

SUBCHAPTER I—IMPROVING INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE CASES

§ 13001. Findings

The Congress finds that—

(1) over 2,000,000 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect are made each year, and drug abuse is associated with a significant portion of these;

(2) the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases is extremely complex, involving numerous agencies and dozens of personnel;

(3) traditionally, community agencies and professionals have different roles in the prevention, investigation, and intervention process;

(4) in such cases, too often the system does not pay sufficient attention to the needs and welfare of the child victim, aggravating the trauma that the child victim has already experienced;

(5) there is a national need to enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention system;

(6) multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs have been developed that increase the reporting of child abuse cases, reduce the trauma to the child victim, and increase the successful prosecution of child abuse offenders; and

(7) such programs have proven effective, and with targeted Federal assistance, could be duplicated in many jurisdictions throughout the country.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §211, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4792; Pub. L. 102-586, §6(a), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029.)

AMENDMENTS

1992—Pars. (3) to (7). Pub. L. 102-586 added pars. (3) and (5) and redesignated former pars. (3), (4), and (5) as (4), (6), and (7), respectively.

SHORT TITLE OF 2014 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 113-163, §1, Aug. 8, 2014, 128 Stat. 1864, provided that: “This Act [enacting section 13005 of this title and amending sections 10601 and 13004 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Victims of Child Abuse Act Reauthorization Act of 2013.’”

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §201, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4792, provided that: “This title [enacting this chapter, sections 3796aa to 3796aa-8 of this title, and sections 403, 2258, and 3509 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and amending sections 3742, 3782, 3783, 3789, 3793, and 3797 of this title] may be cited as the ‘Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990.’”

§ 13001a. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter—

(1) the term “Administrator” means the agency head designated under section 5611(b) of this title;

(2) the term “applicant” means a child protective service, law enforcement, legal, medical and mental health agency or other agency that responds to child abuse cases;

(3) the term “board” means the Children’s Advocacy Advisory Board established under section 13001b(e) of this title;

(4) the term “census region” means 1 of the 4 census regions (northeast, south, midwest, and west) that are designated as census regions by the Bureau of the Census as of November 4, 1992;

(5) the term “child abuse” means physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child;

(6) the term “Director” means the Director of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect;

(7) the term “multidisciplinary response to child abuse” means a response to child abuse that is based on mutually agreed upon procedures among the community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that best meets the needs of child victims and their nonoffending family members;

(8) the term “nonoffending family member” means a member of the family of a victim of child abuse other than a member who has been convicted or accused of committing an act of child abuse; and

(9) the term “regional children’s advocacy program” means the children’s advocacy program established under section 13001b(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §212, as added Pub. L. 102-586, §6(b)(2), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 212 of Pub. L. 101-647 was renumbered section 214 and is classified to section 13002 of this title.

§ 13001b. Regional children’s advocacy centers

(a) Establishment of regional children’s advocacy program

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, shall establish a children’s advocacy program to—

(1) focus attention on child victims by assisting communities in developing child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children and families;

(2) provide support for nonoffending family members;

(3) enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases; and

(4) train physicians and other health care and mental health care professionals in the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse so that trained medical personnel will be available to provide medical support to community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.

(b) Activities of regional children’s advocacy program

(1) Administrator

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall—

(A) establish regional children’s advocacy program centers;

(B) fund existing regional centers with expertise in the prevention, judicial handling, and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and

(C) fund the establishment of freestanding facilities in multidisciplinary programs within communities that have yet to establish such facilities,

for the purpose of enabling grant recipients to provide information, services, and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse.

**(2) Grant recipients**

A grant recipient under this section shall—  
(A) assist communities—

(i) in developing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary response to child abuse that is designed to meet the needs of child victims and their families;

(ii) in establishing a freestanding facility where interviews of and services for abused children can be provided;

(iii) in preventing or reducing trauma to children caused by multiple contacts with community professionals;

(iv) in providing families with needed services and assisting them in regaining maximum functioning;

(v) in maintaining open communication and case coordination among community professionals and agencies involved in child protection efforts;

(vi) in coordinating and tracking investigative, preventive, prosecutorial, and treatment efforts;

(vii) in obtaining information useful for criminal and civil proceedings;

(viii) in holding offenders accountable through improved prosecution of child abuse cases;

(ix) in enhancing professional skills necessary to effectively respond to cases of child abuse through training; and

(x) in enhancing community understanding of child abuse; and

(B) provide training and technical assistance to local children's advocacy centers in its census region that are grant recipients under section 13002 of this title.

**(c) Operation of regional children's advocacy program**

**(1) Solicitation of proposals**

Not later than 1 year after November 4, 1992, the Administrator shall solicit proposals for assistance under this section.

**(2) Minimum qualifications**

In order for a proposal to be selected, the Administrator may require an applicant to have in existence, at the time the proposal is submitted, 1 or more of the following:

(A) A proven record in conducting activities of the kinds described in subsection (c) of this section.

(B) A facility where children who are victims of sexual or physical abuse and their nonoffending family members can go for the purpose of evaluation, intervention, evidence gathering, and counseling.

(C) Multidisciplinary staff experienced in providing remedial counseling to children and families.

(D) Experience in serving as a center for training and education and as a resource facility.

(E) National expertise in providing technical assistance to communities with respect to the judicial handling of child abuse and neglect.

**(3) Proposal requirements**

**(A) In general**

A proposal submitted in response to the solicitation under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) include a single or multiyear management plan that outlines how the applicant will provide information, services, and technical assistance to communities so that communities can establish multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse;

(ii) demonstrate the ability of the applicant to operate successfully a multidisciplinary child abuse program or provide training to allow others to do so; and

(iii) state the annual cost of the proposal and a breakdown of those costs.

**(B) Content of management plan**

A management plan described in paragraph (3)(A) shall—

(i) outline the basic activities expected to be performed;

(ii) describe the entities that will conduct the basic activities;

(iii) establish the period of time over which the basic activities will take place; and

(iv) define the overall program management and direction by—

(I) identifying managerial, organizational, and administrative procedures and responsibilities;

(II) demonstrating how implementation and monitoring of the progress of the children's advocacy program after receipt of funding will be achieved; and

(III) providing sufficient rationale to support the costs of the plan.

**(4) Selection of proposals**

**(A) Competitive basis**

Proposals shall be selected under this section on a competitive basis.

**(B) Criteria**

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall select proposals for funding that—

(i) best result in developing and establishing multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse by assisting, training, and teaching community agencies and professionals called upon to respond to child abuse cases;

(ii) assist in resolving problems that may occur during the development, operation, and implementation of a multidisciplinary program that responds to child abuse;

(iii) carry out the objectives developed by the board under subsection (e)(2)(A) of this section;

(iv) to the greatest extent possible and subject to available appropriations, ensure that at least 1 applicant is selected from each of the 4 census regions of the country; and

(v) otherwise best carry out the purposes of this section.

**(5) Funding of program**

From amounts made available in separate appropriation Acts, the Administrator shall provide to each grant recipient the financial and technical assistance and other incentives that are necessary and appropriate to carry out this section.

**(6) Coordination of effort**

In order to carry out activities that are in the best interests of abused and neglected children, a grant recipient shall consult with other grant recipients on a regular basis to exchange ideas, share information, and review children's advocacy program activities.

**(d) Review**

**(1) Evaluation of regional children's advocacy program activities**

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall regularly monitor and evaluate the activities of grant recipients and shall determine whether each grant recipient has complied with the original proposal and any modifications.

**(2) Annual report**

A grant recipient shall provide an annual report to the Administrator and the Director that—

(A) describes the progress made in satisfying the purpose of the children's advocacy program; and

(B) states whether changes are needed and are being made to carry out the purpose of the children's advocacy program.

**(3) Discontinuation of funding**

**(A) Failure to implement program activities**

If a grant recipient under this section substantially fails in the implementation of the program activities, the Administrator shall not discontinue funding until reasonable notice and an opportunity for reconsideration is given.

**(B) Solicitation of new proposals**

Upon discontinuation of funding of a grant recipient under this section, the Administrator shall solicit new proposals in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

**(e) Children's advocacy advisory board**

**(1) Establishment of board**

**(A) In general**

Not later than 120 days after November 4, 1992, the Administrator and the Director, after consulting with representatives of community agencies that respond to child abuse cases, shall establish a children's advocacy advisory board to provide guidance and oversight in implementing the selection criteria and operation of the regional children's advocacy program.

**(B) Membership**

(i) The board—

(I) shall be composed of 12 members who are selected by the Administrator, in coordination with the Director, a majority of whom shall be individuals experienced in the child abuse investigation, prosecution, prevention, and intervention systems;

(II) shall include at least 1 member from each of the 4 census regions; and

(III) shall have members appointed for a term not to exceed 3 years.

(ii) Members of the board may be reappointed for successive terms.

**(2) Review and recommendations**

**(A) Objectives**

Not later than 180 days after November 4, 1992, and annually thereafter, the board shall develop and submit to the Administrator and the Director objectives for the implementation of the children's advocacy program activities described in subsection (b) of this section.

**(B) Review**

The board shall annually—

(i) review the solicitation and selection of children's advocacy program proposals and make recommendations concerning how each such activity can be altered so as to better achieve the purposes of this section; and

(ii) review the program activities and management plan of each grant recipient and report its findings and recommendations to the Administrator and the Director.

**(3) Rules and regulations**

The board shall promulgate such rules and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out its duties under this section.

**(f) Reporting**

The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress, by March 1 of each year, a detailed review of the progress of the regional children's advocacy program activities.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §213, as added Pub. L. 102-586, §6(b)(2), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5030; amended Pub. L. 108-21, title III, §381(a), Apr. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 667.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 213 of Pub. L. 101-647 was renumbered section 214A and is classified to section 13003 of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 108-21, §381(a)(1), struck out "and" at end of cl. (ii) of subpar. (B), substituted "board" for "Board" in cl. (iii) of subpar. (B), and redesignated subpars. (C) and (D) as cls. (iv) and (v), respectively, of subpar. (B).

Subsec. (e)(1)(B)(ii), (2)(A), (3). Pub. L. 108-21, §381(a)(2), substituted "board" for "Board".

TERMINATION OF ADVISORY BOARDS

Advisory boards established after Jan. 5, 1973, to terminate not later than the expiration of the 2-year pe-

riod beginning on the date of their establishment, unless, in the case of a board established by the President or an officer of the Federal Government, such board is renewed by appropriate action prior to the expiration of such 2-year period, or in the case of a board established by Congress, its duration is otherwise provided by law. See sections 3(2) and 14 of Pub. L. 92-463, Oct. 6, 1972, 86 Stat. 770, 776, set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

### § 13002. Local children's advocacy centers

#### (a) In general

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, shall make grants to develop and implement multidisciplinary child abuse investigation and prosecution programs.

#### (b) Grant criteria

(1) The Director shall establish the criteria to be used in evaluating applications for grants under this section consistent with sections 5673 and 5676 of this title.

(2) In general, the grant criteria established pursuant to paragraph (1) may require that a program include any of the following elements:

(A) A written agreement between local law enforcement, social service, health, and other related agencies to coordinate child abuse investigation, prosecution, treatment, and counseling services.

(B) An appropriate site for referring, interviewing, treating, and counseling child victims of sexual and serious physical abuse and neglect and nonoffending family members (referred to as the "counseling center").

(C) Referral of all sexual and serious physical abuse and neglect cases to the counseling center not later than 24 hours after notification of an incident of abuse.

(D) Joint initial investigative interviews of child victims by personnel from law enforcement, health, and social service agencies.

(E) A requirement that, to the extent practicable, the same agency representative who conducts an initial interview conduct all subsequent interviews.

(F) A requirement that, to the extent practicable, all interviews and meetings with a child victim occur at the counseling center.

(G) Coordination of each step of the investigation process to minimize the number of interviews that a child victim must attend.

(H) Designation of a director for the multidisciplinary program.

(I) Assignment of a volunteer or staff advocate to each child in order to assist the child and, when appropriate, the child's family, throughout each step of judicial proceedings.

(J) Such other criteria as the Director shall establish by regulation.

#### (c) Distribution of grants

In awarding grants under this section, the Director shall ensure that grants are distributed to both large and small States and to rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions.

#### (d) Consultation with regional children's advocacy centers

A grant recipient under this section shall consult from time to time with regional children's

advocacy centers in its census region that are grant recipients under section 13001b of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §214, formerly §212, Nov. 29, 1990, 104 Stat. 4793; renumbered §214 and amended Pub. L. 102-586, §6(b)(1), (c), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029, 5034; Pub. L. 107-273, div. C, title II, §12221(b)(1)(A), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1894.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 214 of Pub. L. 101-647 was renumbered section 214B and is classified to section 13004 of this title.

#### AMENDMENTS

2002—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 107-273 substituted "sections 5673 and 5676 of this title" for "sections 5665a, 5673, and 5676 of this title".

1992—Pub. L. 102-586, §6(c)(1), substituted "Local children's advocacy centers" for "Authority of Director to make grants" in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 102-586, §6(c)(2), substituted "The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime," for "The Director of the Office of Victims of Crime (hereinafter in this subchapter referred to as the 'Director'), in consultation with officials of the Department of Health and Human Services,".

Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 102-586, §6(c)(3), inserted "and nonoffending family members" after "neglect".

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 102-586, §6(c)(4), added subsec. (d).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-273 effective on the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after Nov. 2, 2002, and applicable only with respect to fiscal years beginning on or after the first day of the first fiscal year that begins after Nov. 2, 2002, see section 12223 of Pub. L. 107-273, as amended, set out as a note under section 5601 of this title.

### § 13003. Grants for specialized technical assistance and training programs

#### (a) In general

The Administrator shall make grants to national organizations to provide technical assistance and training to attorneys and others instrumental to the criminal prosecution of child abuse cases in State or Federal courts, for the purpose of improving the quality of criminal prosecution of such cases.

#### (b) Grantee organizations

An organization to which a grant is made pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be one that has, or is affiliated with one that has, broad membership among attorneys who prosecute criminal cases in State courts and has demonstrated experience in providing training and technical assistance for prosecutors.

#### (c) Grant criteria

(1) The Administrator shall establish the criteria to be used for evaluating applications for grants under this section, consistent with sections 5673 and 5676 of this title.

(2) The grant criteria established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall require that a program provide training and technical assistance that includes information regarding improved child interview techniques, thorough investigative methods, interagency coordination and effective