



Healing children one story at a time.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do people find out about CAC?

Once an allegation of abuse has been made by a child, most calls to the CAC are initiated by either a local law enforcement agency, or the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). From there, CAC's Intake Coordinator compiles the specifics of the case before the family and a team of investigators are brought to the CAC.

How many children are served by the CAC each year?

In 2018 CAC served over 1,000 children and families. Of those we served, 803 received forensic interview and advocacy services, 145 received our family support therapy services and 156 were received our Safe From the Start services.

How often can someone come back to receive counseling services at CAC?

When appropriate, CAC provides families with short term counseling options. Individual assessment of cases is done before treatment can begin. Sessions may range from a one-time visit to one hour a week for several months. However, CAC stresses that each case is unique and that a one-size-fits-all approach is never used.

What types of services are offered at CAC?

The overall goal at CAC is to provide children who have disclosed abuse the opportunity to tell their story ONE TIME. By using a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach, the chance for children to be further traumatized is greatly reduced. Additional services include professional counseling for children, parents and non-offending caregivers, court advocacy, support groups and community referrals. We also offer prevention services. Our Prevention Specialist presents workshops to parents and children in the community aimed at preventing future abuse, recognizing signs of child abuse, and providing resources for those who have experienced abuse.

Does CAC provide medical exams for children who have been abused?

CAC does not provide on-site medical exams of children. However, CAC does make referrals on a case by case basis to medical professionals specially trained in the medical evaluation of physical and sexual abuse.

Are all CAC services offered free of charge?

Yes, all services offered through CAC are free of charge.

How is CAC funded?

CAC receives funding from a variety of sources including; State of Illinois (%), local government (%), foundation grants and United Way (%), fees and fines (%), in-kind and private donations (%), and special events (%). *Fees and fines are collected from those convicted of crimes in Cook County.

What can I do to help CAC?

From volunteer opportunities to financial contributions, CAC offers many opportunities to get involved. Email tjacob@cachelps.org or call 847-885-0100.