

Federal Policy Priorities

All children and families deserve to live a purposeful and happy life with hope for the future. A child's early experiences impact them throughout life—both positively and negatively. When families face an overload of stress, it can hamper their ability to provide the supportive relationships and environments children need to prosper. When families have what they need, when they need it, without stigma, children can thrive.



Investments in Primary Prevention: Prevention is possible. Programs and policies supporting families before they are in crisis can equip parents with the tools they need to give their kids a safe and healthy environment. Funding federal programmatic efforts such as **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants and Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)** allows states and communities to implement efforts tailored to the needs of their families.

Primary prevention includes strategies directed to the general population that strengthen communities and families **BEFORE** child abuse or neglect occurs.



Comprehensive Family Supports: Families thrive when they can easily connect to the supports they need. Programs such as **early childhood home visiting and family resource centers** foster strong parent-child relationships, support healthy child development, and connect families to the resources and services they need to navigate challenges and thrive.

Prevent Child Abuse America's signature evidence-based home visiting program, [Healthy Families America](#), improves parenting practices, supports healthy child development, and strengthens family well-being.



Economic Stability and Mobility: Policies strengthening family financial security help create the conditions for all children, families, and communities to thrive. Economic security gives families hope. Policies such as **affordable childcare, paid family leave, and the child tax credit** reduce the stressors of poverty that can overload families, promote safe and nurturing family environments, and ultimately build more prosperous communities.

Research shows that for every additional \$1,000 that states spent on federal, state and local benefit programs per person living in poverty, there was a 4% reduction in substantiated child abuse, a 2% reduction in foster care placements and about an 8% reduction in fatalities due to child abuse and neglect.