

## National Campaign to Prevent and Address Trauma and Build Resilience

### Campaign Overview

The [World Health Organization \(WHO\) recently issued a report](#) finding that the health care costs alone related to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the United States exceed **\$700 billion per year**.

In response to this [WHO report](#), along with an expansive body of evidence, studies, and publications examining the impacts of trauma and adversity, the National Trauma Campaign (the Campaign), an initiative of the Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice (CTIPP), has launched a grassroots campaign to engage congressional offices and other federal leaders in supporting policies, programs, legislation, and appropriations that prevent and respond to trauma as well as 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 those who [sign up to be Local Liaisons for the Campaign](#), this means connecting with the offices of one U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators. The Campaign will continue to announce calls to action and support regular outreach with action toolkits available on [the Campaign web page](#).

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 trauma-informed care (TIC) efforts within federal legislation and operations.” (See the [Campaign web page](#) for: *What is a Caucus?; Take Action.*)

When COVID-19 hit, the Campaign mobilized its network around leveraging funds made available through the CARES Act to be used to advance trauma-informed approaches and helped get trauma-informed supports inserted into the HEROES Act. The Campaign is prepared to mobilize in states again if another stimulus package is passed. The Campaign’s network currently includes **nearly 500 members** spanning **49 states** and continues to grow. To date, the Campaign has operated on no funding and with volunteer labor only.

To ensure inclusion of diverse stakeholders, the Campaign will collaborate with communities to craft a vision for a trauma-informed society. Through the mobilization of Local Liaisons and Regional Leaders who reflect the diversity of the communities being served, the Campaign

will partner with community stakeholders to learn the cultural norms and values of the target communities and will leverage these partnerships to maximize our outreach efforts. Creating buy-in, fostering collaboration, participation and community ownership, trust-building, and community acceptance will comprise campaign cornerstones. Consequently, successful collaborations will be based on transparency and shared leadership.

Future Campaign calls to action may also include: requesting House members or their staff to attend briefings sponsored by CTIPP and/or partnering national organizations; sharing with the Congressperson, Senator, or staff member information on efforts to prevent and address trauma and build resilience in their Congressional district or state; encouraging legislators to attend committee hearings focused on trauma; engaging Senate offices to educate them on trauma; as well as 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 trauma and childhood trauma, providing trauma-informed treatment for those who have experienced and are living with the adverse effects of trauma, and building resilience among all individuals, communities, and systems 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 is continuing to be developed and the Campaign plans to distribute it in 2020. Calls to action in support of the policy vision, such as supporting legislation and/or appropriations that prevent or address 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 trauma and build resilience.
2. Constituents will take action to initiate and sustain meaningful, regular communication with their congressional office, empowered with Campaign tools, resources, and up-to-date knowledge.
3. Ensure all congressional offices will have at least one constituent resource “go to” person who is in regular communication with the staff lead on trauma for the office.
4. Catalog a staff contact on this topic for each congressional and senatorial office.
5. Remain responsive to rapidly-changing circumstances by finding new opportunities to advance trauma-informed and resilience-building provisions, as was done with the successful engagement around CARES and HEROES Acts.

### ***Future Phase (2021 and beyond)***

1. Increase the membership of the House Trauma-Informed Caucus.
2. Educate Congress about the comprehensive policy vision to prevent and address childhood trauma and build resilience.
3. Identify a bipartisan and bicameral group of congressional champions for the federal policy vision (Senate and House).
4. Work in support of federal policies and appropriations in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress that are aligned with the federal policy vision.

CTIPP's National Trauma Campaign 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 trauma and build resilience that is already occurring in communities and states throughout the country.