



SAFE, HEALTHY AND THRIVING: Helping Kids Heal from Abuse

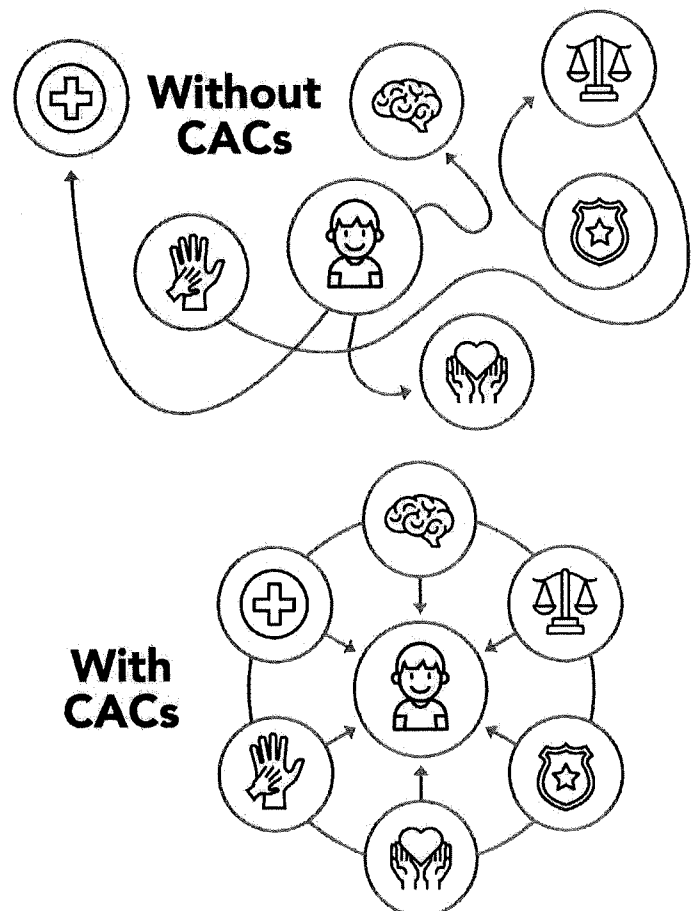
Every seven minutes a child maltreatment report is made in Minnesota. From that moment on, teams of professionals (listed below) across the state work together to help kids in the wake of abuse.¹

As a statewide coalition, the Minnesota Children's Alliance (Alliance) represents 13 children's advocacy centers (CACs) that serve 3,000 kids each year. We collaborate with trained professionals to put the needs of children and families first.

CACs are the gold standard

To ensure a supportive and effective response for the child and family, these professionals come together at a CAC, which is a safe, child-focused environment. The core of the CAC is the multidisciplinary team, which enables professionals across systems to work together more seamlessly.

- Child protection and law enforcement investigators lead the investigation
- County attorneys pursue civil and criminal cases
- Forensic interviewers conduct neutral, fact-finding interviews
- Child and family advocates help navigate confusing systems
- Medical professionals provide specialized medical care
- Mental health practitioners use trauma-informed therapy approaches



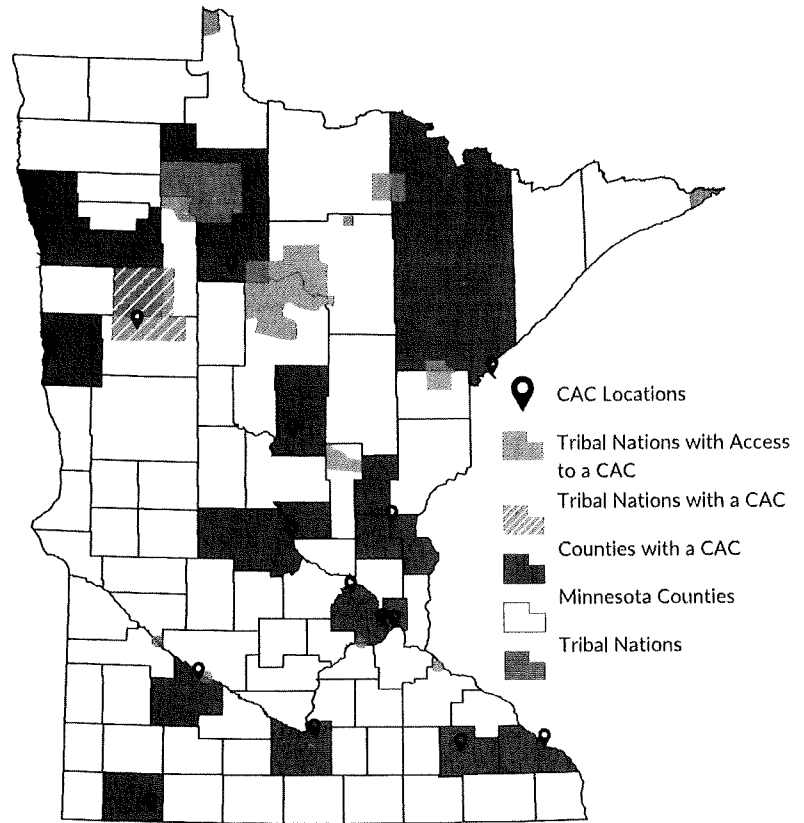
More support is needed

Nationwide, 97 percent of caregivers agreed that CACs provide them with resources to support their children. And 98 percent of MDT members reported that children benefit from the collaborative approach.²

But too many kids in Minnesota, over 700,000, don't have ready access to a CAC. Expansion funding passed by the state legislature in 2015 has helped nearly double the number of CACs but the need for services outpaces the demand. In 2022, 5,025¹ kids were reported victims of sexual abuse, but only 43 percent of those received a CAC response.³

Access is limited in rural areas

Children shouldn't have to travel across the state to access needed services from a CAC. Many communities, particularly in rural areas, do not have local access to this critical resource and face long drives for specialized care.



16% of counties and 7 tribal nations
have coverage through a local CAC.

Children in other counties and tribal nations may travel several hours to access specialized services like medical and mental health care.

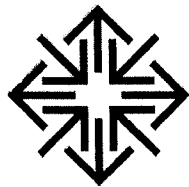
3,000 kids
rely on Minnesota CACs each year³

700,000+ kids under 18
live in a county without a CAC⁴

Sources

1. Minnesota Department of Human Services. *Minnesota's Child Maltreatment Report*, 2022. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfserver/Public/DHS-54080-ENG>.
2. National Children's Alliance. *Healing, Justice, and Trust: A National Report on Outcomes for Children's Advocacy Centers* 2022. <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/measuring-cac-outcomes/>.
3. Minnesota Children's Alliance, Annual Service Statistics, 2023.
4. US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2017-21. Source geography: Tract. Accessed via SparkMap, <https://sparkmap.org>.

**For more on the Alliance
and child abuse in
Minnesota contact:**
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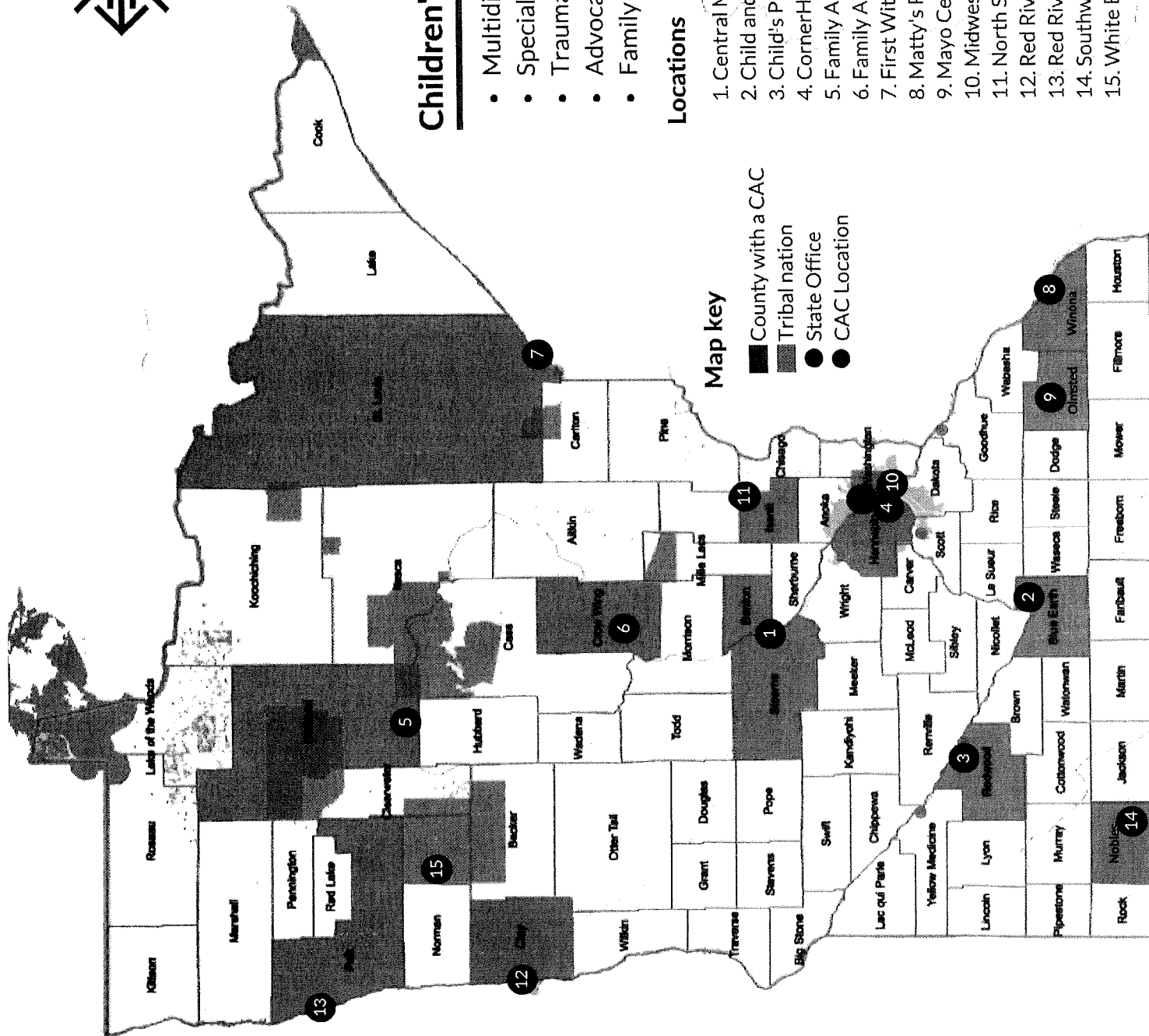
MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Children's Advocacy Centers provide:

- Multidisciplinary team investigations
- Specialized medical examinations
- Trauma-informed mental health
- Advocacy
- Family support

Locations

1. Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center
2. Child and Family Advocacy Center of South Central Minnesota
3. Child's Place Children's Advocacy Center
4. CornerHouse
5. Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota
6. Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota – Satellite
7. First Witness
8. Matty's Place
9. Mayo Center for Safe and Healthy Children and Adolescents
10. Midwest Children's Resource Center
11. North Star Family Advocacy Center
12. Red River Children's Advocacy Center
13. Red River Children's Advocacy Center – Satellite
14. Southwest Crisis Center, Children's Advocacy Program
15. White Earth Band of Ojibwe



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3/25/25

Senator Judy Seeberger

Minnesota State Senate
95 University Avenue W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Letter of Support for SF2546/HF2422

Dear Senator Seeberger,

I am writing to express my strong support for SF2546/HF2422, a crucial bill allows for more wraparound services within our juvenile community. As the sole mental health professional at the Hennepin County Juvenile Justice System, I feel strongly that this is a need in our community. I witness lack of mental health services daily at my job in a population that studies state over 75% of individuals are diagnosed with a mental health diagnosis, which is consistent within Hennepin County. I believe this legislation is essential for youth's mental health, specifically in our underserved population. I believe it can help fill gaps in care that continue to lead to reincarcerations of youth, violence in our community and lack of access to care. This bill will assist in helping with public safety, individualized care plans and positive development within youth.

By passing SF2546/HF2422, Minnesota can take a meaningful step toward equitable mental health care, decreasing revocation in youth and building more solid treatment. I urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and ensure its passage for the betterment of our state. The help with incarceration rates starts with prevention within the juvenile justice system and when youth are still developing, learning and malleable.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your leadership and commitment to serving our communities. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Zoey Gooley

Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker – Hennepin County