

DECEMBER 2021



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

CAST Annual Data Collection

If you have not already done so, please consider submitting your **2020-2021 CAST program information** to Zero Abuse Project via our easy to complete form, found [here](#).

Thus far, we are thankful to announce that **40% of the CAST community**, to date, has provided us with robust information about their programs. Some of the highlights we have learned about so far include:

- CAST certificate programs make up the bulk of CAST deployment across the post secondary landscape.
- Online learning is becoming commonplace in CAST programming.
- Many CAST students are those in the end-stages of their academic career (e.g. Juniors, Seniors).

CAST OJJDP Funded Projects Coming in 2022

Zero Abuse, through the [Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention](#), has been funded across 2 projects tied to CAST program initiatives at the national level.

Together with partners at the **Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, Northwest Arkansas Community College, the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and the University of Illinois Springfield**, Zero Abuse will be working on providing enhanced materials and training to frontline multidisciplinary professionals and CAST faculty in the near future. We look forward to working with our partners on these exciting projects in the new year.

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

From Minor to Major, And Some Adventures In Between

University of Missouri St-Louis CAST Program

As many in the CAST Community are aware, the **University of Missouri-St. Louis** CAST program has been growing in leaps and bounds since its inception in 2014. We are pleased to share more details of their [**CAST success story**](#) so that others might be empowered by their tale of CAST growth and program evolution. Thank you to the UMSL CAST team for all you do for your students as they go forth and serve the children of MO through their professional careers.

CAST Listed on the California Evidence Based Clearinghouse

Zero Abuse is proud to announce that CAST is [**now listed as an evidence-based program**](#), showing promising evidence, on the **California Evidence Based Clearinghouse (CEBC)** website. This listing is important, as it demonstrates the curriculum's ability to provide effective outcomes for CAST learners, who will be better equipped and prepared, professionally, to provide better outcomes for children. We hope, with your help, that future CAST studies can be funded and researched to keep pushing us towards a stronger score with the CEBC.

CAST Referenced in the U.S. National Blueprint to End Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents

CAST has been [**highlighted**](#) in the **Keep Kids Safe U.S. National Blueprint to End Sexual Violence Against Children and Adolescents**. Specifically, the blueprint outlines the need to fund and expand CAST programming across higher education. We at Zero Abuse are grateful for this recommendation and concur that CAST is imperative to better preparing child-serving professionals for careers dedicated to eliminating child maltreatment.

CAST Profile Pages

At Zero Abuse Project, we want to continue to share information about your CAST program with the larger community. Information about your program also helps us with congressional meetings and can strengthen our strategic efforts to find federal and state-based funding for CAST and, more specifically, for both your CAST program and new ones yet to join the growing CAST family. The best way for us to highlight your program is through creating a CAST Profile Page. In under 10 minutes, you can customize and create your own unique marketing and page that succinctly captures your program at a glance. Please use the link [**here**](#) and let us learn more about your CAST program!

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

Mississippi Statewide CAST Study Complete

Results Showcase Significance of CAST Learning

The University of Illinois Children and Family Research Center, through the efforts of **Drs. Ted Cross** and **Yu-Ling Chiu**, performed an advanced assessment of CAST in Mississippi across the 28 CAST programs in-state. The findings of this research can be found [here](#). Major findings of the research include:

- CAST learners possess better child abuse and neglect (CAN) knowledge and skills versus non-CAST learners.
- CAST certificate and minor programming shows the greatest improvement of key CAN competency and concept mastery in pre- and post-course evaluation.
- CAST coursework, in conjunction with simulation experiences entailing problem-based learning, is best for CAN education and training.
- CAST graduates noted that the curriculum positively impacted their career goals and increased their motivation to work with children and families.
- CAST learners highly value CAST coursework and CAST instructors.

We'd like to thank the **MS CAST faculty, University of Illinois Children and Family Research Center**, and the **Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi** for their assistance in helping to learn more about the CAST program and its impact on child maltreatment education.

**News? Updates?
Collaborations?
Contact Us!**

If you have a news story to share, would like to write an article for our newsletter/website, or have ideas for funding collaboration and research, please contact the CAST Director at tyler@zeroabuseproject.org. The next newsletter will deploy in December and we'd love to share your stories and opportunities!



The Front Door to the Field

Zero Abuse Project

www.zeroabuseproject.org