

Supporting Children and Families Through AAP Chapter Partnerships with Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) Chapters/Healthy Families America (HFA)

Chapter Grant Opportunity - Call for Proposals

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to enhance collaboration among community organizations, to better support children and families. To do that, we are funding American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Chapters to build partnerships with Prevent Child Abuse America (PCA America) Chapters **or** Healthy Families America (HFA) sites to support families in providing positive childhood experiences and preventing child maltreatment during the pandemic and recovery. Grants of up to \$12,500 will be awarded to 3 AAP Chapters who will work to build partnerships with their local PCA America Chapter **or** HFA site.

The deadline for applications is August 26, 2022. AAP Chapter grant awardees will be notified by September 2, 2022. Participation in this collaboration will run from September 2022 through January 2023, with a final report due late January 2023.

These AAP Chapter grants are being made available through the *Measuring the Impact of Violence on Children and Women During a Pandemic* project—a collaboration between the AAP, PCA America, Tufts Medical Center, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*. The goal of the project is to inform about families' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide support and resources to strengthen collaboration and coordination of pediatricians, home visitors, and community organizations to support families in providing positive childhood experiences during and after the pandemic.

Overview

In 2020 and 2021, the AAP (in partnership with Tufts Medical Center, PCA America, and the CDC) surveyed 9,000 parents and caregivers to better understand the impact of the pandemic on child and family wellbeing. The results were published in a series of short reports, titled [Family Snapshots: Life During the Pandemic](#). Through these surveys, we learned about families' experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, including challenges, and what may have helped them.

Finances were negatively impacted for 2 out of 3 families, causing additional stress during the pandemic. Over half of families experienced changes in their employment; twice as many women (17%) reduced their working hours to spend more time caring for their families than men (9%). Support systems within communities, like school and childcare, were impacted by closures during the pandemic, affecting many families and causing additional stress. Parental concern about their youngest school-aged child falling behind in school was associated with spanking and feeling angry at their children. Additionally, we learned that approximately 21% of survey respondents experienced intimate partner violence (IPV), and that there was a relationship between the presence of IPV and harsh child discipline within the home.

Despite the pandemic and its challenges, many parents reported family closeness and positive childhood experiences. The importance of support systems and resources became evident when childcare and employment responsibilities were stressful and overwhelming. These concrete supports and resources created positive foundations for families to thrive. We know that needs are very localized, and that improved collaboration will create a context for better addressing the needs of families within our communities. Therefore, the purpose of this grant funding is to identify and meet local needs (which may have increased because of the pandemic) through improved collaboration among pediatricians, home visitors, and community organizations.

There are several community organizations across the United States that can serve as collaborative partners in promoting positive childhood experiences and preventing child maltreatment. PCA America is the nation's oldest and largest organization committed to preventing child abuse and neglect *before it happens*. They promote programs and resources informed by science that enable kids, families, and entire communities to thrive. The [PCA America Chapter Network](#) extends the work of PCA America in communities throughout the country, providing state-level expertise and resources. They work in tandem with an array of community partners to deliver valuable day-to-day child abuse and neglect prevention work.

[Healthy Families America](#) is one of the leading family support and evidence-based home visiting programs in the United States and is the signature home visiting program of PCA America. Today, there are nearly 600 HFA sites across the globe. Home visiting agencies may be unaware of the opportunities to connect to a pediatrician or pediatric healthcare provider to promote safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments to foster resilience in children and families. Many home visiting agencies do not have a formal partnership with pediatric health care providers.

Scope of Work

The funds awarded through this chapter grant can be used to support a wide range of activities to build new or enhance existing collaborations between AAP Chapters and PCA America Chapters **or** HFA sites, based on the findings from the [AAP Family Snapshot Reports](#).

Funded AAP Chapters are **required** to establish a leadership team with members from the AAP Chapter, PCA America Chapter **or** HFA site, and other child-serving partners such as community pediatricians and mental health providers that will meet regularly to discuss challenges faced by families, which may put children at risk for maltreatment, as well as opportunities to build/enhance/formalize partnership(s) at the state level to address these issues.

Funded AAP Chapters can also consider the following **ideas** as they plan their collaboration activities but are encouraged to develop a proposal that includes innovative activities that will meet the unique needs of their communities. *The proposal can include other activities that are not specifically listed below.*

- Host a series of meetings across child and family serving sectors to engage in community resource mapping.
- Develop a communications plan to disseminate information related to supporting families in providing positive childhood experiences during and after the pandemic.
- Host educational events or create a learning community for bi-directional education among AAP Chapters, pediatric practices, PCA America Chapters, HFA sites, etc. to educate about each other's roles and resources.
- Work together to co-brand culturally appropriate and accessible community resources/tools.
- Invite staff from a local home visiting agency into a pediatric office for a "meet and greet".

Grantees are **required** to submit a report by the end of January 2023, summarizing project activities, how funds were used, a draft localized partnership model, and next steps for continued collaboration(s).

Proposal Requirements

Applications should be completed via [SurveyMonkey](#) and submitted by Friday, August 26, 2022. Applications must include:

- AAP Chapter information (Name, address)
- Primary point person (Name, email, phone number, role within your organization)
- An overview of current or prior work addressing child maltreatment prevention, and/or promotion of positive childhood experiences, including collaborative efforts
- Current or prior efforts to engage members around promotion of positive childhood experiences and prevention of child maltreatment
- Information about how the partnership plan might address unique needs of diverse cultures and identities
- A brief description of the AAP Chapter's planned activities, a list of organizations/agencies who will be included (eg, PCA America Chapter or HFA site), and a draft timeline for completion of activities
- A letter of intent from a PCA America Chapter **or** HFA site that the AAP Chapter will partner with to complete the project's deliverables
- A budget and budget narrative for the \$12,500 award, to include a minimum \$2,500 stipend for the local PCA America Chapter **or** HFA site to support the partnership. Budget expenses can include:
 - Honorarium for leadership team members as necessary
 - Salary support for staff as needed
 - Funding support for bi-directional learning
 - Funding support for in-person meetings
 - Funding to partner organizations to support the collaboration

Project Timeline

- RFP posted: August 3, 2022
- *Optional* RFP Information Session (for any interested AAP Chapters): August 17, 2022, 12:00pm – 12:45pm CT
 - [Click here to register.](#)
- **Application due: August 26, 2022**
- Notification of applicants: September 2, 2022
- Project period: September 2022 through January 2023
 - *Kickoff call to be scheduled in early September 2022*
 - *Monthly grantee calls to be scheduled after grants are awarded*
- Funds awarded:
 - \$9,000 upon notification of award (September 2022)
 - \$3,500 upon completion of final report (January 2023)
- Final report due: January 31, 2023

AAP Point of Contact

Please contact Lauren Geary at lgeary@aap.org with any questions.

Additional Resources

[AAP Family Snapshots: Life During the Pandemic](#)

[Healthy Families America – Find a HFA Site](#)

[Prevent Child Abuse America – State Chapter Network](#)