

MARCH 2022



The Front Door to the Field

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

CAST Data Collection Project Update

We wish to thank all the institutions that submitted their annual data. We are pleased to share the following key data points we received:

- The CAST certificate remains the predominant pathway for program development (>50% surveyed), while the CAST minor makes up the second-most deployed path (20%). Other schools are exploring unique paths to deployment beyond these traditional launch strategies.
- The majority of CAST courses fall under social work, social science, family science, and law— all of which prepare students for frontline MDT investigation and response to child abuse and maltreatment
- 67% of CAST attendees are undergraduates, and programs are most popular amongst Juniors and Seniors

We will be conducting our second annual CAST collection survey in Sept. 2022. If you have not already done so, **please consider adopting a success and impact tracking process** for your program before this time so as to successfully participate in this survey.

CAST Journal Now Taking Submissions

Zero Abuse Project is pleased to announce the launch of a new journal for CAST-centered and multidisciplinary team (MDT)-derived publications from our colleagues at [East Tennessee State University \(ETSU\)](#).

The **Journal of Interprofessional Practice with Social Work (JIPSW)** "is an open-source, semi-annual peer-reviewed publication that provides an interdisciplinary forum for information exchange spanning the variety of practice settings that incorporate care provided by social workers in conjunction with other professionals."

As such, JIPSW is a great resource for both CAST-related knowledge, and as a source for showcasing CAST scholarly works. Learn more about the journal and submit manuscripts [here](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS

New CAST Approval Process

Zero Abuse Project is proud to announce that we've overhauled our formal approval process for CAST programs. The process will be more transparent and comprehensive, and ensure that any CAST program that wishes to seek "approved" status through Zero Abuse Project is thoroughly vetted to ensure it is delivering high quality, evidence-based instruction. CAST approval is equivalent to national accreditation for a CAST program. Successful approval results in an external certificate of completion from Zero Abuse Project to showcase national recognition of your program for all graduates or program completionists, and is maintained over a five-year cycle. An approved program also has special recognition on our website and in all CAST correspondences as applicable. To learn more about CAST Approval, please visit our [website](#).

Zero Abuse Project & AVA Collaboration

Zero Abuse Project is pleased to announce that it has entered a collaboration with the [Academy on Violence and Abuse \(AVA\)](#) to provide CAST faculty and frontline professionals with access to no-cost opportunities to learn about 'Hot Topic' issues in child welfare and violence prevention/intervention through the [AVA's ACEs Health Champions Gatherings!](#) These events help individuals learn about emerging topics in violence across the lifespan. Our next ACEs Health Championship conversation is April 18. Please [RSVP here!](#)

Zero Abuse Project Seeks CAST Testimonials

Zero Abuse Project is seeking stories of faculty or student success as it pertains to a given CAST program and its impact on its learners, frontline agencies, and the larger community. If you have a testimonial (or several) to share that you'd like to have highlighted, please feel free to [share these with us](#). We greatly appreciate your stories of CAST's impact on your institution and beyond, and would love to hear from you!

Donations

We envision a world without child sexual abuse, and [your gift](#) can make that happen. Your donations will provide support to Zero Abuse Project, and directly fund programs such as Child Advocacy Studies, that will help protect children from abuse. As part of our mission to utilize technology in our fight to protect children, we are happy to accept [cryptocurrency donations](#) through our partnership with [The Giving Block](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES & HIGHLIGHTS



Zero Abuse Project Summit

The [Annual Zero Abuse Project Summit](#) is VIRTUAL this year and accessible to all front-line child abuse professionals, no matter where you are located. The Summit will run June 21-22, 2022. With exhaustive information offered across two tracks including lessons in forensic interviewing, the Summit is a great opportunity for continuing education applicable to your CAST program. Hear about the future of CAST at our capstone panel, and visit our event page to learn more and [register](#).

CAST Profile Pages

We want to share your CAST program with the larger community! Information about your program helps us with congressional meetings and can strengthen our strategic efforts to find funding for both new and existing CAST programs. Please take 10 minutes to fill out a [CAST Profile Page](#) to create a unique marketing page that succinctly captures your program at a glance. Prospective students, administrators, local/state/federal leaders, and others from within the CAST network can quickly access and explore what your program offers, and reach out rapidly to explore resource sharing, funding collaborations, and research. Please [click here](#) to help us learn more about your CAST program!

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 June and we'd love to share your stories and opportunities!



The Front Door to the Field

Zero Abuse Project

www.zeroabuseproject.org