



# Network Self-Assessment Tool

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**Child Abuse Prevention Networks** provide a vehicle for information dissemination, coordination and improvement of services, as well as increased public investment in and commitment to the prevention of child abuse.



The CBCAP legislation, specifies that each designated State Lead Agency (SLA) emphasize the support of community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and where appropriate, network, initiatives aimed at the prevention of child abuse and neglect, and to support networks of coordinated resources and activities to better strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. The lead agency's role in maintaining and supporting the prevention network in the State is considered a critically important function. The legislation includes provisions requiring that lead agencies have the capacity to support community-based and prevention-focused programs and activities that (1) are based on State and community interagency partnerships,

and (2) are implemented through an interdisciplinary, collaborative public-private structure that includes parents as full partners.

## About The Tool

This self-assessment tool is designed to assist SLAs in assessing their current local and/or regional network capacity. The tool, to be used as a guide, is intended for network members to use, in 1) establishing local or regional networks\* and 2) reviewing their current work by identifying network strengths as well as areas needing improvement.

The tool is divided into four sections:

- 1) Network Development
- 2) Assessing Needs and Assets
- 3) Training/Technical Assistance and
- 4) Public/Community Awareness and Education

<b>Network Development</b>	<b>Occurs Consistently</b>	<b>Occurs Most of the Time</b>	<b>Don't know if it occurs</b>	<b>Occurs Occasionally</b>	<b>Does Not Occur</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>GOVERNANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<p><b>1. The Network's mission, goals and efforts are focused on the development, expansion and enhancement of community child abuse prevention efforts that may include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promoting child abuse and neglect prevention activities</li> <li>b) Promoting the development of parenting skills and strengthening families</li> <li>c) Facilitating the development of a continuum of preventive services for children and families through state and community based public and private partnerships</li> <li>d) Supporting public information activities that focus on healthy and positive outcomes for families and children</li> <li>e) Supporting needs of parents with disabilities through respite or other activities</li> </ul>						
<p><b>2. The Network has set a common agenda which commits members in helping to achieve the shared goals.</b></p>						
<p><b>3. The Network has set clear and limited goals/priorities and outcomes.</b></p>						
<p><b>4. The network agrees on the most important (goals and the outcome) measures by which it will assess whether the goals and outcomes have been achieved.</b></p>						
<p><b>5. Leadership of the Network is:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) representative of the community</li> <li>b) elected by Network members</li> <li>c) rotated on established schedule, i.e. annually, bi-annually, etc.</li> </ul>						
<p><b>6. The Network has a clear, inclusive method for making decisions.</b></p>						



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<b>GOVERNANCE/ACCOUNTABILITY</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>7. The Network works to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identify ways to address gaps and needs</li> <li>b) promote coordination of services and reduce duplication</li> <li>c) develop services/programs in the community where families live</li> <li>d) identify opportunities for new or enhanced collaboration</li> <li>e) advise regional and state administrators of needs and/or system barriers that families face in raising their children</li> <li>f) identifies new and/or related initiatives, funding opportunities and resources</li> <li>g) other</li> </ul>						
<b>MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>1. The Network membership:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) is representative of the community and counties it serves</li> <li>b) includes representatives from a range of programs, services and resources for children and families</li> <li>c) includes parents/family representatives with experience in using/receiving services in the community</li> <li>d) includes a broad range of stakeholders that may include: business, faith based organizations, civic and voluntary groups, higher education, early childhood education, law enforcement, etc.</li> </ul>						
<b>2. The Network has engaged front-line workers in the process. (i.e. making changes in the way agencies serve children and families)</b>						
<b>3. The Network encourages/develops effective strategies to include family representatives.</b>						
<b>4. Network membership is open to all people who are interested in working on preventing child abuse.</b>						
<b>5. Becoming a member in the Network is easy and straightforward.</b>						
<b>6. The Network has specific strategies for orienting new members about the work of the Network and roles of its members. (i.e., explain the purpose and goals of the Network)</b>						

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<b>MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
7. Members can participate in a variety of ways in Network activities (i.e. events, committees, special projects, community forums, etc.).						
8. The Network provides stipends, transportation and/or other support to sustain family/resident participation .						
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. Network materials: a) are easy to understand b) are communicated in the language(s) of the families/residents in the region c) share the ways families / residents as well as service providers and other community stakeholders can be involved d) have up-to-date information about current projects and activities e) provide up-to-date contact information f) are shared in a variety of ways, (i.e. service provider associations, community organizations, education organizations, media, etc.						
2. Network communications to its members are: a) regular and timely b) available in the languages spoken by its members c) available in written and electronic form						
3. Network meetings: a) are held in a central, accessible location b) occur regularly c) are scheduled at times that are convenient for members, especially family representatives d) offer members an opportunity to participate by phone or teleconference e) provide translation services if needed						
<b>Comments:</b>						



<b>Assessing Needs and Assets</b>	<b>Occurs Consistently</b>	<b>Occurs Most of the Time</b>	<b>Don't Know if it occurs</b>	<b>Occurs Occasionally</b>	<b>Does Not Occur</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. The Network conducts and/or reviews other statewide assessments of the needs of families and children.						
2. The Network works in partnership with its members to assess community assets, gaps in and/or barriers to services for children and families. Information is gathered through: a) surveys of local service providers and key organizations in the area, such as schools, health centers, faith-based organizations, libraries, parks, service clubs, etc. b) review information from related needs assessments conducted in the State and community b) focus groups or 'Knowing Circles' with community residents and parent groups c) informational interviews of groups and community leaders d) Door to Door canvassing e) other						
<b>IDENTIFYING ASSETS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
1. The Network is knowledgeable about the assets and resources of its members.						
2. The Network is knowledgeable about and has access to the community demographic information and trends, including: a) current census data, births, school-age population, mobility, safety issues, (KIDS COUNT data),etc. b) child abuse reports, substantiations, foster care population, etc. c) other						
3. The Network is knowledgeable about community initiatives and collaborations related to children and families.						
4. The Network is knowledgeable about services that are available for family emergencies, such as respite, shelter, legal services, hotlines, financial assistance, etc.						



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<b>IDENTIFYING ASSETS</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
5. The Network is knowledgeable about public benefits for children and families, such as: TANF, Crime Victims, WIC, health insurance for children, Compensation Fund, Veterans Benefits, etc.						
6. The Network assists members, local service providers and groups in accessing up-to-date and comprehensive resource information.						
7. The Network works with its members to compile and analyze the information collected through its needs and asset assessment to strengthen the continuum of child abuse prevention services.						
8. The Network assists members in developing information sharing with data systems/possible integration of systems. (i.e. Information & Referral database)						
<b>Comments:</b>						



Training and Technical Assistance	Occurs Consistently	Occurs Most of the time	Don't Know if it Occurs	Occurs some of the time	Does Not Occur	Not Applicable
<b>TRAINING</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<p><b>1. The Network provides/ facilitates training for local groups and providers on a variety of topics such as:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) importance of prevention</li> <li>b) signs, symptoms and effects of abuse on children and families</li> <li>c) understanding data on child and family well-being, child welfare calls, cases, placements, deaths, racial and cultural disparities, etc.</li> <li>d) risk and protective factors in preventing child abuse</li> <li>e) the impact of child abuse on children's mental health and / or educational progress</li> <li>f) new developments, research and promising approaches to child abuse prevention and family support</li> <li>g) Prevention 101</li> <li>h) Other (i.e. grant writing)</li> </ul>						
<p><b>2. The Network provides/facilitates training for members and local groups/providers on how to involve families in decision-making, planning, implementing and evaluating local services and programs, etc.</b></p>						
<p><b>3. The Network provides/facilitates training for members and local groups/providers on Cultural Competency and working with diverse populations.</b></p>						
<p><b>4. The Network provides/facilitates training for local groups and providers on policies and procedures including, but not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) child abuse and neglect mandated reporting</li> <li>b) confidentiality</li> </ul>						



Training and Technical Assistance	Occurs Consistently	Occurs Most of the time	Don't Know if it Occurs	Occurs some of the e time	Does Not Occur	Not Applicable
TRAINING	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
<p><b>5. The Network provides technical assistance and/or facilitates training for local service providers and community groups on best practices for preventing child abuse and/or neglect, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) strengthening parenting abilities, understanding of child development and the bonds with their children</li> <li>b) individualizing services to address each child's specific needs, including those factors which place a child at risk of abuse/neglect</li> <li>c) individualizing services to address the family's specific needs</li> <li>d) engaging all family members in service planning</li> <li>e) strengthening healthy marriages and/or parental relationships</li> <li>f) fostering mutual support, facilitating friendships and connections to reduce isolation and stress</li> <li>g) accessing community services and making effective referrals</li> <li>h) meeting the needs of special and/or diverse populations</li> <li>i) engaging hard to reach families</li> <li>j) engaging fathers in the lives of their children</li> <li>k) creating neighborhood networks of safety and support</li> <li>l) other</li> </ul>						
<p><b>6. The Network provides technical assistance and/or facilitates training for parent leaders for the leadership roles they provide in collaborative efforts.</b></p>						
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>						



<b>Public/Community Awareness and Education</b>	<b>Occurs Consistently</b>	<b>Occurs Most of the Time</b>	<b>Don't Know if it Occurs</b>	<b>Occurs Occasionally</b>	<b>Does Not Occur</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<p><b>1. The Network works with local communities to build understanding and commitment to child abuse prevention. Target audiences include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the public, including families</li> <li>b) block clubs, community-based and faith-based organizations</li> <li>c) educators, child care providers, community centers, youth programs</li> <li>d) business leaders and civic associations</li> <li>e) social services / health agencies and providers</li> <li>f) libraries, park districts, recreation programs</li> <li>g) other</li> </ul>						
<p><b>2. The Network works with its members and local communities to determine the most effective strategies for educating the public on child abuse/neglect prevention.</b></p>						
<p><b>3. The Network provides information to community residents, leaders and organizations about activities that focus on healthy and positive outcomes for families and children.</b></p>						
<p><b>4. The Network and its members actively promote prevention services and family support programs in a variety of ways, i.e. radio, TV, newspaper, neighborhood or resource fairs, school open houses, etc.</b></p>						
<p><b>5. The Network works with the community to increase understanding about the role of:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) child welfare local, regional, and state offices</li> <li>b) community and faith-based agencies</li> <li>c) service integration initiatives; special initiatives, (i.e. substance abuse and / or family violence)</li> <li>d) domestic violence programs and family violence awareness coalitions</li> <li>e) substance abuse treatment programs and coalitions</li> <li>f) parent mutual support groups</li> <li>g) mental health, public health, and education</li> <li>h) other</li> </ul>						



Public/Community Awareness and Education	Occurs Consistently	Occurs Most of the Time	Don't Know if it Occurs	Occurs Occasionally	Does Not Occur	Not Applicable
	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
<p><b>6. The Network facilitates/supports and/or promotes child abuse prevention activities and events at the local/regional level.</b></p> <p>a) helps local participants identify funding / resources for activities</p> <p>b) partners with local efforts in prevention activities</p>						
<p><b>7. The Network shares information with local communities about:</b></p> <p>a) incidence of family violence, child abuse, substance abuse, substantiated cases, etc.</p> <p>b) the connection between substance abuse, domestic violence, mental illness and child safety</p> <p>c) current efforts and community initiatives to strengthen responses to children and families in need of services</p> <p>d) ways in which community residents can improve child safety, support vulnerable families and contribute to preventing child abuse</p> <p>e) the availability of resources to support local child abuse prevention efforts</p> <p>f) opportunities to get involved in child abuse prevention efforts</p> <p>g) other</p>						
<p><b>8. The Network works with its members to develop easy confidential ways for families to find out about and connect to appropriate resources and programs, such as a local help line, resource and referral services, community outreach workers, etc.</b></p>						
<p><b>Comments:</b></p>						



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