



# Minnesota Communities Caring for Children

## Home of Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota and Minnesota Circle of Parents



Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC) works to build healthy environments where all children thrive. Our prevention model promotes individual and community led action to end child abuse and to build the resilience of children, parents, and community member throughout Minnesota.

### MISSION

Our mission is to **empower** parents and communities to build **supportive** relationships, **nurture** children, and **prevent** child abuse and neglect.

### OUR VALUES

#### Strengths of All Parents

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All parents need to be supported in their efforts to develop their strengths as caring adults.

#### Amplifying the Parent's Voice

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By amplifying their voices, parents can find the efficacy and power to affect change in the home and the community.

#### Combining Science With Community Wisdom

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The best approaches to preventing child abuse combine science-based strategies with community wisdom.

#### Transforming Systems

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Working together, parents and communities can transform punitive systems and negative cultural norms into successful approaches that address violence, trauma, and racism.

### OUR WORK

#### Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Training Program

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study and subsequent research studies demonstrate that exposure to adversity early in life can lead to negative health and social outcomes in adulthood. Using the national ACE Interface curriculum, MCCC develops the capacity of individuals as certified ACE Interface Trainers and Presenters so that they can raise awareness about the effects of trauma and the promise of prevention in their communities. MCCC also supports communities in developing action plans for building community resilience.

#### Tribal NEAR (Neurobiology, Epigenetics, ACEs & Resiliency) Science and Community Wisdom Project

This project is a grassroots effort to build the capacity of tribal communities to address challenging health and social issues related to childhood trauma. The three stages to the project include: 1. *Awareness*: ACE Interface presentations are conducted in each participating reservation community to begin raising awareness about the impacts of trauma on the health of individuals and communities; 2. *Capacity Building*: Up to 30 individuals from each reservation are trained as ACE Interface Presenters to broaden community awareness; 3. *Creating a Community Response*: Each reservation identifies strategies and a community response for healing and building resilience. These plans are utilized to secure funding for implementation.

## Circle of Parents®

MCCC partners with communities to offer facilitated support groups for parents and children throughout the state. At group sessions, parents support each other and develop leadership skills that transfer to their families and communities. Participants meet in a supportive environment to share their concerns and frustrations, and to identify and commit to their own personal parenting goals. Participants are guided by volunteer facilitators that are trained by MCCC staff. Multiple research studies show that Circle of Parents successfully increases protective factors – attributes that strengthen families and reduce the likelihood that child abuse will occur.

## Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency (PLCSP) Program

The PLCSP Program has been a partnership of MCCC and the MN Department of Human Services (DHS) division of Child Safety and Permanency since 2009. The program empowers parents in the prevention of child maltreatment and gives parents a voice within DHS for improving the child protection system, particularly in reducing racial disparities. As part of this program, leadership training is provided to a group of 25 Parent Leaders over a three-year period. The intent is to increase Parent Leaders' skills and influence so they can effectively articulate their experience, add value in their communities and on task forces within DHS, and ultimately contribute to a reduction in incidents of abuse, neglect, and out-of-home placement (foster care).

## Prevention Education and Outreach

MCCC produces and distributes Child Abuse Prevention Month materials each April and distributes thousands of pieces of additional prevention education and outreach materials throughout the year. In addition, MCCC staff members are available to present and facilitate dialogue about prevention statewide through café conversations, webinars, and regional workshops.

### Get Involved

**Development Committee**

**Finance and Audit Committee**

**Governance Committee**

**Data and Evaluation Committee**

**Call us about other volunteer opportunities!**

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