



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

KATHLEEN E. WALSH
Secretary

Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

October 29, 2024


Steven T. James
House Clerk
State House Room 145
Boston, MA 02133

Michael D. Hurley
Senate Clerk
State House Room 335
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Pursuant to Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, Line Item 4510-0811, please find enclosed a report from the Department of Public Health entitled "*Children's Advocacy Centers FY24.*"

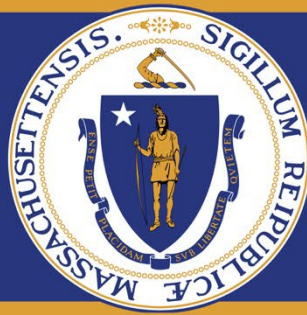
Sincerely,


Robert Goldstein, MD, PhD
Commissioner
Department of Public Health

(this page has intentionally been left blank)

MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



KATHLEEN E. WALSH
SECRETARY

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, MD, PhD
COMMISSIONER

Children's Advocacy Centers

FY24 Legislative Report

April 2024

(this page has intentionally been left blank)

Legislative Mandate

The following report is hereby issued pursuant to Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, Line Item 4510-0811 as follows:

4510-0811 For grants to children’s advocacy centers, including those previously funded through item 4800-0038 in prior fiscal years, and for services for child victims of sexual abuse and assault; provided, that not less than the amount allocated by the department of public health for each children’s advocacy center in fiscal year 2023 shall be expended again in fiscal year 2024; provided further, that the department shall allocate available funding, above the amounts required to maintain not less than the prior year funding levels for each center, among the 12 accredited centers in a manner to promote equity in the services available to child victims of sexual abuse, assault and trafficking across the commonwealth; provided further, that not less than \$1,050,000 shall be expended for the support of the statewide delivery system of children’s advocacy centers with funding administered by the Massachusetts Children’s Alliance, Inc.; **and provided further, that not later than February 1, 2024, the department shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means that shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the grants awarded to each center; (ii) the number of individuals served by each center receiving funding; and (iii) recommendations on how to improve the availability and delivery of services through these centers.....**

\$4,050,000

Introduction

In accordance with line item 4510-0811 of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 2023, the Department of Public Health is submitting this report on following: (i) the grants awarded to each center; (ii) the number of individuals served by each center receiving funding; and (iii) recommendations on how to improve the availability and delivery of services through these centers. The Massachusetts Children’s Alliance administers this funding on behalf of the Department of Public Health.

(i) The grants awarded to each center:

Massachusetts Children’s Alliance (MACA) awarded the following grants, totaling \$3,375,000, to accredited Children’s Advocacy Centers (centers) for FY24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).

Berkshire County Kids' Place and Violence Prevention Center, Inc.	\$300,000
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County, A Program of Justice Resource Institute	\$610,000
Children's Cove: The Cape and Islands Child Advocacy Center (program of Barnstable County)	\$300,000
Children’s Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin	\$300,000
Children’s Advocacy Center of Hampshire County	\$300,000
Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County	\$525,000
Child Advocacy Center of Worcester County (program of Worcester County DA Office)	\$300,000
Essex Children's Advocacy Center	\$290,000
Baystate Family Advocacy Center (program of Baystate Medical Center)	\$300,000
Middlesex Children's Advocacy Center (program of Middlesex DA Office)	\$375,000
Norfolk Advocates for Children	\$300,000
Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center (program of Plymouth County DA Office)	\$325,000

(ii) The number of individuals served by each center receiving funding:

The twelve Children’s Advocacy Centers (centers) served a total of 6,886 children during the most recent fiscal year (FY23: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023).

Berkshire County Kids' Place and Violence Prevention Center, Inc	285
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County, A Program of Justice Resource Institute	662

Children's Cove: The Cape and Islands Child Advocacy Center	215
Children's Advocacy Center of Franklin County and North Quabbin	130
Children's Advocacy Center of Hampshire County	152
Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County	1264
Child Advocacy Center of Worcester County	198
Essex Children's Advocacy Center	161
Baystate Family Advocacy Center	170
Middlesex Children's Advocacy Center	2,123
Norfolk Advocates for Children	666
Plymouth County Children's Advocacy Center	860

(iii) Recommendations on how to improve the availability and delivery of services through these centers:

Continued funding for Children's Advocacy Centers:

During FY23, centers utilized funding to expand services through increased staffing and improved physical sites, training, equipment, and necessary improvements to maintain compliance with national accreditation standards. Centers will continue efforts to address availability and delivery of services to unserved and underserved populations, including children who experience commercial sexual exploitation, and children exhibiting problematic sexual behaviors, as well as the cohort of underserved/unserved children in the more rural parts of the state, children of color throughout the state and LGBTQ+ children. Training for the community and child-serving professionals have also been identified as needs, particularly in the wake of high professional turnover, and the ever-evolving landscape of child abuse and exploitation, including internet-based exploitation of children.

Children's Advocacy Centers are reevaluated and reaccredited on a five-year cycle under revised, increasingly rigorous, national standards. Revised national standards went into effect last year and include additional requirements for: diversity, equity, and access; training; and mental health services. Centers will utilize resources and capacity to maintain compliance with revised accreditation standards, including a requirement to include training on diversity, equity, and access.