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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, including human trafficking and the production of child pornography;

(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; amended Pub. L. 114-22, title I, §104(1), May 29, 2015, 129 Stat. 236.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

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

AMENDMENTS

2015—Par. (5). Pub. L. 114-22 inserted “, including human trafficking and the production of child pornography” before semicolon at end.

§ 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;