual assault, assessed and protected the victim, and provided resources for the victim. Grant funds provided training and equipment.
CACS-2018-0008	\$14,285	Howard County Police Department	Howard County	The program provided a team approach for the investigation of child abuse, and provided services to child victims and their families. Grant funds provided training to various professional staff members and assisted them with investigations.
CACS-2018-0009	\$18,152	Wicomico County Department of Social Services	Wicomico County	The program provided a multidisciplinary team approach to assess allegations of child maltreatment. The program addressed issues of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and mental injury. Grant funds provided training, equipment, and operating expenses.

CACS-2018-0010	\$15,699	Center for Children, Inc.	Charles County	The program provided a multidisciplinary team approach for child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. It also provided training and support for the Charles County Child Advocacy Center to move forward with accreditation and foster collaboration among interagency team members. Grant funds provided salary support, training, and supportive services.
CACS-2018-0011	\$15,723	Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services	Anne Arundel County	The program provided for the investigation of allegations of sexual child abuse and assault in collaboration with law enforcement, the state's attorney's office, and the victim witness program. The program also provided forensic interviews, crisis intervention services, forensic medical exams, therapeutic treatment group for victims, and referrals for appropriate services. Grant funds provided training, supportive services, equipment, and memberships.
CACS-2018-0012	\$15,723	Life Crisis Center, Inc.	Wicomico County	The program fostered collaboration and team building among partner agencies to ensure best practices in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual abuse. Grant funds provided training, equipment, and operating expenses.
CACS-2018-0013	\$15,723	The Tree House Child Advocacy Center of Montgomery County MD Inc.	Montgomery County	The program funded a victim advocate who provided child victims and family members crisis intervention and prevention; information and support during investigation, prosecution, and treatment; and guidance as cases moved through the justice system. Grant funds provided salary support.
CACS-2018-0014	\$15,668	St. Mary's County Department of Social Services	St. Mary's County	The program provided trauma centered psychological services and advocacy for child victims and their families, offered counseling to non-offending caregivers and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, rendered medical expertise in the evaluation of child sexual abuse, and supported training opportunities. Grant funds provided training and equipment.
CACS-2018-0015	\$15,723	Frederick County, Maryland	Frederick County	The program utilized a multidisciplinary team approach to investigation, prosecution, treatment, education, and advocacy. Grant funds provided training, memberships, and supportive services.
CACS-2018-0016	\$18,847	The Cricket Center, Inc.	Worcester County	The program provided a multidisciplinary team approach to assess allegations of child maltreatment. The program addressed issues of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and mental injury. Grant funds provided equipment.
CACS-2018-0017	\$9,445	Kent County Department of Social Services	Kent County	The program provided advocacy and support for victims of sexual abuse and their families. It also developed resources, provided information and referrals, coordinated the Kent County Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Investigative Team (CAC-MDIT), and educated the public and other community professionals. Grant funds provided training, membership dues, and supplies.
CACS-2018-0018	\$14,269	Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services	Queen Anne's County	The program offered the team specialized, advanced level training in core concepts around child sexual abuse and the children's advocacy center model. Grant funds provided training and equipment.

CACS-2018-0019	\$15,723	Cecil County Department of Social Services	Cecil County	The program provided contracted medical services to child victims of child abuse. The medical provider performed direct services onsite to include examination, treatment and consultation, and served as a member of the multidisciplinary team. Grant funds provided onsite medical services, memberships and educational material.
CACS-2018-0020	\$15,573	Prince George's County Department of Social Services	Prince George's County	The program provided trauma centered psychological services and advocacy for child victims and their families, offered counseling to non-offending caregivers and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, rendered medical expertise in the evaluation of child sexual abuse, and supported training opportunities. Grant funds provided supportive services, equipment, and training.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$299,999</b>			

## **Conclusion**

The Office will continue to support the CACS grant program to coordinate the investigation of child abuse and neglect, and to provide services to children and their non-offending family members without causing further trauma. Program funds will continue to be used to assist subrecipients provide victim assistance, advocacy, support, and other coordinated justice system responses throughout the State of Maryland.