

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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Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Christopher B. Shank
Executive Director

December 3, 2015

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Office of the Governor
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
President of the Senate
State House, H-107
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Michael Erin Bush
Speaker of the House of Delegates
State House, H-101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan, President Miller and Speaker Busch:

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's requirement to produce an annual report on the Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland. Enclosed 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, appearing to read "Chris B. Shank", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Christopher B. Shank
Executive Director

Enclosure

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER SERVICES PROGRAM REPORT

Child Advocacy Centers provide a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the problem of child abuse. Child Advocacy Centers are safe, child-friendly environments for forensic interviews and medical evaluations for the alleged child victim and offer 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. Child Advocacy Centers also help reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. Child Advocacy Centers promote and provide specialized training for professionals, and extend efforts to promote public awareness and prevention.

Section 11-923(h) of the Criminal Procedure Article requires the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention to establish and sustain child advocacy centers and states the following purposes of these centers:

“(2) The child advocacy centers:

(i) may be based in private nonprofit organizations, local departments of social services, local law enforcement agencies, or a partnership among any of these entities;

(ii) shall be developed and located to facilitate their use by alleged victims residing in the surrounding areas;

(iii) shall investigate allegations of sexual crimes against children and sexual abuse of minors;

(iv) shall provide or facilitate referrals to appropriate counseling, legal, medical, and advocacy services for victims; and

(v) shall be included in all joint investigation procedures developed in accordance with § 5-706 of the Family Law Article.”

Child Advocacy Center's 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 embraces and care for child victims of trauma and their families. Following an interview, a child is assisted by a designated case manager or advocate while rejoining their parent or guardian, by 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 are conducted on a regular basis to assure best possible outcomes for the child and family.

A newly defined type of trauma in children is poly-victimization, also known as complex trauma, which describes the experience of multiple victimizations of different types. Research shows that the impact of poly-victimization is much more powerful than even multiple events of

a single type of victimization. Child Advocacy Centers now have the training and resources to properly equip child maltreatment practitioners with the skills they need to assess and assist poly-victims, provide resources for appropriate response, reaction, and questioning for all professionals working with children, throughout the nation and beyond.

In 2010, a bill was created to support Child Advocacy Centers 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)).

Maryland Child Advocacy Center Structures

Of the twenty-one (21) Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland, seventeen (17) are government-based, three (3) are private non-profit, and one (1) is a private-public partnership. The newest addition, Kent County Child Advocacy Center opened in 2013.

Government-Based:

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

Private Non-Profit:

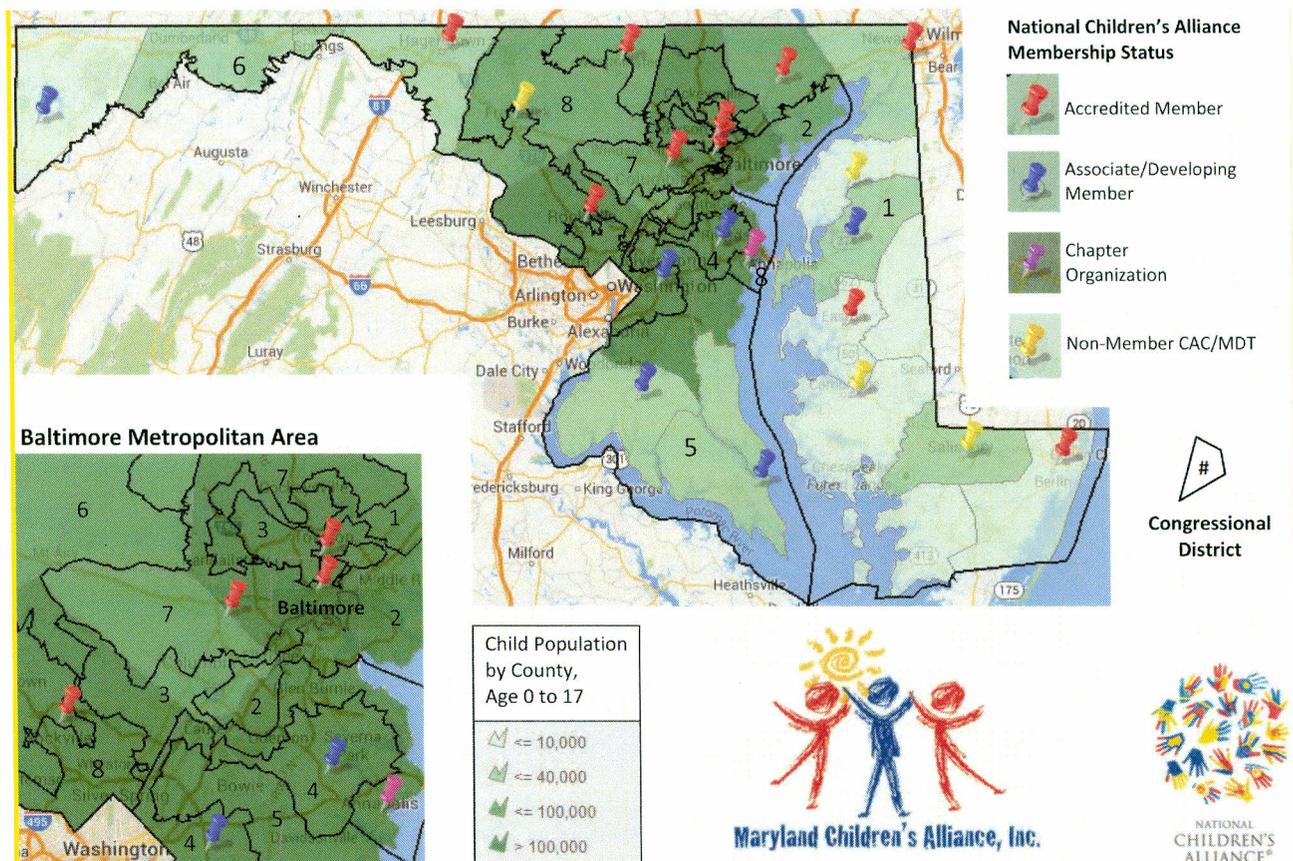
Allegany County, Baltimore City, Charles County

Private-Public Partnership:

Montgomery County

No Child Advocacy Center:

Caroline, Calvert and Dorchester Counties



2015 Map of Child Advocacy Centers in Maryland by the National Children's Alliance

FY 2015 Child Advocacy Center Funding in Maryland

In October, 2010, the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention started its first year of funding to Child Advocacy Centers under the Child Advocacy Centers Assistance grant program. The partnerships formed in 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.

In FY 2015, twenty-one (21) Child Advocacy Centers and the Maryland Children's Alliance each received up to \$12,500 in funding. The total amount awarded was approximately \$250,000.00.

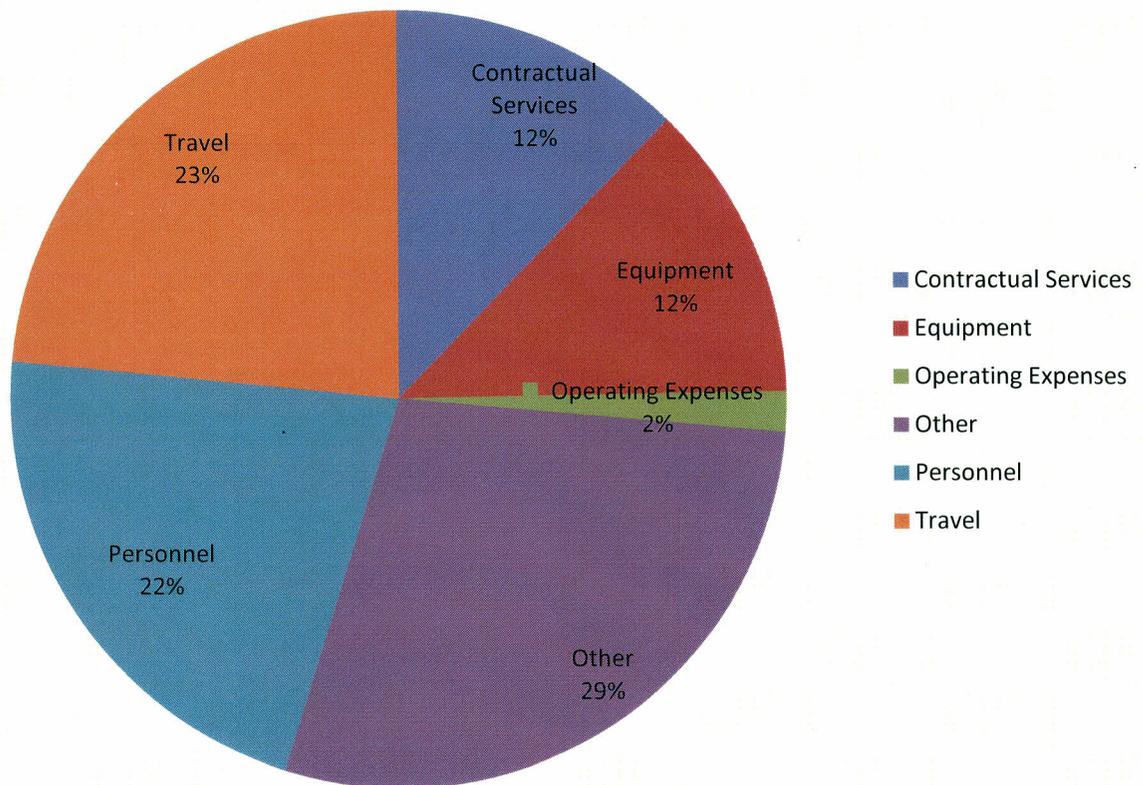
Performance Measures:

- Services to 4,618 victims.
- Training for 493 criminal justice providers, crisis response teams and advocates.

The purpose of these funds for Child Advocacy Centers 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,
- Support for successful prosecution of all child abuse cases;
- Training; and
- Public Outreach.

Budget Funding for Child Advocacy Centers: FY 2015 Budget Detail



FY 2015 Child Advocacy Center Services Awards

Award Number: CACS-2015-0001 **Applicant Agency:** Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.
Implementing Org: Baltimore Child Abuse Center, Inc.

Project Title: Long-Term Family Advocacy Services

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 3/31/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Baltimore City

Municipality: Baltimore

Project Summary:

Baltimore Child Abuse Center's (BCAC) Long-Term Family Advocacy Services program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides assistance through the criminal justice process, courtroom advocacy, and referrals to mental health treatment and other services to victims and their families. Grant funds provide personnel.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0002 **Applicant Agency:** Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Child Advocacy Center Project

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,902.00

County: Anne Arundel

Municipality: County-wide

Project Summary:

The Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services Child Advocacy Center Project assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides forensic interviews for child victims and their siblings, crisis intervention services, forensic medical exams, therapeutic treatment groups, and referrals for appropriate services, including therapy. Program funds provide training, contractual services, equipment, and membership dues.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0003 **Applicant Agency:** Center for Children, Inc.
Implementing Org: Center for Children, Inc.

Project Title: Operation and Training

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Charles

Municipality: La Plata

Project Summary:

The Center for Children, Inc.'s Operation and Training program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides multidisciplinary child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment, as well as, training and support to allow the Charles County Child Advocacy Center to move forward with accreditation and foster collaboration among inter-agency team members. Program funds provide operating expenses, training, contractual services, and membership dues.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0004 **Applicant Agency:** Frederick County, Maryland
Implementing Org: Frederick County, Maryland

Project Title: Training and Client Services

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,899.91

County: Frederick

Municipality: County-wide

Project Summary:

The Child Advocacy Center of Frederick County's Training and Client Services program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child maltreatment victims and their families in Frederick County. The program utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to investigation, prosecution, treatment, education, and advocacy. Program funds provide for training, accreditation fees and interpretive services.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0005 **Applicant Agency:** Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County
Implementing Org: Primary Care Coalition of Montgomery County

Project Title: Advocacy for Abused Children

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 3/31/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Montgomery

Municipality: County-wide

Project Summary:

The Primary Care Coalition's Advocacy for Abused Children program develops and implements services specifically intended to assist child maltreatment victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The project funds a victim advocate who provides

child victims and family members crisis intervention and prevention; information and support during investigation, prosecution, and treatment; and guidance as cases move through the justice system. Grant funds provide salary support for one victim advocate.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0006 **Applicant Agency:** Jane's Place, Inc.
Implementing Org: Jane's Place, Inc.

Project Title: Child Advocacy Center Management
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,892.77
County: Allegany **Municipality:** Cumberland

Project Summary:

The Jane's Place Child Advocacy Center Management program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides for the essential leadership function of Jane's Place. Grant funds will provide salary support.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0007 **Applicant Agency:** Washington County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Washington County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Safe Place Project
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00
County: Washington **Municipality:** County-wide

Project Summary:

The Washington County Department of Social Services' Safe Place Project assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The 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. Grant funds provide operating expenses, equipment and outreach materials.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0008 **Applicant Agency:** Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services

Project Title: CARE Team Training Project
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,887.63
County: Queen Anne's **Municipality:** Centreville

Project Summary:

The Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services' CARE Team Training Project will enhance the team's expertise in investigating, prosecuting, and treating cases of child sexual abuse in Queen Anne's County, Maryland. The project will offer the team specialized, advanced level training in core concepts around child sexual abuse and the children's advocacy center model. Grant funds provide travel.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0009 **Applicant Agency:** Wicomico County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Wicomico County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Child Advocacy Center Training and Supportive Services
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00
County: Wicomico **Municipality:** Salisbury

Project Summary:

The Wicomico County Department of Social Services Child Advocacy Center Training and Supportive Services program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides a multidisciplinary team approach to assess allegations of child maltreatment in Wicomico County, Maryland. The program addresses issues of child physical and sexual abuse, neglect and mental injury. Grant funds provide training, equipment and operating expenses.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0010 **Applicant Agency:** Garrett County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Garrett County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Furthering the Cause - Prevailing Over Trauma
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00
County: Garrett **Municipality:** Oakland

Project Summary:

The Garrett County Department of Social Services (Furthering the Cause - Prevailing Over Trauma program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program helps reduce existing gaps in services and foster collaboration and cooperation among partner agencies and stakeholders throughout Maryland. The program provides child abuse investigation, forensic interviewing, medical services and therapeutic services. Grant funds provide travel and program supplies.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0011 **Applicant Agency:** St. Mary's County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: St. Mary's County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Child Advocacy Center
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00
County: St. Mary's **Municipality:** Leonardtown

Project Summary:

The St. Mary's County Department of Social Services' Child Advocacy Center program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. This program provides child victims who present with special circumstances an opportunity to access additional evaluations and interviews so that a highly trained multi-disciplinary team can work together to develop a comprehensive plan for assistance and referral. Grant funds provide training and travel.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0012 **Applicant Agency:** Talbot County Department of Social Services
Implementing Org: Talbot County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Children's Advocacy Center Program
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,892.26
County: Talbot **Municipality:** Easton

Project Summary:

The Talbot County Department of Social Services Children's Advocacy Center program assists in developing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families. The program provides trauma centered psychological services and advocacy for child victims and their families, offers counseling to non-offending caregivers and adult survivors of child sexual abuse, renders medical expertise in the evaluation of child sexual abuse and supports training opportunities for multi-disciplinary team members. Grant funds provide travel and contractual services.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0013 **Applicant Agency:** Carroll County Board of County Commissioners
Implementing Org: Carroll County Sheriff's Office

Project Title: Child Advocacy Center Training and Equipment
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$9,922.87
County: Carroll **Municipality:** Westminster

Project Summary:

The Carroll County Advocacy and Investigation Center's Child Advocacy Center Training and Equipment program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides a friendly environment committed to reducing trauma as it investigates allegations of sexual and physical abuse and sexual assault, assesses and protects the victim, and provides resources for the victim. Program funds provide training for multi-disciplinary members and equipment.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0014 **Applicant Agency:** The Cricket Center, Inc.
Implementing Org: The Cricket Center, Inc.

Project Title: Multi-Disciplinary Team Program
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00
County: Worcester **Municipality:** Berlin

Project Summary:

The CRICKET Center, Inc.'s Child Advocacy Center's Multi-Disciplinary Team Program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program manager enhances the use of the multi-disciplinary team, the child advocacy center approach, improves screening and response time, and models best practice standards. The program manager, serves as the multi-disciplinary team coordinator. Program funds provide salary support.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0015 **Applicant Agency:** Baltimore County, Maryland
Implementing Org: Baltimore County, Maryland

Project Title: CAC Enhancement Project

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,903.00

County: Baltimore County **Municipality:** County-wide

Project Summary:

The Baltimore County Department of Health and Human Services' CAC Enhancement Project assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual abuse victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program provides assistance to CAC personnel in the investigation of crimes against children, specialized services, and mental health treatment for victims of crime. Program funds provide updated equipment and professional training.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0016 **Applicant Agency:** Harford County, Maryland

Implementing Org: Harford County Child Advocacy Center

Project Title: Investigative Enhancement

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Harford **Municipality:** Bel Air

Project Summary:

The Harford County Child Advocacy Center Investigative Enhancement program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The program seeks to improve public safety by supporting technological advancements, equipment enhancements and training improvements at the Child Advocacy Center aimed at reducing existing gaps in services and fostering collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders. Products and services secured with this grant will improve our ability to investigate crimes and present evidence in court for child abuse and child exploitation cases. Program funds provide contractual services, equipment, and training.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0017 **Applicant Agency:** Life Crisis Center, Inc.

Implementing Org: Life Crisis Center, Inc.

Project Title: CAC Team Training Initiative

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Wicomico **Municipality:** Salisbury

Project Summary:

The Life Crisis Center's Somerset CAC Team Training Initiative program assists in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. The Child Advocacy Center fosters collaboration and team building among partner agencies to ensure best practices in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child sexual abuse. Program funds provide training, salary support and travel.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0018 **Applicant Agency:** Kent County Department of Social Services

Implementing Org: Kent County Department of Social Services

Project Title: Child Advocacy Project

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Kent **Municipality:** Chestertown

Project Summary:

The Kent County Department of Social Services' Child Advocacy Center's Child Advocacy Project provides assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in Kent County. The project provides advocacy services for Kent County victims, coordinates Child Advocacy Center activities, develops resources, provides information and referrals, coordinates the Kent County Child Advocacy Center Multi-Disciplinary Investigative Team, and educates the public and other community professionals. Program funds provide salary and training.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0019 **Applicant Agency:** Howard County, Maryland

Implementing Org: Howard County Police Department

Project Title: CAC Enhancement Project

Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,904.00

County: Howard **Municipality:** County-wide

Project Summary:

The Howard County Child Advocacy Center's Enhancement Project 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

the investigation of child abuse and providing services to child victims and their families. Grant funds will provide excellent training to the various professional staff members of the Child Advocacy Center and assist them with their job responsibilities and investigations. Grant funds will provide travel.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0020 **Applicant Agency:** Cecil County, Maryland
Implementing Org: Cecil County Department of Social Services
Project Title: CAC Medical Services Project
Project Start Date: 10/1/2014 **Project End Date:** 9/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,747.00
County: Cecil **Municipality:** Elkton
Project Summary:

The Cecil County Child Advocacy Center's CAC Medical Services Project seeks to provide contracted medical services to child victims served through the Cecil County Child Advocacy Center. The medical provider will perform direct services on-site to include examination, treatment and consultation and will serve as a member of the multi-disciplinary Team. Grant funds will provide travel, contractual and other expenditures.

Award Number: CACS-2015-0021 **Applicant Agency:** Prince George's County, Maryland
Implementing Org: Prince George's County Department of Social Services
Project Title: Child Advocacy Center Expansion Project
Project Start Date: 4/1/2015 **Project End Date:** 11/30/2015 **Award Amount:** \$11,900.00
County: Prince George's **Municipality:** Bowie
Project Summary:

The Prince George's County Department of Social Services' Child Advocacy Center Expansion Project will assist in developing and implementing strategies specifically intended to provide assistance to child sexual assault victims and their families in the State of Maryland. This program will assist in expanding Child Advocacy Center supportive services to the new Family Justice Center in Prince George's County. Grant funds will provide equipment.
