Minnesota Communities Caring for Children (MCCC) works to build healthy environments where all children thrive. Our prevention model promotes individual and community led action to end child abuse and to build the resilience of children, parents and community members in neighborhoods, towns, and cities throughout Minnesota.

**MISSION**

Our mission is to **empower** parents and communities to build **supportive** relationships, **nurture** children, and **prevent** child abuse and neglect.

**OUR VALUES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strengths of All Parents</th>
<th>Amplifying the Parent’s Voice</th>
<th>Combining Science With Community Wisdom</th>
<th>Transforming Systems</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All parents need to be supported in their efforts to develop their strengths as caring adults.</td>
<td>By amplifying their voices, parents can find the efficacy and power to affect change in the home and the community.</td>
<td>The best approaches to preventing child abuse combine science-based strategies with community wisdom.</td>
<td>Working together, parents and communities can transform punitive systems and negative cultural norms into successful approaches that address violence, trauma, and racism.</td>
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**OUR WORK**

**Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Work**

The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study and subsequent research studies demonstrate that exposure to adversity early in life can lead to negative health and social outcomes in adulthood. Using the national ACE Interface curriculum, MCCC develops the capacity of individuals as certified ACE Interface Trainers and Presenters so that they can raise awareness about the effects of trauma and the promise of prevention in their communities.

**Tribal NEAR (Neurobiology, Epigenetics, ACEs & Resiliency) Science and Community Wisdom Project**

This project is a grassroots effort to build the capacity of tribal communities to address the challenging health and social issues related to childhood trauma. The 3 stages to the project include: 1. **Awareness**: ACE Interface presentations are conducted on each participating Reservation community to begin raising awareness about the impacts of trauma on the health of individuals and communities. 2. **Capacity building**: A cohort of up to 30 individuals from each participating Reservation are trained as ACE Interface presenters. This will enhance the capacity of each community to broaden the reach of the ACEs and resiliency awareness building. 3. **Creating a Community Response**: Each reservation will work with facilitators to identify strategies and a community response for healing and building resilience. These plans will be utilized to secure funding for implementation in the priority areas identified by each reservation.
**Circle of Parents®**
MCCC partners with communities to offer facilitated support groups for parents and children throughout the state. At group sessions, parents support each other and develop leadership skills that transfer to their families and communities. Participants meet in a supportive environment to share their concerns and frustrations, and to identify and commit to their own personal parenting goals. Participants are guided by volunteer facilitators that are trained by MCCC staff.

Multiple research studies show that Circle of Parents successfully increases protective factors – attributes that strengthen families and reduce the likelihood that child abuse will occur. Research demonstrates that parents report positive changes in parenting after they have attended eleven or more sessions and additional improvement after attendance of twenty-five or more sessions.

**Parent Leadership for Child Safety and Permanency (PLCSP) Program**
The PLCSP Program has been a partnership of MCCC and the MN Department of Human Services (DHS) division of Child Safety and Permanency since 2009. The program seeks to empower parents in the prevention of child maltreatment and to give parents a voice within DHS for improving the child protection system, particularly in reducing racial disparities.

As part of this program, leadership training is provided to a group of 20-25 Parent Consultants over a three-year period. Funding is also available for parents to attend other trainings or conferences to build knowledge and connections. The intent is to increase Parent Consultants’ skills and influence so they can effectively articulate their experience, add value in their communities and on task forces within DHS, and ultimately contribute to a reduction in incidents of abuse, neglect and out-of-home placement (foster care). The program uses a shared leadership model, involving a partnership between parents and staff who share responsibility for team processes and outcomes.

**Prevention Education and Outreach**
MCCC produces and distributes Minnesota’s Child Abuse Prevention Month materials each April and distributes thousands of pieces of additional prevention education and outreach materials throughout the year. In addition, MCCC staff members are present at community events statewide, available to present information about prevention and facilitate dialogue about prevention through café conversations, webinars, and regional workshops.