MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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	FIRST R	EGULAR SE	SSION	
ON	E HUNDRED AN	D TWELFTH	LEGISLATURE	
Legislative Do	cument			No. 945
H.P. 662		House of	Representatives, M	Iarch 7, 1985
	the Committee or nce and ordered p		ons and Financial	Affairs. Sent
			EDWIN H.	PERT, Clerk
Cosponsore	presentative Rydel d by Representative enator Sewall of I	e Nelson of	ck. Portland, Senator	Bustin of
	STAT	E OF MAIN	E	
N	IN THE Y INETEEN HUND	EAR OF OU RED AND E		
	Community Ch		and Developm and Neglect	nent
Be it enact follows:	ed by the Pe	ople of t	he State of M	Taine as
Sec. 1.	22 MRSA c.	1057 is	enacted to re	ad:
	CHA	PTER 1057		
CHILD AB	USE AND NEGL	ECT COORD	INATING COMMI	TTEES
§3871. Pur	pose			
			r is to encou	
			efforts to	
			nsure adequat	
	eir families		d and neglect	.ed CHIII-
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§3872. Def	initions			

As used in this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings.

- 1. Community coordinating committee. "Community coordinating committee" means a community council or organization created to encourage and coordinate community efforts to prevent and to treat child abuse and neglect and which provides continuous year-round service.
- 2. Fiscal agent. "Fiscal agent" means an incorporated community organization, agency or institution designated by the community coordinating committee and authorized by the Department of Human Services to receive and distribute grants to that community coordinating committee.
- 3. Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council. "Maine Association of Child Abuse and Neglect Council" means the organization which is composed of a majority of the community coordinating committees. The association shall have at least one representative from each member committee.

§3873. Authorization for expenditure of funds

The Commissioner of Human Services may, from funds authorized to the department, make grants to incorporated community coordinating committees or fiscal agents to further the purposes of this chapter.

- 1. Grants. Grants shall be made on a competitive basis according to rules adopted or amended by the commissioner. Grants in excess of \$15,000 shall be made on a one-to-one matching basis with contributions from the community. Community contributions may be donations of cash or may be in kind contributions, as determined by departmental rule.
- 2. Distribution of grants. Grants shall be awarded to support existing community coordinating committees and to assist the establishment of new community coordinating committees. It is the intent of this chapter to support a statewide network of community coordinating committees by the end of fiscal year 1987.

3. Consultation with Maine Association of Child
Abuse and Neglect Council. The Maine Association of
Child Abuse and Neglect Council shall advise the department regarding the distribution of grants before
any grants are awarded.

§3874. Fiscal agents

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41 42 A fiscal agent receiving grants under this chapter shall act only in an administrative capacity to receive and distribute grant money to the community coordinating committee, as described in the rules promulgated by the department for regulating the local administration of these programs.

§3875. Community coordinating committee; membership

A community coordinating committee shall be responsible for the governance of the community program under this chapter. Membership of the community coordinating committee shall include representatives from the appropriate regional office of the Department of Human Services, a local mental health agency, the Bureau of Mental Retardation or a local program for the mentally retarded, the local education community, a community agency providing services to children, a community agency which does not provide vices to children, the local law enforcement community, the local health community, the local religious community and other community members. The membership shall include at least one person who has experienced child abuse or neglect either directly or as a family member. Terms of membership and methods of appointment or election of members shall be determined by the community coordinating committee's bylaws.

§3876. Waiver of certain requirements

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3873, for grants of \$6,000 or less awarded to community coordinating committees, the department may waive the provisions of section 3875, which designates the membership of a community coordinating committee, and may award the grant directly to an unincorporated committee. No community coordinating committee may receive more than 3 grants under the provisions of the waivers provided by this section.

Sec. 2. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

4 <u>1985-86</u> <u>1986-87</u>

5 <u>HUMAN SERVICES,</u> 6 <u>DEPARTMENT OF</u>

7 All Other \$250,000 \$300,000

8 STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill provides a legislative base for the child abuse and neglect councils which are coordinating community efforts to prevent and treat the abuse and neglect of our children. These groups provide services that are not available elsewhere in the system and create a forum for local grass-roots involvement in child abuse and neglect issues. These committees do not directly provide services to children and are able to operate without a vested interest in any particular cause or service delivery system. As a part of their functions, they:

- 1. Coordinate services being provided to children to identify omissions in service delivery and to avoid duplication of services;
- 23 2. Ensure adequate services by supporting the delivery of services to victims and acting as victim advocates;
 - 3. Establish and maintain multi-disciplinary teams composed of local professionals who assist the community and state agencies to review exceptionally difficult cases and recommend resolutions;
 - 4. Act as a resource for the community. One aspect of this function is to provide training and materials to various community members, especially anyone who is required to report suspected abuse. Educational materials on prevention, identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect are distributed throughout the community; and

5. Support and encourage agency case workers.

This program has been funded by the Department of Human Services in the past without a specific statutory framework. This bill provides a framework for the distribution of grant money to these organizations and allows a gradual increase in the network of community-based organizations in order to provide statewide coverage by the end of fiscal year 1987.

The Department of Human Services will award the grants to a community coordinating committee or to a fiscal agent, if appropriate. The fiscal agent only has authority to administer the distribution of the funds. The committee is composed of a broad spectrum of the community.

Up to \$15,000 may be awarded to provide a basic level of support for new or existing programs. Awards made in excess of that require matching contributions from the community. This ensures local participation and commitment to the program and its goals and provides an incentive to seek that local involvement.

This bill appropriates \$250,000 for fiscal year 1985-86 to fund existing community coordinating committees and to fund 3 new committees. Three hundred thousand dollars is appropriated for fiscal year 1986-87 to fund all the community coordinating committees existing at the end of the previous fiscal year and to fund 3 additional community coordinating committees.

New organizations may receive grants of \$6,000 or less directly, without being incorporated, for 3 years. Membership requirements for these new organizations may be waived during that period.

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