



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

10th Floor, UBS Tower
315 Deaderick Street
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243

BILL LEE
GOVERNOR

JENNIFER NICHOLS
COMMISSIONER

May 21, 2020

Governor Bill Lee
State Capitol, 1st Floor
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

I am requesting the accompanying letter to the Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families as a requirement to receive funding from the Children's Justice Act. The specific assurances outlined are required in order to receive the grant.

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C. 5106c et seq.), Section 107 (a), (b), (c), (d), and (f), as amended by Public Law (P.L.) 111-320 enacted December 20, 2010, and the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, as amended (42 U.S.C. 10603 et seq.), grants are made available to aid in the development of programs designed to improve the assessment and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect cases; case types include child sexual abuse and exploitation, child abuse and neglect-related fatalities and cases involving children with disabilities or serious health-related problems. Identified programs that are funded with this grant include:

1. Support to the Tennessee Chapter of Child Advocacy Centers in maintaining statutory responsibility to support multidisciplinary teams and continued improvements in service delivery.
2. An external contract to provide facilitation of the Children's Justice Task Force meetings and to offer technical support to the Department of Children's Services Office of Child Safety.
3. Training and consultation services to continue to provide opportunities that support efforts to improve the skills of child protective services staff to assess and investigate suspected child abuse and neglect. Training opportunities include but are not limited to interviewing victims, engaging families, motivational interviewing, mock court, Simulation Lab, assessing safety and risk, and identifying needs and services.
4. Travel and administrative costs to provide representation and participate at the annual Children's Justice Act grantees meeting as stipulated in the grant's federal requirements. This will require out of state travel to be paid by the CJA grant.

If you should have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Nichols".

Jennifer Nichols
Commissioner