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Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

CITIZEN REVIEW PANELS

Evaluate the effectiveness of state and local child protection programs and policies and make recommendations for improvement

Citizen Review Panels (CRPs) were established by federal statute and implemented in 1996 as part of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) requirement for states to receive federal grant funding. California and most states are required to have a minimum of three independent CRPs. Each CRP consists of a chairperson or coordinator who assists members with their quarterly meetings and annual reporting requirements. The California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention provides oversight, technical assistance and funding allocations.

The evaluations provided by CRPs involve examining child protection policies, practices, and procedures and assessing the extent to which state and local child protection agencies are discharging their child protection obligations. Recommendations are then made to county and state governments for improvement. CRP members are volunteer citizens, former recipients of social services, foster parents, child welfare services professionals, court-appointed special advocates, children's attorneys, educators, representatives of tribal governments and those of county public health and mental health agencies, law enforcement officials, and other interested parties. The CRPs are required to complete and distribute to the public an annual report containing recommendations based upon its activities and findings.

Currently, there are CRPs in three counties—Calaveras, San Mateo, and Ventura. Each Citizen Review Panel receives \$25,000 annually.

For more information please see the [Citizen Review Panel Information](#) web page or contact the Office of Child Abuse Prevention, (916) 651-6960.

The CRPs are funded by: Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act ([CAPTA](#)) funds.