



Background and Purpose:

Purpose: The purpose of the Government Affairs Initiative (GAI) is to increase the public policy and government affairs capacity of Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) chapters. The initiative provides public policy support through direct technical assistance, guidance, and consultation, with the goal of growing internal capacity and expanding or leveraging PCA chapter presence at the state-policy level.

Background: The GAI launched in 2019, beginning with the solicitation from interested PCA Chapters and the subsequent selection of six GAI states receiving policy and legislative engagement support. Building off the initial success and response from the chapter network, the GAI has grown its support to selected chapters to include technical assistance, policy agenda development, consultation on policy priorities, and engagement and outreach with state legislators. It expanded into a robust program providing broad support to the entire network through strategic webinars, forming a policy affinity group, and the development of timely resources.

Through this effort, the majority of states (27) engaged in direct policy support and received technical assistance. There are seven state chapters joining the effort in 2023 while the prior GAI chapters continue to advance the policy related efforts started during their initial engagement in the GAI.

- 2019 PCA Chapters: GA, OK, TX, VA, WY, & PA
- 2020 PCA Chapters: DE, KY, NC, OR, PA, & TN
- 2021 PCA Chapters: AL, FL, MI, NY, OH, & UT
- 2022 PCA Chapters: CO, CT, IL, KS, & ME
- 2023 PCA Chapters: AZ, KY, IA, MN, NH, NJ, & WY

Direct PCA Chapter Technical Assistance

Direct technical assistance in 2023 will be provided to seven chapters with varying degrees of requested support. The selected chapters – **Arizona, Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Wyoming** – began meeting in early March and will be engaged in different timeframes and varying focuses of policy support. Highlights of the intended support in 2023 includes:

- Building internal public policy capacity (support could include messaging and communication tool development, talking points, network mapping analysis, re-focusing of policy priorities and identifying policy tactics, or identifying policy priorities)



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- General policy support (supports could include an Advocacy 101 presentation for staff, engaging board members in advancing policy priorities, digging into a specific policy area a chapter would like to lead, or strategizing around policy priorities)
- Legislative engagement with next legislative session (supports could include developing a policy agenda and priorities, preparing for meeting with state legislators, planning a day at the capitol, or setting the chapter up to be a resource to the legislature)

Additional Highlights of the GAI

GAI chapters continue to advance the policy related efforts they started during their initial engagement in the GAI. Highlights include:

- *PCA Kentucky* held a Neglect Summit bringing together state leaders and champions to explore the issue of child neglect, with a specific focus on their definition of neglect in state statute where PCAA presented during the summit.
- *PCA Delaware* engaged in two legislative discussions with legislators to advocate for prevention focused legislation introduced in their state with PCAA presenting during one of these events.
- *PCA Tennessee* held a [virtual roundtable discussion](#) with Senator Bo Watson, Chair of the Finance committee, which was shared across our networks as an example of how to engage with a state legislator.
- *PCA New York* facilitated a virtual meeting with over 40 members of the New York state legislature on Family First with PCAA presenting.
- *PCA Maine's* Board has advanced their advocacy through reaching out to US Senator Collins and board members have authored an op-ed for both MIECHV and CAPTA reauthorization.
- *PCA Illinois's* Board has moved the areas of advocacy and policy to a full Board initiative; it was previously an area assigned to a subcommittee.
- *PCA Kansas's* Executive Director has become a registered lobbyist to further their advocacy and engagement with state legislators.

Policy Affinity Group

The Policy Affinity Group, which includes representatives from approximately 20 PCA chapters, is continuing to meet for the fourth year. This year the group is engaged in monthly facilitated cross-learning and cross-sharing discussion on timely state and federal primary prevention policy options.

