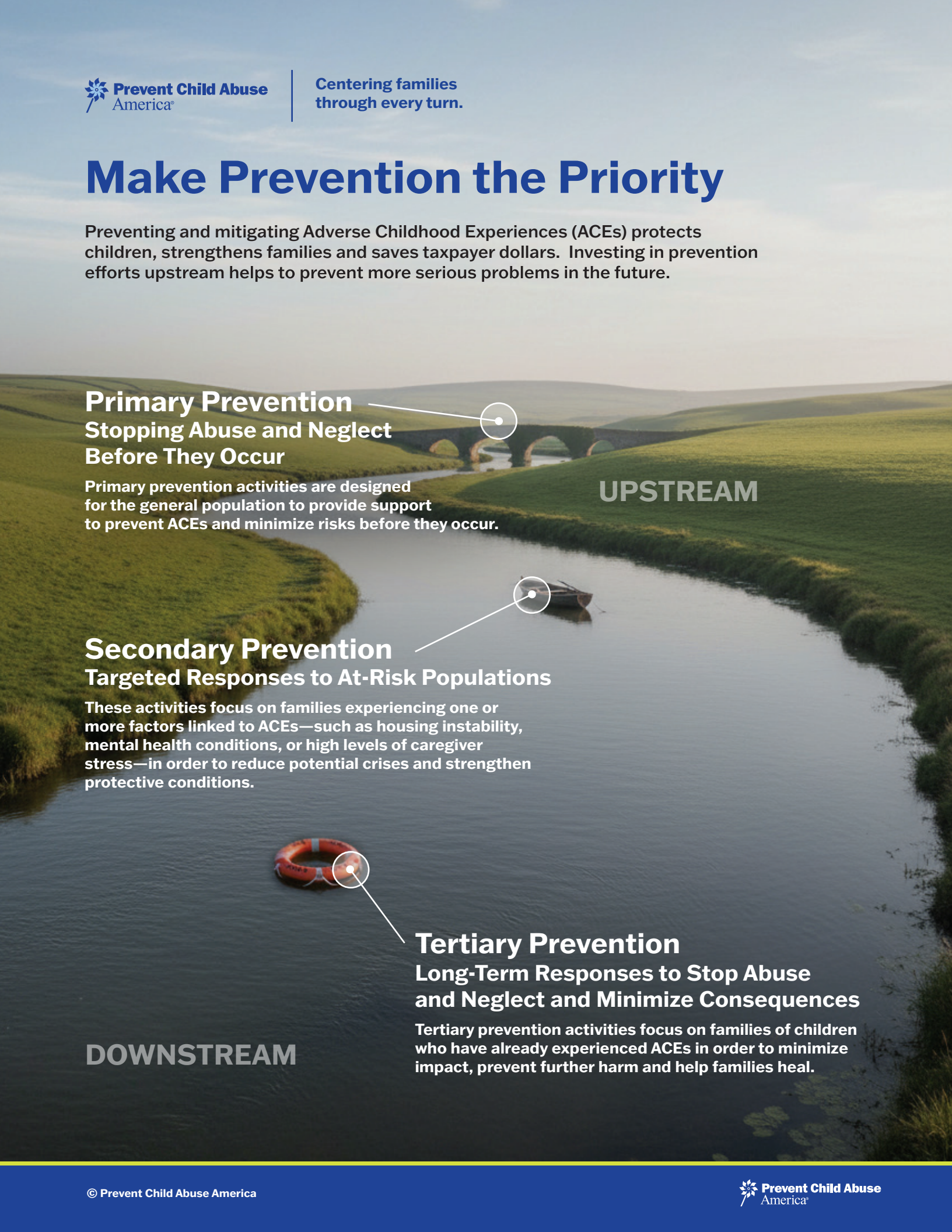
Prevent Child Abuse America®

Centering families through every turn.

Make Prevention the Priority

Preventing and mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) protects children, strengthens families and saves taxpayer dollars. Investing in prevention efforts upstream helps to prevent more serious problems in the future.



Primary Prevention

Stopping Abuse and Neglect Before They Occur

Primary prevention activities are designed for the general population to provide support to prevent ACEs and minimize risks before they occur.

UPSTREAM

Secondary Prevention

Targeted Responses to At-Risk Populations

These activities focus on families experiencing one or more factors linked to ACEs—such as housing instability, mental health conditions, or high levels of caregiver stress—in order to reduce potential crises and strengthen protective conditions.

Tertiary Prevention

Long-Term Responses to Stop Abuse and Neglect and Minimize Consequences

Tertiary prevention activities focus on families of children who have already experienced ACEs in order to minimize impact, prevent further harm and help families heal.

DOWNSTREAM

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Policy Options to Strengthen Families and Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

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Maternal & Child Health

- Evidence-based Home Visiting Programs
- Prenatal Care
- Enhanced Primary Care

Economic Stability

- Tax Credits
- Minimum Wage
- Income Supports
- Paid Leave Programs
- Nutrition Programs

Early Childhood Supports

- Pre-K & Afterschool Programs
- Parent Support and Education
- Quality and Affordable Childcare

Mental Health Supports

- Accessible mental health services
- Trauma informed care in schools and childcare centers
- Behavioral parent training programs

Community Education & Awareness

- 1-800 Warm Lines
- Public education Campaigns
- Family Resource Centers
- Child sex abuse prevention education

Research shows that with the right policies and programs we can prevent child abuse and neglect and ensure that every child and family has the support they need to thrive.

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