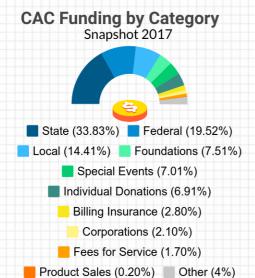
# State Funding Support for CACs



Diverse funding is essential to the long-term sustainability of the CAC movement. This should include state funding support. States should have an interest in adequately funding CACs.



State support accounts for

a third of all CAC funding

### The 3 Types of State Funding

#### 1) General Revenue

Typically collected in the form of taxes on things such as consumer sales, personal income, property and business. It is subject to appropriation by the legislature and can be used for any lawful purpose. It is the portion of state revenue over which appropriators have the most discretion and can be added, or eliminated, with the stroke of a pen.

#### 2) Special Revenue

Consists of funds generated from agency collections for goods and services provided to the public or other agencies. It may include fines, or fees for permits and licenses. It is typically dedicated in law for a specific purpose, usually related in some way to the activity for which it was collected. It requires the adoption of legislation to establish the fund, and detail the distribution. Special Revenue funds tend to be fairly stable, though growth is usually slow.

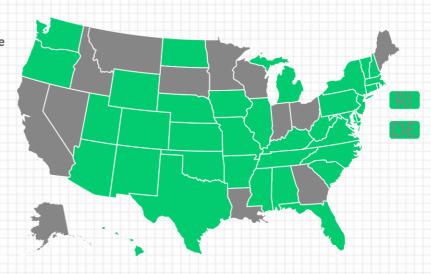
#### 3) Federal Funds with State Discretion

There are a number of federal grants made to states that have the potential to flow to CACs. Though technically federal dollars, states may have wide latitude and complete discretion over their distribution. Examples include funds from the Criminal Justice Act (CJA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

#### Which states' CACs are supported through state general or special revenue?



Map does not indicate states that receive federal dollars at the state's discretion.



## A Strategic Approach to Secure State Funding Support

Chapter organizations are the critical link to help CACs secure state funding. Effective organization of advocacy efforts will help members develop relationships and educate policy makers. State Chapters are well positioned to pursue financial support from state government. Here are three recommendations to get you started on your state advocacy work.

#### State Chapters Should:



Focus on securing federal funds over which the state has discretion. The funds are already in place and are for purposes consistent with CAC efforts. Also, because they rarely require legislative involvement, they can be pursued outside of the legislative session. Research shows that the number one indicator of success in this area is a good relationship between CACs and the agency administering the funds. Chapters should work to establish and foster these relationships.



**Focus efforts on key members** of the legislature responsible for the appropriation of funds. Chapters should draw upon their membership who provide services in these members' districts to educate members about CACs and to develop relationships that build support for our cause.



Securing a source of **Special Revenue is a more involved process** because it requires the adoption of legislation. Special Revenue is the best option when budgetary constraints make securing General Revenue difficult. An NCA survey of Chapters found that at least 12 states have a Special Revenue stream in place.

Once established, state government funds tend to be secure and stable with opportunity for growth. Strong state support helps leverage additional dollars from other sources. States have an obligation to investigate crimes against children and studies show the CAC/MDT model to be the most efficient and cost effective way to do so. States should have an interest in ensuring that every child victim and family has access to a CAC.

## **Special Revenue Examples**

**Colorado** and **Oregon** impose a fine or surcharge on perpetrators of crimes against children which generates anywhere from \$300,000 in CO to \$4.4 million in OR for CACs/MDTs annually.

**Texas** counties may impose a fee on vehicle registrations that may fund CACs generating as much as \$70,000 for individual centers.

**Pennsylvania** recently adopted legislation imposing an additional \$10 fee for duplicate birth certificates. It is expected to generate \$2 million annually for CACs.



- Get to know your legislators and make sure they know you. Invite them to tour a CAC in their district.
- Learn the appropriations process in your state and who the appropriators are.
- Take every opportunity to educate policy makers about CACs. Never assume that they know who we are or what we do (even if they are a champion of CACs).
- Develop relationships with legislative staff.

#### **Next Steps**

To develop a customized strategic plan for the pursuit of state funding support, State Chapter can contact the NCA Government Affairs Department. Email Will Laird at <a href="wdilarid@nca-online.org">wdilarid@nca-online.org</a> to start your plan now.