



**Children's Trust Fund**

*Protecting Michigan's Children*



*protecting*  
children

STATE PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



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The Michigan Children's Trust Fund (CTF) was established in 1982 to help break the cycle of child abuse and neglect and to protect the lives of children so they can become more successful adults and parents. The following report, known officially as the **State Plan for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, 2007-08**, describes CTF's current accomplishments and endeavors in Michigan.

Since our last report representing 2005-06, much work has taken place throughout Michigan. CTF has increased its collaborative efforts with other statewide agencies to assure that all investments intended to reduce child abuse, regardless of their origin, are better coordinated and more efficient in their application. A sampling of these organizations includes the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, Head Start, and Children's Charter of the Courts of Michigan.

Meanwhile, at the local level, Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Councils, Direct Services grant recipients, and many volunteers continue their vital mission of informing, educating, and empowering. Like CTF at the state level, they are reaching out to like entities in their own communities to collaboratively enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of this vital work.

While Michigan's number of substantiated child abuse cases has increased slightly since publication of our last report (from 28,100 to 29,638), we know that our prevention efforts are working. For instance, one report, issued this past January by the Zero-to-Three programs, a State of Michigan interdepartmental program administered by the CTF, clearly documented the positive cost-effective impact of our collective efforts to help at-risk families enhance their parenting and coping skills and reduce incidences of child abuse and neglect.

Research shows that unemployment and poverty are two risk factors which negatively impact child abuse and neglect statistics. In this financially challenging environment, it is reassuring to know that prevention work can provide a significant benefit to all of our citizens.

Our children have a fundamental right to be protected from abuse and neglect. We hope that, as you read this report, you will be inspired and become committed to champion CTF's critical mission.

  
Nancy Moody  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Children's Trust Fund

  
Paul N. Shaheen  
Executive Director  
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