



florida children's council

Making a lasting impression

Independent Children's Services Councils Highlighted Outcomes

Created and authorized by Florida Statute, Children's Services Councils (CSC) are responsible for funding evidence-based programs, innovative services and community resources that improve the lives of children and families. Florida is the only state in the nation with laws that allow local county leaders and the residents of those counties to address the needs of the community through the creation of a special government entity that's sole purpose is to invest in the wellbeing of children and families. No other public organization provides this kind of umbrella leadership, coordination and supervision of efforts focused on children. In communities where they exist, CSCs make data-driven decisions, maximize local resources, and ensure accountability of funded programs.

CSCs have achieved significant collective impact by developing strategic partnerships and facilitating coordination among local programs and systems of care. While CSCs have a shared focus on prevention and early intervention strategies related to healthy development, school readiness and early grade success, and safety and wellbeing, each CSC is as different as the community it serves. A CSC determines its priorities based on the most significant needs of the individual community factoring in unique local demographics, leveraging of available resources, and supporting the implementation of programs and services that improve outcomes for children, youth and families.

Counties with independent CSCs represent 44% of Florida's child population birth to 19 years old¹. Population level change, particularly in the largest urban counties, takes considerable time and effort. Many CSC counties are so populous that increases in child wellbeing impact the state average, thus making it more difficult to assess impact. For these reasons, CSCs determine impact of investments for local priority areas specific to families served. However, when aggregated over time, counties with targeted efforts on particular focus areas have been able to document countywide impact that outpaces the state average.

Highlights of CSC impact and outcomes are provided below. The first section displays countywide impact data where multiple CSCs have focused with intentionality on the same area of concentration resulting in statistically significant population level data change. The second section highlights data that has been collected by CSCs to determine impact for families served within individual CSC priorities.

¹ <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/population-demographics/2010-census/data/index.cfm>

Statewide Impact Data Highlights

Area of Focus: Prevention of Teen Pregnancy

Data Set: Teen Birth Rate Percentage (ages 15-19)

CSCs with Targeted Strategies: Broward, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade & St. Lucie Counties

Statewide Reduction: 54%

Data: Florida [Department of Health](#)

County	Percent Decrease From 2005-2016
Broward	-58%
Palm Beach	-55%
Miami-Dade	-58%
St. Lucie	-66%

Area of Focus: Child Welfare Prevention Services

Data Set: Percentage of Children Entering Out-of-Home Care

CSCs with Targeted Strategies: Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach & St. Lucie Counties

Statewide Increase: +. 53%

Data: Florida [Department of Children and Families](#)

County	Percent Decrease From 2014-2017
Broward	-16%
Martin	-11%
Miami-Dade	-25%
Palm Beach	-33%
St. Lucie	-15%

Area of Focus: Child Welfare Prevention Services

Data Set: Percent of Children and Young Adults Receiving In-Home Services

CSCs with Targeted Strategies: Martin, Miami-Dade, Palm Beach & St. Lucie Counties

Statewide Increase: +. 64%

Data: Florida [Department of Children and Families](#)

County	Percent Decrease From 2014-2017
Martin	-7%
Miami-Dade	-43%
Palm Beach	-30%
St. Lucie	-33%

Area of Focus: Prevention of Youth Arrests

Data Set: Percentage of Youth Arrests

CSCs with Targeted Strategies: Broward & Miami-Dade Counties

Statewide Reduction: 24%

Data: Florida [Department of Juvenile Justice](#)

County	Percent Difference From 2012-2017
Broward	-43%
Miami-Dade	-36%

Area of Focus: 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency

Data Set: 3rd Grade Reading Scores of Students Reading at Level 3 or Above

CSCs with Targeted Strategies: Broward, Martin & Miami-Dade Counties

Statewide Increase: 4.9%

Data: Florida [Department of Education](#)

County	Percent Difference From 2014-2017
Broward	5.7%
Martin	5.5%
Miami-Dade	5.4%

Independent CSC Short Term Data Impact

Broward County Children’s Services Council

2016-2017 Impact Data Highlights

- **Family Strengthening:** 2,703 families participated in CSC funded Family Strengthening programs that provide parents and children evidence-based and best practice interventions to prevent out of home placement and involvement in the dependency system.
Outcomes: 88% of families participated in all program requirements. 90% of families improved family functioning. 97% of families had no verified abuse findings 12 months post program completion.
- **Maternal Child Health:** 248 mothers participated in the CSC funded Moms Overcoming Maternal Stress (MOMS) program that provides needed services to pregnant women and new moms and their families if maternal depression is diagnosed.
Outcomes: Of the mothers that participated, 100% reported fewer symptoms of depression and/or anxiety, 94% demonstrated acceptable level of improvement of attachment with target infant and 93% of infants and children met developmental milestones for communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving and social skills.

- **Water Safety:** The CSC funded Swim Central to manage free water safety instruction and education classes for almost 24,000 children. In addition, the CSC funded swim vouchers for children six months to four years to receive eight low or no cost water safety classes.
- **Outcomes:** 100% of children who participated in the swim program have not drowned 3 years after program completion. 80% of participants completing between three and six classes demonstrated an improvement of one or more levels on the revised Water Safety Skills Checklist. 85% of participants completing between seven and ten classes demonstrated an improvement of one or more levels on the Water Safety Skills Checklist.
- **Nutrition:** The CSC funded LifeNet 4 Families to purchase food for distribution through the Summer Food Box Program. In addition, the CSC funded the Mobile Summer Breakspot project which provided warm, nutritious meals five days a week at housing authority and low-income apartment sites in Broward County.
Outcomes: Through the Summer Food Box Program and private food donations, 2,232 children were given access to nutritious meals. 21,256 children and youth received nutritious meals five days a week at 81 sites through the Mobile Summer Breakspot project.
- **Out of School Time:** The CSC funded Maximizing Out-of-School Time (MOST) programs provided by 22 agencies at 90 separate locations throughout the county. These programs provide focus on homework completion, project based learning, social, emotional and physical development and educational field trips and cultural arts opportunities.
Outcomes: Of the children participating in these MOST programs, 84% showed improved reading skills and 78% showed improved math skills. 84% of the special needs children participating in MOST programs showed improved reading and language development.
- **Youth Development:** In partnership with the Jim Moran Foundation, the CSC supported Healthy Youth Transitions, a program that provides life coaches and mental health therapy services to foster successful outcomes for youth in foster care, youth with juvenile justice involvement and LGBTQ youth. Close to 800 youth participated in this program in FY 2016-2017.
Outcomes: 97% of youth ages 15-19 had no new pregnancies or caused a pregnancy during the program. 95% of youth had no new law violations during the program. 83% of youth demonstrated proficiency in employability and job retention skills and 82% of youth made progress in school, graduated or obtained a GED and/or maintained employment.
- **Youth Diversion:** Approximately 1,600 youth participated in New DAY programs that support positive alternatives for young people to learn the error of their ways by making restitution, and developing important skills such as empathy, while engaging the victims of their actions.

Outcomes: Of the youth that participated in the program, 82% increased their level of protective factors and decreased risk factors, 93% had no law violations during the program and 89% had no re-offenses 12 months after program completion

- **Special Needs Youth:** 183 youth participated in the CSC funded Supported Training Employment Program (STEP) that provides special needs youth ages 16-22 with services to promote independence, effective communication and employability skills.

Outcomes: 86% of youth acquired measurable skills in Work Required Behavior. 92% of youth acquired skills in Job Duties and 92% of youth acquired measurable skills in Daily Living Activities.

- **Summer Youth Employment:** More than 600 teens were placed at 160 job sites throughout Broward County through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Outcomes: 98% of employers reported satisfaction with the program and 99% of youth reported a positive experience with the program.

- **Youth Services:** The CSC funds Legal Aid Services in Broward County to deliver the Legal Advocacy and LAW Line programs providing advocacy, legal representation, case management, and supportive services to youth referred by the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office or other community, child welfare and children's services agencies. The CSC also funds the Legal Representation for Youth Permanency Program that provides comprehensive legal services by court appointment to children in the child welfare system to limit their time in state care and achieve timely permanency.

Outcomes: 89% of youth in these programs improved housing stability, 86% of youth reduced delinquency risk and 93% of youth did not obtain new law violations 12 months after successful program completion.

[CSC Broward Annual Report](#)

Martin County Children's Services Council

2016-2017 Impact Data

- **Special Needs Youth:** The CSC funded the Alternative Behavioral Environment (ABLE) Program through the ARC of Martin County providing a learning environment for children and adolescents with 48 children and adolescents with developmental disabilities in after-school, out-of-school summer camp and respite settings.

Outcomes: Of the participants in the Afterschool and Summer Programs, 96% showed development of communication skills, 100% increased socially appropriate behaviors and 86% decreased socially inappropriate behaviors.

- **Youth Mentorship:** The CSC funds Big Brothers Big Sisters of Palm Beach and Martin Counties to provide at-risk children (6-17) with screened and trained volunteer mentors and small group curriculum based-sessions for high-risk teens.

Outcomes: Of the 148 children and youth served, 86% showed increased socio-emotional competency and 98% decreased juvenile justice involvement.

- **Afterschool/Mentorship:** The CSC funded the High Yield Learning Program through the Boys and Girls Club of Martin County that provides after-school care to 1,306 youth (6-18) to encourage positive school performance, sense of belonging in the community and better relationships with parents.

Outcomes: 100% of participants decreased juvenile justice involvement and 92% showed an increase in resistance to alcohol/drug use and violence.
- **Afterschool/Out of School:** In collaboration with the City of Stuart, Tykes and Teens and Stuart Police, the CSC funds afterschool, community centered programs.

Outcomes: Of the 221 Youth served, 96% showed improved performance in Reading and Language Arts. 83% had increased parent/guardian involvement and 89% of participants showed development of water safety skills.
- **Water Safety:** The CSC provided funding to the Swimming Provides Learners with Aquatics Safety and Health (SPLASH) that provides free swimming instruction for economically disadvantaged children and youth (6 months to 17 years) to teach water safety and swimming lessons.

Outcomes: Of the youth that participated in 50% or more of the lessons, 100% successfully demonstrated a majority of the skills specific to entry-level swim lessons, 100% demonstrated an increase in knowledge about water safety education
- **Early Intervention:** The CSC provides funding for the Treasure Coast Early Steps Program that provides early identification/intervention services to developmentally at-risk children (birth-3) through intensive family service coordination, support of parent-child bonding/relationship building, and developmental education

Outcomes: Of the 422 children/families served, 100% showed developmental gains in communication skills, 95% showed gains in motor skills, 100% showed gains in cognitive skills and 100% of parents increased understanding of child development.
- **Oral Health:** The CSC funded a preventative oral health care and education program offered to children in grades 2, 3 and 5 at schools and select community agencies. Through the program, a dental hygienist provides a dental exam, referrals, application of dental sealants and an oral hygiene care kit and instructions.

Outcomes: 1,469 school children were screened by the dental hygienist of which 335 received dental sealants. 100% of all children seen received dental hygiene education and a dental hygiene kit and 100% of the children with urgent dental needs were referred to a dentist.
- **Family Strengthening:** The CSC funds a developmental intervention program that provides group and in-home parental education and developmental instruction to build family strengths of positive parent-child interaction, nurture parenting skills, and promote healthy home environments that produce competent resilient children who will be successful in school and life.

Outcomes: 188 families participated in the program and 100% of the children showed developmental gains in self-help and language skills, cognitive and social skills and gross and fine motor skills. 100% of the parents participating in the program documented improved parent-child interaction and parent knowledge.

- **At-Risk Youth:** The CSC funded Project LIFT that provides substance abuse prevention, vocational training, and mental health therapy for at-risk teens (14-19) who have a history of substance abuse, academic failure, and delinquent behavior.

Outcomes: 86% of participants passed random urine drug screenings during counseling and 100% increased substance abuse knowledge.
- **Family Strengthening/Infant Health:** The CSC funded Building Readiness Among Infants Now (BRAIN) program has been expanded so that all parents of newborns are offered the voluntary visits. A Martin County Health System nurse makes a home visit within 72 hours of discharge from the hospital and focuses on the health of mothers and infants, basic baby care and breastfeeding support. Two months after the birth of the child, a child development specialist visits offering parent education and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)

Outcomes: 85% of all parents of newborns in Martin County receive these visits and have signed up for the ASQ Series. Martin County is ranked #1 among Florida Counties in breastfeeding infants for the first six months of life.

[CSC of Martin County Annual Report](#)

Miami-Dade County Children’s Services Council (The Children’s Trust)

2016-2017 Impact Data Highlights:

- **Family Strengthening:** The Children’s Trust funded 17 group parenting and advocacy programs at 127 sites and 13 home visitation programs, which support parenting skills such as strategies for effective communication, age-appropriate child-development, behavior management, and child safety and injury prevention.

Outcomes: 4,630 families were served and 8,633 children were supported. Of the families attending group parenting programs, 87% showed improvements in parenting stress, 94% showed improvement in parenting skills and 93% showed improved parent-child interactions.
- **Early Intervention:** The Early Discovery Program provides assessment, care coordination and early intervention services to children birth to 5 who do not meet eligibility requirements for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, but nonetheless have mild developmental delays and can benefit from intervention. Services include short-term speech/language, occupational, behavioral and developmental intervention.

Outcomes: 88% of Early Discovery participants enrolled in public schools did not need special education services following their interventions, 79% showed improvement in overall development, 80% showed improvement in language skills, 90% showed improvement in gross & fine motor skills, and 86% showed improvement in social-emotional skills.
- **Out of School Time:** The Trust funded 174 after-school sites with programs that stimulate academic, athletic, cultural and social learning in nurturing, supervised

environments that implement evidence-based practices in reading/literacy, fitness, homework completion and social skills.

Outcomes: 79% of participants showed improvement on physical fitness and 100% showed improvement on social-emotional learning. 81% showed improvement in reading skills.

Long-Term Impact: Middle School Students meeting recommended levels of activity increased from 39% (2007) to 51% (2015)

- **Youth Development:** The Trust funded 167 sites offering youth enrichment programs to disadvantaged middle and high school age youth. These programs provide academic and social/life skills while focusing on youth employment, arts, STEM, sports and service/learning programming.

Outcomes: 73% of youth showed improvement in social/life skills development and 75% showed an increase in positive attitudes toward academic success.

Long-Term Impact: High school students graduating within four years of entering 9th grade improved from 61% (2008) to 81% (2017)

- **Community Supports:** The Trust funds comprehensive programs designed to address challenges associated with concentrated poverty at the neighborhood level, such as low educational achievement and high rates of youth violence, at 80 sites across 23 geographic areas in Miami-Dade County. Families receive an average of six months of care coordination services that include engagement in family team meetings and communitywide events. In addition, the Together for Children collaboration to address neighborhood-specific youth violence launched the iAttend Truancy Prevention Program with 168 home visits and 1,849 parent conferences.

Outcomes: Of families and children receiving care coordination services, 88% showed decreased parenting stress and 71% experienced reduced child problem behavior. 85% of the 3,923 participants enrolled in these programs live in high-poverty neighborhoods.

- **Special Needs:** The Trust funds several programs designed specifically to support children and families with significant adaptive needs as well as programs with inclusive practices. 24,138 children and youth were served who reported living with a disability.
Outcomes: Of the children and youth served, 79% showed improved social emotional learning skills and 92% showed improvement on self-help skills.

- **Literacy:** 264,212 books were distributed through programs in The Trust funded Read to Learn grade-level reading initiative.

Outcomes: More than 80% of participants in the Reading Explorers program showed meaningful gains in literacy skills over the summer.

- **Health:** The Trust partnered with the Miami-Dade County Health Department and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to provide nursing and social work services as well as oral health training, vision screening and a comprehensive school health services reporting system. 94,293 children were served through this program at 145 public school sites across Miami-Dade County.

Outcomes: 175 school health staff were trained to conduct oral health assessments, screen for oral diseases, provide oral health education and provide fluoride varnishes

resulting in 7,340 children screened for oral health. 36,304 students were screened for vision and 6,545 financially-disadvantaged children received comprehensive eye exams resulting in 4,607 receiving corrective eye glasses.

[The Children's Trust Annual Report](#)

Palm Beach County Children's Services Council

2016-2017 Impact Data Highlights:

- **Family Strengthening/Infant Health:** CSC funds multiple programs that provide comprehensive integrated services to pregnant women, infants, young children and their families so more children are born healthy, grow up safe and are ready for school through their Healthy Beginnings Initiative.
Outcomes: 31,000 children and families were served through Healthy Beginnings maternal/child health programs. Fewer babies born to mothers who received prenatal services from CSC-funded programs were low birthweight (7.2%) in 2016-17 than the year before (9.6%) and Palm Beach County's teen birth rate reached a 20-year low. In addition, the rate of teens giving birth to a second child also is the lowest in 20 years.
- **Community Supports:** CSC funds programs connecting the child, family and neighborhood to the community at-large to ensure that children are healthy, safe, ready for school and on grade level at the end of third grade.
- **Family Strengthening:** CSC funds an early childhood system of care with a multitude of programs and services aimed at improving parenting skills and encouraging safe and nurturing relationships that prevent child abuse.
Outcomes: Nearly 98% of children, whose families participated in CSC-funded programs, were safe from abuse and neglect a year after completing services.
- **School Readiness:** CSC provides access to quality early care and education so children are ready for school. CSC provides more than \$30 million for this quality child care system, including providing scholarships for 12,824 children ages 0-5 for child care and Head Start programs.
Outcomes: CSC uses propensity score matching to compare outcomes for children in their programs with children of the same age with identical family and socio-economic factors who are not participating in CSC funded programs. Children enrolled in CSC programs focused on school readiness scored better than a comparable group not enrolled- higher by 3.4 percentage points.
- **Safety:** The Council funds Safe Kids Palm Beach County, a community-based program that offers safety education and materials to families to decrease preventable injuries. Safe Kids trains and certifies new National Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Certification training can take up to four days. Safe Kids also organizes community activities and events.
Outcomes: A total of 560 free or low-cost child seats were distributed to families and an additional 1,437 child car seats were checked to see if they were installed properly. Safe Kids trained 51 new National Child Passenger Safety Technicians and recertified 145 technicians. Safety events organized included Walk Your Child to School Day with 59

elementary schools as well as Safe Kids Day where up to 500 children received free bicycle helmets.

- **Out of School Time:** CSC provides \$6 million to improve the quality of afterschool and summer learning opportunities. Over \$14 million in CSC scholarships was provided to 12,652 for afterschool and summer camp programs.
Outcomes: An independent evaluation showed that youth who attended higher quality programs had fewer absences, were significantly less likely to be retained, and had fewer behavioral incidences than youth attending lower quality programs.
- **Water Safety:** The Council funds vouchers for free swim lessons that are distributed by the Drowning Prevention Coalition of Palm Beach County. The vouchers are good for 6-8 swim lessons at public pools throughout the county. The Council also partners with Palm Beach County's Parks and Recreation Department and other community groups to host two free summer pool parties to highlight water safety.
Outcomes: About 2,050 children received free swim instruction last summer and more than 1,300 residents enjoyed the pool parties and received water safety messaging.

[CSC of Palm Beach County Annual Report](#)

St. Lucie Children's Service Council

2017-2018 Impact Data Highlights:

- **Healthy Babies:** The CSC funds programs such as the voluntary newborn home visitation and BRAIN Development programs to provide supports to parents at critical times in their young baby's life.
Outcomes: 84% of all births in St. Lucie County received a voluntary nurse home visit. 98% of parents involved in the programs improved parenting skills including parent-child interactions. 97% of parents increased knowledge of early brain development and stages of child development leading to school readiness
Long-Term Impact: Infant Mortality has decreased from 10.2/1000 (1990) to 5.3/1000 (2016)
- **Family Strengthening:** The CSC funds programs designed to prevent child abuse by giving parents and caregivers the proper tools and skills and eliminating barriers like transportation and childcare to ensure the whole family is working towards success. These programs served a total of 2,229 families in 2016-2017.
Outcomes: 97% of children improved coping skills including anger management, empathy and self-control. 100% of families involved in the system of care had no reports of abuse or neglect one year after service. 98% of parents improved parenting skills including skills to prevent child abuse or neglect.
- **School Readiness & Absenteeism:** The CSC provides resources to students that offer access to healthcare, reading mentors for struggling students, and family support to ensure school attendance.
Outcomes: 87% of children in participating programs reduced their rate of unexcused absences. 82% of children from Kindergarten to Grade 3 improved their reading skills.

- **Youth Substance Abuse Prevention:** The CSC supports programs that educate youth and their parents on the realities of drug and alcohol use, and teen pregnancies to drive realistic family discussions about the consequences of those behaviors.
Outcomes: 100% of youth served in participating schools increased knowledge about alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. 98% of youth increased knowledge of skills to postpone sexual involvement. 100% of youth improved knowledge of human development and sexual health including risks and prevention of STIs and pregnancy. 98% of teens participating in the programs did not become pregnant and 100% of teen parents did not have a repeat pregnancy. 100% of parents reported increased comfort levels in communicating with their child.
Long-term Impact: Alcohol use within the last 30 days decreased from 42.1% in 2000 to 15.3% in 2016. Binge Drinking has decreased from 19.9% in 2000 to 2.3% in 2016. Teen birth rate for females ages 10-17 decreased from 27.9/1000 in 1990 to 2.4/1000 in 2016.
- **Out of School Time:** The CSC funded 16 after-school sites with programs that stimulate academic, cultural and social learning in nurturing, safe and supervised environments that implement evidence-based practices in reading/literacy, homework completion and social skills.
Outcomes: 88% of participants maintained or improved their grades and 99% showed improved decision making skills and judgement preventing juvenile delinquency referrals. Additionally, 91% of participants had less than three unexcused absences during each nine week period.

[CSC of St. Lucie County Annual Report](#)