



**Prevent Child Abuse Iowa** is a statewide nonprofit with the unique focus on preventing child abuse before it occurs. The organization operates to achieve this mission through its work in Advocacy, Awareness, and providing Assistance to direct family service providers. Prevent Child Abuse Iowa recognizes it will take Iowans working together to ensure children are raised in safe, nurturing environments.

The **Legislative Agenda** in 2012 will focus on achieving four primary goals, which will promote the prevention of child abuse in Iowa.

1. **Advance statewide education about child sexual abuse and prevention of it.** Children should not bear the responsibility of protecting themselves from sexual abuse. Instead, parents, caregivers, and community members are obligated to be informed and involved in order to prevent child sexual abuse. PCA Iowa seeks legislative support for statewide adult instruction about child sexual abuse, precursors, opportunities to protect children, and how to report abuse.
2. **Improve training for mandatory reporters of child abuse.** Iowa law requires certain child- and youth-serving professionals to report suspected child abuse to child protection officials. These “mandatory reporters” are often the first responders to suspected child abuse. Ensuring these professionals are informed, diligent, and responsive is critical to protecting children from abuse. PCA Iowa supports legislation to increase the frequency of mandatory reporter training, while ensuring instruction is comprehensive, profession-specific, and presented by a knowledgeable trainer.
3. **Re-establish Iowa’s Child Death Review Team.** From 1995-2009, Iowa’s Child Death Review Team provided valuable information on the causes of child deaths and made recommendations to prevent them. Its work was instrumental in expanding parenting education and creating a statewide shaken baby syndrome prevention program. Due to lost legislative funding and administrative changes, the team’s efforts have been limited since 2009. PCA Iowa supports re-forming the team under new leadership with additional funding to resume its efforts to reduce child deaths.
4. **Continue Iowa’s income tax check off for child abuse prevention.** Since 2009, an Iowa income tax check off has provided more than \$55,000 annually to fund statewide child abuse prevention services. Along with three other state check offs, the child abuse prevention check off is up for renewal in 2012. PCA Iowa supports legislative action to ensure continuation of the child abuse prevention check off.