

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention
Annual Progress Report



Utah Department of
Health & Human Services
Child & Family Services

Report Due: January 30, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

In response to ACYF-CB-PI-23-05 entitled *Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect or Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)* published February 27, 2023, the State of Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), is submitting Utah’s FFY 2023 CBCAP Annual Report. This report highlights the agency’s Child Abuse Prevention Program activities and achievements.

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

Organizational Structure

In Utah, DHHS is responsible for the administration of programs and services provided using funding authorized through Titles IV-B, IV-E, and XX of the Social Security Act. The department has designated DCFS as the agency responsible for implementing and providing direct oversight of Title IV-B and Title IV-E programs, as well for administering all child welfare programs and services funded through Title II of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).

The child welfare system in Utah is state administered. DCFS is the lead child welfare agency and provides services throughout the state. DCFS is responsible for agency planning, collaboration with state legislators, implementation and coordination of federally funded programs, policy development, information system development and maintenance, and the overall management of child welfare programs and services. DCFS is also responsible for designing services, developing contracts, and establishing standards for all services delivered directly

by the division, as well as those offered by program and service providers with which it contracts.

In addition, DHHS Division of Continuous Quality and Improvement is responsible for monitoring contracts, monitoring internal and external service effectiveness, and evaluating qualitative and quantitative data to help shape how and what services have the greatest success in achieving the results for children, youth, families, and adults.

Management

The DCFS Director is the administrative head of the division. The director's office is located in the state administrative office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Three administrative teams coordinate activities and make policy decisions that guide agency programs and services. First, the DCFS State Office Administrative Team meets weekly and is comprised of the director; two assistant directors; finance; administrators for programs, continuous quality improvement (CQI), data, professional development, support services, information systems, and federal operations; communications; and administrative support. This body has the primary responsibility for overseeing state office operations, including planning, budgeting, and communications. Second, a Region Director meeting is held twice monthly and includes the director, two assistant directors, the five region directors, and administrative support. This team is responsible for coordinating statewide operations and ensuring consistency of practice and access to services across the state. Third, the State Leadership Team (SLT) meets monthly and consists of the DCFS State Office Administrative Team and the five Region Directors. This team

connects the work done by the DCFS State Office Administrative Team and the RD group to align State Office operations with regional needs.

Region Directors, located in five geographically defined regions, lead their administrative teams and are responsible for their region's budget, personnel, interagency partnerships, and service delivery. Staff members in the regions deliver services statewide to children and families. Governmental, private for-profit, and nonprofit contract providers deliver additional services.

Within DCFS, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator manages the Child Abuse Prevention Program and is supervised by the Primary Intervention Administrator. Trisha Reynolds served as the Program Administrator from December 2019 to December 2022. In June 2023, Marion Eckersley became the new Program Administrator.

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The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is the manager of the agency's child abuse prevention program and is responsible to provide leadership and support for child abuse prevention activities. The Program Administrator coordinates DCFS child abuse prevention program planning activities and implements the agency's child abuse prevention service delivery strategy, in coordination with the Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC). UCPC is part of the DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program and is a multidisciplinary statewide coalition committed to ensuring safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for Utah children. This cross-sector coalition focuses on addressing societal level challenges through policy and programs focused on improved economic stability for families; enhanced parenting skills and support systems for families; improved access to quality childcare and education;

and encouragement of trauma-informed systems that identify and support families. Like CBCAP, UCPC and its members focus on prevention and upstream strategies. UCPC's mission states:

UCPC members are united behind the common goal to strengthen families and increase the likelihood that all Utah Children are thriving in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments through the implementation of comprehensive policy and program strategies.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator works with UCPC to: 1) assess which evidence-based programs and services are needed and available in each DCFS region, 2) develop the scope of work included in CBCAP requests for grant applications (RGA), 3) review and score applications from community service organizations seeking CBCAP and Utah's Children's Trust Account (CTA) funding, and 4) develop a protocol that ensures that funds are equitably distributed to contract and grant providers throughout the state.

Lead Agency Role

The division's main role in the child abuse and neglect prevention system is to identify and address prevention service-related needs, to provide leadership and support for child abuse prevention activities in the state, to award state and federal funding to organizations that provide prevention services, and to monitor community programs with which it contracts. In addition to the role of the state CBCAP Lead, the Child Abuse Prevention Administrator also provides support for the state's 11 Family Support Centers and CTA contracts and grant agreements.

Utah Code

Utah Code 80-2-503. *Division Contracts for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect* states:

“(1)

(a) The Legislature finds that there is a need to assist private and public agencies in identifying and establishing community-based education, service, and treatment programs to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of abuse and neglect.

(b) It is the purpose of this section to provide a means to increase prevention and treatment programs designed to reduce the occurrence or recurrence of child abuse and neglect.

(2)

The division shall contract with public or private nonprofit organizations, agencies, or schools, or with qualified individuals to establish voluntary community-based educational and service programs designed to reduce or prevent the occurrence or recurrence of abuse and neglect.

(3)

(a) A program that the division contracts with under this section shall provide voluntary primary abuse and neglect prevention, and voluntary or court-ordered treatment services.

(b) A program described in Subsection (3)(a) includes:

(i) a program related to prenatal care, perinatal bonding, child growth and development, basic childcare, care of children with special needs, and coping with family stress;

(ii) a program related to crisis care, aid to parents, abuse counseling, support groups for abusive or potentially abusive parents and abusive parents' children, and early identification of families where the potential for abuse and neglect exists;

(iii) a program clearly designed to prevent the occurrence or recurrence of abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, medical or educational neglect;

(iv) a program that the division and council consider potentially effective in reducing the incidence of family problems leading to abuse or neglect; and

(v) a program designed to establish and assist community resources that prevent abuse and neglect.”

Services Funded by CBCAP

Current grant agreements expire in June 2025, and a new set of grantees will be awarded funds beginning July 1, 2025.

In FFY 2023, Utah's CBCAP funds were used to support the following services and programs:

- Parents as Teachers (PAT) home visiting programs provide parents with child development knowledge and parenting support, provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, prevent child abuse and neglect, and increase children's school readiness. Grantees include:
 - Carbon County Family Support Center
 - The Family Place Utah
 - Utah County Health Department
 - Prevent Child Abuse Utah
 - Salt Lake County Health Department
- Nurse Family Partnership program, which provides services to first-time mothers to help ensure healthy pregnancies and healthy babies. Grantees include:
 - Salt Lake County Health Department
- Help Me Grow, which supports parents in promoting optimal development during pregnancy and early childhood. Grantees include:
 - United Way of Central and Southern Utah

Additionally, during FFY 2023, in response to recent federal approval, Utah's CBCAP funds were also used to provide concrete supports. Concrete supports are one of the five protective factors. Given the current economic climate, providing families with tangible goods to address immediate needs reduces stressors that could lead to child abuse and neglect. The following subrecipients received funds for the provision of concrete supports:

- Carbon County Family Support Center
- Utah County Health Department
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah
- The Family Place
- Guadalupe School
- Asian Association of Utah
- Wasatch Behavioral Health Services

- Children’s Service Society
- Utah Valley Family Support and Treatment Center
- United Way of Central and Southern Utah – Help Me Grow
- Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah

Finally, during FFY 2023, CBCAP funds were also used to support the following special projects:

- Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator attended the following conferences and national meetings:
 - Poverty Institute in October 2022, attended with the Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager.
 - Children’s Trust Fund Alliance Member Meeting in November 2022, attended with the Program Manager.
 - CBCAP Annual Grantee National Meeting in May 2023, attended with the Director of Prevent Child Abuse Utah.
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah’s (PCAU) *Joining Forces Prevention Conference*.
- Child Abuse Prevention Month activities.
- Conduct site visits at contract and grant provider facilities.

ACTIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Involvement in Statewide Systemic Change Efforts

Development and Oversight of the CFSP/APSR and CFSR PIP

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a member of the DCFS Primary Intervention and Support Team. This team includes Intake, CBCAP, CAPTA, Domestic Violence Prevention and CPS program staff. The team meets regularly to collaborate about prevention and upstream strategies that strengthen families to help avoid an open case with DCFS.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator also attends the DCFS Accountability and Initiatives meeting weekly to discuss progress and completion of approved initiatives and Results Based Accountability (RBA) strategic plan

objectives and tasks. This meeting is designed to ensure a clear understanding of goals and alignment of efforts toward the DCFS mission to keep children safe from abuse and neglect through strengthening of families, including Utah's child welfare work outlined in the Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR).

Last year, Utah successfully concluded the implementation of its two-year Program Improvement Plan (PIP), as confirmed by the Children's Bureau in March 2023. This year, Utah met the last remaining PIP measurement goal, as assessed through internal Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR). A letter dated March 2, 2023, from Aysha E. Schomburg, Associate Commissioner of the Children's Bureau, confirmed that Utah met the goals and thus exited the PIP. This concludes Round 3 of the CFSR for Utah.

Family First Prevention Services Act

Utah's Title IV-E Prevention Plan authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was originally approved in December 2019; this plan is one component of a larger prevention vision for Utah. In FFY 2023, Utah focused on continuing implementation of services available under the IV-E prevention program plan. Two in-home parenting programs have been core services under the plan this past year.

First, the SafeCare program implementation has continued to progress. Training has been provided to 14 in-home providers in both urban and rural areas in the state, and one provider has advanced into a coaching role. The number of families served is starting to increase for this evidence-based in-home parenting skills service targeted to parents with children ages 0-5, with 32 families being served in FFY 2023.

Second, Utah's most broadly used evidence-based service is Families First, developed locally by Utah Youth Village. This in-home parent skills service can be provided to parents with children of any age. This service is available in nearly all areas of Utah, including very rural areas. The number of families served from October 2022 to September 2023 was 301.

Additional training for other services previously approved under Utah's Title IV-E plan has been provided in the last year, including training for Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). A contract has been established with LYSSN to create capacity for fidelity monitoring for MI and TF-CBT.

Utah has not yet implemented PAT for reimbursement under the Title IV-E Prevention Program Plan, though it is an approved service in that plan. Several PAT programs are operational in the state for primary and secondary prevention. DCFS anticipates moving toward expansion of the PAT model to include Utah's secondary and tertiary prevention population as part of FFPSA implementation, when DCFS has the capacity to move to a community pathways model.

DHHS Prevention Consortium

The consolidation of the Utah Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to DHHS created a unique opportunity to ensure that the implementation of prevention programming takes shape through a collaborative, effective, and robust system that promotes the health and well-being of Utahns.

To advance this work, the DHHS Prevention Consortium was established. The consortium supports a prevention strategy that promotes health, safety, and stability to connect prevention efforts throughout DHHS.

During FFY 2023, the consortium began working to create an inventory of prevention strategies with the intent to increase awareness, connect resources and tools, and create efficient prevention efforts. The consortium includes representatives from prevention-focused operational units within DHHS. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is the co-chair of the consortium. Please see the table below for a list of current members.

DHHS Prevention Consortium	
Consortium Members	DHHS Operational Unit
Joey Thurgood (Co-Chair)	Office of Health Promotion and Prevention
Marion Eckersley (Co-Chair)	Division of Child and Family Services
Rob Timmerman	Office of Health Promotion and Prevention
Vinnie Watkins	Office of Communicable Disease
Nicole Bissonette	Office of Emerging Infections
Dean Penovich	Office of Emergency Medical Services and Preparedness
Rachel Edwards	Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services
Georgeia Wood	Office Recovery Services
Nickee Andjelic	Office of Maternal and Child Health
Laurie Baksh	Division of Family Health
Dulce Diez	Office of Health Equity
VACANT	Office of Rural Health
Michael Staley	Office of the Medical Examiner
Yoon Kim-Butterfield	Integrated Health
VACANT	Division of Data Systems and Evaluation
Shannon Thoman-Black	Division of Continuous Quality Improvement
Ryan Roberts	Division of Finance Administration
Kate Nedrostek	Division of Aging and Adult Services
Brent Kelsey	Office of Substance Use and Mental Health
Janae Duncan	Division of Population Health
Heather Borski	Office of the Executive Director

Early Childhood Systems Building

DHHS includes the Office of Early Childhood. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator interacts with this office regularly, which includes Baby Watch Early Intervention Program (BWEIP), the Home Visiting Program, and the Early Childhood Utah Program.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a voting member for Early Childhood Utah (ECU) Advisory Council. During the 2023 Utah general legislative session, the responsibilities of the Governor's Early Childhood Commission were repealed, and the responsibility of the ECU Advisory Council was transferred to the DHHS Office of Early Childhood. This ECU Advisory Council works to promote broad statewide coordination and collaboration among a wide range of early childhood programs and services to ensure that Utah children enter school healthy and ready to learn. The ECU Advisory Council's five subcommittees are focused on:

- Promoting Health and Access to Medical Homes.
- Early Care and Education.
- Social, Emotional, and Mental Health.
- Parent Engagement, Support, and Education.
- Data, Research, and Policy.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator serves on the ECU Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee. During FFY 2023, the Program Administrator worked with the subcommittee to identify gaps in services across the state and improve public awareness and access of supportive resources for families. The subcommittee held events to recruit additional parents for membership and added five new parents with children ages newborn to eight years old to the subcommittee.

Home Visiting Program

DHHS Home Visiting Program (HVP), the lead agency for Utah's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) funding, supports seven PAT programs and one Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program in the state. In FFY

2023, the DHHS HVP served approximately 566 families in 10 of 29 Utah counties, funded by state and federal dollars.

During FFY 2023, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the HVP Program Administrator continued to work together to expand services through a variety of channels. The two program administrators and their teams meet monthly to coordinate on a variety of shared topics and are working together to improve community knowledge of home visiting resources and ensure these services reach rural and underserved communities.

During the 2023 legislative session, \$10.5 million in TANF and \$4.7 million in general fund dollars was appropriated to the DHHS HVP for a three-year pilot project with the following purposes:

1. To complete a pilot, which creates an updated home visiting system that provides infants, children, and families with more service offerings.
2. To conduct outreach, follow up, support, and referrals, as well as data collection on program model types, programmatic outcomes, and types of services received.
3. To recommend how to expand and structure a statewide home visiting program based on the data collected in the pilot program.
4. To meet accountability and programmatic outcomes, which include:
 - a. Total families served.
 - b. Percent of families served that received developmental screeners and subsequent resources and education.
 - c. Number of caregiver depression screenings administered.
 - d. On time well child visits.
 - e. Caregiver-reported engagement in early language and literacy activities.
 - f. Intimate partner violence screening.

After a competitive bid process, DHHS and state procurement identified Prevent Child Abuse Utah (PCAU) as the contractor. In their proposal, PCAU explained that each home visiting model they will implement with these funds has shown efficacy for reducing child abuse and neglect by 50%. PCAU will assess the needs of each

family and enroll them in a home visiting program model that best fits their needs. PCAU will also offer various types of home visiting to meet the needs of families with different levels of risk, employment readiness, and mental, physical, health, safety, or stability needs. PCAU will collect data to establish a baseline and target improvements in the first year of implementation.

Youth with Complex Unmet Needs

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager participates in a workgroup to identify common risk factors of youth living with behavioral complex health issues. This workgroup is focusing on protective factors and interventions that can prevent the most at-risk youth from entering DCFS or Juvenile Justice Systems. During FFY 2023, this workgroup created a survey targeting community partners who are best positioned to provide insight and information to help identify the risk and protective factors that should be prioritized in this prevention strategy.

OTHER COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The child abuse prevention services continuum in Utah includes a variety of agencies, collaborative partners, and joint initiatives. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator coordinates closely with the following partners for planning, programming, and funding.

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC) is a state network formed in 2013 by stakeholders who saw a need to address the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, as well as other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). UCPC works to ensure safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments for all Utah children. The coalition is managed by the ACEs Prevention Specialist at the DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention Program (VIPPP). The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a member of the UCPC Executive Committee. The UCPC State Action Plan currently includes the following five priorities:

1. Strengthening economic supports to families.

2. Enhancing parenting skills.
3. Improving parent help-seeking behaviors.
4. Providing high quality care and education early in life.
5. Promoting trauma-informed approaches.

During FFY 2023, UCPC added several new representatives, including representatives from Circles USA (anti-poverty), Voices for Utah Children, Granite School District, and six of Utah's 13 local health departments. Broader representation has increased UCPC's reach at community levels.

During FFY 2023, UCPC contributed to an update of the Utah Health Improvement Plan (UHIP). The purpose of UHIP is to unite the Utah Public Health System efforts to improve the health of Utahns.

Please see the below table for a listing of current UCPC membership.

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood	
Executive Planning Committee	
Deondra Brown Nielsen (Co-Chair) Advocate, Foundation for Survivors of Abuse, Children's Justice Center	Trisha Reynolds (Co-Chair) Utah Department of Corrections Intergenerational Coordinator
Laurieann Thorpe PCAU Executive Director	Vonda Jump-Norman Associate Professor, Utah State University
Nathan Malan VIPP Child Abuse Prevention Epidemiologist	Joey Thurgood Adverse Childhood Experiences Prevention Specialist
Marion Eckersley Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, DCFS	
Steering Committee Members	
Ray Bailey OSUMH Suicide Prevention Program Manager	Krista Useche The Family Place Crisis Nursery Director
Amy Mikkelsen VIPP Primary Prevention Coordinator	Lisa Davenport DHHS Baby Watch Early Intervention Program Mgr.
Angela Romero Utah State House of Representatives (Democratic Party)	Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson University of Utah Social Research Institute
Patrick Jeffries Father and Families Coalition of Utah	Ned Searle Office on Domestic and Sexual Violence Director
Codie Thurgood OSUMH Children Youth and Families Program Manager	Kabi Catalano Utah Community Builders Director
Dr. David Corwin University of Utah Professor of Pediatrics	VACANT Homelessness Advocate and Community Builder
Martin Munoz Voices for Utah Children, KIDS Count Director	Rebecca Banner DWS Office of Childcare Director
Debbie Comstock Utah Family Strengthening Network	Robert Parrish Deputy Salt Lake County District Attorney (Retired)
Greg McDonald Utah Community Action Partnership	Todd Weiler Utah State Senator (Republican Party)
Jessica Strong Primary Children's Hospital Community Health Manager	Tracey Tabet Utah Children's Justice Centers Executive Director
John Hansen Empathy Project Founder	Travis Baer Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Kim Fischer Waterford Upstart Vice President of Communications	Kristine Campbell University of Utah, Safe and Healthy Families
Elizabeth VanSant-Webb Home Visiting Program Manager	Aimee Winder-Newton Governor's Office of Families Director
Sundyn Woolf Court Appointed Special Advocate	Sam Arungwa USU Extension Professor
Audrey Mancini Powerful Moms Who Care	

First Impressions/Family Action Meetings

During FFY 2023, a primary initiative of DCFS continued to be its First Impressions project that began in FFY 2020. This was later renamed Family Action Meetings (FAM). FAM focuses on realigning the child welfare system such that more resources and energy are creatively utilized during the first critical days of a child welfare case. The project intends to create a child welfare system that values family voice and family-led decision making in determining child safety. DCFS began working with the Kempe Center in FFY 2021 to implement a unique model adapted from Family Group Decision Making that provides an up-front, expert team facilitation process to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their families and increase kinship support to address safety concerns. Pilot sites began facilitating these Family Action Meetings at three sites in the fall of 2021, and the outcomes continue to be positive. Pilot expansion continued during FFY 2023, and each region now has some level of FAM.

Plan of Safe Care

DCFS is focused on creating statewide use of Plan of Safe Care. Plan of Safe Care list services and resources parents and their families can use to support their infant's ongoing health, development, safety, and well-being. Utah's vision is to provide an easy-to-use tool for statewide creation of Plan of Safe Care. The tool will assist healthcare providers in screening pregnant women for substance use disorder and other risk factors and guide providers in developing a personalized Plan of Safe care for the mother and her child. Utah reviewed successful models in Connecticut and other states to inform Utah's desired version of this program. Measures will include the number of screenings and resulting Plan of Safe Care, the locations within the state that screenings and plan creation occurs, types of service referrals made, and the rate of DCFS referrals for prenatal exposure, which will hopefully decline.

Court Improvement Program

During FFY 2023, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator began to attend Court Improvement Program (CIP) Committee meetings and is learning about the goals of this group. Several members from DCFS participate on this

committee. The mission of CIP is to provide timely, tangible, and measurable improved outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system relating to safety, permanency, and well-being.

Utah Family Strengthening Network and Prevent Child Abuse Utah

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continues to support the Utah Family Strengthening Network (UFSN) and PCAU, a statewide leadership and training implementation team comprised of prevention service providers. UFSN is currently managed by PCAU and is funded through CBCAP ARPA funds.

UFSN is Utah's affiliate with the National Family Support Network (NFSN). The goal of UFSN is to enhance and support Utah's network of family-serving programs. UFSN maintains a network of trainers throughout the state who provide training to community agencies on the Protective Factors and NFSN's Standards of Quality.

Utah Association of Family Support Centers

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provides support to the UAFSC. The statewide association consists of 11 Family Support Center (FSC) organizations with 17 locations throughout the state. Each Center operates independently and offers an array of services based on the



**FAMILY
SUPPORT
CENTERS**
of Utah

needs of the community they serve. Each FSC provides the same core services: crisis and respite nursery, parent education courses, 24-hour information and referral services, and family strengthening activities. Additional services, such as clinical services and DCFS emergency shelter care are offered at each FSC based on the needs of their communities.

UAFSC subcontracts with each FSC to provide funding based on their needs. This funding is in addition to the funding provided to each FSC by DHHS and is also overseen by the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator. The new funding is

focused on expanding trauma-informed care practices, implementation of the NFSN Standards of Quality, and recruiting and maintaining quality staff at each FSC.

Governor's Office of Families

In 2022, the Utah Governor launched the Utah Office of Families (OF). One of the governor's main priorities this year includes providing support for Utah's vulnerable families so that children have better opportunities for success. This includes the OF identifying proactive, upstream strategies that strengthen families. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator collaborates with the OF Director on several prevention-driven committees to align efforts to strengthen Utah families. Priorities of the OF include:

- Supporting vulnerable families
- High quality childcare
- Youth mental health
- Ensuring high school graduation
- Family friendly workforce policies

CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY 1

Submitted by the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah:

One family the coalition worked with this past year was a father and son who were homeless. The father had a physical disability, and the 15-year-old son was on the Autism spectrum.

They came to the coalition over the summer to receive help. The coalition registered the father with the Job Works Program to build his resume and help find employment. The father also enrolled in the coalition's ten-week fatherhood program.

The coalition used CBCAP-funded concrete supports to provide two months of rent and worked with a local homeless shelter to provide an additional two months' rent.

The coalition also used CBCAP-funded concrete supports to provide the son with school clothes, which helped him with his confidence and self-esteem.

The coalition also used CBCAP-funded concrete supports to purchase new tires for the father's automobile so that he could drive his son to school and have reliable transportation for employment.

The coalition watched the father transition during the ten-week program change from an angry and impulsive individual to a father who was moving forward with a positive attitude and a happy relationship with his son.

SERVICE ARRAY

Needs Assessment

During FFY 2023, Utah continued the contract with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. This work is a joint effort between the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the CAPTA Program Administrator, using ARPA Supplemental CBCAP and CAPTA funds. This assessment started in October 2022 and is planned to be completed in March 2024. The primary objectives of the assessment are to:

- Analyze existing information and data related to Utah's child abuse and prevention needs.
- Partner with stakeholders, community members, providers, and impacted families to inform funding decision-making processes.
- Create a strategic plan for statewide prevention services that will inform future Request for Grant Awards (RFA) and funding decisions.

SRI is conducting this research through an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens to help DCFS program administrators identify populations most in need and to ensure that services are distributed equitably. SRI is the same organization that began assisting DCFS with an evaluation of racial and ethnic disparity and disproportionality within Utah's child welfare system in FFY 2020, using IV-E funding.

The quantitative evaluation of this project has included the collection and analysis of DCFS administrative data to identify and inform communities most impacted by the child welfare system, their distribution across the state, predominant needs or reasons for involvement, services received, and resulting outcomes.

The qualitative evaluation portion of this project has included a synthesis of prior state reports, administration of a community provider survey, and interviews and focus groups of impacted communities and stakeholders with lived experience.

The primary deliverable of this evaluation will be a formal, strategic plan detailing funding strategies of statewide prevention services to improve protective factors and ultimately reduce child maltreatment in Utah. Please see the table below for the SRI’s needs assessment timeline.

Objectives and Tasks		2022	2023				2024
		Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
START	Obtain IRB and MOU as needed						
	Coordinate with CTSI* & community partners						
	Develop community engagement tools						
COLLECT	Collect data, reports, other review materials						
	Gather community perspectives						
ANALYSIS	Data pre-processing, analyses						
	Evaluation of community perspectives						
SYNTHESIS	Synthesis of data, reports, community findings						
	Preliminary findings and progress report						
	Strategic planning regarding state programs						
FINAL	Summarize and review initial strategy findings						
	Reporting; Final strategic plan						

CTSI-Utah Clinical and Translational Science Institute; IRB-Institutional Review Board; MOU-Memorandum of Understanding

While the formal needs assessment is underway, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager continue to assess unmet prevention service needs within the state through a variety of methods and sources. During FFY 2023, the Program Administrator and Program Manager conducted in-person site visits in all five Utah DCFS regions and continued to hold virtual meetings with grantees. During the site visits and virtual meetings, the

Program Administrator and Program Manager have learned about each program's strengths, opportunities for improvement, and needs for support. The Program Administrator and Program Manager also learned more about each program from reviewing grantees' annual written reports, which are provided each July.

Funding Mechanisms

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator oversees and monitors four revenue streams used by the Child Abuse Prevention Program to fund prevention services. The revenue streams include:

- CBCAP funds authorized through CAPTA Part II as reauthorized by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-320). Please see the table on page 41 for a list of CBCAP Funded Programs and Special Projects.
- Children's Trust Account (CTA) funds legislatively directed to DCFS from revenues received through the issuance of birth certificates.

As mentioned in previous year's reports, CBCAP funds and CTA funds were combined into a single Request for Grant Award during the procurement process. This decision was made to allow the two funds to be shifted among programs as needed, due to the fluctuating nature of the CTA balance. As the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator worked on a new RGA in 2020, it became apparent that combining the two programs into one RGA created more challenges than benefits. Therefore, during the 2025 RGA, Utah will likely create separate RGAs for the CBCAP and CTA programs. Please see the table below for a list of prevention programs and services supported by the Utah Children's Trust Account during FFY 2023.

Programs Funded by the Children's Trust Account	
Provider	Program
Guadalupe School	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
Asian Association of Utah	Systemic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP) A multicomponent parenting educational curriculum that helps parents learn effective ways to relate to their children using parent education study groups. This program is offered to various refugee and immigrant groups in their native language.
Wasatch Behavioral Health Services	Grandfamilies Kinship Program A support and education program designed to help families raise a relative's children. The program provides guardianship assistance, education courses for children and adults, links to community resources, short-term therapy, and monthly peer activities.
Children's Service Society	Grandfamilies Kinship Program A support and education program designed to help families raise a relative's children. The program provides guardianship assistance, education courses for children and adults, links to community resources, short-term therapy, and monthly peer activities.
Utah Valley Family Support and Treatment Center	Play It Safe Program A school-based child abuse awareness and prevention program that teaches children Pre-K through high school how to reduce their risk of sexual and physical abuse by recognizing potentially abusive behavior, responding appropriately to threatening situations, and reporting abuse to a trusted adult.
Family Support Center of Salt Lake	Nurturing Parenting A group-based, family-centered curriculum in which parents and children attend separate groups that meet concurrently. Lessons are based on known parenting behaviors that contribute to child maltreatment.

- Crisis Nursery funds appropriated by the Utah State Legislature.

The Utah State Legislature provides state funding to 11 Family Support Centers (Centers). The Centers offer crisis nursery and parent education services at seventeen locations throughout the state. The funds pass through DCFS; the Program Administrator oversees this funding and provides training

and technical assistance to these programs. Four of the Centers are also recipients of CBCAP or Children’s Trust funding for additional programming. Eight locations receive additional funding for Adoption Respite services to help prevent adoption disruptions and eight locations also serve as emergency shelters for youth in DCFS custody.

- Utah Association of Family Support Centers (UAFSC) funds appropriated by the Utah State Legislature.

Legislatively appropriated state funding passes through DCFS to UAFSC to support the functions of the state’s 11 Family Support Centers. Please see the table below for a listing of the 11 Centers and their satellite locations.

Family Support Centers	
Program	Utah Locations
Box Elder Family Support Center (2 locations)	Brigham City, Garland
The Family Place of Cache County (3 locations)	Logan, Smithfield, Hyrum
Carbon County Family Support Center	Price
Open Doors	Clearfield
Grand County Family Support Center	Moab
Family Support Center of Ogden	Ogden
Utah Valley Family Support & Treatment Center	Orem
Family Support Center of Salt Lake (3 locations)	Midvale, West Valley City, Sugarhouse
Family Support Center of Southwestern UT (2 locations)	Cedar City, Richfield
Family Support Center of the Uintah Basin	Roosevelt
Family Support Center of Washington County	St. George

Numbers Served

Please see the table below for FFY 2023, number of individuals served data.

FFY 2023 Individuals Served Through the Child Abuse Prevention Program							
	Children	Children with Disability	Adults	Adults with Disability	Families Served	Total Clients	Total Clients with Disability
CBCAP – Participants receiving direct services	642	80	577	143	479	1,219	223
CTA – Participants receiving direct services	4,040	81	3,782	61	3,719	7,822	142
Crisis Nursery – Participants receiving direct services	7,264	800	5,733	475	3,695	12,997	1,275
TOTAL	11,946	961	10,092	679	7,893	22,038	1,640

Change in Data Collection Processes

CBCAP-funded total children served is less than presented in previous year. Due to programming differences, as explained in last year’s report, Help Me Grow data is reported separately from the CBCAP total and is presented in the table below. This data was previously included in the CBCAP FFY totals.

FFY 2023 Help Me Grow	
Service Categories	Clients Served
Average Number of Families Served per Quarter	2,518
New families served	1,680
Edinburgh screening completed	104
ASQ-3 screenings completed	2,441
ASQ-SE screenings completed	969
M-Chat screenings completed	119
Community resources given	1,045
Informational resources given	5,594
Community outreach presentations	360
Number reached through outreach presentations	16,437

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Racial and Ethnic Minorities

In alignment with disturbing nationwide trends, children of color are disproportionately represented in Utah's child welfare system. Utah is committed to changing this and is using prevention funds to intentionally shift this trend.

The prevention needs assessment is being approached through a racial equity lens. The primary goal of this assessment is to identify service gaps and barriers in these areas and identify ways to better support these communities.

To provide support to Utah's racial and ethnic minorities, including refugee communities, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator makes use of prevention funds to support several prevention programs that target these populations. Populations and programs include:

Hispanic and Latino Population

Guadalupe School PAT Program: This program provides services to the northwest quadrant of Salt Lake City, which has a large Hispanic and Latino population. Guadalupe School provides five academic programs to Hispanic families, including in-home services, toddler beginnings, preschool, charter school, and adult education services. Home visitors from this program all speak Spanish. (Funded by Children's Trust and CBCAP ARPA.)

Utah County Health Department PAT Program: This program employs three native Spanish-speaking home visitors who provide services exclusively to Spanish-speaking families. Using the PAT curriculum, the program helps families understand how to be their children's teacher, as well as how to adapt to their new community. To provide further assistance to the families served, the program provides books in Spanish and English. (Funded by CBCAP and CBCAP ARPA.)

Asian Population

The Asian Association of Utah STEP: This program provides parenting classes to new immigrants and refugees. The curriculum used is Systemic Training for Effective Parenting, which is listed as “promising” on the California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare and focuses on child abuse prevention. The agency has been focusing on efforts to make parents and community partners aware of the new program and its benefits.

(Funded by Children’s Trust and CBCAP ARPA.)

Native American Population

Until recently, Utah has not used CBCAP funding to support the state’s Native children. This group is one of the most disproportionately represented in Utah’s foster care system. There are eight federally recognized Native American Tribes in Utah: The Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, Navajo Nation, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar Band, Indian Peaks Band, Kanosh Band, Koosharem Band, Shivwits Band), San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, Skull Valley Indian Community (Goshute), Ute Tribe (Uintah Band, White River Band, Uncompahgre Band), and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in White Mesa.

During the DHHS consolidation process, the DCFS ICWA Program Administrator participated in a consolidation steering committee focused on tribal representation. Committees and workgroups met at least weekly throughout much of 2021 to identify opportunities for optimal realignment to serve Utahns, including American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/AN), more effectively.

Utah’s eight federally recognized Tribes provided formal consultation on the consolidation process. One of the recommendations from the tribes was to create an Office of American Indian Alaska Native Health and Family Services (Office), and this recommendation was supported by the Utah Legislature.

The Office was created in September 2022. The Office Director, Ozzy Escarate, is a member of the newly consolidated DHHS Executive Leadership Team. The Office also includes the positions of ICWA Liaison (formerly the DCFS ICWA Administrator position) and Health Liaison. The DHHS ICWA Liaison is a member of the Navajo

Nation. The newly formed Office provides a unified collaborative approach to AI/AN child welfare services.

During FFY 2023, the DCFS ARPA Grant Program Manager coordinated with the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the CAPTA Program Administrator on the implementation of the CAPTA and CBCAP ARPA grant awards. This CBCAP/CAPTA program collaboration has resulted in joint efforts to build relationships with Utah State University (USU) Extension Services (detailed below) and Utah's federally recognized tribes.

The DCFS ARPA Grant Program Manager coordinated with the Office Director and the ICWA Liaison to offer non-competitive grants to Utah's federally recognized tribes using CAPTA ARPA funds. Tribes may use CAPTA ARPA funding to strengthen families by creating new programs, enhancing existing programs, or improving knowledge of and access to programs and services available through the tribe or in the broader community. Programs and services may be culturally tailored to meet tribal needs. This collaboration has resulted in three grants with tribes and a fourth is in process.

Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager have been involved in this collaborative work with the Office and are hopeful that these efforts will lead to Utah tribes' future interest in applying for traditional CBCAP funds.

Poverty

In FFY 2023 the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator amended existing CBCAP and Children's Trust grant agreements to include additional funds to support families with concrete needs such as housing, transportation, and childcare.

Children and Parents with Disabilities

Contract and grant agreement providers continue to deliver services to disabled children and adults. In total, providers served 1,640 children and adults with a

disability, 223 of whom obtained services through programs that receive CBCAP funds.

Fathers

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator currently has a grant agreement with the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah. This group provides parenting education for young fathers and young men likely to become fathers soon. This group also owns a food truck that employs men transitioning from state custody or incarceration to obtain employment and financial skills. During FFY 2023, a representative from the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah joined UCPC and spearheaded an initiative to include fathers as a focus during Family Strengthening Month.

Adoption Respite

Many of the Family Support Centers have additional contracts with DCFS to provide respite for post-adopt families. These services are not funded by CBCAP, but their connection with Family Support Centers allows adoptive families to become familiar with and access other supportive services, such as parenting education and home visiting services that are partially provided through CBCAP funds.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SUCCESS STORY 2

This year, Wasatch Behavioral Health provided Grandfamilies program services to a grandfather who stated that he was a recovering alcoholic with several decades of sobriety. He adopted his grandson at birth. His adult daughter, who has special needs, and her child also live with him. His wife had died unexpectedly and traumatically two years prior.

When the grandfather first began participating in the Grandfamilies program, he expressed worries about his ability to keep taking care of his grandchildren and daughter. Both of his grandchildren had extreme behavior issues and were struggling emotionally. The grandfather expressed that the stress he felt from this situation brought out his cravings for alcohol, which he had not experienced for years.

The grandfather started attending individual therapy and utilized respite services for the care of his grandchildren. The grandfather reported an improvement in his emotional wellbeing, soon after beginning therapy. The grandfather reported recognizing that he had not fully grieved his wife's passing. He also stated that he had realized he stopped using the parenting techniques that had worked for him in the past and, with the intervention of Grandfamilies, he had begun implementing the parenting strategies learned from program staff.

The grandchildren received individual and group therapy to help with their mental health and behavioral issues. The grandfather reported that the children were being nicer to each other after attending group therapy and even played with each other, at times. The grandfather also stated that the support he received helped him gain a better relationship with his grandchildren.

The grandfather and his family continue to attend Grandfamilies program events and the clinical services available to them. Both the grandfather and the children have made statements of feeling supported by the Grandfamilies program staff.

PARENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

During FFY 2023, Utah's prevention grantees engaged parents through a variety of ways. Several programs include parent membership on advisory boards, facilitation of parent cafes, and utilization of parent volunteers to lead community activities. A few programs run parent-only advisory councils and employ parents who have utilized their services in the past. Some highlights during FFY 2023 include:

Help Me Grow

During FFY 2023, Help Me Grow recruited 10 parents for membership on its advisory council and 39 parent volunteers. With the help of the council, parent recruitment efforts continue. Quarterly advisory council meetings are held for English- and Spanish-speaking parents. Parent members help to plan and facilitate the meetings. The councils provide feedback on how Help Me Grow develops family goals and provides resources to meet the needs of the families it serves. Help Me Grow reports that parents are more engaged and are participating in leadership opportunities.

Guadalupe School and Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah

During FFY 2023, Guadalupe School received feedback from its parent advisory council that the council believed more fathers should be involved in Guadalupe's education programs. In response, Guadalupe formed a partnership with the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah to increase attendance of fathers in their education program visits and group connections. Both grantees plan to continue this partnership and increase the involvement of fathers in their parent advisory councils during the next FFY.

Asian Association of Utah

The Asian Association of Utah encourages parent voice in each session of their STEP program. They currently have 35 parents who assist in recruiting other parents to participate in the program and provide feedback about the needs they see within their families and communities.

NFSN Standards of Quality Training

During FFY 2023, while amending the CBCAP and CTA grants, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator added the requirement that all direct care staff complete the NFSN Standards of Quality training by March 2024 and once every two years thereafter. This training is available at no cost to grantees through the UFSN training contract.

Early Childhood Utah

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a member of the Parent Engagement, Support, and Education subcommittee of Early Childhood Utah. During FFY 2023, the subcommittee made progress on parent engagement work in the early childhood community through hosting virtual parent meet-and-greets to identify possible parents to engage in this work.

TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION ASSISTANCE

Site Visits

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager conducted in-person site visits with several prevention grantees and Family Support Centers in FFY 2023. The Program Administrator also met virtually with each program several times throughout the year. These visits and virtual meetings allowed the Program Administrator and Program Manager to learn more about each program's operations, challenges, and opportunities for growth. Meeting topics included current program budget and evaluation processes, community and technical support needs and challenges providing services to rural communities.

Grantee Meetings

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager conduct bi-monthly virtual meetings with all grantees. Participation is a prevention grant agreement requirement. These meetings have provided a venue for ongoing training and technical support provision to all grantees. This model was strategically chosen because it also serves as a peer-to-peer learning function. FFY 2023 meeting topics included:

- December 2022: Concrete Supports
 - Introduced Marion Eckersley as the new Program Manager. Trisha Reynolds announced that she was leaving the Program Administrator position.
 - Discussed the plan to add concrete support funding to grant agreements and extend each grant agreement to June 2025.
 - Split into breakout groups to discuss ideas for concrete supports.
- March 2023: Family Strengthening Month Planning
 - Introduced the new DCFS Public Information Officer.
 - Discussed the Governor's Proclamation and Family Strengthening Month toolkit.
 - Each Grantee shared their plans for the month and coordinated booths for activities.

- The Program Administrator provided training and reviewed concrete support requirements.
- May 2023: Review Family Strengthening Month and Concrete Supports
 - Grantees shared successful stories about the events and activities they held during Family Strengthening Month.
 - Came up with ideas for next year's Family Strengthening Month.
 - Each Grantee shared information about how they have been using concrete support funding.
- July 2023: Reporting and Technical Assistance
 - Announced Marion Eckersley has moved into the Program Administrator position and Holly Frischknecht is the new Program Manager.
 - Reviewed quarterly and annual report requirements.
 - Continued discussions about concrete supports provided.
- September 2023: Billing and Training Requirements
 - Provided technical assistance on new DCFS billing process.
 - Provided available dates for staff to attend the required Utah Family Strengthening Network training.
 - Broke into small groups and discussed successes and challenges experienced with concrete support funding.

Training

UFSN is Utah's state network of Protective Factors and NFSN Standards of Quality trainers. UFSN plays a key role in training state grantees and other community partners involved in the work of family strengthening. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provides support to UFSN by serving on the advisory leadership committee, helping to align training resources with state prevention priorities, identifying stakeholder groups that may benefit from UFSN's trainings, and providing funding support to UFSN through CBCAP ARPA dollars.

Below is a list of FFY 2023 UFSN training-related activities and accomplishments:

- Creating the Utah Family Strengthening Network webpage, which includes a listing of network trainings and events.
- Holding two Utah conferences dedicated entirely to the Protective Factors.
 - *2023 School Counseling and Prevention Summit*

- *2023 Joining Forces Conference*
- Broadening the awareness of UFSN’s mission and objectives, as demonstrated through presentations at various national and statewide conferences.
- Relaunching the quarterly *Trainer Convening* as an opportunity to enhance quality standards and statewide coordination.
- Completing three NFSN Standards of Quality trainings using the updated curriculum.
- Completing four Protective Factors overview trainings.
- Creating and launching a UFSN membership contract for current and new Network members.

Joining Forces Conference

PCAU hosted their annual conference in FFY 2023. The agenda focused on protective factors, with conference offerings for families and providers. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator provided CBCAP funding for the conference, as well as scholarships for DCFS caseworkers. The conference helped participants learn more about preventative resources in their communities.

EVALUATION

Grantees provide evaluation data to DCFS through quarterly and annual reports. During FFY 2023, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator met individually with several programs to clarify data entry methods to ensure the collection of accurate, consistent data across programs.

Utah is planning to work with FRIENDS to implement the use of their Protective Factors database. Unfortunately, due to staff turnover, this was delayed. However, this work is a FFY 2024 priority.

During the application for the current grant agreement cycle, grantees provided the following as part of their application:

1. A logic model.

2. A method for internal self-assessment of the program.
3. Client pre- and post-tests that measure program effectiveness.
4. A client measure of satisfaction with services.
5. A plan for continuous quality improvement.
6. How the grantee will use this data to improve services.

Program Effectiveness

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

- HOME Assessment.
- Systematic Training for Effective Parenting - Pre and Post Survey.
- Life Skills Progression.
- PAT Family Centered Assessment.
- Protective Factors Survey (PFS).
- Protective Factors Survey, 2nd Edition (PFS-2).
- Parenting Interactions with Children (PICCOLO).
- Adult-Adolescent Parenting Inventory (AAPI 2.5).
- Nurturing Skills for Families 3.0 for teens.
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire, 3rd Edition (ASQ-3).
- Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional, 2nd Edition (ASQ:SE-2).
- Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS).
- Self-designed program outcome measures.

Outcome highlights:

Asian Association of Utah

All parents who attended the Asian Association of Utah STEP program demonstrated growth in their knowledge of child-rearing techniques. Overall, participants demonstrated a significant increase between their pre- and post-test scores. After completion of STEP, parents reported having the tools they needed for use at home with their kids. Some post-test results included:

- A reduction in the number of parents reporting the use of physical punishment.

- An increased percentage of parents reporting the use of effective communication skills to address unhealthy behaviors of their children.
- An increase in the variety of skills parents are using to improve the quality of relationships within the family.

The Family Place – PAT Program

The PAT home visitors have helped families identify their strengths and the support they need, which reduces risk factors.

The Protective Factors Survey indicated the following results:

- 100% increase in family functioning/resilience.
- 66.7% increase in nurturing and attachment.
- 87.5% increase in social support.
- 55.6% increase in caregiver/practitioner relationship.
- 33% increase in concrete support.

Guadalupe School – PAT Program

Of families who exited the program, 100% made positive growth in their total PFS-2 score during their program participation. On average, families increased their PFS-2 score by 4.92 from initial participation to program end.

Utah County Health Department- PAT Program

The program completed 229 ASQ-3 and 120 ASQ-SE assessments and found 18 concerns and 17 potential delays. All concerns and delays were followed-up with activities that encouraged development and were monitored for changes.

Utah Valley Family Support Center - Play It Safe Program

Student knowledge of the dynamics of abuse increased by 18% between pre-and post-test scores in secondary schools and increased by 10% in elementary schools.

Wasatch Behavioral Health Grandfamilies Program

The Protective Factors Survey indicated a 14-37% improvement on 4 of the 5 Protective Factors.

Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah

During FFY 2023, 19 participants completed the Nurturing Fathers Program. All participants increased their scores in the five domains measured by the AAPI. On this tool, a score of 1-3 indicates high risk, 4-7 indicates medium risk, and 8-10 indicates low risk. Please see the table below for AAPI pre- and post-test scores.

Nurturing Fathers Program AAPI Aggregate Scores			
Domain Areas	Pre-test	Post-test	Change
Expectations of Child	6.71	9.14	+2.43
Parental Empathy towards Children's needs	7.57	9.43	+1.86
Use of Corporal Punishment	6.71	8.14	+1.43
Expectations of Child	6.71	9.14	+2.43
Parental Empathy towards Children's needs	7.57	9.43	+1.86

Satisfaction

Most grantees have designed their own program satisfaction measures and PAT programs use the PAT Parent Satisfaction Survey.

Satisfaction measure highlights:

Asian Association of Utah STEP Program

More than 90% of the parents who completed STEP classes answered that they “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the program helped them improve their parenting skills, improve family relationships, and improve communication.

Utah Valley Family Support Center - Play It Safe

Of the students who attended a Play It Safe presentation, 96% reported that the presentation was effective in increasing their understanding and knowledge of how to be safe from abuse.

Salt Lake County Health Department – PAT

Of the parents who completed the PAT Parent Satisfaction survey, 92% reported that the program helped them increase their understanding of their child's

development, 83% reported that they were satisfied with the PAT program, and 88% reported that their parent educator helps them work toward goals they have set for their family.

Internal Program Self-Assessment

Some of the tools being utilized by grantees include:

- Peer reviews.
- Data reviews.
- Call monitoring sheets.
- Annual fidelity assessments.
- PAT supervision tool.
- Reflective supervision.
- Observed home visits.
- NFSN Standards of Quality Program Self-Assessment.

Evaluation Summary

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator observed a wide variety of tools in use among grantees. It has been helpful to review all the different types of data being gathered and learn how programs use this data to improve services.

Utah County Health Department, Guadalupe School and Prevent Child Abuse Utah are all currently PAT Blue-Ribbon Affiliates. Blue Ribbon Affiliates are achieving fidelity to the PAT model and facilitate continuous quality improvement.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager are using a results-based accountability method to design program goals and improve evaluation methods within the next grant agreement cycle, beginning July 2025.

Prevention Continuous Quality Improvement Plan

In FFY 2023, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator met monthly with the DHHS Continuous Quality Improvement team to review and update the prevention program specific CQI plan.

FUNDING SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED AND EVIDENCE INFORMED PROGRAMS AND PRACTICES

Eighty-seven percent of Utah's FFY 2023 CBCAP funding, including state match, was used to support evidence-based programs rated as well-supported by the Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse. An additional 13 percent of funding was used to support evidence-informed programming. (Funding used for the United Way 211: Strengthening Families Resource Page, Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities and ongoing Family Strengthening Month Public Awareness Campaign, and concrete supports were not included in these calculations.)

Please see the table below for CBCAP funding detail.

FFY 2023 Funded Programs and Special Projects			
Funded Programs	Funded Amount	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
Agency: Carbon County FSC Program: PAT Home Visiting Program ¹	\$70,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: The Family Place Utah Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$75,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Utah County Health Department Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$77,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Prevent Child Abuse Utah Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$103,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Salt Lake County Health Department Program: PAT Home Visiting Program and Nurse Family Partnership.	\$69,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: United Way of Central and Southern Utah Program: Help Me Grow	\$50,000	Evidence Informed	N/A
Total Funded Programs:	\$444,000		
Funded Special Projects	Funded Amount	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
Project: Joining Forces Conference Description: Prevention-focused conference for providers & parents	\$10,000	Evidence Informed	N/A
Project: United Way 211: Strengthening Families Resource Page	\$4,784	N/A	N/A
Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities and ongoing Family Strengthening Month Public Awareness Campaign	\$2,275	N/A	N/A
Project: Concrete Supports ² Description: Concrete support funds	\$319,559	N/A	N/A
Total Special Projects:	\$336,618	N/A	N/A
TOTAL:	\$780,618		
<p><i>NOTES: ¹PAT Home Visiting Program²Programs receiving concrete support funding include Prevent Child Abuse Utah, The Family Place, Utah County Health Department, Carbon County Family Support Center, United Way of Utah County: Help Me Grow, Asian Association, Children's Service Society, Guadalupe School, Utah Valley Family Support Center Wasatch Behavioral Health, Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah.</i></p>			

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

In FFY 2023, prevention programs held 905 Community Education Public Awareness Activities, reaching 217,074 individuals.

Utah continued branding Child Abuse Prevention Month as Family Strengthening Month. The shift continues to be well received by grantees, media, and the public. The following elements were implemented for Family Strengthening Month:

- Utah’s Governor declared April 2023 as Family Strengthening Month.
- The declaration was written through a public health lens and takes a whole community approach.
- The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the DCFS Public Information Officer created a toolkit to guide local grantees and community partners with their messaging. The toolkit included graphics with QR codes that guided users to family strengthening resources.
- The Program Administrator worked with grantees and community partners to promote April 7, 2023, the day to wear blue to support the prevention of child abuse.
- The Program Administrator collaborated with Prevent Child Abuse Utah to discuss Family Strengthening month and the importance of the Protective Factors to strengthen families on a Baby Your Baby television interview.
- Additional statewide awareness activities include:
 - Pinwheel gardens in various locations.
 - A teddy bear picnic, including pinwheels, games, and family activities.
 - Grantee social media references to prevention and statewide activities.
 - A car seat safety check point, which included information and games for families.
 - An annual Joining Forces conference for community agencies and families to join and learn more about the protective factors and strengthening families.
 - Easter egg hunt to kick off the month, which included games and information about protective factors and child abuse prevention.

- Stepping up for child abuse event with speakers to raise awareness.
- Fathers and families dance with agency booths to provide information about strengthening families.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and UCPC members have been working together to plan a FFY 2024 Family Strengthening Month Campaign. The goal is to extend Family Strengthening Month through June to include Mother's and Father's Day and focus on the important roles of each family member. This group is also planning strengthening families messaging and activities that can be used year-round.

CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, AND AREAS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

During FFY 2023, the primary challenges in moving prevention work forward were due to the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager staff turnover, including several months of a vacant Program Administrator position; staff capacity; and agency structure.

Staffing Capacity

The previous Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator left the position in December 2022. Unfortunately, the position remained vacant for seven months. The new Program Administrator was hired in June 2023, which resulted in the Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager position being vacant for approximately one month. The new Program Manager started in July 2023. This resulted in two new staff learning the Child Abuse Prevention Program at the same time. In addition, due to other vacancies within DCFS, the new Program Manager has continued to maintain previous full-time responsibilities, while learning the role of Program Manager, which has slowed desired progress.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager position is responsible for developing and managing DCFS child abuse prevention contracts and grant agreements with community agencies that deliver child abuse prevention services.

The Program Manager also provides monitoring, training, and technical assistance for the state's eleven Family Support Centers and all the CBCAP and Children's Trust grantees.

During the remaining months of FFY 2023, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager identified short- and long-term goals, completed in-person visits at each of Utah's 11 Family Support Centers, and focused on learning more about each grantee, current funding sources, and contract and grant agreement requirements and timelines.

Agency Structure for Prevention

It is challenging to elevate prevention work while housed in an agency that primarily focuses on child abuse intervention work. However, the support of the DCFS Director and the ability to collaborate with prevention partners has increased since the DHHS merger.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE ACTIVITIES

CBCAP and CTA Grant Agreements

With use of CBCAP ARPA funds, between September 2021 and February 2022, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator amended grant agreements for 11 of the 12 existing grantees to distribute additional funding, bringing them to their proposed fully funded levels through June 2023.

Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah

Utah funded the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah (FFCU) program with CBCAP ARPA funds. This program received an acceptable score during the original RFGA, but there was not enough funding to support the program until ARPA supplemental funds were made available. FFCU received an evidence-informed rating from the clearinghouse.

Extension of Existing Grants

Later, grants were amended to extend funding through June 2025. CTA grantees received ARPA funds to address previous funding deficits, through 2025. This extension allows time for the SRI needs assessment to be completed before a new Request for Grant Award process is initiated. The amendments include small adjustments to the scope that require staff to be trained in the NFSN Standards of Quality. These amendments also include additional funding and guidelines for grantees to support families with concrete needs.

PCAU/UFSN

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator completed a sole source contract with PCAU to support UFSN. These additional funds allow the network to support administrative staff, expand the number of certified trainers, and expand the network's scope to include support of program implementation and parent partnership work. UFSN also used these funds to launch a webpage, which has streamlined the training registration process.

Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment

A portion of CBCAP ARPA funds was used to support the comprehensive community needs assessment. The remaining funds needed for this assessment are being addressed through CAPTA ARPA funds.

Prevention Grants – Utah State University

Instead of issuing a competitive request for grant proposals, the remaining ARPA funds are being used to provide primary prevention services through Utah State University (USU) Extension Services, which includes locations in Utah's rural areas throughout the state. The grant agreement is for a two-year period, from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025. With an emphasis on serving rural and underserved communities, USU Extension Services will provide free in-person and online parenting and relationship education classes and modules that can be accessed by individuals any time.

Please see the below table for CBCAP ARPA finding detail.

CBCAP American Rescue Plan Allocation					
Project	SFY 2022	SFY 2023	SFY 2024	SFY 2025	TOTAL
Fully fund existing CBCAP and CTA grant agreements for original remaining grant period (2 yrs.)	\$365,265	\$354,203			\$719,468
Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah (First 2 yrs.)	\$ 28,640	\$ 28,640			\$57,280
Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (one-time cost)		\$ 28,416			\$28,416
Utah Family Strengthening Network development - Sole Source contract with PCAU (2 yrs.)		\$ 205,000	\$ 205,000		\$ 410,000
Additional 2-year extension for CTA grant agreements and an amended FFCU grant agreement			\$ 204,862	\$ 204,862	\$409,724
Utah State University Extension (3 yrs.)			\$741,804	\$738,195	\$1,480,000
TOTAL	\$ 393,905	\$ 616,259	\$1,151,666	\$943,057	\$3,104,887