
What is the West Virginia Children’s Advocacy Network?

The West Virginia Child Advocacy Network is the statewide leader in the fight against child abuse. We connect the community and professionals to the resources they need to ensure all children have access to safe, high-quality care through our 21-member CACs — child advocacy centers.

What are CACs and how do they help kids?

CACs are how communities mount a coordinated response to allegations of child abuse. To understand what a child advocacy center is, you must understand what children face without one. Without a CAC, the child may end up having to tell the worst story of his or her life over and over again — to doctors, police, lawyers, therapists, investigators, judges, and others. They may not get the help they need to heal once the investigation is over, either.

CACs provide healing, justice, and trust for child victims of abuse.

Last year, CACs statewide demonstrated that our model works through hundreds of surveys from caregivers and team members. Here are some highlights from West Virginia that show our families and partners believe in the healing, justice, and trust we provide.

- Healing: 96% of caregivers agree that CACs provide them with resources to support their children.
- Justice: 96% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the team.
- Trust: If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 99% would tell that person about the center.
The West Virginia CAC movement is growing and improving.

With 21 member CACs serving over 3,500 children each year, WVCAN represents a growing movement providing more and better services to children and families statewide.

Since 2008, the number of children WVCAN member centers serve each year has grown 130%.

In that time, our member CACs have come to serve each year:

- Nearly five times as many child victims of physical abuse
- Nearly double the number of child victims of sexual abuse
- More than triple the number of child witnesses to violence
- Almost five times as many more children endangered by drugs

And provided:

- More than triple the number of children with counseling and other mental health services
- Two-and-a-half times as many children with onsite forensic interviews
- 231% more children and family members with case management services
- 135% more children, family members, and community members with prevention education

The need remains.

Despite the success of the CAC model in helping children who have been victimized by abuse, there’s still an outstanding need for more CAC coverage and more support. Nearly a quarter of West Virginia’s children live in counties without access to a CAC — that’s almost 90,000 children. All the counties in light blue represent areas where children may not have access to the services they need to get healing and justice.

$2.6 million in additional support would help expand CAC services statewide.

$150,000 would provide seed funding for a new center.

$100,000 would provide seed funding for a satellite expansion.

601 Morris Street, Suite 202 Charleston, WV 25301
304-414-4455 | wvcan.org