

SHORT TITLE

Section 201 of title II of Pub. L. 101-647 provided that: "This title [enacting this chapter, sections 3796aa to 3796aa-8 of this title, and sections 403, 2258, and 3509 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and amending sections 3742, 3782, 3783, 3789, 3793, and 3797 of this title] may be cited as the 'Victims of Child Abuse Act of 1990'."

§ 13001a. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter—

(1) the term "Administrator" means the agency head designated under section 5611(b) of this title;

(2) the term "applicant" means a child protective service, law enforcement, legal, medical and mental health agency or other agency that responds to child abuse cases;

(3) the term "board" means the Children's Advocacy Advisory Board established under section 13001b(e) of this title;

(4) the term "census region" means 1 of the 4 census regions (northeast, south, midwest, and west) that are designated as census regions by the Bureau of the Census as of November 4, 1992;

(5) the term "child abuse" means physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child;

(6) the term "Director" means the Director of the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect;

(7) the term "multidisciplinary response to child abuse" means a response to child abuse that is based on mutually agreed upon procedures among the community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that best meets the needs of child victims and their nonoffending family members;

(8) the term "nonoffending family member" means a member of the family of a victim of child abuse other than a member who has been convicted or accused of committing an act of child abuse; and

(9) the term "regional children's advocacy program" means the children's advocacy program established under section 13001b(a) of this title.

(Pub. L. 101-647, title II, §212, as added Pub. L. 102-586, §6(b)(2), Nov. 4, 1992, 106 Stat. 5029.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 212 of Pub. L. 101-647 was renumbered section 214 and is classified to section 13002 of this title.

§ 13001b. Regional children's advocacy centers**(a) Establishment of regional children's advocacy program**

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director and with the Director of the Office of Victims of Crime, shall establish a children's advocacy program to—

(1) focus attention on child victims by assisting communities in developing child-focused, community-oriented, facility-based programs designed to improve the resources available to children and families;

(2) provide support for nonoffending family members;

(3) enhance coordination among community agencies and professionals involved in the

intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases; and

(4) train physicians and other health care and mental health care professionals in the multidisciplinary approach to child abuse so that trained medical personnel will be available to provide medical support to community agencies and professionals involved in the intervention, prevention, prosecution, and investigation systems that respond to child abuse cases.

(b) Activities of regional children's advocacy program**(1) Administrator**

The Administrator, in coordination with the Director, shall—

(A) establish regional children's advocacy program centers;

(B) fund existing regional centers with expertise in the prevention, judicial handling, and treatment of child abuse and neglect; and

(C) fund the establishment of freestanding facilities in multidisciplinary programs within communities that have yet to establish such facilities,

for the purpose of enabling grant recipients to provide information, services, and technical assistance to aid communities in establishing multidisciplinary programs that respond to child abuse.

(2) Grant recipients

A grant recipient under this section shall—

(A) assist communities—

(i) in developing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary response to child abuse that is designed to meet the needs of child victims and their families;

(ii) in establishing a freestanding facility where interviews of and services for abused children can be provided;

(iii) in preventing or reducing trauma to children caused by multiple contacts with community professionals;

(iv) in providing families with needed services and assisting them in regaining maximum functioning;

(v) in maintaining open communication and case coordination among community professionals and agencies involved in child protection efforts;

(vi) in coordinating and tracking investigative, preventive, prosecutorial, and treatment efforts;

(vii) in obtaining information useful for criminal and civil proceedings;

(viii) in holding offenders accountable through improved prosecution of child abuse cases;

(ix) in enhancing professional skills necessary to effectively respond to cases of child abuse through training; and

(x) in enhancing community understanding of child abuse; and

(B) provide training and technical assistance to local children's advocacy centers in its census region that are grant recipients under section 13002 of this title.