

National Trauma Campaign News

Trauma-Informed Advocacy in Unprecedented Times

National Trauma Campaign Update

Congress is returning from August recess and they have a number of important items pending before them. We remain hopeful that there will be another COVID response bill. It is important that both your House Member and both of your Senators hear from you this week.

The National Trauma Campaign is here to support your outreach and advocacy. **Please use the tools in the [Campaign's September 2020 toolkit](#) to reach your U.S. Representative in the House and your two U.S. Senators this week.**

As always, please reach out to the Core Team at info@traumacampaign.org if you have any questions, thoughts, or are seeking some extra support.

Stay well and take good care,
Your National Trauma Campaign Core Team
[#TransformTrauma](#) [#TransformChildhoodTrauma](#)

Save the Date: Online Film Festival



The National Trauma Campaign has partnered with [ACEs Connection](#) and [the Relentless School Nurse](#) to host the **Transform Trauma with ACEs Science Film Festival**. The films chosen for this series focus on generational, historical, racial, and secondary trauma as well as individual-, community-, and systems-level healing and change. With the pandemic and collective efforts to address racial trauma and healing, we hope to illuminate how ACEs sciences can prevent/heal trauma and inspire trauma-informed change supporting all communities and community members.

The film [Portraits of Professional Caregivers](#) kicks off the film series. The film will be made available to stream for free any time on **September 12th & 13th** on ACEs Connection via the Transform Trauma with ACEs Science community—[click here to learn more](#).

We also will be hosting a follow-up discussion with co-producers Vic Compher & Rodney Whittenberg on Zoom **Wednesday, September 16th at 8:00 PM ET**. [Pre-register here!](#)

CTIPP CAN Updates

The **CTIPP Community Action Network (CTIPP CAN)**, held the **third Wednesday of each month from 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT**, is a monthly remote presentation open to all.

The CTIPP CAN presentations have two objectives:

- ◆ During the first half hour of CTIPP CAN calls, representatives from the CTIPP National Trauma Campaign and guests report on developments on trauma-informed legislation under consideration in Congress.
- ◆ During the remaining hour, speakers present on issues of importance to those involved in promoting trauma-informed programs at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Upcoming CTIPP CAN Presentation Topics

The presentations for the final four months of 2020 focus primarily on the role of trauma and trauma-informed approaches on pressing issues of national importance—climate change, police reform and racial inequality.

- September 16th:** The need to address the trauma that is and will increasingly be created by **climate change**
- October 21st:** The roles trauma-informed approaches can play in **police reform**
- November 18th:** How **peer support groups** can be used by local trauma-informed coalitions to help co-create solutions for their communities
- December 16th:** How trauma, including historical trauma, contributes to **racial inequities** and how trauma-informed approaches can help to address racial inequalities

CTIPP CAN Call-In Information

Link to join using the Zoom app on your computer, tablet, or smartphone:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/742183645>

Phone number to join by calling in on your phone:

Dial +1-929-205-6099

Then, when prompted, enter 742 183 645 as the Zoom Meeting ID



Resources and Tools

In the COVID Era: Stabilizing and Strengthening Young Children and Their Families



[Click here to access and read this article.](#)

In August, Becky Haas and Marlo Nash, both members of the National Trauma Campaign Core Team, partnered to co-author a piece for ACEs Connection to achieve a two-part goal. The first part: to describe a systems-level need for early childhood, child maltreatment prevention, and child welfare systems to integrate in response to the COVID pandemic. The second: to build off of the big picture need for change to offer a concrete, practical example for action centered on ensuring early care and education providers are equipped to recognize and respond to trauma in young children, parents, and co-workers in the COVID era and beyond.

Do you have questions or thoughts about trauma-informed advocacy, policy developments, or how you can help advance the National Trauma Campaign?



Join the Campaign Core Team for “office hours” on Wednesday, September 16th from 4:00 - 5:00 PM ET. [Click here to join us.](#)

Advocacy in the Time of COVID-19: Lessons Learned from New York



[Click here to access advocacy tips and download a toolkit.](#)

Jenn O’Connor of Prevent Child Abuse New York has experienced tremendous success educating legislators and advocating for trauma-informed change during the COVID-19 era. Drawing upon her experience working toward completing meetings with all of New York’s 213 legislative offices while dual pandemics endure, O’Connor collaborated with ACEs Connection to share tips and a toolkit to support continued advocacy as the shared experience of navigating dual pandemics illuminates longstanding inequities and systemic shortcomings. Promisingly, O’Connor shares: **“Legislative staff are overwhelmingly engaged. They get why this matters right now. They are looking for concrete ways to help families.”** The toolkit, originally shared in March, is available for download through ACEs Connection and can serve as a useful guide for those seeking to advocate for trauma-informed change in any region.

Advocacy “How To” Guide

Find out who your [Congressperson/Senators](#) are and do a little research about them.



You usually can find this information on your Congressperson’s/Senators’ websites. Click on one of the links above to find this information. If you need help, reach out to the Core team at info@traumacampaign.org.

Do they have an experience/story that relates personally or professionally to the trauma initiative? **If so**, think about how you can connect the importance of trauma informed-care to both their *and* your efforts. **If not**, use your experience and tell a story about what brought you to the work.

In your outreach, indicate that you are working with the National Trauma Campaign and would like to speak to the **legislative director** or **“the person on staff who works on trauma or related issues.”** If “trauma or related issues” does not seem to resonate with the person with whom you are speaking, consider adding “child- and family-related issues,” “mental health,” etc. When you make initial contact, make sure to **get the staff members’ name, email address, and direct phone number** (they are going to become your best bud!).

Ask to schedule a virtual meeting or phone call, whatever you are most comfortable with.



Be patient—many times, these meetings/calls get scheduled and re-scheduled.

You may only be given **10-15 minutes**, so here are a few things to keep in mind:

- * **Gratitude** (thank them for taking the time)
- * **Share your information as a constituent.** (e.g., where you live, another connecting fact about your area)
- * **Share your story.** (practice before you speak with them—you also can write what you want to say out and read it aloud to them)
- * **Make the “ask” for them to support National Trauma Campaign.** (get specific if you have that information with the specifics area of interest)
- * **Do they have any questions or do they need more information?**
- * **Extend an invitation to visit you/your program and/or see your efforts.** (this could take place in-person when it is safe, or virtually at any time)
- * **Gratitude.** (thank them again before you hang up)
- * **Send follow-up email.** (be sure to include any additional information requested)
- * **Most of all, remember: these are elected officials who work on behalf of you.**

If at any time you are scheduled for a meeting or call and have questions/want more guidance, please reach out to info@traumacampaign.org. We are here to support you!

Self-Advocacy as a National Trauma Campaign Constituent

Since the official launch of the National Trauma Campaign this past February, the campaign has grown to nearly **500** (and counting) constituents from across the country—and even a few beyond our nation’s borders!

The National Trauma Campaign Core Team greatly appreciates your commitment to the challenge of engaging congressional offices and other government leaders through systemic advocacy to respond to childhood trauma. The Campaign’s incredible growth would not be possible without your support.

With that being said, our team places a strong emphasis on assuring that you all feel supported and heard as we continue to work together. **Self-advocacy** is one of the best ways this can be done!

We encourage you to reach out to using statements including, but not limited to:

I need...

I want...

I expect...

I feel...

We value your feedback, and it is through collaboration such as this that we will be able to continue to provide meaningful support and develop effective tools that leave our constituents poised to lead the charge toward nationwide trauma-informed change.

You can reach us at info@traumacampaign.org and/or can join us for our next CTIPP Office Hour! *(If you do not currently receive office hour invitation links and would like to do so, please reach out to us via email.)*

Visit us online!

The National Trauma Campaign’s website contains toolkits, resource lists, and other useful items to support you in your trauma-informed advocacy efforts. Click anywhere on the image to the right to explore our site.

