RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide community members with information relating to the needs assessment of their community. The findings will help community members to identify the needs of their community and gaps in services. It will enable them to prepare better proposals to the HCTF. The findings of the needs assessment for all 43 school complexes in the State will be available on the Center on the Family website in August 2002.

Request that proposals to the HCTF address: (1) transportation issues for clients, (2) description of staffing, (3) outreach and marketing, and (4) similar programs or services in the community. The proposals should include a discussion of any barriers to transportation experienced by clients. If barriers are identified, statements on how they will be addressed should be provided. The proposal should describe the current staffing of the agency/program and address issues of staff adequacy, tenure, and qualifications. Thirdly, the proposal should include a discussion of how the proposed services will be promoted in the community and what outreach efforts will be conducted. Finally, the proposal should identify any other programs and/or services in the community that are similar to that being proposed. If there are similar programs in the community, the proposal should address issues of competition and communication between and/or among programs.

Conduct periodic assessments to monitor changes over time in the focus communities and other communities ranking highly on the risk index. For instance, to understand the reasons for the high ranking of the Wahiawa community on the risk index and the apparent low use of services in this community (Figure 34) it may be important to understand the role that military-funded services play in this area. It would also be of value to monitor how communities such as South Kona, with high ranking on the risk index and high usage of services (Figure 46), change over time. If the services available in the community are addressing the needs of this community, then one would assume that over time South Kona would have a lower ranking on the risk index.
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FOCUS COMMUNITIES

In Waimea and Molokai more effort should be spent on promoting and marketing services. In the four focus communities of Waimea, Molokai, Waianae, and Nanakuli more agencies and programs reported being able to serve more clients than they are presently serving (Figure 7). Comparing the risk index and the rate of service use in these communities (Figure 11) revealed that in Waimea and Molokai the gap between risks and use of services was much greater than for Waianae and Nanakuli. Hence it appears that in Waimea and Molokai community members are not fully using family strengthening and child abuse and neglect prevention services to address the risks in their community.

Service providers in Hilo, Keaau, and Laupahoehoe require support to accommodate all those needing services. Service providers in Laupahoehoe, Hilo, Keaau, and Central Hilo reported higher demand than ability to serve, that they had clients on waiting lists, or were not able to serve some people in the past six months (Figure 7). Furthermore three of these communities, Hilo, Keaau, and Laupahoehoe ranked among the highest at risk communities in the state (Figure 11). It is important to note that the rate of service use in these communities was lower than average (Figure 11). Note also that because of reporting difficulties by service providers, the rate of service use in Laupahoehoe might be inflated. Although the rate of service use is low in these communities, service providers are facing greater demand than their ability to serve.

Alternatives to center based programs and services should be encouraged and supported on the island of Hawaii. Service providers from all the focus communities on the Big Island reported that transportation is the major problem for their clients and prevents full use of their services (Figure 8a).

The data suggests that the Big Island has the least number of respite care services for children who are in danger of or have experienced abuse or neglect (Figure 3). While there appears to be a need for this type of service, it should be noted that conversations with service providers who are providing respite care in these communities revealed that prevents are often not comfortable with leaving their children with non-family members.

Resources should be allocated for the recruitment and training of volunteers. Service providers from all focus communities reported that having more volunteers would help them accommodate more people in need of services. In particular, service providers in Waianae and Nanakuli reported the need for volunteers.

Gather data and information on other high-risk communities. It might be of benefit to study other high-risk communities such as Kapaa on Kauai, South Kona on the Big Island, and Wahiawa on Oahu. While these communities were not among the focus communities for this study, the data suggest that they are of high risk in the area of child abuse and neglect.