

**Sec. 17b-751. (Formerly Sec. 17a-50). Children's Trust Fund established.**

**Regulations. Children's Trust Fund Council. Parent Trust Fund. Report.** (a) There is established a Children's Trust Fund, the resources of which shall be used by the council established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the Commissioner of Social Services with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council to fund programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. Said fund is intended to be in addition to those resources that would otherwise be appropriated by the state for programs aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may apply for and accept any federal funds which are available for a Children's Trust Fund and shall administer such funds in the manner required by federal law. The fund shall receive money from grants and gifts made pursuant to section 17a-18. The Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner may solicit and accept funds, on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family resource programs. The Commissioner of Social Services, with the advice of the Children's Trust Fund Council, shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to administer the fund and to set eligibility requirements for programs seeking funding. Youth service bureaus may receive funds from the Children's Trust Fund. The Parent Trust Fund, established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, may receive funds directed to it through the Children's Trust Fund.

(b) There shall be established, within existing resources, a Children's Trust Fund Council which shall be within the Department of Social Services. The council shall be composed of sixteen members as follows: (1) The Commissioners of Social Services, Education, Children and Families and Public Health, or their designees; (2) a representative of the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) a representative of the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (4) a representative of the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (5) a representative of the business community with experience in fund-raising, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (6) a parent, appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; (7) a parent, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; (8) a parent, appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; (9) a person with expertise in child abuse prevention, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives; (10) a person with expertise in child abuse prevention, appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives; (11) a staff member of a child abuse prevention program, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; (12) a staff member of a child abuse prevention program, appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives; and (13) a pediatrician, appointed by the majority leader of the Senate. The council shall solicit and accept funds, on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund, to be used for the prevention of child abuse and neglect and family resource programs, or on behalf of the Parent Trust Fund, to be used for parent community involvement to improve the health, safety and education of children, and shall make grants to programs pursuant

to subsections (a) and (c) of this section.

(c) There is established a Parent Trust Fund which shall be used to fund programs aimed at improving the health, safety and education of children by training parents in civic leadership skills and supporting increased, sustained, quality parental engagement in community affairs. The fund shall receive federal or private money from grants and gifts made pursuant to section 17a-18.

(d) On or before July 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the Children's Trust Fund Council and the commissioner shall report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, public health and education concerning the source and amount of funds received by the Children's Trust Fund and the Parent Trust Fund, and the manner in which such funds were administered and disbursed.

(June Sp. Sess. P.A. 83-20, S. 2, 4; P.A. 85-582, S. 1, 8; P.A. 89-336, S. 2, 6; P.A. 93-91, S. 1, 2; P.A. 97-237, S. 1, 3; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 01-2, S. 39, 69; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 01-9, S. 129, 131; P.A. 03-19, S. 35; P.A. 04-258, S. 25; P.A. 05-288, S. 68; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 21.)

History: P.A. 85-582 transferred authority of children and youth services department to council, deleted reference to grants and gifts made pursuant to Sec. 17-422, substituting references to grants and gifts received pursuant to Sec. 17-501 and to proceeds of copyrights pursuant to Sec. 17-502 and added authority to expend resources for purposes other than the prevention of child abuse; Sec. 17-446a transferred to Sec. 17-500 in 1987; P.A. 89-336 amended Subsec. (a) to require that the resources of the trust fund be used by the department of children and youth services with the advice of the council and to allow the commissioner of children and youth services to apply for and accept federal funds, added a new Subsec. (b) re the children's trust fund council and added a new Subsec. (c) re the report to the general assembly; Sec. 17-500 transferred to Sec. 17a-50 in 1991; P.A. 93-91 substituted commissioner and department of children and families for commissioner and department of children and youth services, effective July 1, 1993; P.A. 97-237 amended Subsec. (a) by replacing references to Department and Commission of Children and Families with Children's Trust Fund Council, authorizing council to also fund family resource programs and programs preventing neglect and making technical changes, amended Subsec. (b) by placing the council within the Department of Children and Families for administrative purposes and by increasing the membership in the council from 9 to 16 and amended Subsec. (c) to require report to be submitted to the legislative committees on public health and education, effective July 1, 1997; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 01-2 amended Subsec. (a) to allow the Parent Trust Fund to receive funds directed to it through the Children's Trust Fund, amended Subsec. (b) to require council to solicit and accept funds on behalf of the Parent Trust Fund to be used for parent community involvement to improve the health, safety and education of children, added new Subsec. (c) establishing a Parent Trust Fund and redesignated existing Subsec. (c) as Subsec. (d), adding a reference to the Parent Trust Fund therein; June Sp. Sess. P.A. 01-9 revised effective date of June Sp. Sess. P.A. 01-2 but without

affecting this section; P.A. 03-19 made technical changes in Subsec. (a), effective May 12, 2003; P.A. 04-258 amended Subsec. (b) by permitting the council to employ an executive director and any necessary staff within available appropriations, effective July 1, 2004; P.A. 05-288 made a technical change in Subsec. (b)(1), effective July 13, 2005; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 amended Subsec. (a) to add provisions re responsibility for Children's Trust Fund to be with Commissioner of Social Services with advice of Children's Trust Fund Council and add requirements re use of fund, amended Subsec. (b) to replace provision re council exists within Department of Children and Families for administrative purposes with provision re council exists within Department of Social Services and remove provision allowing council to employ executive director and staff, and amended Subsec. (d) to change reporting date from July 1, 1997, to July 1, 2010, add provision requiring commissioner to issue report, add Governor as report recipient and make a technical change, effective October 5, 2009; Sec. 17a-50 transferred to Sec. 17b-751 in 2010.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
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**Sec. 17b-751a. (Formerly Sec. 17a-50a). Eligibility for grants under the Kinship Fund and Grandparents and Relative Respite Fund.** A grandparent or other relative caregiver who is appointed a guardian of a child or children through the Superior Court and who is not a recipient of subsidized guardianship subsidies under section 17a-126 or foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, be eligible to apply for grants under the Kinship Fund and Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund administered by the Children's Trust Fund Council and the Department of Social Services through the Probate Court.

(P.A. 08-97, S. 1; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 22.)

History: P.A. 08-97 effective July 1, 2008; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 added Department of Social Services as funds administrator, effective October 5, 2009; Sec. 17a-50a transferred to Sec. 17b-751a in 2010.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
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**Sec. 17b-751b. (Formerly Sec. 17a-56). Nurturing Families Network.** (a) The Children's Trust Fund Council shall establish the structure for a state-wide system for a Nurturing Families Network, which demonstrates the benefits of preventive services by significantly reducing the abuse and neglect of infants and by enhancing parent-child relationships through hospital-based assessment with home outreach follow-up on infants and their families within families identified as high risk.

(b) The Children's Trust Fund Council shall: (1) Develop the comprehensive risk

assessment to be used by the Nurturing Families Network's providers; (2) develop the training program, standards, and protocols for the pilot programs; and (3) develop, issue and evaluate requests for proposals to procure the services required by this section. In evaluating the proposals, the Children's Trust Fund Council shall take into consideration the most effective and consistent service delivery system allowing for the continuation of current public and private programs.

(c) The Children's Trust Fund Council shall establish a data system to enable the programs to document the following information in a standard manner: (1) The level of screening and assessment; (2) profiles of risk and family demographics; (3) the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (4) rates of child development; and (5) any other information the Children's Trust Fund Council deems appropriate.

(d) The Children's Trust Fund Council shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, on the establishment, implementation and progress of the Nurturing Families Network, on January first and July first, of each year.

(P.A. 95-238, S. 1; P.A. 97-288, S. 2, 6; P.A. 05-246, S. 10; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 25.)

History: P.A. 97-288 amended Subsec. (b) by adding provision requiring the commissioner to establish three additional pilot sites, effective July 1, 1997; P.A. 05-246 replaced Commissioner of Children and Families with Children's Trust Fund Council and Healthy Families Connecticut program with Nurturing Families Network and made conforming and technical changes throughout, effective July 8, 2005; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 amended Subsec. (a) to replace "is intended to demonstrate" with "demonstrates", deleted former Subsecs. (b) and (c) re pilot programs, redesignated existing Subsecs. (d) to (f) as Subsecs. (b) to (d) and amended redesignated Subsec. (b) to replace "pilot programs" with "Nurturing Families Network's providers", effective October 5, 2009; Sec. 17a-56 transferred to Sec. 17b-751b in 2010.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
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December 5, 2008

Robert L. Genuario, Secretary  
Office of Policy and Management  
450 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Secretary Genuario:

The Children's Trust Fund is working to re-establish the Nurturing Families Network Advisory Commission. The Advisory Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1996 section 17a-56a of the state statutes attached.

I hope you will join the Commission or appoint a designee to participate on the Nurturing Families Network Advisory Commission, per the statute.

Over the past decade the Nurturing Families Network has made significant strides. We have seen growth and development in every aspect of the program. The program has been rigorously researched and the results have been consistently strong.

The Nurturing Families Network is now poised for another phase of growth and development. We believe the Advisory Commission can play a vital role in this next phase.

Development efforts include:

- A federally funded program to offer and study an in-home cognitive behavioral therapy for treating mothers with depression who are participating in the program.
- A federally funded randomized control group study on preventing shaken baby syndrome within the program.
- A greater focus on fathers and men, including a study to better understand their needs and challenges.
- An enhanced family literacy component.
- A web based data collection system.

December 5 , 2009

Page 2

The Advisory Commission would be a great asset to the Children's Trust Fund as we move forward these efforts.

The first meeting of the Nurturing Families Network Advisory Commission will be on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 9:00 am in room 310 of the State Capitol.

We look forward to working with you or your designee. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like further information about the Commission or the Nurturing Families Network program. I can be reached at (860) 418-8761 or via email at [karen.foley-schain@ct.gov](mailto:karen.foley-schain@ct.gov) .

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Karen Foley-Schain, M.A., M.Ed., LPC  
Executive Director

(P.A. 97-288, S. 1, 6; P.A. 05-246, S. 15; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 26.)

History: P.A. 97-288 effective July 1, 1997; P.A. 05-246 changed name from Healthy Families Advisory Commission to Nurturing Families Network Advisory Commission and made conforming changes, effective July 8, 2005; Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 amended Subsec. (b) to delete former Subdiv. (1) re reviewing pilot program sites, advising on outcomes and recommending program modifications, redesignate existing Subdivs. (2) to (6) as Subdivs. (1) to (5) and, in redesignated Subdiv. (1), replace "preparing plans to implement" with "Ensuring implementation of", effective October 5, 2009; Sec. 17a-56a transferred to Sec. 17b-751c in 2010.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
---	------------------------------------	----------------------------------

**Sec. 17b-751d. Department of Social Services designated as state agency responsible for programs and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect. Report.**

(a) The Department of Social Services shall be the lead state agency for community-based, prevention-focused programs and activities designed to strengthen and support families to prevent child abuse and neglect, in collaboration with the Children's Trust Fund Council, established pursuant to section 17b-751. The responsibilities of the department shall include, but not be limited to, collaborating with state agencies, hospitals, clinics, schools and community service organizations, with the guidance of the Children's Trust Fund Council, established pursuant to section 17b-751, to: (1) Initiate programs to support families at risk for child abuse or neglect; (2) assist organizations to recognize child abuse and neglect; (3) encourage community safety; (4) increase broad-based efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect; (5) create a network of agencies to advance child abuse and neglect prevention; and (6) increase public awareness of child abuse and neglect issues. The department, with the guidance of the Children's Trust Fund Council and subject to available state, federal and private funding, shall be responsible for implementing and maintaining programs and services, including, but not limited to: (A) The Nurturing Families Network, established pursuant to subsection (a) of section

17b-751b; (B) Family Empowerment Initiative programs; (C) Help Me Grow; (D) the Kinship Fund and Grandparent's Respite Fund; (E) Family School Connection; (F) support services for residents of a respite group home for girls; (G) legal services on behalf of indigent children; (H) volunteer services; (I) family development training; (J) shaken baby syndrome prevention; and (K) child sexual abuse prevention.

(b) Not later than sixty days after October 5, 2009, the Commissioner of Social Services shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly, having cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies on the integration of the duties described in subsection (a) of this section into the department.

(Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 27.)

History: Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 effective October 5, 2009.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
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**Sec. 17b-751e. Continuance of Children's Trust Fund Council's orders, regulations and contracts.** Any order, regulation or contract of the Children's Trust Fund Council agency that is in force on September 1, 2009, shall continue in force and effect as an order, regulation or contract of the Department of Social Services until amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

(Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5, S. 28.)

History: Sept. Sp. Sess. P.A. 09-5 effective October 5, 2009.

(Return to Chapter Table of Contents)	(Return to List of Chapters)	(Return to List of Titles)
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