

Monroe County child abuse and neglect crisis: Effective prevention programs needed

- ***The rising number of child abuse and neglect reports in Monroe County is overwhelming.*** The number of CPS reports continues to increase. 10,000 are projected in 2017, equaling 27 reports per day. Caseloads are far above recommended levels, averaging 29 cases per worker, despite the fact that the recommended caseload size is 12.
- ***Monroe County announced an 8-point plan to expand and strengthen CPS staff.*** The plan includes 30 new caseworker positions, salary increases, and improved staff training and mentoring. This will have a positive impact on CPS caseworkers and the families they serve.
- ***But prevention programs have been cut by \$1.7 M since 2014.*** Only 20-30% of families eligible for Nurse-Family Partnership are served in Monroe County.

What can be done?

Help families before abuse starts!

Some maltreatment can be avoided. Evidence-based preventive programs like Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, and Building Healthy Children provide parents with support and tools to help them raise a healthy, safe family.

The Children's Agenda's recommendation:

Monroe County should restore \$1.7 M in recent cuts to preventive programs, which help avoid child abuse and neglect before it occurs, to expand or increase evidence-based services.

