

Help us Provide Justice and Healing, Justice for Victims of Child Abuse

Washington State currently has **16** accredited centers delivering comprehensive, child-centered services to children and families in only **24** of the **39** counties. An additional **8** CACs are hoping to develop.

- ❖ **Last year, nearly 7,000 children were served by these centers.**
- ❖ **87% of those children were impacted by sexual and/or physical abuse.**
- ❖ **67% of those children were under the age of twelve.**

In collaboration with law enforcement, medical providers, advocates and other trained professionals, we want to achieve our goal of ensuring **ALL** children in Washington State have access to the trained team of professionals at a local Children's Advocacy Center.

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC's) provide services to child victims unlike any other organization. They are healing places that help reduce trauma for young victims of violence and sexual abuse. CAC's deliver child-focused services and offer a one-stop caring, protective environment where children feel safe to tell their stories – just once- to physicians, police, counselors, and expert professionals who care, who can help stop their abuse, and begin their process of healing and bring justice.

Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington is respectfully requesting an **increase of \$510,000** in the state appropriation to expand capacity to deliver needed expert services to victims of abuse.

Today, \$990,000 in state funding is dedicated to support CACs.

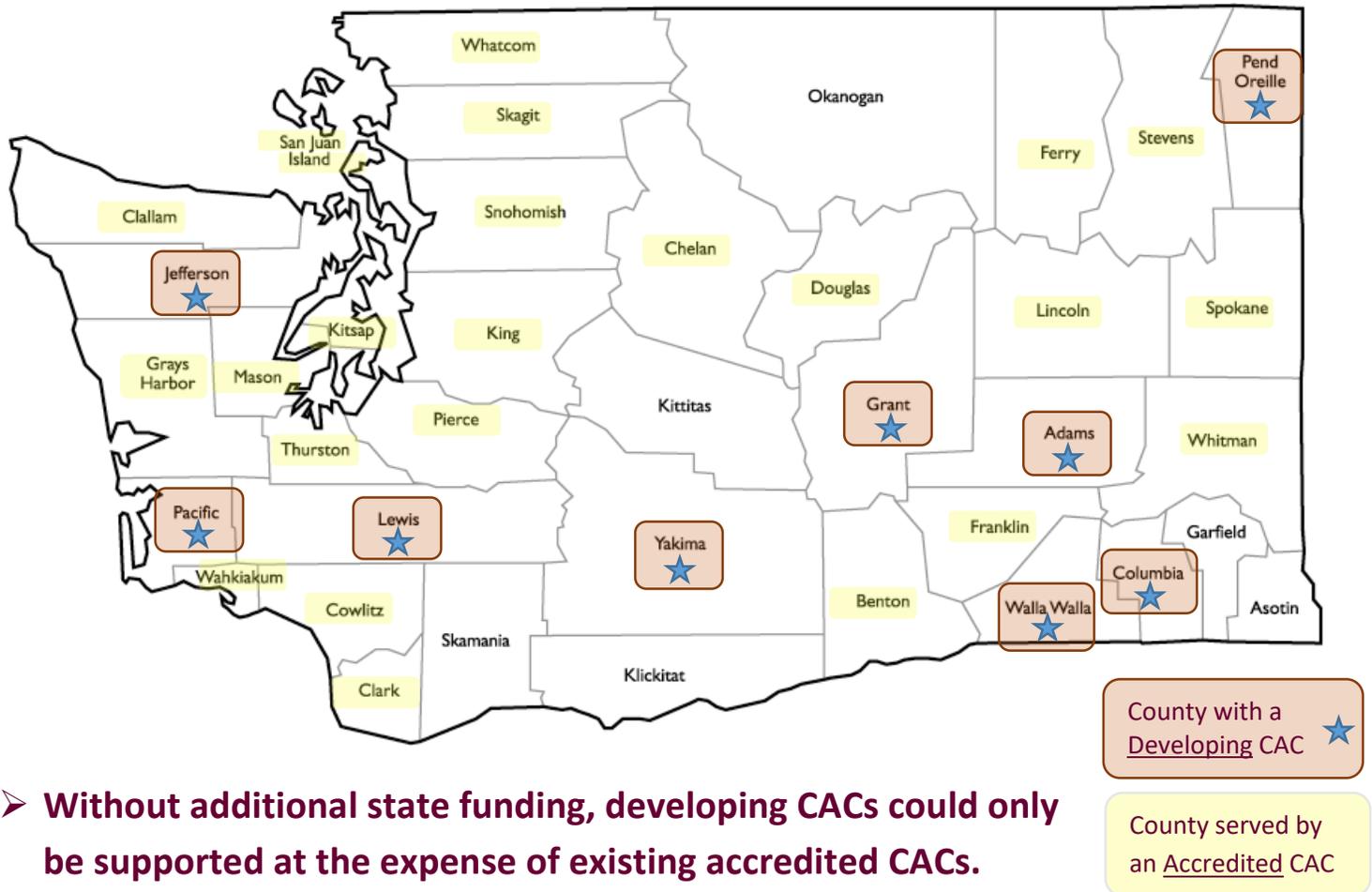
- ❖ These funds provide vital support to 16 accredited CACs and the State Chapter.
- ❖ \$850,000 is directed for support of 16 CACs
- ❖ \$140,000 is retained by the Chapter to provide training, technical assistance, contract administration and other important supports to the CAC network.

Increasing state funding for CACs by \$510,000 to \$1,500,000 will:

- ❖ Increase access to CAC services for child victims;
- ❖ Provide increased funding (+\$440,000) to support newly accredited and expanding CACs in unserved/underserved areas of the state;
- ❖ Provide increased funding (+\$70,000) to the State Chapter for additional capacity to support the expanding CAC network.

Washington State CAC Coverage

As of 12/1/18



➤ **Without additional state funding, developing CACs could only be supported at the expense of existing accredited CACs.**

State Chapter Provides Vital Support; Ensures Consistency and Quality of CAC Services

While continued growth and development of CACs is critical and moves WA closer to having statewide access to services for all children, it also strains Chapter capacity. Additional state funding is needed to ensure the State Chapter can provide needed support to the Washington CAC Network by:

- ❖ Adding a full-time training and technical assistance specialist to work directly with local CACs and their MDT partners, focusing on ensuring quality and consistency of CAC services across the state.
- ❖ Developing new resources to support CACs with Accreditation and Re-accreditation.
- ❖ Increasing in-state training opportunities for CACs and MDT members.
- ❖ Increased staff capacity (from 2.5 FTE to 3.5 FTE) will also provide more time for staff to support CACs by:
 - ❖ Sharing research and best practices;
 - ❖ Increasing collaboration and coordination with state and local partners;
 - ❖ Improving statewide data collection;
 - ❖ Raising awareness of CAC services.