



**COLORADO**  
Department of Human Services

Mark Greenberg, Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20024

May 29, 2015

Re: Children's Justice Act Report and Application FY2015  
Log No: ACYF-CB-PI-15-01

Dear Acting Commissioner Greenberg:

I am pleased to submit Colorado's application for Children's Justice Act (CJA) funds in the amount of \$285,892.00. The following information is submitted:

The applicant agency is the Colorado Department of Human Services, 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203, Fax (303) 866-4214.

The contact person in this agency is Lorendia Schmidt, CAPTA Administrator, (303) 866-4268 and Fax (303) 866-5563.

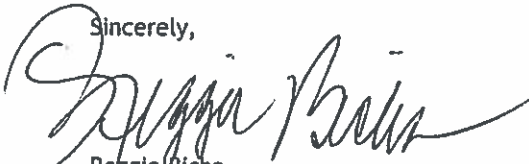
The Employer Identification Number is 84-0644739.

Included in this submission are a:

- Letter with the required assurances signed by Governor Hickenlooper;
- Description of CJA Task Force membership and function;
- Description of the activities conducted in the 12-month period preceding the date of submission;
- List of prior year budget expenditures;
- Description of the three-year assessment completed by the CJA Task Force;
- Description of proposed activities for the upcoming year; and
- Certification of Lobbying Form.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to have the State of Colorado fulfill the vision of the Children's Justice Act.

Sincerely,



Reggie Bicha  
Executive Director



**Children's Justice Act  
State of Colorado  
Fiscal Year 2015  
Report and Re-Application**

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau**

**Office on Child Abuse and Neglect**

**Log No. ACYF-CB-PI-15-01**

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## **Part II: Governor's Letter**

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# STATE OF COLORADO

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

136 State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone (303) 866-2471  
Fax (303) 866-2003



John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

May 29, 2015

Mark Greenberg, Acting Commissioner  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
1250 Maryland Avenue, SW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20024

Re: Children's Justice Act Report and Application FY2015, Log No: ACYF-CB-PI-15-01

Dear Associate Commissioner Chang:

This is to certify that:

1. The State received the FY2014 Child Abuse and Neglect Basic State Grant and continues to comply with the requirements stipulated in section 106(b) of the Act; and
2. The State has maintained a State multidisciplinary task force on children's justice; and
3. The State has adopted or continues to progress in adopting recommendations of the State Task Force; and
4. The State will make such reports to the Secretary as may reasonably be required, including an annual report on how assistance received under this program was expended throughout the State, with particular attention to the areas described in paragraphs (1) through (3) of Section 107(a); and
5. The State will maintain and provide access to records relating to activities under the Children's Justice Act (CJA); and
6. The State will participate in at least one Federally-initiated CJA Conference each year that the grant is in effect, and is authorized to use grant funds to cover travel and per diem expenses for two (2) CJA representatives (CJA Coordinator and Task Force Chairperson) to attend the meeting.

I am delegating authority to sign agreements and assurances to the Colorado Department of Human Services Executive Director, Reggie Bicha, and at his direction, the Director of the Office of Children, Youth and Families, or the Director of the Division of Child Welfare.

All award letters are to be sent to the Director of the Division of Child Welfare at the Colorado Department of Human Services, 1575 Sherman Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Denver, CO 80203.

Thank you for the continued opportunity to have the State of Colorado fulfill the vision of the Children's Justice Act.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

## Part I: Task Force Membership and Function

Colorado maintains an active Children’s Justice Act Task Force per the requirements set forth in Section 107(c) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (P.L. 111-320) and Colorado’s current membership roster is as follows:

### Task Force Membership

| Name               | Title   | Background Description   | Task Force Designation                          |
|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Judge Claude Appel | Chief Judge, Third Judicial District              | <p>Judge Appel was appointed as a District Judge in March 1986. Prior to his appointment as a judge, he was in private practice in Longmont, Colorado, then served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Third Judicial District and had a private practice there. He received his B.A. degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois in 1974 and his law degree from the University of Colorado in 1978.</p> <p>The Huerfano County Teen Court program which he began in 1995 and which now operates in both District and County Courts and in the local high school is an example of how Judge Appel has positively affected his district outside of his courtroom.</p> | Criminal/Civil Judge                            |
| Brian Brinkerhoff  | Executive Director, Child Advocates – Denver CASA | <p>Mr. Brinkerhoff graduated with a BA in Philosophy and a Master of Public Administration with a Nonprofit Emphasis from the University of Colorado at Denver.</p> <p>Mr. Brinkerhoff has worked with at-risk youth populations in Denver for over eight years. He worked with homeless youth at Urban Peak where he developed a job training program. He also worked with Colorado Youth for a Change, helping to implement Intervention and Outreach programs within Adams 12 5 Star Schools, Aurora Public Schools, Boulder Valley School District, Denver Public Schools and Englewood Schools.</p>   | Court Appointed Special Advocate Representative |

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| Name                     | Title   | Background Description  | Task Force Designation     |
|--------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Antonia Chiesa, Ph.D.    | Senior Instructor, Department of Pediatrics, Child Protection Team, The Children's Hospital | Dr. Chiesa graduated from Louisiana State University Medical School and completed her fellowship with the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Dr. Chiesa is currently a pediatrician at Children's Hospital in Aurora, Colorado, with specialties in Child Abuse and Primary Care.   | Health Professional        |
| Susan Colling            | Juvenile Programs Coordinator, Colorado Division of Probation Services                      | Ms. Colling currently provides technical assistance, evaluation, and analytical services in the 22 probation departments across the State. Previous work included the Colorado Legislative Council, Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Chair of the SB94 Statewide Advisory Board, and Colorado Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Council. Ms. Colling received an M.P.A. in criminal justice from the University of Colorado and a B.A. in criminal justice from Michigan State University.  | Juvenile Justice           |
| Elizabeth (Beth) Collins | Advocacy Director, Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV)                     | Before joining CCADV in 2008, Ms. Collins worked directly with victims of domestic violence in various capacities including working for three years as a consultant to child welfare staff on domestic abuse screening and intervention. Ms. Collins helps plan the Advocacy In Action Conference, and in various venues has provided trainings on empowerment-based advocacy, coordinated community responses to DV, men's role in ending violence against women, batterers as parents and the effects on children of DV, and best practices for Child Protective Services when addressing domestic violence and child maltreatment. | Mental Health Professional |



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| Name           | Title   | Background Description   | Task Force Designation                   |
|----------------|---|--|--|
| Diego Condo    | Youth Representative  | After emancipating from the child welfare system, Mr. Condo is now working and attending the University of Colorado at Denver.   | Former youth                             |
| Sheree Wheeler | State Coordinator for Foster Care Education, Colorado Department of Education | After over 20 years working in education and child welfare, Ms. Conyers is currently working to promote education stability for children in foster care in Colorado.   | Education Experience with Homeless Youth |
| Sheri Danz     | Deputy Director, Office of the Child's Representative                         | Ms. Danz received her J.D. degree in 2000 from the New York University School of Law and began working in 2007 with the Colorado Office of the Child's Representative (OCR). Ms. Danz now serves as the Deputy Director with OCR and joined the CJA Task Force in the Spring of 2014.  | Child Advocate (Attorney for Children)   |
| Bill DeLisio   | Family Law Program Manager, Colorado State Court Administrator's Office       | Mr. DeLisio joined the Colorado State Court Administrator's Office in 2005 after serving over ten years in Colorado's 17th Judicial District. While with 17th Judicial, Mr. DeLisio acted as Family Court Facilitator, Juvenile Court Program Coordinator, Domestic Relations Case Manager, and helped launch the Family Court Pilot Project and Integrated Family Drug Court. An Ohio native, DeLisio received his B.S. from Youngstown State University with a major in Criminal Justice. DeLisio received his Master of Science in Legal Administration (MSLA) degree from the University of Denver College of the Law in 1998. | Criminal/Civil Court Representative      |
| Tammy Duffy    | Parent Representative   | After being involved with child welfare after the birth of her son, Ms. Duffy is now an active member of Families First and the Children's Justice Act Task Force. In 2013, Ms. Duffy received the Parent Leader of the Year award from Families First. Ms. Duffy's son is now a rambunctious, smart, and funny six-year-old.  | Parent Representative                    |

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| Name           | Title   | Background Description   | Task Force Designation  |
|----------------|---|--|---|
| Connie Fixsen  | Early Childhood Specialist, Office of Early Childhood, Colorado Department of Human Services                            | Ms. Fixsen was with the Office of Children, Youth and Families for six years until recently shifting to the Office of Early Childhood. Prior to her work with CDHS, Ms. Fixsen worked as a caseworker with Denver County Department of Human Services and with children with developmental disabilities and early childhood mental health concerns.  | Early Childhood Expertise   |
| Diana Goldberg | Executive Director, SungateKids, CAC and Family Resource Center   | Ms. Goldberg has been the Executive Director of SungateKids since 1996. She is a graduate of Columbia University and the University of Virginia School of Law. Ms. Goldberg practiced law with the firm of Davis, Graham and Stubbs and then with the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver. She served as Executive Director of the Central Visitation Program before joining SungateKids.   | Children's Advocacy Center Representative/Law Enforcement Community |
| Nancy Harris   | CHRP Supervisor, Division of Child Welfare, Office of Children, Youth & Families, Colorado Department of Human Services | Ms. Harris has a long history of working with children with developmental disabilities, including 24 years with a Community Centered Board providing Early Intervention assessment, services, and coordination, and three years at the State of Colorado supporting the placement of youth with developmental disabilities. Ms. Harris holds a Doctorate and Masters in Psychology.  | Individual experienced in working with children with disabilities   |
| Andi Leopoldus | Statewide Coordinator, Colorado Children's Alliance   | Ms. Leopoldus has been the Colorado Chapter Coordinator and Chapter Lobbyist since 2005 for Colorado's accredited State Chapter of the National Children's Alliance. She has managed three other associations in her career. With more than 25 years of experience at the Colorado Capitol, she is knowledgeable and respected at the Legislature. Ms. Leopoldus has a B.A. in English from the University of Colorado-Boulder and an M.P.A. from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. She is the mother of two adult children and four grandchildren. Ms. Leopoldus and her husband live in Colorado Springs. | Children's Advocacy Center Representative/Law Enforcement Community |

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| Name                | Title  | Background Description  | Task Force Designation      |
|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Toni Miner          | Parent Representative  | Ms. Miner was involved in the child welfare system over ten years ago. Ms. Miner now uses her own experiences with child welfare to act as a Parent Partner for current families involved with child welfare and serves on a number of different committees, including the Colorado Domestic Violence Council, IV-E Waiver Committee, and the Birth Parent Advisory Committee. Ms. Miner also works with the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is currently caring for her grandson, and recently celebrated twelve years of sobriety. | Parent Representative       |
| Pamela Neu          | Manager, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Programs, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services | With a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Gonzaga University, Ms. Neu has worked with the Colorado Department of Human Services since 2005. Her rolls have included Residential Program Supervisor and Manager of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Programs.   | Mental Health Professional  |
| Julie Rammer        | Attorney at the Office of the Colorado Public Defender   | After receiving her Colorado law license eight years ago, Ms. Rammer has served as an attorney with the Office of the Colorado Public Defender and works with families involved in the child welfare system.  | Defense Attorney            |
| Jennifer Richardson | Family Support Services Director, Families First   | Ms. Richardson joined Families First in 1987 and has directed the Family Support Services since 1990. Her professional credentials include Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Addictions Counselor (CACIII), and national trainer for Circle of Parents®. Ms. Richardson represents Families First by serving on the Colorado Children’s Justice Task Force, the Kinship Conference planning committee, and the Douglas County Parenting Coalition.   | Parent Group Representative |

Children’s Justice Act Fiscal Year 2015 Report and Re-Application

| Name                   | Title   | Background Description   | Task Force Designation                             |
|------------------------|---|--|--|
| Toni Rozanski          | Director of Child and Family Services, Eagle County Department of Health and Human Services                                 | Eagle County welcomed Ms. Rozanski as its new Child, Family and Adult Services Director in 2013. Prior to working in Eagle County, Ms. Rozanski was the Child Welfare Director for the City and County of Denver’s Department of Human Services, a position she had held since 2008. She holds a BS in Social Work from Southern Illinois University and a MS in Social Work from the University of Illinois.  | Child Protective Services Agencies                 |
| Lorendia Schmidt       | CAPTA Administrator, Division of Child Welfare, Office of Children, Youth & Families, Colorado Department of Human Services | Ms. Schmidt has worked in the human services field for over 15 years, including work with domestic violence, mediation, child welfare, substance abuse treatment, and juvenile justice. She joined CDHS in August 2014 after working with Utilization Management for Boulder County Department of Human Services. Ms. Schmidt's credentials include Licensed Clinical Social Work, Certified Addictions Counselor (Level II), and SafeCare Home Visitor and Trainer.   | CAPTA Administrator<br><br>CJA Task Force Co-Chair |
| Andrew Sirotnak, Ph.D. | Professor, Department of Pediatrics, The Children's Hospital  | Dr. Sirotnak directs the Child Protection Team at Children's Hospital Colorado and The Kempe Center Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Program. He is a graduate of Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University (1989) and the JMC - Medical Center of Delaware, A.I. du Pont Hospital for Children Pediatrics Residency (1991). Dr. Sirotnak came to Colorado as a Chief Resident in Pediatrics (1993) and completed a fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics (1994). He maintains Board Certification in Pediatrics (1992) and Child Abuse Pediatrics(2009). | Health Professional                                |
| Faith Stevens          | Detective, Arvada Police Department   | Since 1991, Det. Stevens has served as a Crimes Against Children Detective with the Arvada Police Department. She has served as a Senior Detective and Crisis Negotiator for Arvada Police Department, as well as an expert consultant for the Kempe Center START program.   | Law Enforcement Community                          |

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| Name                    | Title  | Background Description   | Task Force Designation  |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|
| Judge Jill-Ellyn Straus | Civil/Criminal Court Judge, 17th Judicial District   | Judge Straus is a District Court Judge for the 17th Judicial District. She was appointed to the bench in April of 2008 by Governor Ritter. Judge Straus spent 25 years with the 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office, specializing in crimes against children and juvenile delinquency. She graduated from the University of Illinois in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and graduated from the University Of Denver College Of Law in 1982. Judge Straus is an active member of the judicial community, including currently serving as co-chair of the American Bar Association’s Juvenile Justice Committee. | Civil/Criminal Judge<br><br>CJA Task Force Co-Chair                 |
| Anne Tapp               | Executive Director, Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN)  | Ms. Tapp has served as Executive Director at Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (SPAN) since 1997. Prior to holding this position, she was the SPAN Shelter Program Director for six years. Ms. Tapp sits on numerous local, statewide, and national boards and task forces addressing domestic violence and related issues.   | Individual experienced in working with homeless children and youths |
| Ashley Tunstall         | Director of Behavioral Health and Medical Services, Division of Youth Corrections, Office of Children, Youth & Families, Colorado Department of Human Services | Ms. Tunstall is the Director of Behavioral Health and Medical Services for the Division of Youth Corrections, CDHS. In her role, she oversees behavioral health and medical services for the Division's 10 state-operated facilities. She has over 20 years of experience working with children, youth, and families involved with systems.  | Child Protective Services Agencies                                  |

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| Name         | Title  | Background Description   | Task Force Designation             |
|--------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Lori Weiser  | Senior Assistant City Attorney, Child Protection Unit, City and County of Denver<br>Department of Human Services | Ms. Weiser received her law degree from the University of Denver, College of Law and currently specializes in the Human Services Legal Section of the Denver City Attorney's Office. Ms. Weiser's areas of practice include Administrative Hearing and Appeals; Administrative Law; Civil Litigation; Civil Rights Law; Employment Law; Labor-Management Law and Relations; Unemployment Compensation Law. | Prosecuting Attorney               |
| Amanda Wyatt | Crossover Youth Caseworker, Douglas County Department of Human Services  | Ms. Wyatt currently serves as a caseworker for Douglas County Human Services with a focus on crossover youth (those involved with both delinquency and child welfare proceedings). Previously, Ms. Wyatt has worked as the Associate Director of CASA and juvenile probation officer in Illinois.  | Child Protective Services Agencies |
| Vacancy      |  |  | Prosecuting Attorney               |

As noted in the Membership List above, the CJA Task Force currently has one vacancy (Prosecuting Attorney). This seat became vacant in Fall 2014. In order to fill this vacancy, the CJA Co-Chairs have asked the Colorado District Attorney’s Council (CDAC) to appoint a representative. The CJA Task Force also had CDAD representatives participate as guests at both the February and April 2015 meeting and these representatives have expressed interest in becoming a member of the CJA Task Force. The CJA Task Force expects to have this vacancy filled within two months.

**Task Force Function**

The Children’s Justice Act Task Force meets quarterly and while the CJA Task Force encourages members to attend in person, there is also a phone conference option available. The following outlines the meeting activities that occurred in 2014-15, as well as the plan for 2015-16.

2014-15 Task Force Meeting activities:

- August 2014 Task Force Meeting: Review of written reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Planning for Three-Year Assessment
- October 2014 Task Force Meeting: Review of written reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Three-Year Assessment Activities

## Children's Justice Act Fiscal Year 2015 Report and Re-Application

- February 2015 Task Force Meeting: Review of written reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Review of site visits with Grant Sub-recipients; Three-Year Assessment Activities
- April 2015 Task Force Meeting: Review of site visits with Grant Sub-recipients; Review of written reports from Grant Sub-Recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Finalize Three-Year Assessment and FY15 Report and Reapplication;
- May 2015 Task Force Meeting: Plan for next Request for Applications (RFA) process (5<sup>th</sup> meeting added due to extent of the three-year assessment activities)

### 2015-16 Task Force Meeting activities:

- Summer 2015: Review RFAs and make funding recommendations; Plan for CJA Task Force activities over the next year
- Fall 2015: Review of written reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients
- Winter 2016: Review of written reports from Grant Sub-recipients; Verbal reports from Grant Sub-recipients
- Spring 2016: Plan for next Request for Application (RFA)

## **Part III: Prior Year Projects/Activities and Performance Report**



## Request for Applications

Historically, Colorado's CJA Task Force completed an annual review of how Colorado is meeting CJA goals and how the goals of CJA intersect with Colorado's child welfare system. After this review, the CJA Task Force made recommendations to the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), Division of Child Welfare (DCW), and CJA funding decisions were then made by DCW. While the Task Force made strong and clear recommendations, the Task Force was still removed from making funding decisions in support of their annual recommendations.

In order to strengthen the work of the CJA Task Force, increase the involvement and engagement of CJA Task Force members, and increase transparency with the community, Colorado chose to alter the way the CJA funding decisions are made. In 2012, the CJA Task Force developed an Request for Application (RFA) process where organizations throughout Colorado apply to be a sub-recipient of CJA funding. The CJA Task Force reviews the applications and makes direct funding recommendations. The sub-recipients implement their projects and report back to the CJA Task Force about their progress, successes, replicability, dissemination, performance, and project barriers.

In 2013, two RFAs were released and six projects were chosen by the CJA Task Force to be CJA grant sub-recipients. A total of \$108,000 was awarded between March 2013 and March 2014. Progress reports were received at the end of the award period.

In 2014, another RFA was released and six projects were chosen by the CJA Task Force to be CJA grant sub-recipients. A total of \$185,185 was awarded between April 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015.

All grant sub-recipients align with one of the three categories outlined in CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A)(B)(C):

- (A) Investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as cases involving suspected child maltreatment related fatalities and cases involving a potential combination of jurisdictions, such as interstate, Federal-State, and State-Tribal, in a manner which reduces the additional trauma to the child victim and the victim's family and which also ensures procedural fairness to the accused;
- (B) Experimental, model, and demonstration programs for testing innovative approaches and techniques which may improve the prompt and successful resolution of civil and criminal court proceedings or enhance the effectiveness of judicial and administrative action in child abuse and neglect cases, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation cases, including the enhancement of performance of court-appointed attorneys and guardians ad litem for children, and which also ensure procedural fairness to the accused; and
- (C) Reform of State laws, ordinances, regulations, protocols and procedures to provide comprehensive protection for children from abuse, including sexual abuse and exploitation, while ensuring fairness to all affected persons.

All grant sub-recipients also align with at least one of the FFY2014 CJA Recommendations:

1. Build capacity in rural areas to ensure procedural fairness in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.

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2. Develop resources that ensure procedural fairness in the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
3. Continue to develop and support training opportunities for child protection workers, domestic violence advocates, educators, early intervention workers, law enforcement officers, GALs, and judges to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
4. Support the activities of the CDHS Child Fatality Review Team in disseminating information.
5. Coordinate efforts with other recommending bodies to identify areas that support system-responses to child abuse and neglect to ensure collaboration among recommending bodies, rather than duplication of work.
6. Explore and make recommendations on the needs of youth who are involved with both delinquency proceedings and child welfare services.

Below are short descriptions of each CJA Grant sub-recipient, along with the total amount awarded for activities planned between April 2014 and September 2015:

- **Colorado Drug Endangered Children, \$24,282:** Funds were awarded to develop reference materials (print and online) related to the impact of substance use on children and families. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #2 and #3.*
- **Denver Children's Advocacy Center, \$76,909:** Funds were awarded for the development of a pilot "Caregiver Project" in conjunction with Rocky Mountain Children's Law Center to support kinship, non-relative, and foster families. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(B) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #2 and #3.*
- **7<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Children's Advocacy Center dba Dolphin House, \$23,819:** Funds were awarded to provide funding for 50% of the salary for a forensic interviewer. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1 and #3.*
- **Pueblo Children's Advocacy Center, \$7,420:** Funds were awarded for a part-time Forensic Interviewer/Family Advocate. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2 and #3.*
- **Ralston House Children's Advocacy Center; \$23,600:** Funds were awarded to update the Jefferson County Child Abuse and Investigation Policy and Procedure Manual and for training for child abuse investigators and services providers. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and (C), and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #2 and #3.*
- **Tu Casa, Inc., \$29,155:** Funds were awarded for capacity-building in the San Luis Valley catchment area, a six-county rural and resource-challenged community in Colorado. Activities funded include multi-disciplinary team decision-making training and facilitation, the development of regional CAC Guidelines, and the provision of training opportunities for

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investigators. *This project aligned with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2, #3 and #5.*

- The Task Force did not receive any applications that addressed recommendations #4 or #6, and did not wish to reduce funding for the awarded sub-recipients to release another RFA to cultivate a project that addressed those recommendations.

### Other CJA Activities

While the majority of CJA funds are distributed through the RFA process, a few CJA activities remained separate from the 2014-15 RFA process. Below are brief description of each activity, along with the actual amounts expended between June 2014 and the present:

- **Child Advocacy Center (CAC) Forensic Interview Training, \$21,942:** In order to improve Colorado's ability to assess and investigate reports of abuse and neglect, CJA funding was utilized in 2013 and 2014 to train up to 36 forensic interviewers throughout the State of Colorado. *This project aligns with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2, #3 and #5.*
- **START, \$33,698:** The State and Regional Team (START) is one program at The Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect. START is a multi-disciplinary team that provides consultation and training throughout the State of Colorado. START includes expert input from a variety of disciplines, including, but not limited to: pediatric medicine, forensic psychology, law, social work, and law enforcement. CJA funding supports START consultations for Law Enforcement agencies and/or County Departments of Human Services who are investigating child abuse/neglect cases and preparing for child abuse/neglect trials. *This project aligns with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2, and #3.*
- **Pediatric Consultation, \$18,483:** Both CAPTA and CJA funding is utilized to ensure that all counties have access to expert pediatricians. These pediatricians are members of the Institutional Abuse Review Team (IART), the CJA Task Force, and are available on an individual basis as consultants and trainers to law enforcement and county departments of human services. *This project aligns with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2, #3 and #5.*
- **Special Projects, \$13,150:** Not all of the funds awarded to sub-recipients were utilized by the sub-recipients, leaving funds available for special projects. These projects supported the training for caseworkers and community agencies on: 1. Issues related to the investigative and administrative handling of cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, and 2. The Indian Child Welfare Act. *These special projects align with CAPTA Section 107(e)(1)(A)(B) and with Colorado CJA Recommendations #1, #2, and #3.*

### Part IV: Prior Year Budget Expenditure Line Item

| Category  | Description  | Budget           | Actuals (FFY14)  |
|---|--|------------------|------------------|
| Personnel                                       | <p>CDHS has a 100% Time and Effort Reporting policy to ensure that costs associated with a grant are accurately represented. Salary and Benefits costs are included for the following staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Assistant II (0.90 FTE)</li> <li>• CAPTA Administrator (0.25 FTE)</li> <li>• Contracts and Grants Supervisor (0.05 FTE)</li> </ul> | \$64,800         | \$71,454         |
| Travel  | CJA Federal Grantees Meeting (2 representatives)   | \$4,000          | \$4,853          |
| Operations                                      | Supplies, Copying, Teleconferencing and Operations costs   | 3,500            | \$1,115          |
| Contractual                                     |  |                  |                  |
|   | START  | \$30,000         | \$33,698         |
|   | Pediatric Consultation   | \$15,000         | \$18,483         |
|   | Child Advocacy Center Forensic Interview Training  | \$30,000         | \$11,247         |
| RFA rounds 1 & 2 and Special Projects 2013-2014 | Support for multidisciplinary training and pilot projects designed to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.  | \$115,442        | \$112,874        |
|   | 7th Judicial   |                  | \$4,615          |
|   | Children's Advocacy & Family Response (A FFY13 grantee who received a no-cost extension)   |                  | \$10,695         |
|   | Colorado Drug Endangered Children  |                  | \$12,870         |
|   | Denver Children's Advocacy Center  |                  | \$24,806         |
|   | Prowers County (A FFY13 grantee who received a no-cost extension)  |                  | \$16,659         |
|   | Pueblo Child Advocacy Center   |                  | \$7,420          |
|   | Ralston House  |                  | \$15,804         |
|   | Tu Casa  |                  | \$17,549         |
|   | OTHER  |                  | \$13,150         |
| Indirect  | CDHS uses an actual cost allocation model to bill indirect costs.  | \$22,000         | \$16,961         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                                    |  | <b>\$284,742</b> | <b>\$281,379</b> |

## Part V: Three-year Assessment

### Review

During the last four quarterly CJA Task Force meetings, the CJA Task Force has engaged in a three-year assessment of Colorado's investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. The CJA Task Force engaged in the following five activities:

1. To help focus the three-year assessment process, the CJA Task Force identified the areas of greatest concern related to the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect. Using a structured process, the CJA Task Force members each shared their experiences related to cases of child abuse and neglect and identified the gaps and areas of concern that they have seen first-hand. The following list was generated:
  - a. Children who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems ("crossover youth");
  - b. Children experiencing human trafficking;
  - c. Adequate training for judges and prosecutors throughout Colorado, but especially in rural areas;
  - d. Children who experience child abuse and neglect due to domestic violence in the home;
  - e. Children who are exposed to drugs and alcohol, or who may be endangered by their parents' use of drugs and alcohol; and
  - f. Engagement of fathers in the investigation, administration, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
2. The CJA Task Force asked representatives from the Child Fatality Review Team (CFRT) to present to the Task Force. The CFRT is one of Colorado's three Citizen Review Panels and shared with the CJA Task Force their review, report, and recommendation process, as well as their 2014 Annual Report with recommendations.
3. Over the last two years, the CJA Task Force asked for verbal reports from all grant sub-recipients, including those awarded through the RFA process and outside of the RFA process. These reports included a description of activities, stories of success, and stories of challenges.
4. The CJA Task Force invited experts from the following fields to present to the CJA Task Force about their work as it relates to the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect:
  - a. Domestic Violence
  - b. Fatherhood Initiatives
  - c. Training for Judicial Officers (both urban and rural)
  - d. Training for Prosecutors (both urban and rural)
  - e. Human Trafficking
  - f. Crossover Youth
5. The CJA Task Force was given the opportunity to respond to the Colorado Department of Human Services' (CDHS) Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) as part of Colorado's Annual Progress and Services Report and the CJA Task Force reviewed the 2014-19 CFSP state goals. This included learning about CDHS data collection and evaluation processes.

**Evaluation**

The CJA Task Force engaged in the following activities:

1. The CJA Task Force evaluated the three previous RFAs released by the Colorado CJA Task Force. This evaluation included looking at what has gone well with previous RFAs, what has been worrisome with previous RFAs, and what the CJA Task Force would like to improve with the next RFA. Below is a chart outlining the information gathered in this activity:

| WHAT WENT WELL?  | WHAT DIDN'T WORK WELL?  | IDEAS FOR NEXT RFA  |
|--|---|---|
| Give it 4 Stars for Transparency   | It is hard to score the proposals before hearing the discussion | Integration of CSTAT:<br>Each CDHS office measures progress towards outcomes on a monthly basis to inform procedural decision-making. |
| Having multi-disciplinary voices provides a better understanding of the merits of proposals and the needs of the populations | It is difficult to participate by phone.                        | Encourage out-of-the-Box thinking from applicants to get more creative proposals  |
| The group discussions were very helpful  |   | Structure the RFA to get more & varied applicants, including applicants representing Criminal Justice and Human Trafficking           |
| Expertise helps  |   | Decide what our activity priorities are to meet our goals.  |
| Ms. Schmidt did a really good job presenting each project.   |   | Write RFA with really clear parameters  |
| Ms. Schmidt getting clarification from the applicants.   |   | Mentoring potential applicants (Example: grant writing)   |
|  |   | Improve the process for collecting scoring rubrics.   |
|  |   | When we have open discussions, it really helps the team.  |
|  |   | Should we have a CJA Task Force Logic Model?  |

2. During the presentations by CFRT members (item #2 in the above Review section) and field experts (item #4 in the above Review section), the CJA Task Force members identified gaps and opportunities in the system/policies.
3. The CJA Task Force engaged in structured, facilitated conversation to outline all gaps/opportunities identified during the review/evaluation activities to determine which areas could be best addressed through the CJA Task Force recommendations (see page 22).
4. The CJA Task Force identified ongoing activities that they wish to explore to ensure on going quality assurance and assessment of CJA funding in Colorado (see page 22).

## Recommendations

The CJA Task Force agrees on the following recommendations:

1. Ensure that all professionals involved in the assessment, investigation, and judicial handling of child abuse and/or neglect throughout the State of Colorado are well-qualified by supporting:
  - a. The creation or replication of multi-disciplinary trainings;
  - b. Effective multi-disciplinary case review processes;
  - c. Multi-disciplinary consultations processes; and
  - d. Innovative programs that further partnerships, ensure the use of best-practice, and prevent the further occurrence child abuse and/or neglect.
2. Ensure that all resources and trainings have the maximum impact through:
  - a. Improved accessibility of resources and training opportunities;
  - b. Extensive reach (geographically and quantity of participants);
  - c. The use of clear performance outcomes;
  - d. Enhanced knowledge and skill transfer activities that support sustainability; and
  - e. Using current technology.
  - f.
3. Ensure that CJA-supported trainings do not duplicate other trainings available in Colorado.
4. Increase the dissemination and replication of effective models, programs, and trainings.
5. Increase the rate of successful prosecution of child abuse and/or neglect through:
  - a. Implementation of evidence-based programs;
  - b. Ensuring well-trained and well-supported professionals (forensic interviewers, prosecutors, judicial officers, child welfare workers, etc.); and
  - c. Implementation of innovative and/or pilot programs.

## Ongoing Quality Assurance Activities

\*Please note that this will be narrowed and further defined at the Fall 2015 CJA Task Force meeting:

- Data Review
- Survey of training resources available in Colorado
- Explore how to support/implement effective training
- Review CDHS training and identify any gaps
- Develop ongoing impact model (for trainings and all CJA funded activities)
- Develop performance measures
- Measure community impact
- Explore if/how CJA activities fit with prevention of child abuse and/or neglect
- Learn from other CJA Task Forces and how they function/fund activities
- Explore a logic model for the CJA Task Force

## **Part VI: Proposed Activities/Application**

### **Proposed Activities**

Through the three-year assessment process, the CJA Task Force decided to continue with the current RFA process and will ask that all applications must address at least one of the current CJA Task Force recommendations (see list on page 21). The current RFA cycle ends on September 30, 2015 and thus, the CJA Task Force will release available funds through a RFA process (see budget on page 23) with a funding cycle of October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016.

In addition, the CJA Task Force may also set aside \$10,000 from the RFA process to create a scholarship fund to support individual judicial officers, prosecuting attorneys, and other individuals involved with the investigation and assessment of child abuse and/or neglect. These funds will be available to support attending in-state trainings and continuing education activities, and will be available to cover travel, lodging, per diem, and registration fees. An application process will be implemented and a sub-committee of the CJA Task Force was created to review scholarship applications and award funds on an ad-hoc basis.

### **On-Going Evaluation of Performance**

For performance monitoring of the RFA grant sub-recipients, the CJA Task Force asks each sub-recipient to identify clear performance measures in their application for funds. In addition, the CJA Task Force requires the following reporting:

- Make at least one (1) annual presentation by phone or in person to the CJA Task Force;
- Participate in one (1) annual site visit with CJA Task Force members;
- Provide two (2) progress reports, due March 30, 2016 and September 30, 2016.
- Show that they are performing to their agreement by providing timely reporting that demonstrates improved outcomes;
- Demonstrate quality performance by providing timely reporting that demonstrates improved outcomes and through communication with the CAPTA Administrator and the CJA Task Force;
- Submit regular invoices;
- Provide additional information as requested to assess performance. Methods used to assess performance will include a review of documentation reflective of performance, including status reports, meeting minutes, electronic data, and on-going fiscal desk monitoring.

If for any reason, the CJA Task Force chooses to support other projects not funded through the RFA process, the CJA Task Force will require the following:

- Submission of quarterly progress reports;
- Make at least one (1) annual presentation by phone or in person to the CJA Task Force;
- Show that they are performing to their agreement by providing timely reporting that demonstrates improved outcomes;



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- Demonstrate quality performance by providing timely reporting that demonstrates improved outcomes and thorough communication with the CAPTA Administrator and the CJA Task Force;
- Submit regular invoices;
- Provide additional information as requested to assess performance. Methods used to assess performance will include a review of documentation reflective of performance, including status reports, meeting minutes, electronic data, and on-going fiscal desk monitoring.

**Proposed FY15 Budget**

| <b>Category</b>                  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Budget<br/>FFY15</b> |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| <b>Personnel</b>                 | <p>CDHS has a 100% Time and Effort Reporting policy to ensure that costs associated with a grant are accurately represented. Salary and Benefits costs are included for the following staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program Assistant II (0.90 FTE)</li> <li>• CAPTA Administrator (0.25 FTE)</li> <li>• Contracts and Grants Supervisor (0.05 FTE)</li> </ul> | \$79,680                |
| <b>Travel</b>                    | CJA Federal Grantees Meeting (2 representatives)   | \$4,000                 |
| <b>Operations</b>                | Supplies, Copying, Teleconferencing and Operations costs   | \$2,500                 |
| <b>Scholarship Fund</b>          | Travel, lodging, per diem, and registration fees for individuals involved in the assessment, investigation, or judicial handling of child abuse and/or neglect to attend trainings and continuing education activities in Colorado. Requests will be approved by the Scholarship CJA Task Force sub-committee on an ad-hoc basis.  | \$10,000                |
| <b>Awarded via RFA 2014-2015</b> | Support for multidisciplinary training and pilot projects designed to improve the investigative, administrative, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.  | \$167,663               |
| <b>Indirect</b>                  | CDHS uses an actual cost allocation model to bill indirect costs. Historically, these costs have represented approximately 7% of the awarded grant amount.   | \$20,000                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     |  | \$285,892               |

**Part VII: Certification of Lobbying Form**

**See next page.**

## CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

### Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

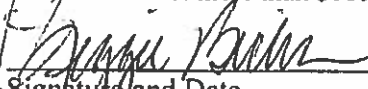
The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

- (1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
- (2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.
- (3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

### Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions. Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

 \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

May 29, 2015

Reggie Bicha  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

Executive Director  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

Colorado Department of Human Services  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization