



Mission Statement

The mission of the National Partnership for Child Safety is to improve child safety and prevent child maltreatment fatalities by strengthening families and promoting innovations in child welfare.

Values and guiding principles

The NPCS members firmly believe in:

- A collective responsibility among child protection agencies, key system partners, and community stakeholders for improving child safety and preventing maltreatment fatalities.
- The rigorous scrutiny of information, ideas, and practices to promote innovation in child protection.
- A commitment to improving practice while working within frameworks for family inclusion and constituent voice.
- Information and resource sharing between individuals and agencies to build internal and external support for agencies and jurisdictions.
- The collection, sharing, and analysis of data to inform decisions for practice improvements.
- Recognition of the work and diverse perspectives of all member contributions to show respect for each other as colleagues.
- The importance of working within the frameworks of safety, reliability, and improvement.
- A focus on team culture to advance learning and spread tools for the improvement of child welfare safety outcomes.
- The need to understand and identify approaches to address the inequities related to child protection system involvement and child safety outcomes.

Long Term Goals

The NPCS supports and advances a learning system that:

- Promotes a system shift toward prevention policies and practices to address risk to vulnerable children.
- Aims to improve child safety through the development of best practices, including development of standardized definitions for reviewing critical incidents (child maltreatment fatalities and near fatalities) by applying safety science, data analytics and research evidence in child welfare and child- and family-serving systems.
- Fosters a national prospective quality improvement approach to prevent critical incidents, including child maltreatment fatalities and serious injuries.
- Increases psychological safety and creates a resilient workforce, whereby increasing staff retention and ultimately improving child safety outcomes.
- Models technical excellence in child welfare, ultimately broadened to include other child- and family-serving agencies, to improve child safety and prevent child maltreatment fatalities.



- Supports information-sharing, education, and communication approaches with key community partners related to child protection services and critical incidents, including child maltreatment fatalities.

Outcomes

The NPCS aims to improve child safety and child protection system outcomes as measured by:

- Reduced numbers of child fatalities and near fatalities
- Decreased repeat maltreatment
- Improved workforce retention through the creation of a culture of safety
- Decreased racial/ethnic inequities related to responding to child safety concerns

Membership

The NPCS operates as a membership model that is composed of jurisdiction teams representing state, local, and tribal child welfare systems committed to safety science. Jurisdiction teams, at minimum, must include child welfare leaders and executive team members from the state, local, or tribal child welfare agency.

Responsibilities and expectations

Members are expected to:

- Bring their expertise, influence, knowledge, and other contextual factors to bear in advancing the work of the partnership.
- Regularly attend and/or have their jurisdiction represented at all meetings and participate on workgroups and teams as needed to advance the work of the partnership
- Ensure representative is available...
- Employ active and timely communication and feedback loops across and within the partnership.
- Demonstrate good-faith effort in supporting the efforts and completion of core activities of the collaborative.
- Commit to gathering and providing the core data set identified for the collaborative for stability of reporting to support data analysis and achievement of the goals set forth by the collaborative.
- Serve on the Executive Committee and rotate off with highest level of leadership.

Data Sharing

Participating NPCS jurisdictions commit to collecting and sharing data within the parameters of the NPCS goals. It is recognized that member states/jurisdictions have varying levels of internal parameters that will impact the level/ amount of detail that can be provided and may have restrictions/limitations on data sharing.