COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

Date: July 1, 2024

To: National Children's Alliance (NCA) Accredited, Associate, Affiliate and
               Accredited Satellite Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)

From: Michael Pennington
               Executive Director

Subject: 2024 NCA Member CAC Solicitation

The Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development (ORESPD) of the
Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announces the availability of
state Act 28 of 2014 funds to support NCA member accredited, associate, affiliate, or
accredited satellite CACs in the Commonwealth.

The goal of the 2024 NCA Member CAC Solicitation is to provide funding to any
Pennsylvania-based accredited, associate, affiliate, or accredited satellite CAC member of
the NCA to help expand, improve, or continue the services provided to victims of child
sexual abuse and child abuse.

A total of approximately $1.927 million in state funds is being announced to support this
initiative. PCCD expects to fund forty-one (41) non-competitive one-year grants with
budgets **not to exceed $47,000** per NCA member CAC.

The funding guidelines provide the necessary information to complete this application.
However, if there are any program-related questions, please contact Betsy May at
bmay@pa.gov or 717-265-6256.

Questions concerning the Egrants System should be made directly to the Egrants Help Desk
at either (717) 787-5887 or toll-free at (800) 692-7292. If calling toll-free, select option 9
and then option 6 when prompted or by email at RA-egrantssupport@pa.gov. The Help
Desk is available Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

We look forward to receiving applications under this funding opportunity, and working with
you in developing and strengthening services for children in the Commonwealth.

Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development

2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Centers
_____

Please Note: Applications are *only* accepted through PCCD's Egrants system. Applicants must register in Egrants prior to submitting an application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Egrants system and allow adequate time to prepare and submit an application.

Recommended [Egrants Agency Registration](#) Date:
September 16, 2024

Recommended [Egrants User Registration](#) Date:
September 23, 2024

Mandatory Egrants Application Deadline:
September 30, 2024

This funding guideline contains information not appearing in the Egrants application. Applicants are advised to print and review this document and refer to it while completing your Egrants application.

PCCD staff may only respond to questions to clarify the funding announcement. Questions must be sent via email to Christina Cosgrove-Rooks at ccosgrove@pa.gov.

For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development

Funding Stream: Act 28 of 2014 Funds (Birth Certificate Funds)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development

Funding Announcement Title: 2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Centers

Funding Stream: Act 28 of 2014 Funds (Birth Certificate Funds)

Submission Requirements for Applications:

- **Reviewing** – All applications received will be reviewed based on the applicant's adherence to the funding announcement guidelines and timely submission in the PCCD Egrants system.

- **Due Date** – Applications must be submitted electronically through PCCD's Egrants system no later than 11:59 PM on September 30, 2024.

- **Technical Assistance** – Grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on PCCD's website under the Funding section. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the application and administrative guides before calling the Egrants Help Desk for assistance. The Egrants Help Desk is available to assist with technical or system questions Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and may be reached by calling (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.

- **Egrants Submission** – An application submitted in Egrants by the deadline is not considered complete until PCCD has received the executed signature page, as well as any other required documents. Successful applications will be presented for consideration at the December 11, 2024 Commission meeting.

- **Administrative Rejection** – An application that does not meet all the listed requirements in this funding announcement may be administratively rejected.

- **Corrections** – If PCCD returns an application for corrections, the final application (including all corrections and required documents) must be returned to and approved by PCCD for the requested funding to be awarded.

- **Non–supplantation** – Funding must not be used to supplant/replace state, federal, or local funds that would otherwise be available to provide for program–related services. PCCD funding is to be used in addition to other funds that are made available for services.

- **Keywords** – Applicants are required to select "Keywords" from the dropdown menu located on the Main Summary screen in Egrants. The required keywords are below. Applicants may also select other keywords that apply specifically to their application.

  Keywords: Children's Advocacy Center

PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development

1. Overview:

Act 28 of 2014 established a dedicated funding stream to support Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and Multidisciplinary Investigative Teams (MDITs) throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Act requires the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) to support both current and developing CACs and MDITs and sustain the role they play in providing state-of-the-art treatment for the victims of child sexual and/or child physical abuse. Act 28 also created the Children's Advocacy Center Advisory Committee (CACAC) to provide advice to PCCD on the administration of this funding and provided a framework for the grant application process.

PCCD is now accepting applications for funding under Act 28 of 2014. The primary purpose of the 2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Center Solicitation is to provide funds to any Pennsylvania-based accredited, associate, affiliate, or accredited satellite CAC member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA), who is actively providing services, (hereafter, NCA member or NCA member CAC) to help expand, improve, or continue the services provided to victims of child sexual abuse and child physical abuse.

The goal and objective of the 2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Center Solicitation is to support current functioning NCA members operating within the Commonwealth in their mission to serve child victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. To meet that goal and strengthen CACs within the Commonwealth, applicants can use funds for any project that would support or advance any of the ten (10) national standards or two (2) optional standards included in the National Children's Alliance Standards for Accredited Members (Revised 2023).

The anticipated impacts resulting from this solicitation include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Increase or continue access to services;
- Expand the number and types of child abuse victims served by CACs;
- Meet NCA standards for accreditation or reaccreditation;
- Support collaboration between CACs and developing CACs and MDITs;
- Develop and implement prevention activities, including outreach, training, and community education; and
- Improve the quality of joint investigations, forensic interviews, expert medical evaluations, and/or trauma-informed mental health interventions provided or coordinated by CACs and MDITs.

2. Funding Availability:

A total of $1,927,000 in state Act 28 of 2014 funds are being announced to support non-competitive, one-year grants with budgets not to exceed $47,000 per NCA member CAC.

PCCD is not liable for costs incurred prior to the official start date of the award.

3. Project Dates:

Applications approved at the December 2024 Commission meeting will be 12-month projects and have a start date of January 1, 2025 and an end date of December 31, 2025.

4. **Eligible Applicants:**

Eligibility for these funds is open to all active NCA accredited, associate, affiliate, and accredited satellite CACs as of May 21, 2024.

Applicants must be in good standing with PCCD to be eligible for these funds.[1] The applicant and recipient agencies' historical success in implementing PCCD-funded programs/initiatives that met their intended goals will be considered in the review process. Applicants are not required to have a prior funding history with PCCD to be eligible.

5. **Eligible Program Activities and Expenses:**

Funds for the proposed program may be used to support any, all, or one of the following:
   a. Funding to support compliance with NCA standards;
   b. Training specifically to improve the work of the CAC in order to apply for and achieve accreditation/reaccreditation; and
   c. Equipment necessary to support or advance NCA standards of accreditation.

All expenses must be described in the Justification box located in the Egrants Budget Detail section. Each cost should be a separate line item and include the calculation for each item allocated to the grant. PCCD has approval of all final budgets.

Applicants requesting funding to support therapy must implement evidence-based therapeutic models shown to be effective for children with histories of trauma. For purposes of this funding announcement, the term "evidence-based" is reserved for programs that have been tested in more than one scientifically rigorous study (such as randomized control trials) and have consistently been shown to work better than a placebo or no treatment/intervention. For more information about what constitutes an "evidence-based" program please refer to Appendix A. Examples of programs that are "well supported by evidence" can also be found at https://www.cebc4cw.org/.

Note: Conference expenses under this funding announcement are limited to no more than $3,000.

6. **Required Egrants Sections/Documents:**

   a. Required Egrants Sections – All sections identified in Egrants are required. Applicants will not be able to submit their grant application in Egrants until all sections are marked as complete.

   b. Required Signed Documents – A successful application must be accompanied by the following:
      • Signature Page (page 2 of the application); and
      • All other attachments required under section 7(e).

7. **Application Procedures:**

Applicants must submit the requested information for each section specified below within the defined response fields provided in Egrants. Where attachments such as copies of letters of support or MOU/interagency agreements are required, they should be attached in

---

[1] This may include, but is not limited to, compliance with PCCD program and fiscal reporting requirements, State and Federal funding guidelines, and acceptable risk rating as determined by PCCD.

Egrants in the section called Required Attachments. Responses should not be duplicated in multiple sections.

a. Executive Summary
All applicants should fill out the following script and paste it into the Executive Summary section:

The *name of applicant* is requesting $_____ to *[provide a single sentence or two of what you are seeking to implement with your grant funding]*.

These funds will be used for the following: *[provide bullet points of what the funds will be used for]*.

b. Statement of Purpose
Identify the purpose of the project. This may include, but is not limited to, the following: challenges that the CAC has regarding NCA accreditation standards; the need for expanding or continuing services or training; equipment needs; and/or serving additional child abuse cases. Please provide supporting data specific to the problem identified and any other data relevant to the proposed request.

c. Project Description
Provide a description of the proposed project, including the following:

1. Provide a short background and history of the CAC, the geographical region it serves, an overview of the services it provides, current NCA membership level, and its experience with implementing the CAC model.
2. Briefly state the goal of the project, major deliverables, and the anticipated impact/outcomes.
3. Describe current CAC interaction with the MDIT(s) and existing support community (e.g., victim services, medical services, mental health service providers, etc.). If the CAC serves multiple counties, discuss the current status of those county's MDITs and whether MOUs for services at the host CAC site have been formalized.
4. Describe the location of the proposed project and target population to be served. Include the estimated number of individuals and/or families and their demographic characteristics (i.e., age, gender, race/ethnicity) that will be served during the funding year.
5. Explain how the funding will be used to support compliance with NCA standards. The CAC must be able to demonstrate how this activity will facilitate becoming NCA accredited or reaccredited.
6. Describe any potential barriers to achieving desired outcomes and how the applicant expects to address those barriers.
7. Describe how data is currently collected by the applicant's organization.
8. Please provide the following information on the person who currently serves as your MDIT coordinator: Name, title, affiliated agency/organization.

d. Budget Detail

The Budget Detail must:

1. Include a one-year comprehensive budget detail section; and
2. Provide a clear description of all costs, including salary and benefits for which grant funds will be utilized in the justification section. It also must include the

number of hours and percent of time to be spent on the project by all funded personnel. Each benefit shall be listed as a separate line item.

Note: Conference expenses under this funding announcement are limited to no more than $3,000.

Pursuant to the requirements of Act 28, funding shall not be used to supplant federal, state, or local funds otherwise available for CACs and MDITs.

e. **Required Attachments**

The following documents must be attached in the Required Attachment section in Egrants:

- *Copies of the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Interagency Agreement* between the CAC and entities using CAC services if these services are being supported with state CAC funds; and
- *Letters of Support:* The county's District Attorney and Children and Youth Services Administrator shall provide joint or separate letters of support for the proposed project. **Please note: Agencies that are included on the MOU do not need to provide separate letters of support.**

8. **Performance Measures:**

Under this funding announcement, successful applicants are **required** to submit Quarterly Program Reports via the PCCD Egrants System utilizing the attached performance measures that fulfill state guidelines for the use of the CAC state appropriations.

9. **Competitive Bidding/Sole Source Procurement:**

All procurement transactions shall be conducted in a manner that provides open and free competition. Grant recipients must follow the Procurement Standards section in PCCD's Applicant's Manual.

Procurements by noncompetitive proposal are strongly discouraged and must demonstrate an economic benefit or lack of alternate resources to be justified. If a request is made, the prospective applicant must identify the request as a procurement by noncompetitive proposal and provide a substantial justification for the request within their funding request (See PCCD's Applicant's Manual for Procurement by Noncompetitive Proposal Approval Procedure).

10. **Administrative Requirements:**

a. Egrants Agency and User Registration:
Prior to submitting a grant application, both the applicant agency and at least two users from the applicant agency must be registered in Egrants. Applicants are strongly advised to allow adequate time to work on application documents in Egrants prior to the submission deadline. Please go to the Registering in Egrants page on PCCD's website for further information.

b. Fiscal Accountability:
See the Fiscal Accountability page on PCCD's website for further information.

c. Time and Effort Reporting:
See the [Time and Effort Reports](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

d. Grant Payments:
- Payments will not be released until all applicable special conditions on the grant award have been satisfied.
- All grantees are required, at a minimum, to submit quarterly fiscal reports. PCCD will only make payments to reimburse actual expenditures reported on the fiscal reports. An agency experiencing cash flow problems may submit fiscal reports monthly and PCCD will reimburse reported expenditures. Non-submission or late submission of the required reports will result in payment delays.
- ACH Payments:
  - All payments to grant recipients will be made through ACH.
  - Either before or at the time an application is submitted to PCCD, the applicant agency must [register as a Non-Procurement Vendor](#) with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

e. Federal Transparency Act Certification:
This section is required for both state and federal funding streams. See the [Federal Application Requirements](#) page on PCCD's website for further information.

f. Reporting Requirements:
- Programmatic reports are due quarterly.
- Fiscal reports are due quarterly.
- Late submission of programmatic and fiscal reports may delay payments.
- All reports must be submitted through the Egrants system.

11. **PCCD Contact Information and Resources:**

a. Staff Contacts:
Questions concerning this funding announcement may be directed to PCCD staff as follows:
- Program-related questions: Contact Rebecca Kiehl of the Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development at 717-265-8566 or rekiehl@pa.gov.
- Fiscal or budgetary questions: Contact Cory Brady at 717-265-8510 or corbrady@pa.gov.

b. Egrants Funding Announcement:
Log into the Egrants system and search under the "Funding Announcement" tab for 2024 NCA Member Child Advocacy Centers.

c. PCCD Guidelines and Documents:
Applicants should be familiar with the [Applicant's Manual](#), Standard Subgrant Conditions, and other documents common to PCCD's grant application process, all of which are available on the [Grant Information](#) page of the PCCD website. Additionally, grant application and administrative guides can be accessed on [PCCD's website](#) under the Funding link.

d. Egrants Technical Questions:
For any technical or system questions, contact and ask for the Egrants Help Desk at (717) 787-5887 or (800) 692-7292, or by emailing RA-eGrantsSupport@pa.gov.

e. PCCD Webmaster:
Please address any technical problems you may have with the website or online forms to the PCCD Web Master.

f. Reporting Potential Fraud, Waste and Abuse:
Information about waste, fraud, abuse, conflict of interest, bribery, gratuity, or other similar misconduct, or whistleblower reprisal relating to a PCCD employee, program, contract or grant, may be reported to the PCCD Fraud Hotline at (717) 525-5031. For more information, visit the Reporting Fraud, Waste and Abuse page on PCCD's website.

12. Submission Information:

The application must be entered into Egrants **no later than Monday, September 30, 2024 by 11:59 PM.**

The executed signature page (page 2 of the application) must be uploaded to the Main Summary section of your application. A guide to assist you with this is available on our website at Signature Page Instructions.

Appendix A

What Do We Mean When We Say a Program is "Evidence-based"?

Prevention scientists rate programs along a continuum of confidence:
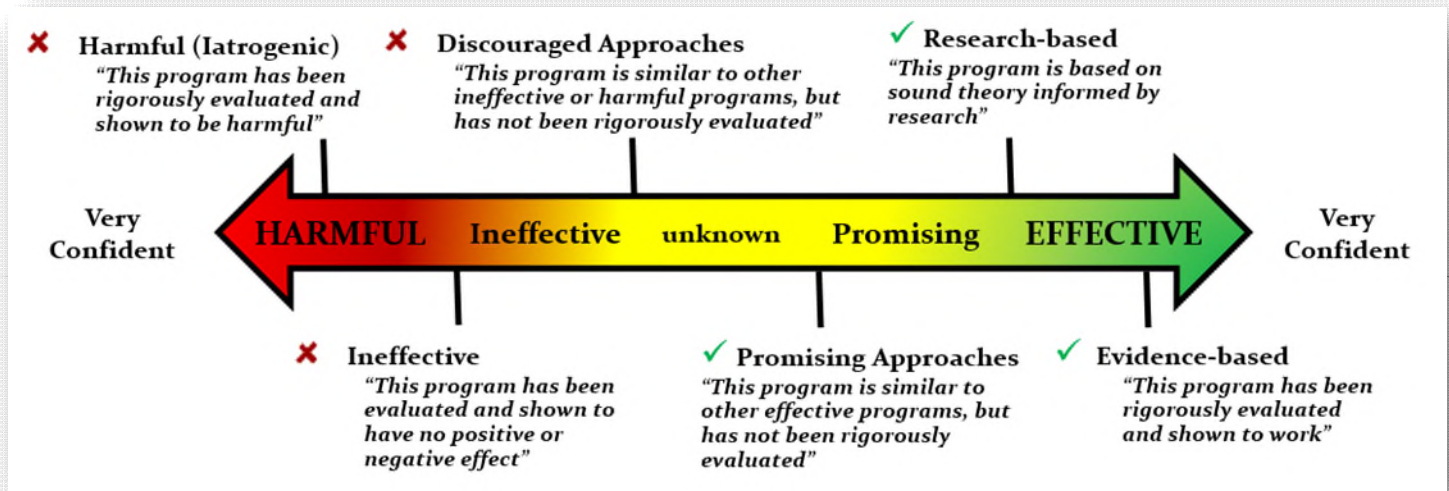
Researchers examine research studies to determine whether a program:
- ✓ Demonstrated effectiveness in rigorous scientific evaluations including randomized control trials.
- ✓ Was assessed in large studies with diverse populations or through multiple replications by independent researchers (not the developer of the model)
- ✓ Resulted in significant and sustained effects for a minimum of 6 months, post program.

Programs that meet all three of these criteria tend to fall in the green, evidence-based end of the continuum.

How to Identify Highly Rated Evidence-based Programs

Several websites have already done the work of reviewing research studies and rating programs' effectiveness. Consult these resources to ensure that the programs you want to implement will be effective.

Rating Source	Area of Focus	Website
Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development	Child welfare, juvenile justice	https://www.blueprintsprograms.org/
California Evidence-Based Clearinghouse for Child Welfare	Child welfare	https://www.cebc4cw.org/
Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy	Social policy	https://www.evidencebasedpolicy.org/
CrimeSolutions.gov	Criminal justice	https://crimesolutions.ojp.gov/
National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs	Child welfare, juvenile justice, social programs	https://www.samhsa.gov/nrepp
Promising Practices Network	Child welfare, juvenile justice, social programs	http://www.promisingpractices.net/programs.asp
What Works Clearinghouse	Education	http://www.ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/

One particularly useful clearinghouse is the **PEW Charitable Trusts Results First Clearinghouse Database**. This is a one stop shop for accessing the many lists of evidence-based programs.

1. Go To: http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/multimedia/data-visualizations/2015/results-first-clearinghouse-database

2. Type in the key words for the program or type of program you are looking for.

3. Compare ratings across various clearinghouses to determine which programs are rated most highly, most frequently.

4. Dig deeper for more information by hovering over the colored rating dots and clicking on learn more!

Please contact the EPISCenter for additional technical assistance at EPISCenter@psu.edu or (814) 863-2568.