

DCF Regional Advisory Council (RAC) Application for SAC/Citizen Review Funds

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Citizen Review Panels (CRP) were formed as a result of the Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment ACT (CAPTA), and amended by the Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003. Panels are mandated to make recommendations for the improvement to the state agency charged with child protective services.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) State Advisory Council (SAC) is one of the state's Citizen Review Panels and the SAC is interested in engaging the greater community in soliciting feedback regarding how to best serve CT children and families while keeping them safe. In this effort we would like to support and build the capacity of the six Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) to ensure the meaningful involvement of the community in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of child-centered, family-focused and community-based programs and policy.

Process:

1. RAC applying for the funds need to submit a short statement of its intentions and plans for accomplishing this mission along with a proposed budget. A RAC's contact information including the names and signature of the Chairs is required.
2. The application period runs from May 31, 2014 to September 1, 2014.
3. The RAC are expected to designate a fiduciary, a 501(c) 3 and its contact information to process the funds to the RAC.
4. RACs may apply for \$1500. The funds may not be used for capital purchases such as equipment or administrative costs for the fiduciary. The funds may be used for supports for parent, family, youth involvement, and for events such as forums and dialogues, including food and supplies. The SAC encourages flexibility and innovative approaches but does reserved the right to approve or disapprove of budget items. The DCF-encouraged stipend formula for parent/family/youth is \$50 per 2 hour meeting, \$100 per four hour meeting, etc. Because of the limited available funds, each RAC will determine its policy for eligibility to qualify for a stipend i.e. RAC membership, panelist, etc.
5. RACs must complete a Final Report to the SAC by March 15, 2015 which includes the following: a. RAC recommendations regarding the child protective services of DCF, b. receipts and copies of all stipend forms, c. supporting materials from events, forums and meetings indicating topics, presenters and attendance, a statement by the RAC chairs accuracy of the RAC's expended budget.
6. The RAC will be notified by email from the SAC Chairs of the SAC's approval as quickly as possible.

Contact: SAC Chair Janice Andersen, andersenjanice@gmail.com or 203-579-2727x313 or SAC Co-Chair Patricia M. Lorenson, pmlorens@aol.com or 203-459-9191