

2024

2028

STATE PLAN FOR THE

Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect



OKLAHOMA
State Department
of Health



Calling all family support and prevention stakeholders and subject matter experts!

Join us in this vital mission to support and strengthen families across Oklahoma. Your expertise and dedication are crucial to the collective effort to reduce and prevent child abuse and neglect.

WHY IT Matters

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a public health priority recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In Oklahoma alone, over 13,000 children experienced abuse or neglect in 2022, exceeding the national average. These experiences can have severe, long-term effects on children. A 2018 study estimated the lifetime cost of substantiated maltreatment (15,355 victims) in Oklahoma at \$12.7 billion. These costs include long-term expenses related to both fatal and non-fatal abuse, such as medical expenses, child welfare costs, special education costs, criminal justice expenses, and lost productivity.

WHY WE Need to Act

Most maltreatment cases involve neglect, highlighting the importance of supporting determinants of health like:

- Economic stability.
- Access to quality education and health care.
- Safe neighborhoods.
- Strong community support.

We need a comprehensive approach to reduce the number of substantiated cases, including changing societal norms, laws, community support systems, cross-systems collaborations and increased funding of family support programs and services.



What We Do

The Family Support and Prevention Service at the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH), including the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), plays a pivotal role in leading statewide efforts to prevent maltreatment. In addition to providing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention services, the OCAP is responsible for preparing and implementing a comprehensive state plan to prevent child abuse and neglect. The OCAP promotes the health and safety of Oklahoma children by reducing child abuse and neglect through:

- Funding direct services for Oklahoma children and families.
- Training professionals working in child abuse prevention and protection.
- Conducting activities that educate the public about child maltreatment.
- Enhancing infrastructure that supports child abuse prevention efforts.

Join Us

By partnering with prevention system stakeholders, families and community organizations, we can leverage sustained success to drive meaningful change for Oklahoma's children and families. We are eager to spotlight prevention efforts that align with the five strategic areas outlined in the state plan:

- **Infrastructure Investment:** including supporting a highly trained, trauma-informed workforce, investment in community-based solutions and capacity building and scaling availability of evidence-based programs.
- **Alignment & Coordination:** align and coordinate prevention efforts across systems and communities to streamline families' access to programs and services.
- **Community Action & Empowerment:** centering and elevating the lived experience of families and providers to empower community-driven social change, promoting protective factors and trauma-informed care and expanding capacity for community based prevention strategies.

- **Family Support & Resource Connection:** partnering with families to build trusting relationships which support positive parenting practices, promote protective factors and connect families with services and supports, advocacy for family-friendly work policies and economic supports, promotion of the Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening and Support and parent leadership in prevention efforts.
- **Public Awareness & Engagement:** elevating policy and systemic solutions for prevention, empowering parent and family voice, and sustaining and expanding engagement initiatives which educate multiple audiences on the effectiveness and cost-saving benefits of prevention programs.



Scan the QR code to join us in this essential mission. Together, we can raise resilient families, foster nurturing communities and ensure the safety and well-being of every child in Oklahoma!