

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

Criminal Procedure Article § 11-923(h)

MSAR # 8610

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Submitted by: Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention

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Martin O'Malley  
*Governor*

Anthony Brown  
*Lt. Governor*

Tammy M. Brown  
*Executive Director*

December 18, 2013

The Honorable Martin O'Malley  
Office of the Governor  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Governor O'Malley:

As required under Md. Annotated Code, Criminal Procedure Art. §11-923(h) and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, please accept this letter as fulfillment of the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCCP) requirement to produce an annual report on the Child Advocacy Centers. Attached is the required report.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding the Child Advocacy Centers Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy M. Brown".

Tammy M. Brown  
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller  
The Honorable Michael Busch  
Ellen Alexander, Maryland State Board of Victim Services  
Sarah Albert, Department of Legislative Services  
Joan Bourne, Enoch Pratt Free Library

## CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

The Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP) is a part of the Executive Branch of State Government. GOCCP's mission is to serve as the State Administering Agency in the application for, and administration of, federal and state funds for public safety, crime control and prevention; and to coordinate and promote public safety linkages and partnerships between and among federal, state and local agencies. The office is Maryland's one stop shop for resources to improve public safety and exists to educate, connect, and empower Maryland's citizens and public safety entities through innovative funding, strategic planning, crime data analysis, best practices research and results-oriented customer service.

Crimes committed against women and children are especially heinous due to the fact that they can impact a family for generations. To improve public safety and enhance the quality of life for all Marylanders, particularly for Maryland's women and children, the O'Malley Brown Administration has set a goal of reducing violent crime against women and children by 25 percent by the end of 2012. As a result, juvenile homicides have been driven down by 31.0 percent since 2006.

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the problem of child abuse. CACs are safe, child friendly environments for forensic interviews and medical evaluations for the alleged child victim and offers continued support to the child and non-offending family members. Programs provide services to children, and their families, who are victims of severe physical and sexual abuse and neglect. CACs also help reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. CACS promote and provide specialized training for professionals, and extend efforts to promote public awareness and prevention.

On May 4, 2010 Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law a bill supporting Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) and the services that they provide for Maryland children and their families. The law states that money shall be provided in the annual State budget and shall be used to supplement, but not supplant, money that the programs receive from other sources. The law supports law enforcement, child protective services, social workers, and all who work to protect Maryland's vulnerable child victims of crime and abuse. (Md. Annotated Code, Criminal Procedure Art. §11-923(h)) By signing the Child Advocacy Center bill, Governor O'Malley made a substantial commitment ensuring that Maryland's children are safe and protected.

On October 1, 2010, GOCCP started its first year of funding to CACs under the Child Advocacy Center Assistance grant program by offering support to existing Child Advocacy Centers. In these challenging times, there is nothing more important in our State than protecting Maryland's most vulnerable citizens - our children. The partnerships formed in the Child Advocacy Centers combine compassion for victims with a commitment to law enforcement, a vital participant and first responder in our overall effort to protect our children.

The purpose of these funds for Child Advocacy Center Assistance Grants is to support a broad range of services, including:

- Counseling and psychological services for children who have been physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abused;
- Services to help child victims overcome trauma;
- Counseling and support for families of children who have been victimized and abused;
- Forensic/medical evaluations;
- Specialized equipment;
- Specialized personnel including Child Protective Service Workers,
- Supports successful prosecution of all child abuse cases;

Training; and  
Public Outreach.

In FY2013, twenty (20) CACs and the Maryland Children's Alliance (MCA) each received up to \$12,500 in funding. The total amount awarded was approximately \$249,623. Eligibility is limited to existing CACs that are invited by GOCCP to apply for funding.

### Maryland CAC Structures

Of the 20 CACs in Maryland, sixteen are government based, three are private non-profit, and one is a private-public partnership. The newest addition, Queen Anne's County CAC opened in 2012.

**Government Based:**

Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, St. Mary's, Talbot, Washington, Wicomico, Worcester counties

**Private Non-Profit:**

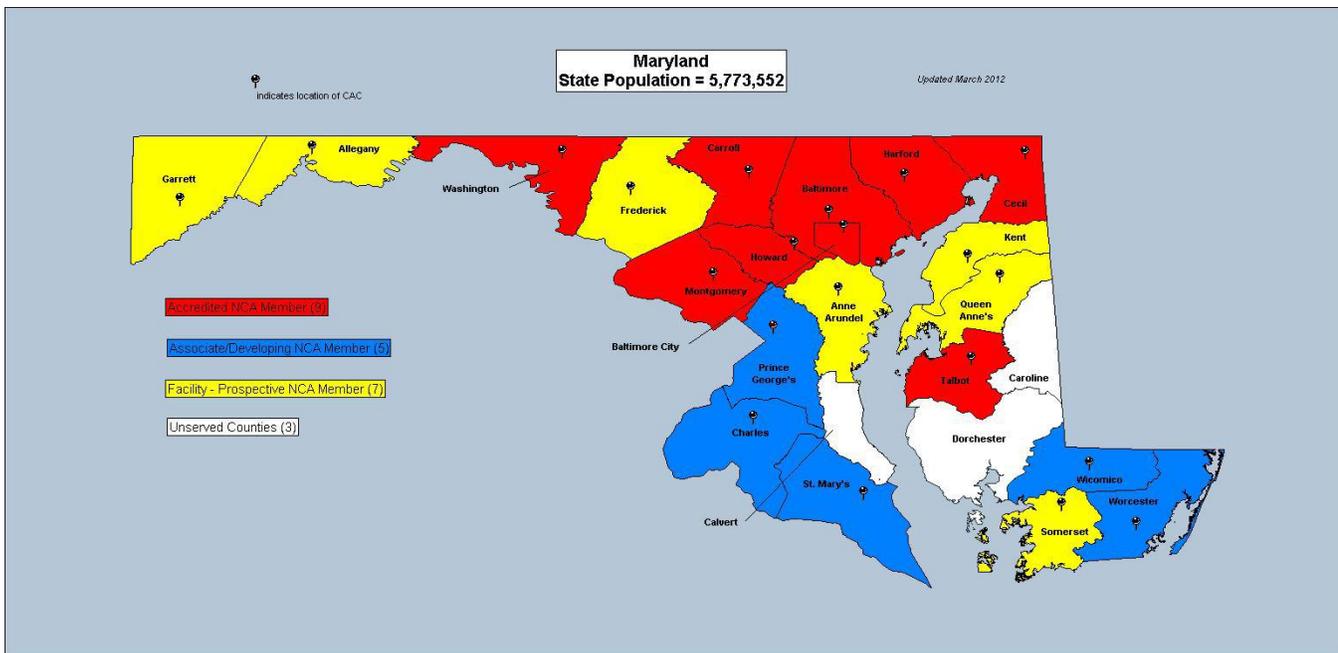
Allegany County, Baltimore City, Charles County

**Private-Public Partnership:**

Montgomery County

**No CAC:**

Caroline, Calvert, Dorchester and Kent counties



\*Map on accreditation of CACs in Maryland by National Children's Alliance (NCA)

In fiscal year 2013, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention and the Maryland State Board of Victim Services allocated funds to Child Advocacy Centers throughout the State, which provided:

*(See Appendix)*

- Services to 4,615 victims
- Crisis intervention to 3,294 victims
- Follow-up services to 2,328 victims

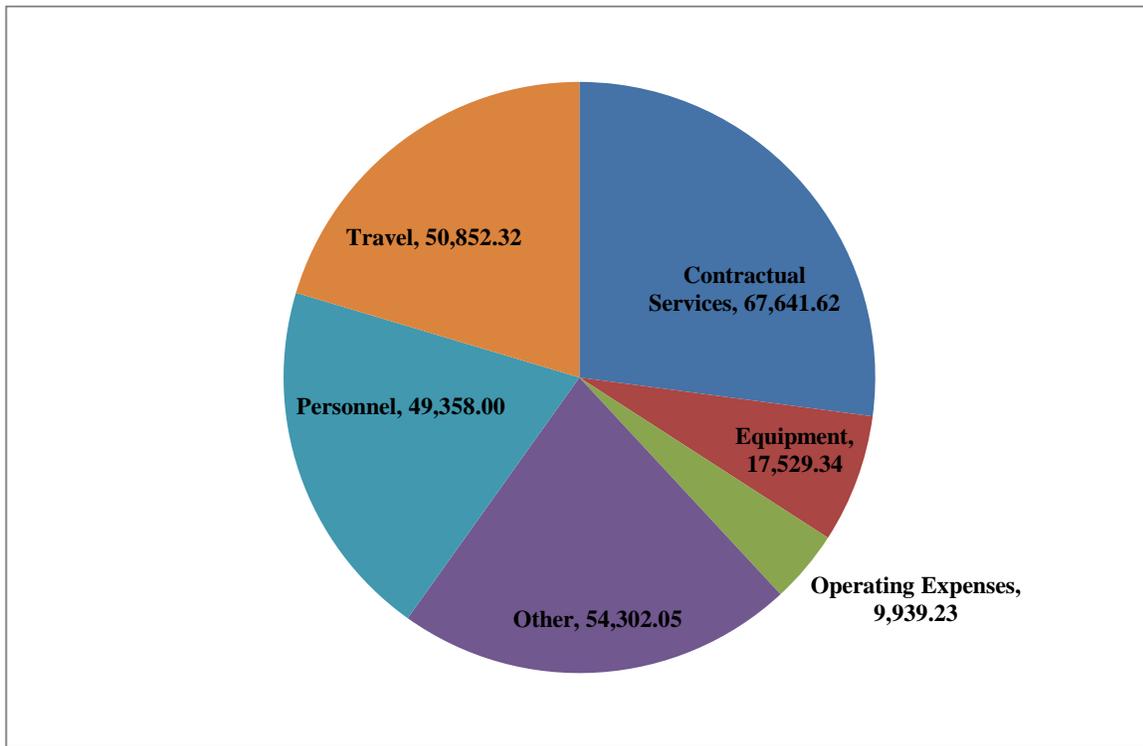
CACs program funds go to help reduce existing gaps in services, foster collaboration and increase cooperation among partnering agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland through salaries, operating expenses, specialized equipment and trainings. Skilled staff embrace and care for child victims of trauma and their families. Following the interview, the child is assisted by the Case Manager or Advocate in rejoining the parent or guardian, answering questions, providing a short “de-briefing” and providing referral information to the family for counseling and other needed services. Team case reviews and coordination is conducted on a regular basis to assure best possible outcomes for the child and family.

# FY 2013 Grant Funding for Child Advocacy Centers per Maryland Jurisdiction<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Grant funding was only provided to jurisdictions with Child Advocacy Centers.

## Budget Funding for Child Advocacy Centers: FY 2013 Budget Detail<sup>2</sup>



### Conclusion

According to U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) 2012 Annual Report, Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) provided a coordinated response to victims of child abuse through multidisciplinary teams composed of investigators, prosecutors, medical personnel, and social service and mental health professionals. The goal of CACs is to provide services to victims and non-offending family members while coordinating the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases.

When children are exposed to violence, their still-developing voices can be muffled or even silenced. Likewise, when youth enter the juvenile justice system, their voices are too often quieted. Ensuring that our nation's juvenile justice and child protection systems hear—and listen to—the voices of youth and families is the core responsibility of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). OJJDP partners with juvenile justice practitioners and child safety professionals throughout the country to make sure that the needs of children and families inform policies and programs.

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<sup>2</sup> The budget detail is categorized into six different categories: Contractual Services (e.g., family counseling, forensic data capturing equipment, training, software, yoga, graphic design/artwork, etc.), Equipment (e.g., software, CellDEK Workstation, medical encyclopedias, Teach-A-Bodies Forensic Interview Dolls, furniture, security cameras, monitors, projector, GPS navigation, etc.), Operating Expenses (e.g., electric utilities, telephone and fax, training, etc.), Other (e.g., training, educational materials, therapeutic toys and supplies, etc.), Personnel (e.g., benefit,; salary, mental health therapist, etc.), and Travel (e.g., mileage, meal reimbursement, roundtrip airfare, hotel, car rental, lodging, parking, etc.).

Appendix  
Fiscal Year 2013 CACS

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-0001

**Applicant Agency:** The Cricket Center, Inc.

**Implementing Org:** The Cricket Center, Inc.

**Project Title:** Multi-Disciplinary Team

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**County:** Worcester

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Municipality:** County-wide

**Award Amount:** \$12,500.00

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**Project Summary:**

The Worcester County Cricket Center's Multi-Disciplinary Team program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration among partner agencies by providing training by National Children's Alliance and Maryland Children's Alliance, community outreach, accreditation support, and equipment. The program expands the use of the multi-disciplinary team approach in Worcester County by initiating and conducting joint child abuse investigations and training/expanding the multi-disciplinary team to develop communication skills imperative to the prosecution process. Grant funds provide training and related equipment.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1001

**Applicant Agency:** Cecil County, Maryland

**Implementing Org:** Cecil County, Maryland

**Project Title:** Medical Services and Training

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**County:** Cecil

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Municipality:** Elkton

**Award Amount:** \$12,499.49

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**Project Summary:**

The Cecil County Board of County Commissioners' Medical Services and Training program provides contracted medical services to child victims served through the Cecil County Child Advocacy Center. The medical provider serves as a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team and performs direct on-site services that include examination, treatment, and consultation. Grant funds provide training and equipment.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1002

**Applicant Agency:** Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children

**Implementing Org:** Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children

**Project Title:** Child Abuse Response & Evaluation

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**County:** Queen Anne's

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Municipality:** Centreville

**Award Amount:** \$12,500.00

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**Project Summary:**

The Queen Anne's County Community Partnerships for Children and Families' Child Abuse Response & Evaluation program helps to reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration among partner agencies by providing support services to child victims of sexual abuse and their non-offending family members. The program supports enhanced screening and improved response time to allegations of child maltreatment. Program funds provide training.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1003

**Applicant Agency:** Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

**Implementing Org:** Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Support Services

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**County:** Anne Arundel

**Project End Date:** 10/31/2013

**Municipality:** County-wide

**Award Amount:** \$12,499.00

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**Project Summary:**

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services' Support Services program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides forensic interviews for child sexual abuse victims and siblings, crisis intervention services for primary and secondary victims, and investigation of allegations of child sexual abuse/assault. The program collaborates with law enforcement, the State's Attorney's Office, and the Victim Witness Program. Grant funds provide salary support, equipment, training, and membership fees for Maryland Children's Alliance and the National Children's Alliance.

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Fiscal Year 2013 CACS

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1004

**Applicant Agency:** Carroll County Board of County Commissioners

**Implementing Org:** Carroll County Board of County Commissioners

**Project Title:** Training and Equipment

**Award Amount:** \$12,267.66

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**County:** Carroll

**Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Carroll County Board of County Commissioners' Training and Equipment program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides a friendly environment committed to reducing trauma as staff investigates allegations of sexual and physical abuse and sexual assault, assess and protect the victim, and provide resources. Grant funds provide equipment and training.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1005

**Applicant Agency:** Center for Children, Inc.

**Implementing Org:** Center for Children, Inc.

**Project Title:** Operation and Training

**Award Amount:** \$12,500.00

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**County:** Charles

**Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Center for Children's Operation and Training program provides training and support to allow the Charles County Child Advocacy Center to move forward with accreditation and foster collaboration among interagency team members. The program provides multidisciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment. Grant funds provide salary support, training, membership dues, a tracking system, and video equipment maintenance licenses.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1006

**Applicant Agency:** Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.

**Implementing Org:** Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.

**Project Title:** Long-Term Family Advocacy

**Award Amount:** \$12,500.00

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**County:** Baltimore City

**Municipality:** Baltimore

**Project Summary:**

Baltimore Child Abuse Center's Long-Term Family Advocacy program helps to close a gap in case management services available to victims of child sexual abuse in Baltimore City. The program provides victims and their family's assistance through the criminal justice process, courtroom advocacy, and referrals to mental health treatment and other services. Grant funds provide salary support.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1007 **Applicant Agency:** Frederick County Board of Commissioners

**Implementing Org:** Frederick County Board of Commissioners

**Project Title:** Client Support Services

**Award Amount:** \$12,500.00

**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012

**Project End Date:** 9/30/2013

**Matching Funds:** \$0.00

**County:** Frederick

**Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Frederick County Child Advocacy Center Client Support Services program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides services to children, and their families, who are victims of severe physical and sexual abuse and neglect. These services include mental health assessments and trauma focused counseling services, individual and group counseling, forensic medical examination and consultation, and interpretation services. Grant funds provide training and equipment.

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Fiscal Year 2013 CACS

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1008      **Applicant Agency:** Harford County Child Advocacy Center  
**Implementing Org:** Harford County Child Advocacy Center

**Project Title:** Investigative Enhancements      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Harford      **Municipality:** Bel Air

**Project Summary:**

The Harford County Child Advocacy Center's Investigative Enhancements program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program improves the ability to investigate crimes and present evidence in court for cases involving child abuse and child exploitation. Grant funds provide equipment and training.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1009      **Applicant Agency:** Howard County, Maryland  
**Implementing Org:** Howard County Police Department

**Project Title:** Investigative and Training Enhancements      **Award Amount:** \$12,416.01  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Howard      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Howard County Investigative and Training Enhancements program helps reduce existing gaps in services and to foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program is a team approach to investigating of child abuse and providing services to child victims and their families. Grant funds provide equipment and training.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1010      **Applicant Agency:** Jane's Place, Inc.  
**Implementing Org:** Jane's Place, Inc.

**Project Title:** Jane's Place      **Award Amount:** \$12,481.00  
**Project Start Date:** 11/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Allegany      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Allegany County Jane's Place program is a child-friendly facility where children who are alleged to have been traumatized from sexual and physical abuse are interviewed and undergo medical examinations. Coordinated services are provided in order to avoid creating additional trauma from the child needing to separately recount the incidents of abuse to child protective service workers, law enforcement, and prosecutors. Grant funds provide salary support.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1011      **Applicant Agency:** Life Crisis Center, Inc.  
**Implementing Org:** Life Crisis Center, Inc.

**Project Title:** Rural Best Practices      **Award Amount:** \$12,472.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Wicomico      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Somerset County Life Crisis Center's Rural Best Practices program ensures that the investigative, prosecution, and treatment services in child abuse cases in Somerset County reach the highest standards set for Child Advocacy Centers. The program uses research based national best practices for evaluation and treatment of child sexual abuse and provides therapy for victims of child sexual abuse and for secondary victims, including non-offending parents and other siblings of the primary victim. Grant funds provide training and travel.

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Fiscal Year 2013 CACS

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1012      **Applicant Agency:** Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County  
**Implementing Org:** Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County

**Project Title:** Trauma-Focused Mental Health Care      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Montgomery      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County's Trauma-Focused Mental Health Care program helps reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among child protection stakeholders throughout Montgomery County. The program provides free medical examinations, mental health care, forensic interviews, advocacy, and assistance to victims of child maltreatment and their non-offending family members. The program provides trauma-focused mental health therapy, free of cost, to both primary maltreatment victims (the children) and secondary victims (the non-offending family members). Grant funds provide salary support.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1013      **Applicant Agency:** Talbot County Department of Social Services  
**Implementing Org:** Talbot County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Children's Advocacy Center      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Talbot      **Municipality:** Easton

**Project Summary:**

The Talbot County Department of Social Services' Children's Advocacy Center program helps reduce existing gaps in services and fosters collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides trauma centered psychological services for child victims and their families and offers counseling to non-offending caregivers and adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Grant funds provide travel, training materials, and contractual services.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1014      **Applicant Agency:** Washington County Department of Social Services  
**Implementing Org:** Washington County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Safe Place      **Award Amount:** \$12,499.40  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Washington      **Municipality:** Hagerstown

**Project Summary:**

The Washington County Department of Social Services' Safe Place program helps to reduce existing gaps in services and to foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides a child-friendly environment during collaborative investigations, therapeutic/medical interventions, and criminal prosecutions of child abuse cases. Grant funds provide equipment and supplies.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1015      **Applicant Agency:** Wicomico County Department of Social Services  
**Implementing Org:** Wicomico County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Counseling Services      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Wicomico      **Municipality:** Salisbury

**Project Summary:**

The Wicomico County Department of Social Services' Counseling Services program helps reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides a multidisciplinary team approach when assessing allegations of child maltreatment in Wicomico County, Maryland and addresses issues of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect, and mental injury. Grant funds provide salary support.

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Fiscal Year 2013 CACS

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1016      **Applicant Agency:** Baltimore County, Maryland  
**Implementing Org:** Baltimore County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Child Advocacy Center      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Baltimore County      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The Baltimore County Child Advocacy Center program helps reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program conducts sexual abuse investigations, non-leading interviews of victims and perpetrators, and provides therapeutic services to victims of sexual abuse. Grant funds provide training and equipment.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1017      **Applicant Agency:** Garrett County Department of Social Services  
**Implementing Org:** Garrett County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Prevailing Over Trauma      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 9/30/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Garrett      **Municipality:** Oakland

**Project Summary:**

The Garrett County Department of Social Services Prevailing Over Trauma program helps reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program partners with representatives from child welfare, law enforcement, medical, and prosecution and provides services to victims of child abuse/assault and child sexual abuse/assault. The program utilizes various methods of treatment for individuals/groups and ancillary child/family support services. These services include child abuse investigation, forensic interviewing, medical services, and therapeutic services. Grant funds provide psychological exams, services to assist child victims overcome trauma, and specialized training.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1018      **Applicant Agency:** Prince George's County, Maryland  
**Implementing Org:** Prince George's County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Supportive Services Expansion      **Award Amount:** \$12,488.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 10/31/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** Prince George's      **Municipality:** Landover Hills

**Project Summary:**

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services' Supportive Services Expansion project helps to reduce existing gaps in quality service delivery. Currently, the department does not video tape forensic interviews with children suspected to have been sexually abused. As such, information gleaned from a sexual abuse investigation is often challenged in court. Grant funds provide travel, contractual services, and Closed-Circuit Television and Recording equipment.

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**Award Number:** CACS-2013-1019      **Applicant Agency:** St. Mary's County Department of Social Services  
**Implementing Org:** St. Mary's County Department of Social Services

**Project Title:** Child Friendly Environment      **Award Amount:** \$12,500.00  
**Project Start Date:** 10/1/2012      **Project End Date:** 10/31/2013      **Matching Funds:** \$0.00  
**County:** St. Mary's      **Municipality:** County-wide

**Project Summary:**

The St. Mary's County Child Advocacy Center's Child Friendly Environment program ensures that all child victims and their family members receive assistance through services that recognize their unique circumstances and needs. The program provides child victims (who present with special circumstances) an opportunity to access additional evaluations and interviews; this allows a highly trained Multidisciplinary team to work together and develop a comprehensive plan for assistance and referral. Grant funds provide equipment, training, travel, and contractual services.

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**Total Awards: 20**

**Total Funds: \$249,622.56**