



Children's Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025



Strengthening Access. Supporting Excellence.

Advancing Hope and Healing to Every Child, Every Community

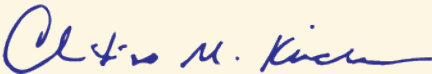
In 2025, Children’s Advocacy Centers of Pennsylvania (PennCAC) strengthened access to coordinated services for child abuse victims across the state by examining our centers’ capacity, supporting multidisciplinary teams and CAC development in unserved counties, and advancing best-practice standards statewide through extensive trainings led by local and national experts.

Pennsylvania’s children deserve no less. We witness extraordinary courage every day as children come to us at their most vulnerable. We are able to offer a safe place to be heard and a chance to experience healing, even when it feels overwhelming.

CACs offer the best possible path forward, because everything we do is rooted in an evidence-based response to child abuse.

This year, **12,849 Pennsylvania children** were met with proven, trauma-informed care and a collaborative multidisciplinary investigative team (MDIT) guided by best practices. Children had timely access to forensic interviews, victim advocacy, medical care, and therapy driven by the belief that compassionate care must also be effective care.

Thank you for standing with us. Your support and generosity make it possible for children to rediscover hope and for families to rebuild trust. Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen Pennsylvania’s response to child abuse to ensure a brighter future for all children.



Chris Kirchner,
Executive Director



Mikele Bay,
Board Chair



Financial Report

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The Honorable Judge Robert Lung led **Understanding and Supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: From the Advocacy Center to the Courtroom**. Judge Lung, who is an internationally known advocate for anti-trafficking laws and a survivor of familial trafficking, wove his personal experience into a discussion focused on the identification of CSEC victims, the importance of a multidisciplinary approach to engagement, and the principles of a trauma-informed court.



A screenshot from news coverage of the **Understanding and Supporting Commercially Sexually Exploited Children** training.

Internationally recognized psychology and interpersonal violence expert Dr. Veronique Valliere presented **Sexual Offender Dynamics**. **74 MDIT professionals** explored how sexual offenders think, what facilitates sexual assault, what drives them to offend and how they justify the assaults. These insights help to enhance awareness and support prevention, intervention and collaboration within an MDIT.

Our 2025 capacity project found that our network of CACs can comfortably provide core services, such as MDIT facilitation (97%), case tracking and review (94%), victim advocacy services (88%) and forensic interviews (85%). It

... [T]he training could have been two days. The information is really useful and, as we were being asked, the information regarding the training could be another source of information.

also uncovered growth opportunities for half of our CACs in providing expanded healing services, such as medical exams, mental health services, and education and prevention programs. We are working to help fill these resource gaps by advocating for an increase in state funding and legislation that recognizes CACs as mandatory MDIT partners.

Dee Feedback from Sexual Offender Dynamics

Our Bodies, Boundaries and Behaviors Child Abuse Prevention Month campaign reached **more than 50,000 Pennsylvanians** with child abuse prevention materials in English, Spanish and Chinese. Parents and caregivers were able to download a one-page resource with **five safety rules** and **five ways to be there for their child** through awareness and open communication.





Pennsylvania's CAC leaders and vocal supporters were instrumental in earning overwhelming support for the **Crime Victims Fund Stabilization Act** in the U.S. House of Representatives. H.R. 909 was passed by the House with **327 bipartisan cosponsors** behind it, including **15 Pennsylvania representatives**.

ge of Understanding and
ally Exploited Children.

Juniata County's multidisciplinary team received a \$150,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to develop a children's advocacy center (CAC). Their dedication ensures that

children in Juniata County will have access to CAC services and are met with the best possible response to abuse.

SHINE Walk featuring Sasha Joseph Neulinger

Our 2025 SHINE walk raised **\$46,378** through individual donations, sponsorships and a **generous \$20,000 matching gift**.

After the walk, we gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to hear from **Emmy-nominated filmmaker and survivor, Sasha Joseph Neulinger**.

109 people took part in the walk, including staff from **12 Children's Advocacy Centers**. The statewide SHINE social media campaign reached more than **600,000 people in Pennsylvania**, sharing a message of child sexual abuse awareness, advocacy, hope and resiliency.



Photos from PennCAC's 2025 Hill Day at the Pennsylvania Capitol.

By the Numbers

- 7** Minimal Facts Interview or MDIT trainings were held in Armstrong, Bucks, Carbon, Clearfield, Lancaster, Lawrence and Pike Counties
- 32** forensic interviewers and prosecutors attended Forensic Interviewer at Trial to prepare for courtroom testimony on child victim disclosures
- 262** MDIT professionals from 22 unserved Pennsylvania counties attended a PennCAC training and 130 received consultations
- 1,418** child abuse responders attended 124 trainings and workshops to improve their service to child victims and their families
- \$89,034** in scholarships to CAC and MDIT professionals for specialized training and professional development
- 637,991** Pennsylvanians reached with a message of resilience through paid ads during the SHINE campaign

2025 Highlights

- 126** MDIT and CAC professionals attended our **top training** of the year, **Supporting the Non-Offending Caregiver**. They learned how to spot behaviors and circumstances which may be harmful for the child, understand the context behind the caregiver's actions, and provide tools and resources to engage caregivers.
- 112** CAC and MDIT professionals attended one of three **Project FORECAST** trainings. Participants are placed into real-world situations where they observe, make decisions, and roleplay to see how their actions play out in real-time. They work together to define problems, uncover information, and identify and evaluate possible solutions.
- 53** MDIT professionals attended one of two **Rural MDIT & CAC Development Trainings**. Designed for MDIT professionals who are interested in starting or supporting a CAC in rural Pennsylvania, the training covers how to build an effective MDIT and develop a child abuse protocol, and introduces the CAC model. It also addresses common challenges, so the team is better prepared to help children in their communities.

WHO WE ARE



A Child's Place, PA
A Child's Place, PA at Beaver Co.
A Child's Place, PA at Fayette Co.
A Child's Place, PA at Washington Co.
A Child's Place, PA
at Westmoreland Co.
Adams County CAC
Bradley H. Foulk CAC of Erie Co.
Bucks Co. CAC
CAC of Butler Co.
CAC of Centre Co., Mount Nittany
CAC of Clearfield Co.
CAC of Franklin Co.
CAC of Lawrence Co., Inc.
CAC of McKean Co.
CAC of Monroe Co.
CAC of Northeastern Pennsylvania
CAC of Northeastern PA: Children's
Center of Susquehanna & Wyoming
Counties

CAC of the Central Susquehanna
Valley, Geisinger
CARE Center of Indiana Co.
Center for Child Justice
Chester Co. CAC
Children's Alliance Center
of Berks Co.
Children's House CAC
Children's Interview Center
of Crawford Co.
Circle of Support CAC
Dickson House CAC
Family Support Line
of Delaware Co.
Kay's Cottage
Lancaster Co. Children's Alliance
Luzerne Co. CAC
Mercer Co. CAC
Mission Kids CAC
of Montgomery Co.
Philadelphia Children's Alliance
Somerset Co. CAC
UPMC CAC of Central PA
UPMC Children's Hospital
of Pittsburgh CAC
Venango Co. Multidisciplinary Team
Warren Co. CAC
Western PA CARES for Kids
York Co. CAC



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