

Indiana Kids First Trust Fund
**Child Abuse & Neglect
Prevention Strategic Plan**



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF
**CHILD
SERVICES**

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Child Abuse & Neglect
Prevention Strategic Plan



Kids First™





Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Since 1994 when state legislation created the Indiana Children's Trust Fund and the Kids First Trust Fund (KFTF) Board to administer the fund, the Board has played an important role in allocating resources to fund statewide, community-based, child abuse and neglect prevention programs. KFTF continues to support an array of prevention services that are county allocated, systematically contracted with measurable deliverables and outcomes, and delivered through local partnerships.

The KFTF Board depends on your continued investment in Indiana's children to support families and restructure systems to prevent child abuse and neglect. Your support of the KFTF through the purchase of the KFTF license plate and donations is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Duane Hougendobler, M.D.
President, KFTF Board

An Overview of Strategic Positioning

Our Vision

All of Indiana's children will be healthy and safe.

Our Mission

To promote the well being of Indiana's children by funding initiatives that reduce infant mortality and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Our Goals

Goal One

Communicate the critical value of support and resources for Indiana's parents.

Goal Two

Establish and sustain a stable funding and leveraging plan for child abuse prevention resources.

Goal Three

Provide political and educational advocacy to promote awareness that child abuse is preventable.

Goal Four

Promote the coordination and collaboration of child abuse prevention strategies at the local, regional and state level within the public and private sectors.

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Executive Summary

Being a parent is the most difficult, yet the most important role that any adult will ever assume. All parents need and benefit from community support and resources that help them succeed in their role of raising healthy, safe children. The Indiana Kids First Trust Fund is teaming up with the Indiana Department of Child Services and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana to remind *every* Indiana parent that it is a sign of strength to reach out for help and support!

What Do Families Need To Help Their Children Thrive?

All parents need and benefit from community support and resources which help them succeed in their role of raising healthy, safe children. Risk factors that compound the likelihood of child maltreatment include:

- Domestic Violence
- Economic Stress
- Mental Health Challenges
- Social Isolation
- Substance Abuse

These factors can be and *are* reduced through several Indiana programs.

The **Kids First Trust Fund Board** urges Indiana citizens and policy makers to prioritize the following supportive resources for families:



Parenting Support

Services which empower parents, provide parenting knowledge and skills, and offer hope for families with life challenges will help keep Indiana's children safe from harm.

Health Care

Access to primary and preventive health care, including prenatal, medical, dental and behavioral health care can greatly reduce family stress and can help assure that a child and family will thrive through a healthy lifestyle. Healthy children are less prone to maltreatment, and healthy parents are better able to care for their children.

Early Childhood Development

Quality early childhood development opportunities and care promote healthy child development, school readiness, and positive family experiences. Maximizing the current knowledge on early brain development is an exciting way to make certain each child will enter school ready to learn. The accessibility and availability of high quality child care and school readiness programs like pre-school and Head Start promote both economic stability and child well-being.

Educational Success

Schools and educational settings provide a unique opportunity to assure that school age children master academic essentials, personal safety skills, positive physical and mental

health strategies, relationship skills, and character development. Indiana schools must demonstrate a zero-tolerance philosophy toward all forms of bullying...emotional, physical and internet...in school, neighborhood and community settings. It is critical that our educational systems embrace and support children with differing abilities, and that every child is able to maximize his or her potential and feel safe at school.

Economic Stability

The likelihood of child abuse and neglect is over twenty (20) times greater for families living in poverty. Community resources that inform parents of financial and employment opportunities, provide employment training, and enable access to higher education can improve family stability and children's opportunities for healthy development.

Goal One

Communicate the critical value of support and resources for Indiana's parents.

Nearly all parents acknowledge that being a parent is the most fulfilling "job" one can ever have. But, there is also universal agreement that parenting can be overwhelming, isolating and frustrating. To help assure that Indiana is providing a culture of support and enhanced knowledge for Hoosier parents, the Kids First Trust Fund urges the funding and sustainability of services which promote the safety and well-being of every child. These include, but are not limited to:

- providing child development information that assists parents in understanding the "ages and stages" of their child's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development
- promoting safe infant sleep techniques
- encouraging timely medical, dental and mental health check-ups as well as essential childhood immunizations
- sharing guidelines on how to create a safe home and community environment for children of all ages
- emphasizing the foundational role that parent and child interaction, bonding and communication play in healthy child development
- choosing appropriate child care
- managing parental and family stress
- preventing childhood injuries and deaths
- keeping infants and children safe in the car
- affirming childhood nutrition and fitness habits
- keeping children drug and alcohol free
- protecting children from violence
- achieving economic stability as a family.



Parenting Support

Indiana is fortunate to have a myriad of programs and services that help support these critical strategies for helping parents nurture safe, healthy, well adjusted children. They include:

- **1-800-CHILDREN** Parent Resource Line
- Community Partners for Child Safety
- First Steps
- Head Start Initiatives
- Healthy Families Indiana Home Visitation
- Prevent Child Abuse Indiana
- county extension offices
- faith-based organizations and churches



Goal Two

Establish and sustain a stable funding and leveraging plan for child abuse prevention resources.

Adequate financial and human resources are essential in establishing evidence-based child abuse prevention programs and sustaining their availability to parents in each of Indiana's ninety-two (92) counties. The Kids First Trust Fund Board is committed to:

- promoting and funding programs, information and services which invest in and demonstrate collaborative relationships at the local, regional and state level
- prioritizing child abuse prevention programs and services which are based on documented research or promising practices, and thus achieve a strong "return on investment"
- identifying and facilitating appropriate initiatives that will enhance available funding.

Goal Three

Provide political and educational advocacy to promote awareness that child abuse is preventable.

The Kids First Trust Fund Board, the Indiana Department of Child Services, and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana are committed to creating a movement which will energize Indiana citizens and systems to value and promote the protection and well-being of every Hoosier child. Prevent Child Abuse America's national research initiative to "reframe" the message of preventing child abuse and neglect has underscored that, as a matter of public policy, the role of communities and states is to support families.

In its political and educational advocacy efforts, the Kids First Trust Fund Board is committed to emphasizing that parents and families are responsible for their children and

that Indiana’s multiple systems...state agencies, social service organizations, health care settings, schools, and faith-based entities...need to create and provide conditions for parents to be successful in nurturing and protecting their children from harm.

The Kids First Trust Fund Board is also dedicated to promoting educational advocacy that raises awareness of situations that put children at risk and ways to prevent negative outcomes, such as water safety.

Goal Four

Promote the coordination and collaboration of child abuse prevention strategies at the local, regional and state level within the public and private sectors.

The Kids First Trust Fund affirms and values collaborative partnerships between state agencies, private nonprofit organizations, health care providers, schools and the programs and services that are funded through Trust Fund dollars. Complementary programs that support the safety of children and family well-being include:

- access to prenatal and family health care
- support in understanding childhood development
- access to identifying available child and family resources.

The logo for Kids First features the words "Kids First" in a playful, rounded font. Each letter is a different color: 'K' is red, 'i' is green, 'd' is blue, 's' is red, 'F' is red, 'i' is blue, 'r' is green, 's' is red, and 't' is green. A small "TM" trademark symbol is positioned to the upper right of the final 't'. The text is set against a white, cloud-like glow.

How You Can Help

The Kids First Trust Fund Board believes every Hoosier adult has an opportunity to invest in and affirm the healthy development and well being of Indiana’s children, thus protecting them from the trauma of child abuse and neglect.

Parenting Support

- Provide “Positive Parenting” information in local hospitals.
- Support Healthy Families, Head Start and Community Partners sites by providing resources for families. . .diapers, books, educational toys.
- Engage local media in providing parenting messages and promoting 1-800-CHILDREN parent support line.

Health Care

- Promote Hoosier Healthwise healthcare coverage so eligible families are aware
- Provide healthy snacks for children.
- Continue promotion and facilitation of childhood immunizations.
- Work with local primary care physicians to place parenting resources in their offices.

Child Care

- Provide incentives for local child care homes and centers to become licensed or accredited.
- Promote “Never Shake A Baby” training.
- Offer brain development curriculum training in businesses and libraries.

Education

- Assure all school staff are trained in signs of and mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect.
- Increase availability of prevention specialists, school nurses and school counselors.
- Integrate healthy standards into curricula for teachers and students to reduce risks of violence, exploitation and substance abuse.

Economic Stability

- Provide job mentoring for a neighbor seeking employment.
- Educate families on Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for families filing tax returns.
- Orient providers of family services about tools which help enhance “financial literacy.”

What Everyone Can Do

Buy an Indiana **Kids First** license plate to support successful prevention services for Indiana's children, youth and families!

- To make a donation, visit the [Kids First Trust Fund](#) website, as every dollar contributed is invested in prevention and early intervention.
- More information about the Kids First license plate can be found on the BMV website at: <http://www.in.gov/bmv/4682.htm>. Plates may be purchased without going to the BMV. Add \$40 to your renewal with a note indicating that you would like a Kids First license plate.
- Join local child advocates by becoming a part of your community child abuse prevention council.
- For the council closest to you, go to: www.pcain.org
- Check out the "how you can help" section of this plan and get involved.

Support your community child and family service programs:

Community Partners for Child Safety

http://www.in.gov/dcs/files/09-11CPCS_Directory.pdf

Head Start

<http://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/2679.htm>

Healthy Families

<http://www.in.gov/dcs/2459.htm>

Youth Service Bureau

<http://www.indysb.org/>

211

<http://www.indiana211.org>

For More Information

Kids First Trust Fund

<http://www.in.gov/dcs/2456.htm>

Indiana Department of Child Services

<http://www.in.gov/dcs/>

Prevent Child Abuse Indiana

www.pcain.org



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