

EXPANDING THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN



Who are CornerHouse & First Witness?

CornerHouse and First Witness are Children's Advocacy Centers supporting children, youth and vulnerable adults who have experienced abuse. We work with our multi-disciplinary partners to identify, intervene, and interrupt in the maltreatment of children. Our trauma-informed, language accessible programming provides ongoing advocacy, family supports and mental health to improve safety and stability while reducing the impact of trauma so children can thrive.

1,000+
Children helped
annually

Evidence-Based Practices

CornerHouse and First Witness have built evidence-based practices that serve as a model for hundreds of centers across the country to respond to cases of child abuse in a person-centered, developmentally appropriate, and forensically-sound manner. As organizations committed to evidence-based approaches, our body safety & child abuse prevention network integrates a culturally-contextualized approach to integrating measurable outcomes.

70%
Indigenous or
children of color

Globally-Recognized Training

We are globally-recognized, expert training centers with over 30 years of experience pioneering a continuum of best practices in interviewing children and vulnerable adults improving law enforcement, attorney, and child protection response. Our training is recognized by the National Children's Alliance in meeting best practices and Children's Advocacy Standards. We also offer a wide range of trainings for schools and professionals covering the state of Minnesota.

35,000
Professionals
Trained

Funding Request - Body Safety & Child Abuse Prevention

\$630,000 in funding will provide safety trainings for 20,000+ parents, professionals, and students providing them real strategies to improve safety in and outside of their homes. Our body safety training, community call lines, ongoing outreach, parent education, and a constellation of ongoing training including online safety, mental health strategies, healthy adolescent relationships, etc. builds a safety network for families in rural, Tribal, suburban, and urban communities across the state. Safety trainings seek input from culturally-focused and LGBTQ+ focused community organizations and creating evidence-based outcomes to inform schools, communities, and policy.

Why fund CornerHouse & First Witness - SF 1852 / HF 2121?

- 30+ year history of developing training on evidence-based practices
- 30,000+ of Minnesota's children are victims of abuse
- 14-15% of Minnesota's child abuse cases are for sexual abuse EVERY year
- Devastating rates of self-harm and suicidality among Minnesota's children
- 265% increase in community calls for help from 2021 to 2022.
- CornerHouse and First Witness are statewide training organizations bringing a metro and outstate partnership building solutions to improve safety together.
- Programming is complete - key school districts and partners are engaged.

It is critical that Minnesota makes a real investment to prevent child maltreatment that eliminates immediate & lifelong impact

265%

Increase in
Community
Calls

9.5 %

In Minnesota's
Children report
sexual abuse

20,000+

families receive
safety support

Body Safety Program will result in:



- Reduced incidences of abuse or involvement in child protection
- A reduction of trauma symptoms in children
- Reduction in long-term effects of abuse (joblessness, chronic disease, violence, mental health) reducing future healthcare costs while creating a healthier future workforce



- Increased understanding of signs
- Implemented safety strategies
- Improved parenting
- Increased safety
- Improved children's mental health
- Increased school success
- Evidence-based data to inform policy

Contact Us

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