

Campaign to Prevent and Address Childhood Trauma and Build Resilience

<http://ctipp.org/nationaltraumacampaign>

Campaign Overview

Last year, Congress increased funding for national programs and efforts to prevent and address trauma, including \$8 million for community-level programs to address children exposed to violence and \$15 million to prevent and treat child abuse and strengthen local systems to ensure foster care is a system of last resort. In April 2019, [the World Health Organization \(WHO\) reported](#) that health care costs alone caused by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the United States exceed \$700 billion a year. Congress funds almost 30% of all health care services in this country, which means, according to a [meta-analysis](#) published in September 2019, the effects of ACEs impact the federal budget by over \$200 billion a year in health care costs alone. The campaign seeks to work with Congress to build on recent bipartisan accomplishments and continue to strengthen the federal response to trauma.

In response to this WHO report and an expansive body of evidence, studies and publications, this National Trauma Campaign (Campaign), an initiative of the Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice (CTIPP), promotes a grassroots effort to educate and engage congressional offices and other federal leaders in supporting policies, programs, legislation, and appropriations that prevent and address childhood trauma and build resilience.

Under the first phase of this multi-part, multi-year campaign, launched in February 2020, community leaders, advocates and practitioners across the country are being asked to initiate and maintain a regular line of communication with the members of their congressional delegation and their staff. For each campaign participant, this will mean eventually connecting with the offices of one U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators. The Campaign will announce calls to action and support regular outreach with action toolkits that will be available at CTIPP.org/NationalTraumaCampaign. The first call to action is to grow the membership of the Bipartisan House Trauma-Informed Care Caucus (Caucus) by asking every member of the U.S. House of Representatives to join the Caucus. In a [letter](#) to their fellow House members, Caucus co-chairmen, Representatives Danny Davis (D-IL) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI), indicated that “the Caucus’ goal is to identify opportunities to embed TIC efforts within federal legislation and operations.” (See [the Campaign web page](#) for: What is a Caucus?; Take Action.)

Subsequent Campaign calls to action in 2020 may include: requesting House members or their staff to attend briefings sponsored by CTIPP and/or partnering national organizations; sharing with the Congressperson or staff information on efforts to prevent and address trauma and build resilience in their Congressional district; encouraging House members to attend committee hearings focused on childhood trauma; engaging Senate offices to educate them on childhood trauma; engaging and educating candidates for elected office.

Future phases of the Campaign will be organized around a policy vision paper that will outline a comprehensive legislative approach for preventing childhood trauma, providing trauma-informed treatment for those suffering from the effects of trauma, and building resilience among all who live in the United States. Campaign participants will be asked to communicate the policy vision and join in advocacy efforts in support of achieving the vision. The policy vision paper will be developed and distributed in 2020. Calls to action in support of the policy vision, such as supporting legislation and/or appropriations that prevent or address childhood trauma and build resilience, are anticipated to begin in 2021.

Campaign Objectives

Initial Phase (2020)

1. Tap into the growing number of people around the country who know about trauma science and the benefits that trauma-preventive and trauma-informed policy can produce to organize constituents, by congressional district, in support of a federal policy vision to prevent and address childhood trauma and build resilience.
2. Support constituents with tools and opportunities to be in regular communication with congressional offices.
3. Ensure all congressional offices will have at least one constituent resource “go to” person, or Local Liaison, who is in regular communication with the staff lead on trauma for the office.
4. Catalog a congressional staff contact on this topic for each congressional office.
5. Increase the membership of the Caucus to represent at least 75% of total House membership.

Future Phase (2021 and beyond)

1. Educate Congress about the comprehensive policy vision to prevent and address childhood trauma and build resilience.
2. Identify a bipartisan and bicameral group of congressional champions for the federal policy vision (Senate and House).
3. Work in support of federal policies and appropriations in the 116th Congress that are aligned with the federal policy vision.

CTIPP envisions that the early phases of this Campaign will serve as the foundation for additional, future Campaign efforts, building on the substantial and growing amount of activity to prevent and address childhood trauma and build resilience that is already occurring in communities and states throughout the country.