

IDAHO

**CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT
STATE GRANT APPLICATION**

Fiscal Year 2018

Applicant Agency: State of Idaho
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Current activities to improve legal and administrative proceedings regarding the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, particularly child sexual abuse cases, including those areas identified in sections (1), (2), (3), and (4).

The Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk has extensively reviewed and evaluated state investigative, administrative, and civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. During 2017 and 2018, the Task Force has made progress on its recommendations (see attached Report on Recommendations). The Task Force has also collaborated on the development of the state's Child and Family Service Plan (CFSP) and Annual Progress and Service Report (APSR), and intends to support various goals and objectives included in these plans for the next three years (see Children at Risk Task Force Strategic Plan and Recommendations).

The Task Force will be the primary resource for implementing the recommendations. The Task Force will receive administrative support through a contract. Children's Justice Act grant funds will be used during this next year for the following activities:

Planned activities to be assisted with Children’s Justice Act grant funds.

1. GOVERNOR’S TASK FORCE ON CHILDREN AT RISK

Target Group

Task Force members have the ability to affect changes in law, policies, and service delivery programs related to children and families who may be at risk of, or who have been victims of child sexual abuse, or who have dealt with suspected child maltreatment fatalities. Members will include representatives from the following disciplines as specified in Section 107C(1) of the Act: law enforcement, criminal court judge, civil court judge, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, child advocate (attorney for children), court appointed special advocate, health professional, mental health professional, child protective services agency, a parent’s group, an individual experienced in working with children with disabilities, an adult former victim of child abuse and/or neglect; and an individual experienced in working with homeless children and youths (as defined in section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act 42 U.S.C. 11434a).

Objective/Results Expected

The objective is to continue to enhance the quality of the handling of investigation and prosecution of child abuse and neglect cases, related fatalities, and the handling of cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems who are victims of child abuse or neglect by maintaining an active Task Force on Children at Risk.

Approaches

- ❑ The state of Idaho will maintain the Children at Risk Task Force.
- ❑ The Task Force will meet at least bi-monthly to oversee implementation of the recommendations identified in the Task Force's most recent system review. A description of strategies for implementation, with time lines, is attached. (See Children at Risk Task Force Strategic Plan and Recommendations, (2018-2021)).

Connection with Task Force Recommendations

The objective and approaches planned are directly related to the Task Force Strategic Plan to support goals and provide a collaborative approach to achieving all of the goals through the continuance of the Task Force.

2. PROVIDE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) TRAINING AND LOCAL MDT GRANTS

Target Group

This project will serve local prosecutors and multidisciplinary teams throughout the state. This includes prosecutors, law enforcement, Department of Health and Welfare child protection staff, representatives from the Guardian ad Litem program, juvenile and adult probation, medical personnel, school officials, and any other persons deemed beneficial because of their roles in cases concerning child abuse and neglect.

Objective/Results Expected

The objective is to improve the quality of investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation throughout the state.

Approaches

- The Task Force will administer MDT grant monies to assist local MDT development.
- Using CJA funds, the Children at Risk Task Force will sponsor a conference for MDTs to provide training and improve networking among MDTs.

Connection with Task Force Recommendations

The objective and approaches planned are directly related to the Task Force Strategic Plan to support Goal 1 and to continue to enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases.

3. PRINT AND DISTRIBUTE PUBLIC SERVICE INFORMATION REGARDING REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

Target Group

In Idaho, every citizen is considered a mandated reporter. In 2003, the Task Force produced a brochure to use as a resource guide to remind citizens of their duty to report child abuse or neglect. In 2006, the Task Force sponsored the development of a DVD that is an educational tool, instructing mandated reporters on how and where to make a child protection report. There is a need for continued distribution of the brochure and DVD to a broader audience, including physicians, nurses, coroners, schoolteachers, day care personnel, social workers, counselors, neighbors, and family members.

Objective/Results Expected

The objective is to educate and clarify misconceptions, and inform citizens of their responsibilities to recognize the signs and symptoms of abuse and/or neglect and report those circumstances within twenty-four (24) hours to law enforcement or the Department of Health and Welfare.

Approaches

The Children at Risk Task Force will evaluate, update, and continue to produce brochures, “Care Enough to Call,” in English and in Spanish. Additionally, they will continue to provide copies of the accompanying DVD.

- The Task Force will assist in distributing the brochures and DVDs.
- The brochure and DVD will be distributed at in-service and professional conferences as well as through a variety of modalities throughout the state.

4. DISTRIBUTE MATERIALS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND THOSE INVOLVED IN THE LEGAL PROCESSES RELATED TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Target Group

This project will include children involved in the child protection system, foster parents, agency social workers, CASA, prosecutors, parents, law enforcement officers, and victim witness coordinators.

Objective/Results Expected

The Task Force will assist in reducing court-related trauma to children by helping them understand their role in court.

Approaches

- ❑ Children at Risk Task Force (CARTF) will review materials that have been developed to educate children about their role in court.
- ❑ Children's Justice Act funds will be used to develop, update, and distribute selected materials for children, related to the court process.

Connection with Task Force Recommendations

The objective and approaches planned are directly related to the Task Force Strategic Plan to support Goal 3 and to reduce additional trauma to child victims and families while also ensuring procedural fairness.

5. SUPPORT INFORMATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATEWIDE CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

Target Group

Understanding the circumstances causing a child's death is one way to prevent other deaths of children. Information from the annual death review of child maltreatment fatalities will inform law enforcement, prosecutors, child protection social workers, administrators, legislators, and parents why children die.

Objective/Results Expected

Annually all deaths of children suspected to be a result of child maltreatment will be reviewed in order to prevent harm to other children. The review should lead to an understanding of risk factors, better system coordination, and lead to effective recommendations and actions to prevent deaths and to keep children healthy, safe, and protected.

Approaches

- ❑ Children at Risk Task Force will continue to convene a multidisciplinary team to review child deaths. The team will assist with preparation of a report that summarizes the findings of the child fatality review team.

- Children’s Justice Act funds will continue to be utilized to convene the child fatality review team and disseminate a report which includes the findings of the reviews.

Connection with Task Force Recommendations

The objective and approaches planned are directly related to the Task Force Strategic Plan to support Goal 4 and to review handling of cases of suspected child maltreatment related to fatalities to reduce additional trauma.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The work of the Governor’s Children at Risk Task Force for 2018-2019, is described in the budget summary below.

Governor’s Children at Risk Task Force Meetings	\$20,000
Multidisciplinary Team Grants	\$20,000
Multidisciplinary Team Conference	\$25,876
Distribution of English and Spanish brochures and DVDS to educate the public of their responsibility to report child abuse and/or neglect.	\$1,000
Development and distribution of materials to educate the public and those involved in the legal processes related to child abuse and neglect	\$1,000
Support of the state Child Fatality Review Team	\$35,000
Administrative support for Governor’s Children at Risk Task Force	\$25,000
Travel for CJA Coordinator and Task Force Chairperson to annual CJA meeting	\$5,498
TOTAL CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT GRANT FUNDS REQUESTED	\$133,374

Budget Justification

1. The statewide task force represents a diverse group of professional and community leaders in child welfare issues. All meetings are held in Boise, as it offers a central location and air travel accessibility. Meetings are held monthly except December, July, and August. Eleven of the Task Force members live outside of Boise. The Governor’s Children at Risk Task Force is currently exploring the possibility of holding one meeting a year in either the Northern and Eastern part of the state to allow for additional MDT participants to present to the panel from across the state who may be more limited in their ability to travel to Boise. This will also assist in reducing the number of times the other taskforce members need to travel.

Children’s Justice Act funds are used to cover travel costs for task force members who live outside of Boise and to cover incidental meeting costs. Children’s Justice Act funds are also used to cover administrative support.

Projected costs for one meeting	\$2,222
\$2222 X 9 planned monthly meetings	\$20,000
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$20,000

2. In an effort to promote the continued formation of MDTs, and enhance existing MDTs, the Governor's Children at Risk Task Force sponsors an annual multidisciplinary team conference.

Speaker Honorarium	\$3,876
Attendee Lodging	\$4,000
Catering/AV/Misc.	\$7,000
Attendee Travel (scholarships)	\$6,000
Conference Supplies	\$5,000
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$25,876

3. Through a contract between the Department of Health and Welfare and Anthony James, the Department will provide up to \$25,000 for administrative support of the Task Force. The Department will distribute multidisciplinary team grants as approved by the Task Force and as funds are available.

4. The child fatality review team also includes a diverse group of professional from across the state. This team meets approximately six times each year in Boise. All meetings are held in Boise, as it offers a central location and air travel accessibility. Several of the Task Force members live outside of Boise and the funds support their travel costs (hotel, mileage or airfare) and cost of the meeting room. The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) funds are used to cover some of the team’s meeting costs. Children’s Justice Act funds are also used to cover a part time (15 hours per week) research analyst for the team who assists in the preparation and gathering of cases records for the review team and compiles an annual report analysis report which is then shared with stakeholders after review and approval from the statewide taskforce.

Projected Yearly Salary for Research Analyst	\$25,000
Meeting Costs	\$10,000
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$35,000

How Children's Justice Act activities support the implementation of State Task Force recommendations

The activities identified in this application focus directly on implementing the intent and recommendations of the Task Force on both the state and local community level. The efforts of the Task Force will continue public and professional awareness of the problem of child physical and sexual abuse and child maltreatment as well as related fatalities and the need to have better resources including staff, training, service delivery programs, and laws to address the problems. Improved administrative, judicial, and legal processing of cases will be facilitated by continuing the focus on child physical and sexual abuse, as well as child maltreatment issues.