

Kids First Trust Fund

Board

Candes Shelton, Chair
Rick Hug
Dr. Maria Finnell
Carole Kinder
Will Young (DCS)

Doug Weinberg, Vice Chair
Laura Smith-Wynn
Christina Hage
Eldon Whetstone (IDOH)



Kids First Trust Fund (KFTF) SFY 2021 Annual Report September 30, 2021

Kids First Trust Fund Mission Statement

Children are our most important assets. The mission of the Indiana Kids First Trust Fund is to promote the health of children and reduce infant mortality by funding programs which prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce infant mortality.

Report Background

Pursuant to IC 31-26-4-15, before October 1 of each year, the Kids First Trust Fund Board is required to prepare a report concerning the program established by IC 31-26-4 for the public and the General Assembly.

KFTF History

The legislation creating the Kids First Trust Fund (originally called the “Children’s Trust Fund”) was passed by the Indiana General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor in 1994. The Trust Fund is administered by the Kids First Trust Fund Board. Members of KFTF Board include individuals appointed by the Indiana General Assembly and the Governor as well as individuals representing the Indiana Department of Child Services and Indiana Department of Health.

As outlined in statute, the purpose of the Indiana Kids First Fund is to recognize that:

- 1) The children of the state are its single greatest resource;
- 2) Children require the utmost protection to guard their future and the future of the state;
- 3) It is in the public interest to protect children from abuse and neglect;
- 4) It is in the public interest to reduce infant mortality; and
- 5) The Indiana Kids First Trust Fund shall provide funding for community programs that prevent child abuse and neglect and reduce infant mortality.

The primary source of revenue for the KFTF is the “Kids First” license plate offered to Hoosier motorists through the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). A \$25 group fee is included in the cost of the license plate and is then distributed to the Kids First Trust Fund.

In addition to license plate fees, the Trust Fund is also eligible to receive donations, funds transferred from other funds, and appropriations from the General Assembly.

Trust Fund SFY 2021 Financial Report

Revenue

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Dollars</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Carry Forward from Previous Year | \$2,325,271 |
| License Plate Donations | \$280,175 |
| Victims of Family Violence Fund | \$156,601 |
| Investment Interest Earned | \$12,432 |
| Donations | \$831 |
| TOTAL INCOME: | \$2,775,310 |

The above categories of revenue reflect the following: (1) the carry over balance in the Trust Fund from the previous state fiscal year; (2) the license plate fees received from BMV as a result of Kids First license plate sales; (3) the transfer of funds from the Family Violence and Victim Assistance Fund pursuant to IC 5-2-6.8-7; (4) interest income earned from the Trust Fund's investment principal; and (5) donations received.

Of note, the primary source of revenue for the Trust Fund, license plate donations, has decreased every year since SFY 2008 when license plate revenue totaled \$968,815. This is likely due to the popularity and expanded variety of choices for specialty plates available to the public.

Expenses

| <u>Category</u> | <u>Dollars</u> |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI) | \$0 |

In SFY 2019, though a contract, the Kids First Trust Fund helped fund Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (PCAI)'s child abuse and neglect prevention efforts. This was on the only contract KFTF had for the distribution of funds from the Trust Fund. Under the previous version of IC 31-26-4-8, the KFTF Board was required to have six members present at a meeting to establish a quorum. Due to a lack of appointments, the Board did not have enough members to reach a quorum and conduct business. Because of this, the Board was unable to renew the PCAI contract.

Thankfully, the Department of Child Services (DCS) was able to contract with PCAI to provide the funds necessary to address the inability of the KFTF Board to obtain a quorum. For SFY 2020 and 2021, DCS funded PCAI at \$363,000 annually.

SEA 137-2021 was passed during the 2021 legislative session. Among other provisions, this law amended IC 31-26-4-8 to provide flexibility for the Board in reaching its needed quorum requirements. In addition, the Board also received member appointments so that it could reach a quorum under the law. In December 2020, the Board approved a budget that would again fund PCAI for SFY 2022. The KFTF began funding PCAI in July 2021.

More information on Prevent Child Abuse Indiana can be found here: <https://www.pcain.org/>.

KFTF Board Activities

Legislation

During the 2021 legislative session, the Board supported the passage of SEA 137-2021. This new law requires the KFTF Board to study the feasibility of creating a subsidiary 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation as a means of potentially obtaining increased revenue from individuals, businesses, and foundations. Under this new statute, the Board is required to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2021, with its findings and determinations. If the Board determines to establish a nonprofit subsidiary corporation, the report submitted must also include an implementation plan and estimated budget.

Strategic Plan

In April 2021, the Board approved the KFTF Strategic Plan pursuant to IC 31-26-4-11. As part of the Strategic Plan, the KFTF Board approved of the following goals:

- 1) Increase available funding and leverage private dollars to support child abuse and neglect prevention.
- 2) Promote the critical value of support and resources for parents and encourage advocacy to advance the belief that child abuse and neglect is preventable.
- 3) Support the funding, coordination and collaboration of child abuse and neglect prevention strategies at the local, regional, and state level within the public and private sectors.
- 4) Promote diversity and equity in all prevention and child welfare efforts throughout Indiana.
- 5) Encourage the use of data in all decision making related to prevention and child welfare.

Indiana Child Abuse Prevention Framework

Over the past year, KFTF Board members have been participants in a group of statewide stakeholders in the development of a child abuse prevention framework. This framework is a primary prevention effort, coordinated by the Commission of Improving the Status of Children in Indiana, with the priority of supporting families and connecting them with resources in their communities.

Thriving Families

Over the past year, KFTF Board members have participated in a group entitled Thriving Families to pursue policies that will increase equity in the child welfare system. This is a multi-state initiative with the goal of making it a national initiative across the county.