



Minnesota
STATE COLLEGES
& UNIVERSITIES

INSTITUTION

PROJECT/REQUEST

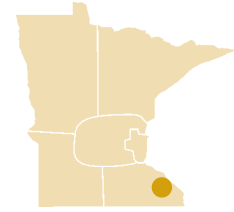
LOCATION

Winona State University

Winona

National Child Protection Training Center

\$3,000,000



Project at a Glance

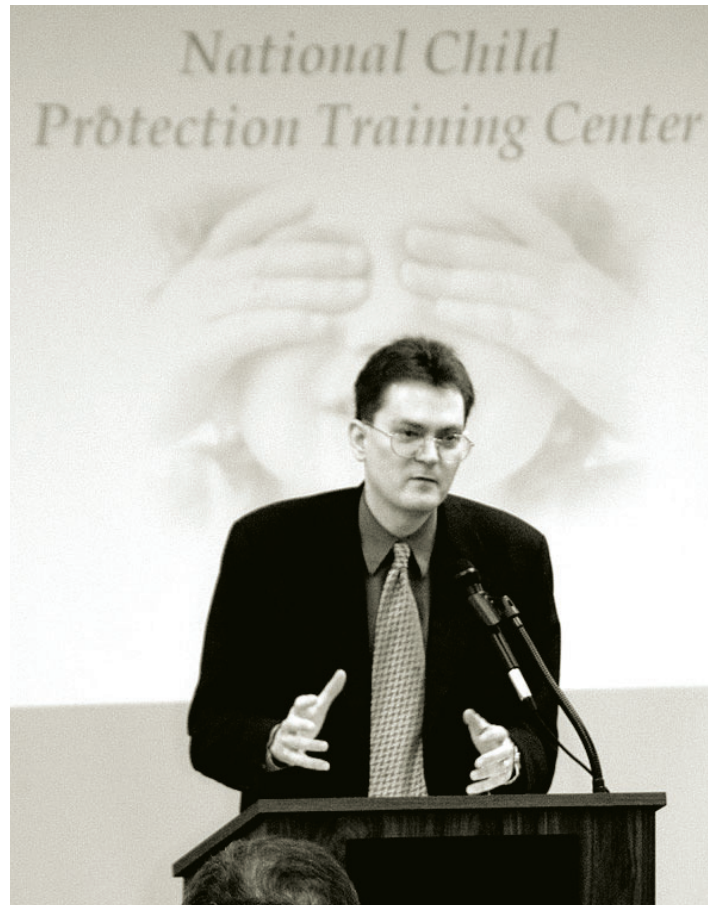
- Create model undergraduate and graduate curricula and provide training and resources to front-line child protection professionals, including social workers, teachers, nurses, psychologists and law enforcement professionals
- Help states establish locally run programs to teach investigators and prosecutors how to interview child abuse victims
- Part of a comprehensive national plan to significantly reduce child abuse in the United States
- An innovative partnership between Winona State University and the American Prosecutors Research Institute

Project Description

An estimated \$1 billion is spent every year dealing with the aftermath of child abuse. Abused children are more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal behavior, use drugs, drop out of school and suffer depression or other forms of serious mental or physical illnesses. No other social ill has the sweeping negative impact on society than does child abuse. An investment on the front end of this problem can save costs and thousands of lives.

The National Child Protection Training Center is the premier trainer of child abuse investigators and prosecutors. In its first year of operation, at the request of state and local government child protection professionals, the center's programs were delivered to 18 states where approximately 8,000 professionals were trained. With the center's guidance, state and local government officials have established locally run forensic interview training programs. The center's staff has provided technical assistance for more than 300 child protection cases around the country.

Requested funds will allow the National Child Protection Training Center to expand training and resources to front-line child protection professionals, including social workers, teachers, nurses, psychologists and law enforcement officers. The funding will enable the center to expand capacity to help states establish locally run programs to teach investigators and prosecutors how to interview child abuse victims. The work of the center will contribute to the comprehensive national plan identified by the American Prosecutors Research Institute to significantly reduce child abuse in the United States.



Victor Vieth, director of the National Child Protection Training Center, works toward a future where every teacher and nurse learns to spot and report abuse, where police officers and social workers more effectively interview child victims, and where front-line workers help communities prevent abuse.

Further, the center will provide a national clearinghouse and training center for child protection professionals and provide additional resources for a forensic interview training program. In an effort to

provide sustained effectiveness, the center is assisting institutions of higher education in developing model undergraduate and graduate curricula for child protection professionals.

National Child Protection Training Center

The center focuses on technical assistance, training and publications for professionals employed in the field, with its primary focus on the civil side of child protection dealing with issues such as dependency and neglect petitions and termination of parental rights.

The center offers national hands-on conferences several times a year. Courses include:

- “When Child Abuse Hits Home: Investigating, Proving and Assessing Reunification in Civil Child Protection Cases,” designed for child protection professionals whose duties include responding to an allegation of abuse.
- “Finding Words,” an intensive five-day course in collaboration with CornerHouse, a nonprofit interagency child abuse evaluation and training center in Minneapolis. This interactive course combines lectures with demonstrations and experience. Students interview a child about a nonabuse event and are critiqued by an expert forensic interviewer. Students also conduct a 30-minute interview with an actor playing the role of an abused child, and they learn to conduct an investigative interview of a child abuse victim using the CornerHouse forensic interview process.

- “Trial Advocacy Course: Childprotect,” a five-day trial-advocacy course designed to meet the needs of civil child protection attorneys. Students are taught and critiqued by the nation’s foremost child abuse experts. Each student evaluates a fact pattern and proceeds with a child protection or termination of parental rights case. Students conduct direct examinations of social workers, police officers and psychologists and cross-examine witnesses offered by the parent respondents.

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