

We can start **Handle With Care** to support kids exposed to trauma!



The "Handle With Care" program enables Law Enforcement and First Responders to notify schools if they encounter a child at a traumatic scene, so schools and mental healthcare leaders can provide trauma-sensitive support right away.

HANDLE WITH CARE STL
PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

www.handlewithcarestl.org



The Problem: Childhood Trauma

- Childhood trauma, or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), occurs when kids experience stressful events (such as witnessing domestic or community violence).
- 60% of U.S. children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse.
- These kids still have to go to class, carrying a burden of stress/trauma that can interfere with their behavior/grades in schools that aren't even aware there's an issue.

A Solution: Handle With Care



1. Law Enforcement encounters a child at the scene of a traumatic event

Police and First Responders are trained to send a confidential notification to the school with: the child's name, school, D.O.B. and a message to "Handle With Care." Nothing about the traumatic incident is shared with the school.



2. Schools provide trauma-sensitive support for kids.

The school will create a process to triage "Handle With Care" notifications. The process will involve notifying the appropriate teacher or counselor to observe the student's behavior/learning and be prepared to provide trauma-sensitive support.



3. Mental health providers partner for additional support

When school interventions are not sufficient, community-based mental healthcare professionals partner to provide additional support to the students and their families, such as counseling and therapy, as necessary.



How Do We Start Handle With Care?

The St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission will assist you in starting a Handle With Care program in your city or school. They can help your community unite police and first responders, schools, mental healthcare providers, and other stakeholders to create your Handle With Care program.

For more information, visit the website: www.handlewithcarestl.org