

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention  
Annual Progress Report



Utah Department of  
**Health & Human Services**  
Child & Family Services

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## INTRODUCTION

In response to ACYF-CB-PI-24-05 entitled *Community-Based Grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect or Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)* published March 20, 2024, the State of Utah Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), is submitting Utah's FFY 2024 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. DHHS has designated DCFS as the agency responsible for implementing and providing direct oversight of Title IV-B and Title IV-E programs, as well administering all child welfare programs and services funded through 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.

### *Contract and Grant Monitoring*

DHHS Division of Continuous Quality and Improvement (CQI) is responsible for oversight standards, policy, and procedures regarding monitoring of grants and contracts. CQI continues to monitor internal and external service effectiveness and evaluate qualitative and quantitative data to help shape what and how services have the greatest success in achieving desired results for children, youth, families, and adults.

Prior to FFY 2024, a DHHS centralized CQI monitoring team was responsible for monitoring grant agreements. During the active monitoring process, the CQI monitoring team

consulted with Program Administrators, when needed, to ensure the understanding of all program and outcome requirements.

During FFY 2024, responsibility of monitoring grant agreements was decentralized. Prior to decentralization, the DCFS Child Abuse Prevention Team assessed compliance of grantees through frequent contacts, site visits, and formal reviews. Decentralization added the responsibility of monitoring all programmatic and basic financial requirements of grant agreements. A new database was developed to enable oversight and ensure monitoring is occurring timely and follows policies and procedures.

## 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.

Tonya Myrup, Director  
Division of Child and Family Services  
195 North 1950 West  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116  
Phone: (801) 538-4100  
FAX 801-538-3993  
E-mail: tmyrup@utah.gov

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. The Program Administrator is responsible to provide leadership and support for child abuse prevention activities. The Program Administrator coordinates DCFS child abuse prevention program planning activities and develops and implements the agency's child abuse prevention strategic plan. The Program Administrator's office is located in the state administrative office in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Marion Eckersley  
Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator  
Division of Child and Family Services  
195 North 1950 West  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116  
Phone: 801-698-1205  
E-mail: meeckersley@utah.gov

In addition to the Child Abuse Prevention Administrator, in 2022, Utah added a Program Manager position, supervised by the Program Administrator. These two positions make up the Prevention Team.

## 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 Utah Association of Family Support Centers (UAFSC), the state's Family Support Centers (FSC), and the Children Trust Account (CTA) contracts and grant agreements.

## Citizen Review Panel

Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood (UCPC) is the designated Citizen Review Panel for CBCAP and the Utah's CTA. This coalition assists the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator with planning and program development. Like CBCAP, UCPC and its members are focused on prevention and upstream strategies.

## 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.”

## CBCAP Supported Services, Programs, and Activities

In FFY 2024, Utah’s CBCAP funds were used to support the following services and programs:

- Carbon County FSC *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Utah County Health Department *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Salt Lake County Health Department *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- Salt Lake County Health Department *Nurse Family Partnership* program, which provides services to first-time mothers to help ensure healthy pregnancies and healthy babies.
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- The Family Place *Parents as Teachers* home visiting program.
- United Way *Help Me Grow* Program, which supports parents in promoting optimal development during pregnancy and early childhood.

CBCAP funds also supported the following activities:

- Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager attendance at the Children’s Trust Fund Alliance Member Meeting in November 2023.
- Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager FFY 2024 site visits at contract and grant provider facilities.
- FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Month statewide activities.

## ACTIONS TO ADVOCATE FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

### Involvement in Statewide Systemic Change Efforts

The Child Abuse Prevention Team is a member of the DCFS Primary Intervention and Support Team. This team includes Program Administrators who oversee CBCAP, CAPTA, Intake, Family Violence Prevention Services (FVPSA), and DCFS region domestic violence services. The team meets regularly to collaborate about prevention and upstream

strategies that strengthen families to reduce the incidences of child abuse and neglect and prevent child welfare involvement.

The Primary Intervention and Support team also meets monthly with the Ongoing Services team, which includes Program Administrators who oversee Family Action Meetings, Kinship, Foster Care, Adoption, Clinical Support, and Transition to Adult Living. During this combined team meeting, Program Administrators collaborate to identify areas to promote family strengthening and prevention.

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator attends the DCFS Accountability and Initiatives weekly meeting to discuss progress and completion of approved initiatives and Results Based Accountability 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), and in response to Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) outcomes.

## Development and Oversight of the CFSP, APSR, and CFSR PIP

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator collaborated with DCFS administration on the development of Utah's 2025-2029 CFSP. This collaborative effort led to the addition of a prevention focus within CFSP Goal #1, Objective 1.1.

CFSP GOAL #1: Parent Engagement – DCFS will increase and improve the quality of parent and alternate caregiver engagement in all areas of child welfare involvement, including prevention.

Objective 1.1. DCFS will increase and improve the quality of its prevention-focused parent engagement efforts by Utah's Community Based Child Abuse Prevention-funded (CBCAP) and Children's Trust Account (CTA)-funded community prevention programs with mothers, fathers, and alternate primary caregivers.

This goal was identified in response to Utah's CFSR data that indicates parent and alternate caregiver engagement is an important area of child welfare practice Utah can improve upon.

Goal Progress will be reported in the 2025-2029 APSRs.

See Attachment A. *Utah 2025-2029 CFSP Goal #1 Objective 1.1* to review CFSP Goal #1, Objective 1.1, including rationales for selecting the goal and objective, as well as objective measures.

## Family First Prevention Services Act

Utah's Title IV-E Prevention Plan authorized under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) was initially approved in December 2019. Utah's second five-year plan was approved in October 2024. This plan is one component of a larger prevention vision for Utah. In FFY 2024, Utah focused on continuing implementation of services available under the IV-E prevention program plan. Under the new plan, some services were eliminated due to limited funding and administrative capacity. Two in-home parenting programs were included as services under the plan this past year and have been retained under the new plan.

First, 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 in FFY 2024 was 334.

Second, SafeCare program implementation has continued; however, due to funding restrictions, progress has slowed. Training has been provided to 14 in-home providers in urban and rural areas within the state, and one provider has advanced into a coaching role. The number of families receiving this evidence-based in-home parenting skills service, targeted to parents with children ages 0-5, was 49 in FFY 2024.

## DHHS Prevention Consortium

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a co-chair for the DHHS Prevention Consortium. The consortium includes representatives from all prevention focused divisions within DHHS. Consortium goals include:

- Increase awareness of prevention programs and projects occurring within DHHS. This includes awareness within DHHS and outside community partners.
- Identify opportunities to collaborate across prevention programs and partners to develop a shared vision and effective prevention system that will have a greater upstream effect that promotes the health and well-being of all Utahns.
- Increase consortium membership and representation.

The Prevention Consortium developed a plan to increase awareness by holding DHHS Prevention Showcases to highlight DHHS prevention programs and work. The first showcase was held in November 2024 and was open to all DHHS staff and leadership. The goal of this first showcase was to:

- Provide an overview of the Prevention Consortium and provide an opportunity for leadership to identify key members.
- Increase the understanding of prevention and upstream services.
- Ensure all those not currently involved in prevention programs are aware of some of the DHHS prevention programs and understand that all staff within DHHS contribute to prevention.
- Provide examples of prevention resources available and current opportunities for collaboration.

See the below for a listing of current DHHS offices and divisions participating in the DHHS Prevention Consortium.

- Office of Health Promotion and Prevention
- DCFS Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Division of Population Health
- Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
- Office of Communicable Disease
- Office of Preparedness and Response
- Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services
- Office of Recovery Services
- Division of Family Health- Office of Maternal and Child Health
- Office of Health Equity
- Office of Rural Health
- Office of the Medical Examiner
- Integrated Health
- Division of Data Systems and Evaluation
- Division of Continuous Quality Improvement
- Division of Aging and Adult Services

## Early Childhood Systems Building

DHHS includes the Office of Early Childhood. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager interact 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 Manager is a voting member for Early Childhood Utah (ECU) Advisory Council. 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 Manager is a member of the ECU Parent Engagement, Support, and Education (PEASE) subcommittee. During FFY 2024, the Program Manager worked with the subcommittee to improve public awareness and access of supportive resources for families by assisting with the roll-out of a new statewide Utah Early Childhood Intervention and Home Visiting Services website. The PEASE subcommittee has been coordinating with the four other subcommittees to learn about their work and to encourage parent engagement in their interaction with stakeholders.

## 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 Parents as Teachers and one Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program in almost every county in the state. Family Spirit Home Visiting will also begin serving Tribal families in four Utah counties in the next year. In FFY 2024, DHHS HVP served approximately 791 families.

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, the HVP Program Administrator and their teams continued to collaborate. The 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. The teams are supporting statewide services through federal and state funding sources, focusing on strategic use of funds to ensure the broadest reach.

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 to create an updated home visiting system that provides infants, children, and families with more service offerings.

Prevent Child Abuse Utah (PCAU) was selected as the contractor for this pilot project through a competitive bid process. PCAU began serving families in the Spring of 2024 and has currently enrolled 32 families in counties that had previously lacked access to home visiting services. In the pilot, PCAU is assessing the needs of each family and determining the home visiting model that best addresses the family's needs. The pilot project conducted outreach in these counties, which resulted in increased awareness and interest in receiving services. PCAU intends to hire bilingual staff to serve a broader population.

## The Utah Health Improvement Plan

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team attended a kickoff event focusing on the Utah Health Improvement Plan (UHIP). The UHIP is a collaborative statewide initiative designed to tackle key health concerns prioritized by various stakeholders and agencies invested in the well-being of Utah's population.

The 2023-2028 UHIP was developed in response to data gathered through many sources, including:

- A review of more than 100 health data indicators.
- Input received during 21 community meetings held around the state.
- Input from partner agencies through a review of data and prioritization of indicators for focus.
- A multi-stage prioritization process, which included many partner agencies.
- Public feedback.

In the past, UHIP efforts focused on improving specific health outcomes. This plan focuses on community protective factors by increasing social connections and improving health access. Enhancements in these areas have the potential to improve multiple physical, mental, and emotional health outcomes in Utah.

UHIP efforts will focus on increasing social connections and improving health access for low-income populations, youth, and individuals with disabilities. In addition to these populations, focus will include deepening knowledge and understanding of data as it relates to social connectedness and access to health outcomes.

Following the kickoff, workgroups were developed for each of the four focus areas. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator is a member of the low-income populations workgroup. This group has been working on strategies for each of the UHIP priorities:

- Increasing Social Connectedness  
Strategies:
  1. Decrease social isolation.
  2. Increase community engagement.
  
- Improving Health Access  
Strategies:
  1. Increase food security among Utah families.
  2. Increase federal earned income tax credit use among eligible Utahns.

Strategies from other UHIP workgroups include:

- Increasing the number of youth who report having a caring adult to talk to about their feelings.
- Increasing understanding of the relationship between health outcomes and interventions associated with social connectedness and access to health.
- Addressing barriers to employment, housing, transportation.
- Developing informal support networks and community integration opportunities.
- Increasing funding, capacity, and community partnerships.
- Increasing collaboration between public health and schools, universities, and trade schools to improve health access.
- Understanding of the root causes of disparity in social connectedness among youth.

## OTHER COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Utah child abuse prevention services continuum includes a variety of agencies, collaborative partners, and joint initiatives. In addition to the collaborations and partnerships listed above, the Child Abuse Prevention Team coordinates closely with the following partners for planning, programming, and funding.

## Utah Coalition for Protecting Childhood

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued to be a member of the UCPC Executive Committee. UCPC was 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). When UCPC was originally formed, it was under DHHS and was funded by the CDC Essentials for Childhood grant. Last year, UCPC was not awarded the grant. Shortly after receiving word that the grant was not renewed, the UCPC coalition coordinator was offered a position with Prevent Child Abuse Utah. At this time, it was decided that UCPC would also move to Prevent Child Abuse Utah. The transition has led to a redefining process of the mission that is not yet complete. However, identified goals and priorities include:

1. Positive childhood experiences and social connectedness.
2. Strengthening economic supports.
3. Interventions to lessen and prevent harm.
4. Identifying gaps and increasing UCPC membership.

Recently, the UCPC coordinator was contacted by Prevent Child Abuse America (PCAA) to discuss a grant they received from the CDC to support a community of practice (CoP) for states doing Essentials for Childhood (EFC) ACEs prevention work but are not receiving the EFC grant. The UCPC executive planning committee, including the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, were added as Utah's CoP participants. This support provides an opportunity for UCPC executive planning committee members to attend webinars, virtual meetings, and collaborate with other states. PCAA is also developing resources for the CoP, including materials for child abuse prevention month.

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	Trisha Reynolds (Co-Chair) Utah Dept 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 PCAU
Marion Eckersley Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator, DCFS	
Steering Committee Members	
Aimee Winder-Newton Governor's Office of Families Director	Amy Mikkelsen DHHS, Violence and Injury Prevention
Andrea Hood DHHS Integrated Healthcare	Angela Romero Utah State House of Representatives
Barbara Leavitt Help Me Grow	Brent Platt Private Provider
Cody Northup DHHS, Office of Substance Use and Mental Health	Corryn Wermel DHHS, Violence and Injury Prevention
Cristina Vega Mata DHHS Home Visiting Program	Travis Baer LDS Family Services
David Corwin University of Utah Professor of Pediatrics	Deb Comstock Utah Family Strengthening Network
S Neilson Granite School District	Elizabeth Klc Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Council
Greg McDonald Tax Help Utah	Jessica Brewer Weber Human Services
John Hansen Parent Representative	Kabi Catalano Utah Community Builders Association
Kat Martinez Office of Childcare Licensing	Kim Fischer Waterford Upstart
Krista Useche The Family Place Family Support Center	Lisa Davenport DHHS Office of Early Childhood
Marcie Clark Davis County Health Department	Martin C. Munoz Voices for Utah Children
Mary Beth Vogel-Ferguson University of Utah, Social Research Institute	Michelle Crawford Circles Salt Lake City
Pamela Atkinson Advocate	Ray Sweet Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Rob Parrish Community Advocate	Sundyn Woolf Court Appointed Special Advocate
Tanya Albornoz Utah State Board of Education	Teresa Brechlin DHHS Violence and Injury Prevention
Todd Weiler Utah State Senator	Tracy Tabet Children's Justice Center
Lori Cox The Family Support Center	Briana Wilson Children's Service Society of Utah

## Family Action Meetings

During FFY 2024, DCFS continued its implementation of Family Action Meetings (FAM). Utah's FAM process is an existing kin-first culture component that is already in place in parts of Utah, and further implementation is in process.

FAM focuses on ensuring safety, starting with initial DCFS initial involvement during a child protective services case, when safety issues have been identified. To address safety concerns, FAM coordinators intensely search for and engage with members of the family network.

A primary goal of FAM is for families to experience less trauma. This is accomplished with fewer unnecessary removals and increased support from the family network, which occurs by bringing family network members into the process early and robustly.

In the FAM meeting, the family network is referred to as the family group. The family group and DCFS work together to develop a plan to address safety concerns. The relationship between the family and case worker is improved because the FAM process requires DCFS to be transparent about the safety concerns impacting the child and provides opportunities for the family group to be involved in making safety decisions and case planning, instead of being told by DCFS what is going to happen.

The FAM process creates stronger family bonds and has been reparative to some previously strained family relationships. This increases the likelihood of long-term safety. Since families are the experts on their experiences, strengths, and needs, family voice must be heard early during DCFS involvement to ensure inclusion of the family in decision-making and in resolving safety concerns. Robust teaming with the right participants helps to develop tailored plans, determine necessary services to resolve safety issues, and mitigate risk. Families benefit from the increased social connections this model supports.

## Court Improvement Program

Along with other DCFS program administrators, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continues to participate on the Court Improvement Program (CIP) Committee, which meets quarterly. The committee monitors and reviews data to identify opportunities for improvement in quality and efficiency of court practices. 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.

### *Child Welfare and Legal Communities Core Principles*

As Utah's child-welfare and legal communities work toward a fully integrated child-welfare system that is focused on best practices, both are united in their commitment to protecting children and strengthening families.

The following core principles reflect the overarching goals of child safety, wellbeing, and permanency.

1. Our interventions preserve and create safe family and community connections in ways that minimize loss, harm, and disruption.
2. Children and families receive early, intensive family engagement, advocacy, and access to services and supports.
3. All participants are empowered and valued within a trauma-informed environment that amplifies family voice.
4. Children and families are served by highly skilled professionals, including the judiciary, attorneys, child-welfare staff, foster parents, and other community partners.
5. All participants experience hearings and judicial orders that are consistent, are high-quality, embody best practices, and afford all participants due process of law.
6. All participants are committed to providing families with an experience that is safety-driven, compassionate, transparent, and forward moving.
7. Our interventions in the lives of children and families will be effective and individualized regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, cultural heritage, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

The seven core principles embody a collaborative, cross-system, statewide child-welfare transformation, supported by Utah child-welfare professionals.

### Utah Family Strengthening Network and Prevent Child Abuse Utah

In FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator continued to support the Utah Family Strengthening Network (UFSN) with CBCAP ARPA funding. UFSN is Utah's Network Member with the National Family Support Network (NFSN) and is managed by Prevent Child Abuse Utah. UFSN recruits family resource organizations statewide, with a goal of building a group of community partners focused on providing resources and services that strengthen families. UFSN membership grew by 66% during FFY 2024. UFSN defines a Family Resource Center as:

*“A welcoming organization that offers a variety of services to help prevent child abuse and foster the healthy development and well-being of children, youth, and families. These services can include parenting education, child and family counseling, resource and referral, family-strengthening case management, early intervention services, childcare resources, and more. FRCs use a strengths-based, family-centered approach in their work with families.”*

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. Both trainings are provided free of charge for any direct care staff working on a child abuse prevention grant funded by CBCAP or CTA.

UFSN provided five Protective Factors training sessions to 89 participants with a 99% completion rate. Ninety-five percent of participants reported the content was relevant to their work and stated they learned skills they will apply to their jobs. UFSN also provided four NFSN Standards of Quality training sessions to 70 participants. Ninety-nine percent of participants completed the training and received certification.

The UFSN Project Administrator and network members participated in several projects during FFY 2024. Members:

- Led discussions with community partners and policymakers, during the *Utah SAFE Symposium: Ending Child Sexual Abuse*.
- Presented on social policy and change to University of Utah students.
- Testified before legislative committees to educate on prevention, build upon existing prevention goals, and emphasize the need for government focus to strengthen Utah’s family support network.
- Presented at the *Utah Coalition Against Sexual Assault 10th Annual Sexual Violence Conference*. The presentation was titled: *Protective Factors in Child Abuse Prevention: The Upstream Effect*.
- Presented at the *19th International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma*.

## Utah Family Support Centers and the Utah Association of Family Support Centers

Utah DHHS contracts with 11 Family Support Centers (FSC), including 17 satellite locations throughout the state. These contracts are funded through state funds. Contracted services include emergency and respite nursery care, 24-hour information and referral services, and community outreach. Some FSCs also receive state funds to provide Crisis Shelter Care, when this service is not available in their community. Four FSCs also receive CBCAP funding to provide additional prevention services. Many FSCs also provide parenting classes, clinical services, and self-sufficiency programs tailored to community needs.

During the 2022 Legislative session, the Utah Association of Family Support Centers (UAFSC) received additional ongoing state funding to support the FSCs. This funding is passed through DHHS and is managed by the Child Abuse Prevention Team. UAFSC subcontracts a portion of the funding to each FSC to ensure FSCs have the resources and tools needed to provide services that strengthen Utah families and prevent child abuse and neglect. UAFSC also provides specialized training for each FSC to expand trauma-informed care practices and ensure parent education is implemented in all locations using evidence-based tools.

FFY 2024 Utah FCS accomplishments include:

- 23 evidence-based parenting courses were provided statewide, with 491 participants.
- 99% of families who used crisis nursery services reported a reduction in stress after using the service and 98% reported improved family relationships.
- The UAFSC board created a comprehensive needs assessment that will be conducted every two years.
- 100% of FSC employees received trauma-informed and NFSN's Standards of Quality training.
- Therapeutic spaces, called comfort corners, equipped with sensory tools and calming elements, were created in all centers.

## Governor's Office of Families

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator works with the Utah Office of Families (OF) on several committees. The director of the OF is also senior advisor to Utah's governor, Spencer Cox, and participated in DHHS Prevention Consortium activities. The purpose of the OF is to advocate proactive policies to protect children, support parents,

and identify proactive, upstream strategies that strengthen families. The OF has been instrumental in expanding home visiting programs in Utah by securing legislative funding for a three-year pilot program. See Home Visiting Program on page 12.

## CHILD ABUSE PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY 1

*Submitted by Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCHD)*

This past year, SLCHD served a pregnant young women who requested parent education services. She had recently experienced the loss of both her parents and was grieving. She had no partner to help her through her pregnancy or in parenting, and she wasn't sure what to do next.

A SLCHD Parent Educator began visits with the client and spent time helping her sort through next steps. The young mother welcomed a baby girl and continued visits with the Parent Educator but struggled to know where she wanted to go in life. The client felt she had no one after the loss of her parents and continued to struggle with their deaths. The client connected with some relatives she hadn't met before, and they quickly began offering additional support.

The young mother started exploring options and began considering the possibility of putting her baby up for adoption. The Parent Educator validated and supported the mother through these discussions. Eventually, the mother decided that adoption was the best choice for her and her baby. She choose the adoptive parents. The Parent Educator assisted the mother in developmental information for the new adoptive parents and completed an ASQ screening of the baby with the adoptive parents and biological mother.

This was a beautiful experience for all involved. The young woman was supported during a very difficult situation and came to feel confident that her baby would be in better circumstances with an adoptive family. The young woman is now thriving and believes her baby is where she should be. The client is grateful for the support she received from her Parent Educator.

## SERVICE ARRAY

### Needs Assessment

During FFY 2024, Utah completed the contract with the University of Utah Social Research Institute (SRI) to conduct a comprehensive statewide needs assessment. This work was a joint effort between the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and the CAPTA Program Administrator, using ARPA Supplemental CBCAP and CAPTA funds. The needs assessment concluded in March of 2024.

SRI submitted a final report which includes findings grouped into four subcategories: strengths, needs, barriers, and considerations. The report also includes recommendations for strategic planning and a list of recommended strategies to inform the planning process.

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team reviewed the report and developed a plan to address recommendations. See below for plan goals and activities accomplished during FFY 2024.

Goal 1: Increase capacity and expand access to prevention services and programs.

FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Team accomplishments include:

- Meeting with each of the DCFS regions to identify needs and potential prevention grantees in each community and to increase awareness of funding opportunities.
- Beginning the process of meeting with community partners to Share CBCAP/CAPTA needs assessment results.
- Beginning the development of a new Scope of Work (SOW) and Request for Grant Applications (RFGA) process that will include having applicants review the needs assessment report and describe how their program will address the needs identified in the communities they serve.

Goal 2: Promote and encourage the implementation of parent voice, engagement, and leadership within funded programs. (This goal aligns with Utah's CFSP Goal #1, Objective 1.1.)

FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Team accomplishments include:

- Working with Utah’s FRIENDS Technical Assistance Coordinator to develop a parent engagement plan and prepare for “Building Effective Parent Practitioner Collaboration” training with prevention grantees.
- Working with Utah’s FRIENDS Technical Assistance Coordinator to plan quarterly Parent Engagement Trainings for CBCAP grantees and Family Support Centers. These training sessions helped attendees set goals and create plans to strengthen their organization’s parent engagement work.

Goal 3: Develop a more effective method to evaluate funded programs.

FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Team accomplishments include:

- Meeting with the DHHS Data Systems and Evaluation, Research and Evaluation team to discuss data collection options.
- Beginning to work with the DHHS REDCap Program Administrator to explore options of using REDCap as a data collection tool.
- Beginning the development of the CBCAP RFGA to include questions asking for details about each applicant's data collection and evaluation methods.

Goal 4: Improve internal and external child abuse and neglect community awareness and outreach activities.

FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Team accomplishments include:

- Collaborating with all DHHS Prevention Programs through participation in DHHS Prevention Consortium and Showcase.
- Beginning a review of prevention communication and outreach documents and conversations with the DHHS Public Affairs and Education team about creating shared prevention documents.
- Sharing prevention team efforts and available programs, services, and resources at DCFS region meetings.
- Appearing on local newscasts and podcasts during Child Abuse Prevention month to share ideas for the community to strengthen families and prevent child abuse.

## Utah Healthy Places Index

DHHS launched the Utah Healthy Places Index (UHPI) in October 2022. Over the next year the tool was evaluated and feedback was collected to improve the UHPI with additional

capabilities, updated data, and new indicators. The new version of the UHPI was released in April 2024.

The UHPI provides neighborhood-level data on community conditions in which people live, that impact health and longevity and provides insight into disparities in outcome across the state.

The UHPI allows users to:

- Compare data across geographies.
- Filter geographies by race, ethnicity, and country of origin.
- Access hundreds of decision-support indicators, including transportation, clean environment, neighborhood conditions, poverty and employment levels, social capital, health access, housing, education and support levels.
- Views data by census tract, zip code, cities, counties, legislative districts, and other useful geographies.
- View side-by-side map comparisons.
- Explore detailed evidence-based policy guides tailored to the needs of communities.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team uses UHPI to identify specific prevention needs throughout the state.

When the RFGA opens this spring, applicants will be asked to use the UHPI to identify opportunities for prevention service improvement in their communities.

## Funding Mechanisms

The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator oversees and monitors four revenue streams that 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).
- *Children's Trust Account*  
State funds are legislatively directed to DCFS from revenues received through the issuance of birth certificates.
- *FSC State Funds*  
Appropriated by the Utah State Legislature. See page 20 for an overview of FSCs.
- *UAFSC State Funds*  
Appropriated by the Utah State Legislature. See page 20 for an overview of UAFSC.

Grants funded by CBCAP and CTA will expire in June 2025. An RFGA will be posted in the spring of 2025, and new grants will be awarded with a start date of July 1, 2025.

See the two tables below for a list of prevention programs and services supported by Utah CBCAP and CTA during FFY 2024.

Program Funded by CBCAP	
Provider	Program
Carbon County FSC	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
The Family Place Utah	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
Utah County Health Department	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
Prevent Child Abuse Utah	Parents as Teachers Home Visiting A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
Salt Lake County Health Department	Parents as Teachers and Nurse Family Partnership Home Visiting Both home-visiting programs provide early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.
United Way of Central and Southern Utah	Help Me Grow An information and referral line that supports prenatal parents and families with children. Services include personal care coordination, child development and perinatal screenings. Help Me Grow also provides answers to pregnancy, parenting, and child development questions, as well as provide referrals to community resources.

Programs Funded by the Children’s Trust Account	
Provider	Program
Guadalupe School	<p>Parents as Teachers Home Visiting</p> <p>A home-visiting program providing early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness.</p>
Asian Association of Utah	<p>Systemic Training for Effective Parenting (STEP)</p> <p>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.</p>
Wasatch Behavioral Health Services	<p>GRANDfamilies Kinship Program</p> <p>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.</p>
Children's Service Society	<p>GRANDfamilies Kinship Program</p> <p>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.</p>
Utah Valley Family Support and Treatment Center	<p>Play It Safe Program</p> <p>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.</p>
Family Support Center of Salt Lake	<p>Nurturing Parenting</p> <p>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.</p>

See the table below for a listing of Utah’s 11 FSCs and 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

See the table below for FFY 2024, number of individuals served data.

FFY 2024 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	1,316	128	1,192	164	914	2,508	292
CTA – Participants receiving direct services	32,719	158	32,511	86	32,291	65,230	244
Crisis Nursery – Participants receiving direct services	15,245	1,570	14,630	792	6,974	29,875	2,362
TOTAL	49,280	1,856	48,333	1,042	40,179	97,613	2,898

### *Change in Data Collection Processes*

The number of children, adults and families served under CTA increased during FFY 2024 due to a change in reporting for Utah Valley Family Support Center, Play it Safe program. Previously this program was reporting all those served through their program as community awareness. During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator and Program Manager met with Utah Valley Family Support Center to discuss their concerns regarding how they report the services they provide. It was decided that they would report the number of children, adults and families served based on the number of children they provide training and services to in the schools. At this time, the Play it Safe program stopped counting this service as community outreach.

### *Help Me Grow*

The program format of Help Me Grow is different from the other CBCAP grantees. Help Me Grow is a statewide parent and provider hotline, receiving thousands of calls each year. Because of Help Me Grow's program structure, and after consultation with FRIENDs, it was decided to report Help Me Grow clients separately.

FFY 2024 Help Me Grow	
Service Categories	Clients Served
Total Number of clients served	10,843
New families served	1,499
Edinburgh screening completed	83
ASQ-3 screenings completed	2,346
ASQ-SE screenings completed	1,065
M-Chat screenings completed	70
Community resources given	2,368
Informational resources given	7,812
Community outreach presentations	630

## OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES FOR POPULATIONS SERVED

The prevention needs assessment was completed in March 2024. A primary goal of this assessment was to identify service gaps and barriers and identify ways to better support all Utahns. Child Abuse Prevention grantees ensure services are accessible to all Utahns regardless of personal identity characteristics.

Programs highlights include:

*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, including in-home services, toddler beginnings, preschool, charter school, and adult education services. Home visitors from this program all speak Spanish.

(Funded by CTA and CBCAP ARPA.)

*Utah County Health Department PAT Program*

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. This program employs English- and Spanish-speaking home visitors and provides program literature in English and Spanish.

(Funded by CBCAP and CBCAP ARPA.)

*The Asian Association of Utah STEP*

This program provides Systemic Training for Effective Parenting in multiple languages including English, Farsi, Arabic Dinka, Somali, Swahili, and Spanish. The agency focuses on making parents and community partners aware of the program and its benefits.

(Funded by CTA and CBCAP ARPA.)

*Fathers and Families Coalition - Nurturing Fathers Program*

Fathers and Families Coalition provides parenting education for young fathers and young men likely to become fathers soon.

*Children and Parents with Disabilities*

Contract and grant agreement providers continue to deliver services to disabled children and adults. In total, providers served 2,898 children and adults with a disability, 292 of whom obtained services through programs that receive CBCAP funds.

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION SUCCESS STORY 2

*Submitted by Children's Service Society*

Children's Service Society served a family who has been raising their two grandsons for approximately 15 years. One of the grandchildren is autistic, and the grandparents initially struggled to know how to best help him. Through attending classes, getting support from other grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, and participating in fun activities

and Christmas and Halloween parties together, this family has found the resources and additional strength they needed.

As the grandparents were raising their young grandsons, the grandfather unexpectedly passed away. The grandmother reported she relied heavily on the GRANDfamilies program during the years after his death. The grandmother explained that both boys are now doing well. Her autistic grandson lives at an adult autism center. Her other grandson graduated high school with honors and received a scholarship to the community college. He is now a manager for a local business and often helps his grandmother with projects. Both grandsons visit their grandmother often and she attributes much of their success to the support of Children's Services Society and the GRANDfamilies program.

## PARENT LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

### Planning and Training

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team renewed state-funded FSC contracts for a new five-year term, July 2024 - June 2029. The renewed contract SOW required that each FCS create a parent engagement and leadership plan and report on progress annually. Bi-monthly meetings include conversations about their capacity and implementation plans.

In February 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team began working with Utah's FRIENDS TA to create a plan to provide the "Building Effective Parent Practitioner Collaboration" webinars for all CBCAP and CTA grantees and FSC contractors. In March 2024, during a bimonthly grantee meeting, the Child Abuse Prevention Team facilitated a discussion and a survey to ascertain each grantee's current level of and future goals for parent engagement. Survey responses indicated that grantees engage parents at varying levels, including reviewing program materials, completing a post-service survey, developing program materials, helping with program evaluation, and serving as members on boards and committees.

During FFY 2024, "Building Effective Parent Practitioner Collaboration" webinars were provided by FRIENDS in June and September 2024. Providers are assessing and preparing their agencies and staff to implement and enhance their parent engagement strategies.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team began working on an RFGA for new CBCAP and CTA grants. New grants will begin July of 2025. The application for the RFGA includes parent engagement plans and capacity. Grantees awarded from this new RFGA will be required to

maintain a parent engagement plan, including a compensation plan for parent leaders, and to report progress annually.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team also began considering methods to compensate parents leaders when they attending “Building Effective Parent Practitioner Collaboration” training and statewide meetings. The Child Abuse Prevention Team plans to develop a statewide Parent Advisory Group that will include Parent Leadership members from the grantees and contractors during the 2025-2030 grant cycle.

## Parent Leadership and Engagement Activities

During FFY 2024, Utah’s prevention grantees reported varying levels of parent engagement and leadership activities. These activities included reviewing existing and developing new program materials, completing a post-service survey, assisting with program evaluation, and serving as members on boards and committees.

FFY 2024 highlights include:

### *Carbon County Family Support Center - PAT and Crisis Nursery*

During FFY 2024, a parent leader was a member of the advisory board and participated in the peer review group. This parent leader created a parent forum and assisted in recruitment efforts that resulted in three additional parents. Forum recruitment efforts are ongoing.

### *Utah Valley Family Support Center - Play it Safe Program*

During FFY 2024, the FSC started a monthly parent night. At the parent night, parents view Play it Safe school presentations, ask questions, and provide feedback.

### *Prevent Child Abuse Utah - PAT*

During FFY 2024, PCAU started a Community Action Board; PCAU is actively recruiting parents representatives for board membership. PCAU has hired some previous PAT parent participants to work as parent educators with the PAT program.

### *Guadalupe School- PAT*

Guadalupe School partners with parents to support and guide event planning. Guadalupe School has also formed a Parent Advisory Committee that provides regular program feedback. FFY 2024 Parent Advisory Committee feedback resulted in adding infant and toddler activities during events and providing flexibility in event scheduling to enable more families to attend.

### *Asian Association of Utah*

During FFY 2024, the Asian Association of Utah STEP program instructors invited parents to share their experiences and provide program feedback.

## TRAINING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND EVALUATION ASSISTANCE

### Individual Grantee Meetings

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team completed in-person site visits with each grantee. Individual grantee virtual meetings were held with grantees, as needed, to provide technical assistance, monitor grant compliance, and discuss progress.

### Group Grantee Meetings

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team conducted bi-monthly virtual meetings with all grantees. Grantee participation is required. The group meetings provide a venue for ongoing training and technical support provision to all grantees.

FFY 2024 meeting topics included:

- Utah State University presentation on new virtual and in-person parenting classes available statewide.
- A review of grant reporting requirements.
- Parent engagement and leadership discussions and training.
- Individual grantee presentations on parent engagement activities.
- Family Strengthening Month planning and assistance.
- Annual reporting and billing technical assistance.

### Training

UFSN is Utah's state network of Protective Factors and NFSN Standards of Quality trainers. See report section *Other Collaborations and Partnerships* for UFSN training information.

### Parent Engagement

See report section *Parent Leadership and Engagement Activities*.

## FUNDED PROGRAMS EVALUATION OUTCOME DATA

During the application period of 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.

Grantees provide evaluation data to DCFS quarterly and annually. Information collected includes:

- Program effectiveness and satisfaction outcomes and tools.
- Information about the internal self-assessment tool used and self-assessment outcomes.
- Annual activities and services summary.
- Fidelity results.
- Parent engagement and leadership activities.

## Measurement Tools

Tools 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.

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team began working with the DHHS Data Systems and Evaluation, Research and Evaluation team about data collection tools.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team provided details of the current data collection method and the desire to find a tool that has additional capability to generate reports and charts for analysis. The DHHS REDCap Program Administrator provided an overview of REDCap including the ability to customize and design the database. During FFY 2025, the Child Abuse Prevention Team will continue to work with the REDCap Program Administrator to ensure REDCap will provide the functionality desired.

In order to streamline the information collected by the PFS that many of Utah's child abuse prevention grantees use, the Child Abuse Prevention Team and the DCFS Information Privacy and Security Officer met with FRIENDS to discuss the Protective Factors Database. This meeting provided the information for the DCFS Information Privacy and Security Officer to complete an application for the DHHS Information Technology Governance committee to review and ensure the system meets DHHS administrative, privacy, and security requirements. If approved, grantees will be required to use the FRIENDS' Protective Factors Database. This will help the Child Abuse Prevention Team improve its analysis of the information collected by the PFS, including the impact grantees have on their communities.

## Program Effectiveness Highlights

### Asian Association of Utah – STEP

The Asian Association reported a 46% increase in the number served from FFY 2023 to FFY 2024. A comparison of pre- and post-test scores of parents who completed the Asian Association STEP program, demonstrated growth in their knowledge of child-rearing techniques. The average pre-test score was 157.5, and the average post-test score increased to 191.6. Parents reported having the tools they needed for use at home with their kids.

Post-test results include:

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

An increase in the 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 use to improve the quality of relationships within the family.

#### *PCAU- Parents as Teachers*

Of the parents who responded to the PAT Survey:

- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the program helped them better understand the ages and stages of their child's development.
- 100% strongly agreed that their parent educator communicates their child's screening results in a way that makes sense to them.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that their home visitor encouraged them to read books to their child.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that their parent educator helped them work toward the goals they had set for their family and helped connect them to useful resources.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the program motivated them to try new parenting strategies and believed their parent educator had their family's best interest in mind.
- 97% agreed or strongly agreed that the support of a home visitor helped them better manage their stress levels.
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that the PAT program helps them connect with other families.

#### *The Family Place – PAT Program*

Of the parents who responded to the PAT Survey, over 80% reported that:

Their home visitor encouraged them to read to their child.

Their home visitor helps them work toward goals they set for their family.

Because of their participation in the PAT program, they handle stress better.

Their home visitor motivates them to try new parenting strategies.

Because of their participation in the PAT program, they are more confident about parenting.

#### *Guadalupe School – PAT Program*

Families exiting the program increased their parenting interaction scores from an average of 10.39 to 12.58, based on the PICCOLO and its four areas of parenting involvement:

Affection, Responsiveness, Encouragement, and Teaching.

Of the parents enrolled in PAT, 100% successfully completed both ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 development screenings three times during the program year. All Parent Educators discussed developmental screening scores, addressed concerns, and offered referrals as needed while meeting with parents.

#### *Utah Valley Family Support Center - Play It Safe Program*

In secondary schools, student knowledge of the dynamics of abuse increased by 24% between pre-and post-test scores and increased by 7% in elementary schools.

#### *Wasatch Behavioral Health - Grandfamilies Program*

The PFS indicated an increase in all measured protective factors on the PFS-2 Retrospective Caregiver Survey Report. Results are presented below.

- Family Functioning and Resilience - 33% increase.
- Nurturing and Attachment - 2% increase.
- Social Supports - 22% increase.
- Caregiver/Practitioner Relationships - 29% increase.

## Program Satisfaction Highlights

#### *Asian Association of Utah – STEP*

Participants who completed the satisfaction surveys were highly satisfied with the STEP program. However, many parents expressed a desire for follow-up sessions and additional learning opportunities beyond the end of the program. In response, the Asian Association is exploring creating a parent support group for participants who have completed the program.

A selection of satisfaction survey comments include:

- The instructor was supportive and made learning fun.
- My family relationship has improved.
- I love the classes. The information is always presented clearly and in a way that we can easily understand.

#### *PCAU – PAT*

Of the parents who completed the PAT Survey, 100% reported that they agreed or strongly agreed that they are satisfied with the program and would recommend it to a friend.

### *Salt Lake County Health Department – PAT and NFP*

Of the parents who completed the PAT Survey, 92.5% reported that the program helped them increase understanding of their child's development, 82.5% reported that they were satisfied with the PAT program, and 85% reported that they would recommend the PAT program to a friend.

### *Guadalupe - PAT*

Of the parents who completed the PAT Survey, 100% reported that they agreed or strongly agreed to the following statements:

- I trust that my parent educator has my family's best interest in mind.
- My parent educator helps me find useful resources.
- This program has helped me increase my understanding of my child's development.
- My parent educator shares my child's screening results in a way that makes sense to me.

### *Salt Lake County Health Department - PAT*

Of the parents who completed the PAT Survey, respondents reported the following:

- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that their Parent Educator has their family's best interest in mind.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend the program to a friend.
- 73% agreed or strongly agreed that they are satisfied with the program.

## Internal Program Self-Assessment and Evaluation

All grantees complete an internal self-assessment and evaluation of programs provided; results are reported annually. Self-assessment and evaluation tools vary based on programs.

Self-assessment and evaluation tools include:

- Peer reviews.
- Data reviews.
- Case file reviews.
- Call monitoring sheets.
- Annual fidelity assessments.
- PAT supervision tool.

- Reflective supervision.
- Observed home visits.
- NFSN Standards of Quality Program Self-Assessment.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team conducts annual monitoring to ensure grant compliance. For additional information, see report section, *Organizational Structure*, subsection, *Contract and Grant Monitoring*.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team is using a results-based accountability method to improve evaluation methods within the next grant agreement cycle, beginning July 2025, with the goal of more consistent evaluation methods among all grantees.

Evaluation and assessment highlights include:

- Utah County Health Department, Guadalupe School, and Prevent Child Abuse Utah are PAT Blue-Ribbon Affiliates. Blue Ribbon Affiliates achieve fidelity to the PAT model and facilitate continuous quality improvement.
- Children’s Service Society hired a fidelity coordinator to ensure consistency and fidelity of program delivery across all counties served.
- The Family Place participated in the National Trauma Informed Organizational Assessment to assess current practices in the context of serving children and families who have experienced trauma.
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah participated in monthly MIECHV CQI calls and adopted the same standards with the CBCAP team.

## Funding Supporting Evidence-based and Evidence Informed Programs and Practices

Seventy-nine percent of Utah’s FFY 2024 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.

See the table below for CBCAP-supported programs funding detail.

FFY 2023 (Oct 1, 2022 – Sept 30, 2023) Funded Programs and Special Projects				
Funded Programs	CBCAP	State Match	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
Agency: Carbon County FSC Program: PAT Home Visiting Program <sup>1</sup>	\$81,550	\$20,388	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: The Family Place Utah Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$97,120	\$24,280	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Utah County Health Department Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$89,314	\$22,329	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Prevent Child Abuse Utah Program: PAT Home Visiting Program	\$120,000	\$30,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: Salt Lake County Health Department Program: PAT and NFP Home Visiting Programs	\$80,000	\$20,000	Well Supported	Title IV-E Prevention Services Clearinghouse
Agency: United Way of Central and Southern Utah Program: Help Me Grow	\$64,000	\$16,000	Evidence Informed	Help Me Grow Evidence Base Resources
Total Funded Programs:	\$450,434	\$132,997	\$583,431.00	
Funded Special Projects	CBCAP	State Match	Evidence Rating	References to Support Rating
FSC Additional Support	\$44,500	\$11,125	N/A	N/A
Total Funded Special Projects:	\$44,500	\$11,125	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$494,934</b>	<b>\$144,122</b>		

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ACTIVITIES

In FFY 2024, prevention programs held 1,169 Community Education Public Awareness Activities, reaching 582,842 individuals. .

Utah continued branding Child Abuse Prevention Month as Family Strengthening Month. During FFY 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Team solicited feedback about the branding from grantees, media, and the public. Feedback was positive regarding moving the focus on strengthening families, but many reported preferring including child abuse prevention with family strengthening to provide a clearer message. During FFY 2025, Child Abuse Prevention Team will use this feedback while planning for the month.

FFY 2024 Family Strengthening Month Highlights include:

- Utah Governor declared April 2024 as Family Strengthening Month.
- DHHS issued a press release announcing Family Strengthening Month.
- Wear Blue Day was held to support child abuse prevention – April 5<sup>th</sup>
- DHHS launched a social media campaign including weekly child abuse prevention and family strengthening messages from:
  - Utah Governor Spencer Cox
  - Utah DHHS Executive Director Tracy Gruber
  - Prevention Advocate Deondra Brown
  - Prevention Advocate, Celeste Edmunds
  - Utah DCFS Director Tonya Myrup
- Media spots included:
  - KUTV Check Your Health- Salt Lake County Health Department discussed the PAT Home Visiting and the importance of strengthening families to prevent child abuse.
  - KSL Channel 5 News- The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator discussed awareness and tips to prevent child abuse.
  - KUTV Check Your Health- A representative from the Fathers and Families Coalition of Utah discussed the Nurturing Fathers program and that child abuse can be prevented when families are strong.

- KUTV Baby Your Baby- The Child Abuse Prevention Program Manager discussed how everyone in the community can play a role in keeping children safe.
- New flyers were developed to support Wear Blue Day and explain the Protective Factors in plain language.
- 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.
  - A virtual body safety presentation for parents and teachers.
  - “The Week of the Young Children” event celebrating children including community resource booths and family activities.
  - “Snack and Strengthen” event with games and snacks centered on the protective factors.
  - “Books, Balls, and Blocks” event to support families and provide resources.
  - An ice cream social and free yard sale for families.
  - “Let’s Go Fly a Kite” event for families with free kites, activities and food.
  - “Safe Kids Day” event providing information about keeping kids safe including: care seat safety, safe sleep, and water safety.

## CHALLENGES, BARRIERS, AND AREAS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### HB 261 Implementation

During FFY 2024, Utah Legislature passed House Bill 261, “Equal Opportunity Initiatives.” In response to the bill, DHHS employees reviewed policies, programs, grants, trainings, and practices to ensure they are designed for access or service to all and not focused on serving only individuals based on specific personal identity characteristics.

The Child Abuse Prevention Team is working with Utah’s FRIENDS Technical Assistance Coordinator for continued guidance.

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team amended all prevention contracts and grants to ensure compliance with House Bill 261.

## Agency Prevention Structure

It can be 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 DHHS prevention partners has been beneficial.

During FFY 2024, the Child Abuse Prevention Team worked to increase the focus of prevention by participating on the DHHS Prevention Consortium with representatives from all DHHS prevention programs. The Child Abuse Prevention Program Administrator also shared the Child Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan with DCFS Leadership and involved leadership in Family Strengthening Month messaging.

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN STATE ACTIVITIES

### *CBCAP and CTA Grant Agreements*

With use of CBCAP ARPA funds, 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. In 2023, grants were amended to extend funding through June 2025. CTA grantees received ARPA funds to address previous funding deficits through 2025.

### *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.

### *Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment*

A portion of CBCAP ARPA funds was used to support the comprehensive community needs assessment which was completed in March 2024. The remaining funds needed for this assessment were provided with CAPTA ARPA funds.

### *PCAU/UFSN*

The Child Abuse Prevention Programs 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 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.

### *Prevention Grants – Utah State University*

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. This grant has enabled USU Extension Services to develop and provide free in-person and online parenting and relationship education classes. The online modules can be accessed by individuals at any time, including beyond the funding period.

### *FSC General Supports*

During FFY 2024, APRA funds were provided to FSCs for general supports.

### *Concrete Supports*

During FFY 2025, six grantees received ARPA funds for provision of concrete supports.

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 (FFCU) 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	\$20,000	\$ 430,000
2-year extension for CTA grant agreements and FFCU grant agreement			\$192,227	\$129,930	\$322,157
Utah State University Extension (3 yrs.)			\$681,784	\$688,216	\$1,370,000
FSC General Supports			\$50,659		\$50,659
Concrete Supports				\$117,000	\$117,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 393,905</b>	<b>\$ 616,259</b>	<b>\$1,129,670</b>	<b>\$955,146</b>	<b>\$3,094,980</b>