

ABUSED CHILDREN PROGRAM STANDARDS

The overall goal of these standards is to increase victims' safety and ensure victims have access to services that meet their self-defined needs. Program services should be relevant to the populations that exist within the community.

I. SERVICES

Programs shall provide services meeting the individual developmental, physical and safety needs of abused children/youth and their families, that may include crisis intervention; emergency, support and court related services; and information and referral.

II. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Programs shall provide a formalized orientation and training for new employees, volunteers and board/advisory members.

Programs shall provide for ongoing training opportunities for their employees and volunteers, utilizing both in-house and outside training sources.

Programs shall also train all staff and volunteers regarding the laws governing services to children/youth at risk, including but not limited to Minority Heritage Act; Family Preservation Act; Indian Children Welfare Act (ICWA); Children in Protective Services (CHIPS) and mandatory reporting.

III. YOUTH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Programs shall provide at least four presentations to school or youth groups regarding the dynamics of child abuse, disclosure, safety, and access to support services.

IV. SYSTEMS CHANGE & PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Programs shall work to improve the community's and the system's responsiveness to the needs of victims of crime through training and informal contact with persons having contact with victims of crime. This may include those working in law enforcement, court services, legal representation, corrections, health, education, social services, and the ministry. Systems change includes such activities as monitoring, influencing and developing operational policies, procedures and practices, and community organizing. Programs shall work to secure sensitive, effective policies, procedures, protocols and practices for working with child victims. Systems change efforts prioritize the needs and rights of victims, rather than institutions

V. PARTNERING

Programs shall identify and be knowledgeable of other professional service providers and system's staff in their area. Programs will actively work to improve their relationship with involved agencies to better serve victims of crime. Programs shall partner with agencies in order to promote cooperative service, better manage resources, and to enhance the overall response to victims of crime. Partnering may involve cooperative training and community events, professional memberships, collaborative workgroups and agreements, information sharing, community provider networks, referral agreements, interagency feedback and service evaluations, administrative and programmatic resource sharing, and other creative means.