

Tips for Accessing State CBCAP Funds:

The state fiscal agent applies for federal funds that are disbursed through an RFP process at the state-level.

The CBCAP state leads typically determine how the funds are used, although state government processes vary, which might include more strict oversight of the funds.

First, it might be helpful to reach out to your CBCAP state lead to pitch your services as child maltreatment prevention. It might also be helpful to learn about the prevention model that is currently supported by CBCAP funds in your state, and look for opportunities to frame your services in that manner.

CBCAP State Lead Information:

*Use the CBCAP Primary and/or Secondary Contact

<https://friendsnrc.org/cbcap/state-assignments/>

Things you might want to ask your CBCAP state lead:

- What is your prevention model and priorities with CBCAP funds?
- What unique state parameters guide the use of these funds?
- What do the funds NOT support?
- What special populations do you focus on with the use of CBCAP funds?
- What does the RFP process look like?
- How are determinations made about the allocation of funds?
- How might I best approach the RFP process?
- How long are your grantees funded for?
- What barriers might you anticipate with selling preventative legal services to the funding decision-makers?
- How might we partner outside of the use of CBCAP funds? (to help bridge the relationship for the purposes of future allocation of funds to your model)

Making the Pitch:

- Most states use CBCAP funds in more traditional ways such as for parenting education, family resource centers, home visiting programs, case management, etc. It will be helpful to create a pitch that helps the CBCAP state lead understand the importance of legal services as a prevention strategy.
- CBCAP funds are restricted to children and families *prior to* child welfare involvement, so if there is an open child welfare case or the child is in foster care, CBCAP funds cannot be used to serve those children and families. Your legal services would need to be

tailored to *prevent* child welfare system involvement further upstream from pre-petition work. Your pitch would need to include this distinction.

- Most states have political systems that directly or indirectly affect the use of these funds. Your pitch should include how to navigate talking points with policy makers. For example, you might need to provide talking points on the difference between pre-petition and preventative legal services, specifically as it pertains to the use of prevention (CBCAP) funding.

You might also include:

- Research to support the use of preventative legal services as a child maltreatment prevention strategy
- How your legal services model aligns with the Children's Bureau intended use of funds
- Examples from other states that are using CBCAP funds for preventative legal services (Kansas is doing this! Feel free to reach out to Stef Sloan at stefsloan@ku.edu for data and info!)
- Data to support what populations are adversely affected by the lack of preventative legal services
- The overall cost or consequences for families when preventative legal services are not available
- The types of legal work that is considered prevention (e.g., domestic violence, housing, SSI/benefits, education-related, disability-related, immigration, etc.) and why these types of cases would be considered prevention