

A FRAMEWORK FOR PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE BY THE PROMOTION OF HEALTHY FAMILIES & COMMUNITIES



Vision

The vision of the Office of Child Abuse Prevention is to develop an integrated state-wide system that supports families to provide safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments for their children. To achieve this vision, we have adapted the healthcare model for prevention, seeking to build protective factors through community and natural supports while mitigating risk factors.

Levels & Strategies for the Prevention of Child Abuse & the Promotion of Healthy Families and Communities

PRIMARY

These activities are directed at the general population to strengthen communities and improve child well-being by focusing on the social determinants of health, defined as the conditions into which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.

Primary strategies may include:

- ▶ Reducing poverty and drug use
- ▶ Improving economic stability, transportation and access to supports
- ▶ Increasing social connections within the community
- ▶ Improving health and access to healthcare
- ▶ Improving school readiness, neighborhood safety and play areas for children
- ▶ Increasing communication and public awareness strategies for education, engagement, and outreach



SECONDARY

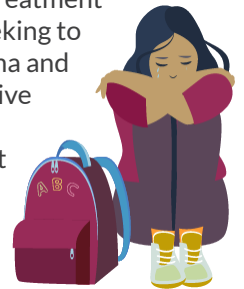
These activities are offered to populations that have one or more risk factors associated with compromised well-being or child maltreatment, such as poverty, parental substance abuse, young parental age, parental mental health concerns, exposure to violence, and parental or child disabilities. Programs seek to build protective factors and mitigate the risk factors.

Secondary strategies may include:

- ▶ Increasing accessibility to family resource centers that offer information and referral services to families living in low income areas
- ▶ Offering parent education programs in strategic locations
- ▶ Providing home visiting programs that provide support and assistance to expecting and new mothers
- ▶ Providing respite care for families that have children with special needs
- ▶ Increasing access to family-centered substance abuse treatment services
- ▶ Connecting families to public assistance programs such as CalWORKS and CalFresh

TERTIARY

These activities focus on families where child maltreatment has occurred, seeking to mitigate its trauma and reduce the negative consequences of the maltreatment and to prevent its recurrence.



Tertiary strategies may include:

- ▶ Providing family reunification services
- ▶ Providing permanency planning
- ▶ Offering parent support groups that help parents transform negative practices and beliefs into positive parenting behaviors and attitudes
- ▶ Providing mental health services for children and families affected by maltreatment
- ▶ Providing parent mentoring programs to families in crisis