

**2019 Policy Position**

**Prevent Abuse through Primary Prevention Initiatives**

New York State spends millions of dollars each year on intervention and remediation. We place children in foster care, homeless shelters, and juvenile detention centers. We wonder why the cycle of poverty continues from generation to generation.

Primary prevention encompasses those initiatives that prevent abuse from occurring. These initiatives exist, but they are not adequately funded or as comprehensive as they should be.

We can start by creating resilient communities that drive locally-based initiatives. We can build these communities on the Five Protective Factors: parental resilience, social connections, concrete support in times of need, knowledge of parenting and child development, and social and emotional competence for children.

Ideally, every person who comes into contact with children and families should have an awareness of what abuse looks like, what the warning signs are, and to whom to report concerns. Parents should receive training on how to strengthen their family. And communities should have an underlying understanding that families will be supported—and how.

**PCANY supports infusing prevention throughout the continuum of care and education, and strengthening existing primary prevention initiatives.**

New York State should:

* Invest adequately in maternal, infant, and early childhood home visiting.
* Support the NYS Kinship Agenda, including funding for programs and policy changes that will help increase permanency for children in the care of relatives and family friends.
* Strengthen the Children and Family Trust Fund by creating a tax check-off to increase revenue and expand the Trust’s reach.
* Pass the Child Victims Act.
* Invest in evidence-based parenting education initiatives, such as Triple P.

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