The National Child Protection Training Center is the premier trainer of child abuse investigators and prosecutors. Each year, at the request of state and local government child protection professionals, the center provides training to more than 10,000 front-line investigators and prosecutors. 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 1,000 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 National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children to significantly reduce child abuse in the United States.

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:

- “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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