

COALITION TO PROTECT MARYLAND'S CHILDREN COALITION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025 - 2026

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is to combine and amplify the power of organizations and citizens who are working together to keep children safe from abuse and neglect. We strive to secure budgetary and public policy resources to make meaningful and measurable improvements in safety, permanency, and wellbeing.

Background about the Coalition:

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children (CPMC) was founded in 1992 to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Coalition strives to ensure that the essential and emerging needs of children who are maltreated are known, and that timely, high-quality services are provided. The criminal and civil court systems, the state legislature, the executive branch, and state agencies have special responsibilities to assure that laws and policies designed to protect children – including infants, adolescents, and older youth – are enacted and fully implemented. Collaboration and cooperation among all agencies of government and the private sector at state and local levels is essential to the health, education, and wellbeing of those in our child welfare system.



The depth of skills, expertise, and perspectives of CPMC members help determine the coalition's annual policy reform agenda. We believe that successful advocacy can be achieved through various types of strategies and tactics, such as legislation, regulation reform, impact litigation, executive branch directives, targeted implementation initiatives, and when resources are available, public awareness or accountability campaigns. The coalition serves as a space for members to share information, identify priority issues, determine advocacy tactics, develop collaboration opportunities, and build consensus on statewide strategies to effectively prevent, intervene, and respond to child maltreatment.

Organizational Structure:

The Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children is a membership organization. Responsibility and authority for governance of CPMC and for achieving its mission and goal is derived from the membership. There are two types of membership and three levels of participation.

- *Organizational Members:*
Organizations whose missions are consistent with the CPMC's may join by submitting a completed application to the Steering Committee. Two-thirds vote by CPMC members is required to ratify the new membership. The chief executive of an organizational member shall designate an individual to serve as the organization's representative on the Coalition, who shall sign an agreement consenting to the goals of CPMC and the responsibilities of membership.
- *Individual Members:*
Individuals who support the mission of CPMC may join by submitting a completed application to the Steering Committee. Two-thirds vote by Coalition members is required to ratify the new membership. Once approved, the new member shall sign an agreement consenting to the goals of the Coalition and the responsibilities of membership.

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COALITION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2025 - 2026

Three Levels of Coalition Participation:

- *The Steering Committee:* Organizational and individual members may apply to join the Steering Committee, which oversees the business and structural aspects of the Coalition. Coalition Partners are eligible for Steering Committee service. Responsibilities include:
 - engaging in membership recruitment, vetting, and onboarding
 - establishing and maintaining the coalition's committee structure, including leadership recruitment and support
 - reviewing and updating membership policies and procedures, including the bylaws, to present to the full Coalition for consideration and approval
 - preparing the annual legislative and policy action agenda for the full Coalition's approval
 - setting annual and routine meeting schedules and agendas
 - ensuring that there are clear avenues for communication and information sharing
 - managing aspects of the recruitment, hiring, and support of any Coalition Coordinator
 - revisiting and updating the Coalition's platform (presented to the full Coalition for consideration and approval) to which each member must adhere in order to maintain active membership status
- *Coalition Partner:* Organizational and individual partner members commit their participation by:
 - attending coalition meetings whenever possible, notifying the Steering Committee or Coalition Coordinator in advance of absences (attendance of at least 75% of coalition meetings each year is required – July 1st to June 30th)
 - giving input on coalition decisions and initiatives in a timely manner
 - supporting the coalition's legislative and policy reform strategies, which includes being aware of what information can be publicly shared
 - during the Maryland General Assembly, **voting on CPMC's position on at least two-thirds of the bills presented for the coalition's consideration during session** (for each bill, votes carry 2 points each for organizational and 1 point each for individual Coalition Partner members)
 - taking the lead on drafting written testimony on at least one bill during session (and when called upon, identifying a coalition representative to provide oral testimony when warranted)
 - being publicly listed as a CPMC Coalition Member, with exceptions made on a case-by-case basis by notifying the Coalition Chair or Coalition Coordinator in advance (for example, written testimony in support or opposition to a bill or a public statement/official correspondence made by the coalition)
 - attending and promoting coalition events, such legislative briefings or educational panels
 - respecting the privacy of individuals and organizations involved with the coalition, as needed.
- *Coalition Ally:* Ally members are organizations or individuals who want to work with CPMC on specific initiatives but cannot commit to partnership status. Ally members:
 - attend coalition meetings whenever possible, notifying the Coalition Chair or Coalition Coordinator in advance of absences (attendance of at least 50% of coalition meetings each year is required – July 1st to June 30th)
 - support the coalition's legislative and policy reform strategies, which includes being aware of what information can be publicly shared
 - may or may not be asked to weigh in on coalition decisions and initiatives
 - opt in to official coalition correspondence (for example, bill testimony or public statement)
 - during the Maryland General Assembly, **vote on CPMC's position on at least one-third of the bills presented for the coalition's consideration during session** (for each bill, votes carry 2 points each for organizational and 1 point each for individual Coalition Ally members)
 - respecting the privacy of individuals and organizations involved with the coalition, as needed

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To apply, complete this application and send it to admin@protectmarylandschildren.org. Your application will be forwarded to the Steering Committee for confirmation. If you have any questions, you may contact the CPMC Coalition Coordinator, Diana Philip, at 202-870-0422.

Membership Type: individual organizational

Name (individual or organizational):

Contact Person Name (and role if app):

Contact Information:

Cell phone: Email:

Website (if any):

Where are you or your organization based?

Type of organization or affiliations (check all that apply):

Direct Service Provider	Nonprofit	Advocacy Organization	
University Dept/Project	Membership Association	Faith Community	
Healthcare Provider	Community Leader	Legal Services	Public Policy Group
Other (please describe):			

Are you/have been directly involved in the child welfare system? Yes No

If so, how

For which level of membership participation would you like to be considered?

Steering Committee	Coalition Partner	Coalition Ally
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How does CPMC's mission fit in with your organization's mission or goals? Or, for individuals, why do you want to join the coalition?

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Goals of CPMC and the Responsibilities of Membership

Goals of the Coalition:

- Prevent child abuse and neglect
- Place safety and wellbeing of children as priorities in intervention efforts
- Increase the priority of the welfare of children among the citizenry, the media, and public officials
- Improve public and private programs that assess and strengthen families, investigate and ameliorate abuse and neglect, provide out-of-home placements, assure permanency services, and promote a positive transition to independence
- Ensure that children are placed in safe, stable, loving, permanent homes without undue delay and that decisions about placement are governed by the children's best interests
- Promote continuity of relationships and overall wellbeing for children who are served by Maryland's child protection and child welfare programs
- Hold child protection and child welfare agencies accountable

Responsibilities of Membership

If a member is unable to attend a monthly meeting or a weekly coalition meeting during legislative session, the member will notify the Chair or designee.

Initial Agreement

Coalition meetings are closed to members in order to protect the confidential nature of information shared. If a member would like to invite someone to a meeting, they must obtain approval from the Chair or Membership Chair(s).

Initial Agreement

An organization or individual interested in joining the CPMC should be directed to the Membership Chair (s), who will contact the candidate about the application process. Once an organization or individual has applied for membership, an email will be sent to all current members to address any concerns or objections.

Initial Agreement

All of the important CPMC documents will be saved on the Coalition's online portal. This portal is confidential and cannot be shared outside of the Coalition. The CPMC online portal is for members only and should be used to communicate about child welfare issues, share relevant information, and update members about CPMC program and business matters.

Initial Agreement

When responding to CPMC related emails, members should reply to the member who sent the email unless otherwise specified.

Initial Agreement

When confidentiality has been requested regarding discussion of issues and potential work product of the coalition – of partners and allies, as well as steering committee members - such requests shall be honored.

Initial Agreement

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No coalition partner or ally shall work in opposition of a coalition priority, campaign, legislative measure, or policy reform effort. Coalition partners and allies may instead exercise their right to opt-out or not opt-in to a coalition correspondence or activity and not be publicly listed as associated or in support of a particular position or action.

Initial Agreement

Organizational and group members may have more than one individual who receives communications about the coalition. However, in instances in which a vote is taken among coalition members, each organization or group member holds only one vote.

Initial Agreement

It is understood that we/I may opt out of inclusion on correspondence on a case-by-case basis, and that I must notify CPMC leadership with 24 hours notice if my organization's name or my name should be removed. CPMC leadership agrees to provide as much notice as possible for reviewing communications from the Coalition;

Or

CPMC may not include my name on any correspondence unless we/I affirmatively agree to it.

Initial Agreement

As a member of the Coalition to Protect Maryland's Children, I am/we are committed to be an active member; to the mission, goals, objectives, and strategies decided by the coalition; and fulfill the requirements of our/my chosen membership level:

Name

Signature

Organization or Affiliation (*if applicable*)

Date

(For groups or organizations): The following individuals will be authorized to represent us and indicate our vote (*please add email contact information beside each name*):