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## **Q & A CORNER**

This ongoing series is designed to address questions raised by state leaders regarding developing state systems and taking HFA to scale. As part of the State Systems Scoop, we explore these questions and offer resources for additional information.

### ***The State of State Budgets and the Outlook for Healthy Families America (HFA)***

Since the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, our country has been experiencing a climate of highly expensive emerging priorities and concerns. This change also comes at a time when our state governments are facing the most severe budget shortfalls in 10 years, according to a recent survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL, 2001). Put together, we are experiencing some very uncertain times.

*What we know:*

- State revenues have recorded a quarterly drop from one year to the next for the first time in a decade (Rockefeller, 2001).
- 44 states have reported revenue collections that fall below projections.
- 19 states are spending beyond their budget allocations.
- 28 states have either implemented or are debating budget cuts and many are dipping into their reserve funds (NCSL, 2001).
- Proposed spending on post-September 11<sup>th</sup> priorities may exceed \$312.4 billion this year (Citizens Against Government Waste, 2001).

*What remains uncertain:*

- A complete and accurate assessment of the economic impact of the terrorist attacks, war efforts and ongoing homeland security initiatives.
- A full understanding of which individuals and families are most impacted.
- The effect of proposed federal economic stimulus efforts on state budgets.
- The total impact of these economic and budgetary shifts on domestic spending, social services and the nonprofit sector.

### **Implications for HFA:**

There is no question that state budget shortfalls will impact a wide variety of social issues including housing, education, employment and health care. Child abuse and neglect prevention is, unfortunately, no exception. HFA state systems and programs across the

country are experiencing a wide range of budgetary and programmatic impacts. As we attempt to understand the total effect of these changes on HFA and other home visiting programs across the country, the following examples illustrate the range of effects on two states with HFA programs, Michigan and New York.

### **Michigan**

Currently, Michigan funds its Healthy Families Programs through two major sources: the 0-3 Secondary Prevention Fund and a fund established by the Michigan Department of Education called All Students Achieve Program - Parent Involvement in Education (ASAP-PIE). The 0-3 Secondary Prevention Fund has grown substantially over the years to approximately \$8.7 million for FY'01. The fund has included money from TANF, tobacco taxes, federal childcare and a limited amount of education dollars. Three different state departments support the Fund with administration handled by Michigan's Children's Trust Fund. The second funding source, ASAP-PIE, was established by the state in FY'01. This fund created a three-year program allocated at \$45 million a year to support families with children 0-5 years of age. Many of the communities with Healthy Families programs were able to expand their services through the local collaborative planning that preceded ASAP-PIE grant applications.

According to the NCSL survey, a revenue shortage in Michigan may necessitate a \$540 million (5.6%) cut to the state general fund. In addition, the state's school fund may have to be cut by \$336 million (2.9%). While lawmakers expect the new budget forecast to sustain programs through the current fiscal year, the impact for the next fiscal year is unknown.

As a result, the funding for Healthy Families is tenuous at this point in time. The network suspects they may lose a variety of funding sources from the 0-3 Secondary Prevention Fund, reducing the fund to \$4 million of TANF money in FY '03. In addition, based on plans to address shortfalls in the Department of Education budget, the ASAP-PIE program will receive no funding in what would be the third year of the initiative.

To combat these potential cuts, a coalition of programs is working to preserve funding for prevention. The group is working on bringing a common message to the state and documentation of the families that will be impacted by the impending cuts. For further information on Michigan's advocacy activities, contact Michael Foley at [mikfoley@aol.com](mailto:mikfoley@aol.com).

### **New York**

Despite the fact that New York state was disproportionately impacted by the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the 2001 state budget did include funding for home visiting programs, although the long term impact is still unknown. The Healthy Families New York Home Visiting Council's advocacy committee co-chair, Andy Buchan, reports there is strong support from Governor Pataki and the leadership of the state Senate and Assembly for funding home visiting.

New York is currently operating 27 programs with \$16.4 million allocated in the 2000 state budget. Of those funds, \$14.8 million are TANF dollars and the remaining \$1.6 million are general state dollars. This funding is a large increase over the FY'99 amount of \$6.2 million, indicating significant state support for the program. However, those gains were hard-fought as the FY'01 re-appropriations bill was significantly belated and many social programs across the state were jeopardized as negotiations were delayed. In the end, the budget was signed by the Governor.

As the budget process begins anew for FY'02-03, conservative estimates project a \$9 billion revenue shortfall for the state. The Governor is expected to release his budget proposal by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Despite the dim forecast, support for home visiting remains strong. The Home Visiting Council believes policy makers understand the purpose and importance of Healthy Families programs and know that cutting services to families now will result in harm and cost in the long run.

More will be known as the budget process unfolds. However, there is no question that other social programs will be impacted and that Healthy Families cannot operate in isolation of other supportive services. Conversations with the Healthy Families site closest to *ground zero*, Alianza Dominicana Best Beginnings program, tell us that between 30-40 families in the program each lost a family member who had been a primary wage earner from the attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>. The agency established a relief station with expanded hours to provide a variety of services to families, stretching their funding and manpower. This site is just one of many across the country that have been and will continue to be impacted by recent events and funding shifts.

For more information on New York's advocacy work, contact Andy Buchan at [Buchana@nehealth.com](mailto:Buchana@nehealth.com). For other/additional information about Healthy Families New York, contact Christine Deys at Prevent Child Abuse New York, [ncpcanys@aol.com](mailto:ncpcanys@aol.com).

### **Prevent Child Abuse America's Prevention Funding Project**

The above case studies demonstrate the uncertainty that exists for current and future funding of HFA programs. They also demonstrate the importance of a united constituency to advocate for focused and sustained prevention funding at both the state and national levels. In response to this need, Prevent Child Abuse America has formed a new initiative, the Prevention Funding Project, to promote a strong national message and advocacy agenda for prevention.

The project involves three key components: research, message development and advocacy. PCA America is conducting basic research to assess the scope of current funding streams for PCA America networks, the impact of budget cuts on those networks, and the correlation of economic stress to incidences of abuse and neglect. The **research** will inform the development of communications messages which will be tested through focus groups for their efficacy. Those **messages** will be crafted into tools, for use by the field, to support an aggressive **advocacy** agenda aimed at preserving and sustaining prevention funding for PCA America network programs.

For more information on this project, contact Mike Brogioli, Advocacy Director at [mbrogioli@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:mbrogioli@preventchildabuse.org).

### ***Conclusion***

While a great deal remains unknown about the impact of recent events and the changing economy on families, programs and state budgets, Healthy Families constituencies are mobilizing at both the national and state levels to maintain continued support for this critical program. For more information on the state of your state's budget, the following resources are available:

[www.stateline.org](http://www.stateline.org)

Detailed state-based information on a wide variety of social policy issues. Has a list-serv of weekly state activity highlights.

[www.pnnonline.org](http://www.pnnonline.org)

Helpful list-serv that summarizes state issues impacting the nonprofit sector.

[www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org)

Download the recent NCSL survey and other timely state-based resources.

[www.connectforkids.org/homepage1576/index.htm](http://www.connectforkids.org/homepage1576/index.htm)

Check out news about kids and budget cuts in your state in the "state-by-state" section of the Connect for Kids Web site.

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## **PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AMERICA NEWS**

### ***Research News...***

#### ***PIMS Version 4.0.0 on the Way***

PIMS (Program Information Management System) is a computerized data collection, management, and reporting tool that enables HFA sites to manage and report on the community programs and participant services they provide. In addition, PIMS allows PCA America to provide ongoing feedback on the development of the HFA initiative. PIMS is an integrated system that consists of three inter-related components: (1) program management component, (2) participant-level tracking component, and (3) quality assurance monitoring program. The program management component provides information about an HFA site's resources: staff, collaborating agencies, sources of funding, etc. The participant-level tracking component records a family's participation and progress in the HFA program. The quality assurance monitoring program reports on inaccurate and missing data, and providing suggestions for cleaning data.

New in PIMS version 4:

- Quality assurance component
- Improved user-friendliness

- Improved accuracy and parameter control of reports
- New reports- caseload, participant history, & more
- Individual family support plan
- Data aggregation utility

A review/upgrade training session is scheduled at the PCA America National Conference in Dallas on March 2, 2002. Current PIMS users will be contacted by the national office or state technical assistants about upgrade availability.

To learn more about PIMS, please contact: Rob Reid at: [rreid@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:rreid@preventchildabuse.org)

## ***National Family Support Roundtable News...***

### *Facilitator Manual Completed*

PCA America and the National Family Support Roundtable have completed their facilitator manual for parent-led mutual self-help support groups. This guide is intended to help both new and experienced leaders understand the history and basic concepts of parent-led mutual self-help support, group development and dynamics, practical issues—such as poor attendance and accessing underserved populations, and typical issues that might impact groups.

The National Family Support Roundtable joins together twenty states and regions that offer parent-led mutual self-help support programs as a child abuse prevention strategy. The facilitator manual reflects the commonalities in the programs while honoring their individual uniqueness. It is designed to be inserted into a loose-leaf binder and supplemented with local material that addresses individual program specifics and local policies.

Parents and staff from the National Family Support Roundtable and PCA America wrote the manual as a team. They are also in the process of producing a children's program manual and a handbook for parent participants in their groups. A train-the-trainer workshop later this year will produce a cadre of state and regional trainers to teach facilitators the fine points of running parent-led mutual self-help support groups.

### ***Chapters News...***

**Congratulations to fully re-chartered chapters that were in compliance with our criteria:**

- Tennessee
- Kansas
- South Carolina

**Welcome aboard to the new Executive Directors:**

- Janet Rosensweig, Executive Director, PCA New Jersey
- Tracey Rojack, Interim Executive Director, PCA Florida
- Renee Dillon, Interim Executive Director, PCA Ohio

**Farewell to the following Executive Directors:**

- Deb Sendek, PCA Ohio
- Steve Barrett, PCA Alaska
- Stephanie Meincke, PCA Florida

**Congratulations to PCA Georgia for their recent name change!  
(Formerly the Georgia Council on Child Abuse, Inc.)**

***National Conference News...***

*Registration Now Open for the Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference*

Registration materials are now available for the Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference to be held March 2-5, 2002, in Dallas, Texas. Registration booklets were mailed out to HFA sites, state leaders, chapters, Roundtable sites and members of the research network earlier this month. To request your own copy of the registration book, please call the conference hotline at 312/663-3520 ext. 221 and leave your full name and address. Or you may download a copy of the Conference Registration Book from our website: [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org). If you like, you may register on-line with a credit card. A limited number of scholarships are available for the conference registration fee; call the Conference Hotline to request application materials.

*Silent Auction at Prevent Child Abuse America National Conference*

A silent auction will be held during the PCA America National Conference next March featuring specialty items from various states and regions of the national PCA America network. All proceeds from the auction go towards providing scholarships for future conferences. If you would like to donate items for bidding at the silent auction, please contact Babette Nyka at (312) 663-3520 ext. 164. Your support will be very much appreciated.

***Training Institute Update...***

November 3-9, 2001, saw the completion of another Train the Trainers Institute in Lisle, Illinois, attended by six potential family support worker trainers and three potential family assessment worker trainers. Faculty included Cynthia Stringfellow and Helen Reif from the PCA America office, Charlene Ellis, FSW trainer from Tennessee and Patricia Brady, FAW trainer from Chicago, Illinois.

The goals of the Train the Trainers Institute are that participants:

- Understand and be able to articulate the concepts of HFA
- Learn how to provide instruction in the provision of services within the parameters of the HFA critical elements
- Understand and articulate the principles of family-centered and strength-based service provision to families and communities and the concepts and processes of family and community assessment, including the importance of family strengths.
- Assess, facilitate, and document the relationship between parent and child

- Understand the importance of professional boundaries and maintenance of a safe environment for both the direct service worker and the families being served
- Understand the importance of and the methods for correct documentation of services provided to families, including assessment.

As part of the training given to participants for supervisors and/or program managers, participants are expected to know and be able to teach the techniques that will assist staff in achieving program services, such as the concept of “respectful” and “empowering” supervision and the significance of, and mechanisms for, quality management and supervision.

Comments from this most recent Train the Trainers Institute include:

- “I think the most important piece (we learned) is the philosophy of the Critical Elements that require that we look at families from a strength-based perspective,”
- “(the training) was structured enough to allow due deliverance of the information, but also allowed time for sharing of ideas,”
- “I liked the way the faculty participated in the sessions as it helped clarify a lot of material that was rushed during the core training I attended.”

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## **ADVOCACY UPDATE**

### ***CAPTA***

#### Congress Clears Final HHS Funding Bill

Before adjourning for the year, Congress finished work on all remaining appropriations bills, including the final budget for the Department of Health and Human Services with passage of the FY2002 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill on December 20, 2001. The funding measure includes slight increases for the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) programs and for other child welfare services.

CAPTA’s basic state grants were increased by almost \$1 million, and the Title II community-based family resource and support prevention grants grew by slightly more than half a million dollars. The discretionary funding for research and innovative demonstration projects remains essentially level funded.

Congress could not restrain itself again this year from adding more than \$7 million in money earmarked for pet programs back home, leaving about \$19 million for competitive grants from the \$26 million total for discretionary CAPTA funding in 2002. In 2001, CAPTA’s R&D money was increased by \$15 million in earmarked funds. President Bush had asked Congress to eliminate all one-time appropriations and earmarks for special programs.

### ***NIH Research Funding***

The National Child Abuse Coalition continued to advocate for funding support for child abuse and neglect research at the National Institutes of Health. The report of the congressional conference committee issued with the final HHS money bill includes language proposed by the Coalition to focus NIH attention on child abuse and neglect research support, as follows:

“The conferees recognize the significance of child abuse and neglect as a serious public health problem. The conferees commend the efforts of NIH, under the leadership of NIMH, for convening a working group of organizations and relevant Federal agencies to facilitate collaborative and cooperative efforts on child abuse and neglect research. The conferees encourage NIH to continue to address this public health problem and request that the Director of NIH be prepared to report on the progress of this research at the fiscal year 2003 appropriations hearing.”

### ***Safe and Stable Families***

Some of the child welfare initiatives proposed by President Bush were rejected by Congress, including the administration’s proposal to establish funding for maternity group homes and for promoting responsible fatherhood. The Bush administration’s request to allocate \$400 million of child care spending for an after-school voucher program was also rejected, recognizing that federal education funds already support after-school programs.

Although two other Bush initiatives -- to provide education vouchers for children aging out of foster care and support for mentoring children of prisoners -- were included in the bill to reauthorize the Safe and Stable Families Program, no funds were appropriated in the FY02 money bill.

The Early Learning Fund, which funds family support and early child development services, won one of the highest percentage increases among child welfare programs, going up by 25 percent in 2002. The program was set for elimination by the Bush administration and the House-passed bill, but Senate action to increase the Early Learning Fund by \$5 million to \$25 million in 2002 prevailed in the final bill.

The other big gain in children’s services funding went to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Program with a 27 percent increase, followed by the Title IV-E adoption subsidies at a 19 percent increase. The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program appropriation went up by 23 percent in 2002, but the increase of \$70 million was in discretionary funding, not the mandatory funds at \$200 million which Congress refused to enact.

After that, notable increases fall in smaller increments, with Head Start and child welfare training each up by 7 percent, child care and CAPTA state grants each up by about 5 percent.

### ***Funds Allocated to CAPTA and Child Welfare Services***

Following are the final 2002 appropriations compared with 2001 funding levels:

#### ***CAPTA***

**State grants:** 2001 - \$21.026 million; 2002 - \$22.013 million

**R&D grants:** 2001- \$33.717 million; 2002 - \$26.178 million

**Community-based family resource grants:** 2001- \$32.834 million; 2002 - \$33.417 million

#### ***Child Welfare Services: Title IV-B(1)***

2001 - \$291.986 million; 2002 - \$291.986 million

#### ***Promoting Safe and Stable Families: Title IV-B(2)***

2001 - \$305 million; 2002 - \$375 million

#### ***Title XX Social Services Block Grant***

2001 - \$1.725 billion; 2002 - \$1.7 billion

#### ***Early Learning Fund***

2001 - \$20 million; 2002 - \$25 million

#### ***Child Welfare Training***

2001 - \$6.998 million; 2002 - \$7.498 million

#### ***Abandoned Infants Assistance***

2001 - \$12.182 million; 2002 - \$12.205

#### ***Adoption Opportunities***

2001 - \$27.379 million; 2002 - \$27.405 million

#### ***Adoption Incentives***

2001 - \$43 million; 2002 - \$43 million

#### ***Adoption Awareness***

2001 - \$9.9 million; 2002 - \$12.906 million;

#### ***Runaway and Homeless Youth***

2001 - \$69.123 million; 2002 - \$88.133

#### ***Head Start***

2001 - \$6.2 billion; 2002 - \$6.5 billion

#### ***Child Care Block Grant***

2001 - \$2 billion; 2002 - \$2.1 billion

*Title IV-E Foster Care*

2001 - \$5.0635 billion; 2002 - \$5.0551 billion

*Title IV-E Adoption Assistance*

2001 - \$1.1976 billion; 2002 - \$1.426 billion

*Maternal and Child Health Block Grant*

2001 - \$714.151 million; 2002 - \$731.615 million

*Compassion Capital Fund*

2001 - none; 2002 - \$30 million

*Faith-Based Center*

2001 - none; 2002 - \$1.5 million

The President's faith-based initiative receives initial funding in the HHS money bill for a center in HHS and support for a Compassion Capital Fund to expand federal partnerships in social services with faith-based and other charitable organizations.

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**FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please follow the funding link below for more information on current funding opportunities:*

[www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/services/funding.html](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org/services/funding.html)

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**CONFERENCES**

**February 2002**

- February 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Center for Parent Education 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Parent Education at the University of Northern Texas, Denton, TX. Information at [www.unt.edu/cpe](http://www.unt.edu/cpe)

**March 2002**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Prevent Child Abuse America 2002 National Conference: Imagine a Nation Without Child Abuse: Combining our Strengths for Prevention in Dallas, TX. Information at [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org) or call 312/663-3520 ext. 221.
- March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Child Welfare League of America National Conference for Children 2002: Making Children a National Priority in Washington, D.C. Information at [www.cwla.org](http://www.cwla.org)

**April 2002**

- April 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002

HIPPY HIPPY National Conference: “Building Blocks” for a Stronger HIPPY in San Francisco, CA. Information at [wjones@hippyusa](mailto:wjones@hippyusa) or call Wanda Jones at 1-888-35-HIPPY.

- April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Family Support America Family Support: The Time Has Come in Chicago.  
Information at [www.familysupportamerica.org](http://www.familysupportamerica.org) or 312-338-0900.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Parents as Teachers National Center Parent Involvement: International Conference: Born to Learn at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis, MO. Information at [jhinr@patnc.org](mailto:jhinr@patnc.org) or [www.patnc.org](http://www.patnc.org) or call 314-432-8963.

### May 2002

- May 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2002  
Council of State Association Presidents (CSAP) 2002 Spring Conference in Providence, RI. Information at [www.csap.org](http://www.csap.org)

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## NEW WEB SITES/RESOURCES...

### *Sites:*

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission  
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides resources for reducing and preventing the risk of product-related injuries and deaths to children. They provide toll-free hotline at 1-800-638-2722 with recorded information on recalled products (also available in Spanish), FREE materials and publications on a wide variety of hazardous toys and other products, and *EL Mundo Hispano de la CPSC*, an entirely Spanish language web site with up to date information on safety notices, recalls, and new publications.

[www.robynsnest.com](http://www.robynsnest.com) Robyn’s Nest  
This site is devoted to providing you with the optimal tools to insure the best possible quality of life for your children. On this site you’ll find many resources gathered from numerous sources, the majority from experts, others from personal experiences. It is an open forum allowing you to connect with others through bulletin boards and chat areas. Join us to learn and share how to better experience raising your precious gift, your child.

[www.npo.net](http://www.npo.net) Nonprofit Online  
Offers a variety of services to Nonprofit organizations including information on technical training/assistance, volunteer and job opportunities, funding, and many other helpful services.

### ***Publications Online:***

#### New Kids Count Data Online

[www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/](http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census/)

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, has just expanded its interactive, database of 2000 Census data, online, providing access to data on families and children in a far simpler and more detailed format than currently available from the Census Bureau's Web site. The database allows users to create and customize rankings of states, counties and other regions on all available indicators.

#### Customized E-funding Directory for your Organization

[www.donordata.com/edirectory.htm](http://www.donordata.com/edirectory.htm)

Would your organization benefit from a customized funding directory? This directory targets private, public, community and corporate foundations giving in your state with interests and objectives similar to yours. Each Electronic Funding Directory is customized for each organization. Complete information including application guidelines and procedures, contact information, board of directors and financial reports are included for each foundation. Each Directory is customized for each organization and is only \$55.00.

#### Findings from the Starting Points Assessment

[cpmnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/stpts2.html](http://cpmnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/stpts2.html)

National Center for Children in Poverty reports on how funders can provide the momentum for networking and activities that can change the threshold of expectation, communication, vision, policy, and practice around key aspects of young child well-being. The report reflects on the issues and challenges of trying to deepen links across early childhood, child health, and family support activities through systems change, program enhancement, and community mobilization strategies.

#### Supporting our Children

In the aftermath of tragedy, the Connect for Kids team share thoughts on helping kids feel safe: [www.connectforkids.org/usr\\_doc/CopingWithGrief.htm#Helping](http://www.connectforkids.org/usr_doc/CopingWithGrief.htm#Helping)

And on actions to take that raise spirits and funds:

[www.connectforkids.org/content1555/content\\_show.htm?attrib\\_id=332&doc\\_id=82656](http://www.connectforkids.org/content1555/content_show.htm?attrib_id=332&doc_id=82656)

**The next State Systems Scoop will come out in January 2002. Please e-mail any comments/feedback to [lcashion@preventchildabuse.org](mailto:lcashion@preventchildabuse.org).  
Happy Holidays and New Year! We'll see you in 2002!**