



2022-2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

To the Board of County Commissioners  
of Miami-Dade County



DECEMBER 2023

## Mission:

The Children's Trust partners with the community to plan, advocate for and fund strategic investments that **improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County.**



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# Table of Contents

## 04. Introduction & Budget

09. Budget & millage rate

## 10. Thrive By 5: Early Childhood Development

12. Early child care quality improvement system (QIS)

15. Early child care access for those in need

16. Developmental screening, assessment & early intervention

17. Community research partnerships

## 18. Youth Development

20. K-5th grade after-school programs & summer camps

22. 6-12th grade after-school programs & summer camps

23. Funder collaboration

## 25. Health & Wellness

27. School-based health

29. Vision follow-up services

29. Oral health training & preventive services

30. Food & nutrition services

31. Public benefits enrollment

31. Injury prevention education

## 32. Parenting

34. Continuum of care

35. Universal: *Parenting Our Children* newsletter, Parent Club, Book Club, Books For Free, Reach Out & Read

37. Selective: parenting education, home visiting

38. Indicated: family behavioral health

## 39. Family & Neighborhood Supports

41. Family & neighborhood support partnerships

43. 211 helpline

44. Family & neighborhood collaborations

## 45. Special Populations

46. Children with disabilities

48. Children impacted by poverty

## 49. Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy

50. Community-based organization (CBO) supports & coalition building

51. Policy priorities, advocacy & youth civic engagement

53. Public awareness, outreach & program promotion

56. Funder collaboration initiatives

## 58. Learning & Quality Improvement

59. Trust Academy: Supports for quality program implementation

62. Program evaluation & community research

64. Technology design & solutions

65. Innovation fund

## 66. Additional Information

67. Funded service providers

70. Map of funded program service sites

71. Community results & indicators

73. End notes



# Introduction & Budget

The Children's Trust submits this annual report to the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County to meet statutory requirements to summarize goals and activities in accordance with Section 2-1525(e) of the Miami-Dade County Code for fiscal year 2022-2023. The programs, objectives and activities of The Children's Trust are consistent with the goals established by Section 125.901, Florida Statutes, to:



Provide and maintain preventive, developmental and other services for all children's general welfare.



Collect information and statistical data and conduct research helpful to determining the needs of children in the county.



Consult and coordinate with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of children to prevent overlapping services and to fill critical gaps.

With continued strategic and funding guidance from its board of directors, The Children's Trust has maintained and expanded programming support across its primary investment areas, as highlighted throughout this report. Community investments were made through 323 contracts with 163 agencies, and numerous service agreements with community partners (see funded service provider list and map). In the summer of 2023, The Children's Trust released its updated Strategic Framework based upon board input.



The fiscal year 2022-2023 included a yearlong 20th anniversary celebration, marking when Miami-Dade County voters approved a referendum creating The Children's Trust to invest in, support and advocate for children and families in the county. On that day in 2002, and again when voters reauthorized The Children's Trust in 2008, they took a stand for children, and the results have been nothing short of game changing. The Children's Trust is essential for children and families in Miami-Dade County. Like the children served over the years, The Children's Trust has grown, and our successes, challenges and learning have directly impacted thousands of lives. During the celebration, a three-month anniversary exhibition at HistoryMiami displayed milestones, impact and timelines, all of which were also memorialized in a special section of the 2021-2022 Annual Report that was released in January 2023.

Miami's Community Newspapers released a Special Edition - The Children's Trust: 20 Years Nurturing Greatness, and in March 2023, the *Miami Herald* published an op-ed by founding Board Chair David Lawrence Jr., current Board Chair Kenneth Hoffman, and President and CEO James Haj, detailing The Children's Trust's impact over its first two decades. There were recognitions of the anniversary at numerous community events, and various government bodies and organizations acknowledged The Children's Trust's impact, including on the floor of the United States House of Representatives. To culminate the yearlong celebration, numerous landmark buildings and college campuses throughout the county lit up in Trust green as part of the "Illuminating Greatness" campaign in September 2023.

The Children's Trust was proud and honored to help organize and lead Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Children's Commission Summit in October 2022 to ensure alignment of community efforts to support and serve Miami-Dade's youngest children. An estimated 300 attendees participated in the full-day summit. Feedback from the event and work over several months by the Steering Committee and subcommittees, both with substantial Trust staff involvement, led to the development of a Roadmap to Child Success.



**D**uring fiscal year 2022-2023, significant efforts were dedicated to preparing and releasing competitive funding solicitations for about half of all direct service programming funds and for multiple operational infrastructure projects. This included the promotion and release of 12 solicitations and outreach to thousands, resulting in 277 complete applications for funding. Fifty-four trained community volunteer reviewers assisted Trust staff in completing 885 ratings (three independent reviewers separately rated each application), and Trust staff conducted 101 interviews and site visits with applicants. In total, 220 contracts were awarded more than \$105 million to support children and families.

- The Youth Development Request for Proposals (RFP) awarded the highest funding in Trust history - \$76.7 million annually - for 143 after-school and summer programs for children and youth in grades K through 12. It also included a call for enrichment programming tailored for youth involved in the dependency and delinquency systems and those disconnected from school and/or work, which resulted in six funding awards exclusively prioritizing these populations. New applicants had a 78 percent success rate, up significantly from prior funding cycles (i.e., 59 percent in the last cycle and only eight percent in the cycle before that). All applicant agencies that previously participated in The Trust's Small CBO (Community-Based Organization) Capacity Building initiative were successful in securing funding. The new Youth Development funding cycle began in August 2023, and more than 300 staff members from provider agencies attended the in-person kickoff event in May 2023.
- The Parenting and Family Strengthening RFP funded \$23.2 million annually for a continuum of 45 evidence-based programs (EBPs) to address specific needs or challenges, encourage positive parent-child interactions and communication, and decrease parenting stress. Populations and needs identified as gaps in the prior portfolio were sought out, including prenatal programming, fatherhood engagement and mental health supports.
- The Benefits Enrollment Supports RFP funded nine providers for \$1.6 million annually to maximize economic benefits for children and their families who qualify for income-eligible public benefits, ultimately positively contributing to the broader local economy and child well-being.
- The Small CBO Capacity Building RFP selected a new cohort of 16 small agencies that serve children and families to participate in a two-year program that includes several learning activities and funding for individualized programmatic and fiscal capacity building, in an annual amount of \$595,000.
- Operational infrastructure support procurements designed to streamline Trust processes and maximize efficiencies and data access included Financial Software, Human Resource and Payroll Solutions, Auditing Services, Website Development, Integrated Data Repository/Data Visualization Services, and Office Redesign.



To inform the direct services funding needs, significant efforts were devoted to collecting input from current and potential service participants. This included a community parent survey in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole with 3,477 respondents, and 44 focus groups that included 208 parents and 89 youth. In October 2023, four executive summary reports on participant input related to after-school and summer programs, parenting education and supports, early child care and education, and health and wellness were released.



In July 2023, the Board Health Committee launched major school health strategic planning efforts. With the board's approval, staff engaged a nationally recognized pro bono health consulting group, Guidehouse, to support these efforts starting in September 2023. The Trust conducted 23 focus groups with nursing, social work, mental health and administrative staff and systems partners from funded school health programs, and also with parents and youth.

To make it easier for families to find low or no-cost summer camps and after-school programs, The Children's Trust partnered with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Jewish Community Services of South Florida to promote the "More Choices" initiative. Starting with More Summer Camp Choices, nearly 500 programs funded by or operated through the anchor partners were listed on [211Miami.org/SummerCamps](https://211Miami.org/SummerCamps) and widely promoted throughout the community. The efforts resulted in 400 times as many online searches than in the previous year and a 40 percent increase in calls to the 211 Helpline for summer camps. The success of the summer camps initiative led to More After-School Choices, which similarly lists after-school programs.

**The Children’s Trust joined the U.S. Soccer Foundation,** County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, County Commission Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert III, and CEO Kenneth Griffin of Citadel LLC, among others, to announce the launch of the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative. This exciting project will install new mini-soccer pitches in under-resourced communities throughout the county and provide Just Ball League soccer programming for children and youth. The goal is to have 50 new pitches constructed before the 2026 FIFA World Cup and to positively influence the physical, social and emotional wellness of more than 36,000 children by 2030. The Trust is a key partner and funder in this initiative, helping to guide locations and fund programming for the soccer pitches.



**The Children’s Trust Book Club** had record-breaking enrollment growth in 2022-2023, surpassing the initial goal of 40,000 members, instead reaching more than 47,000. In addition, The Children’s Trust launched a Haitian Creole Book Club Engagement Project, which provides families at Haitian American-focused events with five children’s books in Haitian Creole, family reading guides and other helpful materials. During the summer of 2023, Trust staff also worked with the Miami-Dade Public Library System to include resource listings for several Book Club books in braille for individuals with visual impairments.

**The Children’s Trust Thrive by 5 Quality Improvement System** leveraged significant attention and resources over the past year. Thanks to a partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, \$5 million in limited-term Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and the Administration of Children and Families was distributed to early learning educators participating in The Children’s Trust’s salary supplement program (A\$CEND) in 2023. Finally, as part of the ongoing work Trust staff have done on the Steering Committee of the Mayor’s Children’s Commission, Miami-Dade County allocated \$3 million for Thrive by 5 Families Forward Child Care Scholarships in 2023-2024 to support working families currently on the waiting list and earning 150 to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Children’s Trust staff members continue to serve as leaders locally and nationally on various topics related to children and families. Over the past year, staff were invited speakers and panelists at numerous local and regional conferences and summits related to legislative priorities, school system partnerships, early childhood funding, family engagement, youth mental health and supports for children and families experiencing homelessness. Staff presented at national conferences on The Children’s Trust’s early childhood work, including Zero to Three and the BUILD Initiative. In addition, Trust-led “READY, Set, Go Miami!”, a month-long community literacy blitz coordinated by the Miami-Dade Grade Level Reading Campaign, received the National Grade Level Reading 2023 Pacesetter Award.



# Budget & Millage Rate

The Children's Trust has a decade-long tradition of financial excellence consistent with its quality and sound financial practices. For the eleventh consecutive year, The Trust's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) as of September 30, 2022, was awarded the Government Finance Annual Report Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Children's Trust 2022-2023 Management Letter and Audited Financial Report will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners upon completion by April 15, 2024.

Spending over the past year has aligned with board priorities and the approved budget. The Children's Trust will continue to fund an expansive and high-quality portfolio of prevention and early intervention programs for all children, especially those at greater risk due to family and community conditions. There is a continuing commitment, both in number and quality, to the full participation of children with special needs in all funded programs.

With the board's guidance and approval, The Children's Trust adopted a 2023-2024 budget of \$227.5 million at its second public TRIM Hearing in September 2023. The approval includes total ad valorem tax revenues of approximately \$203.2 million. The budget represents the largest ever, with an additional \$35.1 million for program services, and the lowest management expense in Trust history (5.81 percent). The 2023-2024 millage rate of 0.5000 mills will ensure the continuity and expansion of essential program services. The median taxable value for residential property with a \$50,000 homestead exemption for the 2023-2024 tax year is \$75.54, representing an increase of just \$7.17.

All this vital work continues to accelerate thanks to the board's leadership, commitment and vision. The Children's Trust is honored to focus on children and families and to launch the start of a third decade of existence with the same motivation and commitment shown in years past.

## BUDGET BY PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREA

DESCRIPTION	2022-23 AMENDED BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	2023-24 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE
<b>SUSTAIN &amp; EXPAND DIRECT SERVICES</b>			
Parenting	22,409,460	30,359,460	35.48%
Thrive by 5 (early childhood development)	37,841,017	43,411,017	14.72%
Youth development	62,248,817	81,748,817	31.33%
Health & wellness	20,831,778	21,791,778	4.61%
Family & neighborhood supports	16,164,176	16,164,176	-
<b>TOTAL SUSTAIN &amp; EXPAND DIRECT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 159,495,248</b>	<b>\$ 193,475,248</b>	<b>21.30%</b>
<b>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS &amp; ADVOCACY</b>			
Promote public policy & legislative agendas	215,300	215,300	-
Public awareness & program promotion	2,969,000	3,085,000	3.91%
Promote citizen engagement & leadership	1,115,000	1,115,000	-
Cross-funder collaboration	1,735,000	1,735,000	-
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	<b>\$ 6,034,300</b>	<b>\$ 6,150,300</b>	<b>1.92%</b>
<b>LEARNING &amp; QUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b>			
Supports for quality program implementation	3,650,000	3,650,000	-
Information technology	1,050,000	2,050,000	95.24%
Program evaluation & community research	570,000	570,000	-
Innovation fund	1,400,000	1,400,000	-
<b>TOTAL LEARNING &amp; QUALITY IMPROVEMENT</b>	<b>\$ 6,670,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,670,000</b>	<b>14.99%</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION &amp; NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>			
Management of The Children's Trust	12,575,382	13,266,223	5.18%
Non-operating expenditures	6,000,000	7,000,000	16.67%
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION &amp; NON-OPERATING</b>	<b>\$ 18,575,382</b>	<b>\$ 20,266,223</b>	<b>8.89%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 190,774,930</b>	<b>\$ 227,521,771</b>	<b>19.26%</b>

A woman with dark hair, wearing a beige knitted cardigan, is kneeling on a blue carpet. She is looking down at a young boy who is also kneeling. The boy is wearing a red polo shirt and has a small white bandage on his knee. They are both looking into a red plastic bin filled with colorful toys, including rings and rings. The background shows a classroom setting with wooden shelves and various items.

# Thrive by 5: Early Childhood Development

By supporting educators and providing incentives for professional development, the A\$CEND salary supplement award program's goal is to keep high-quality educators nurturing young children in Miami-Dade County. "The difference is substantial," says Arianne Hernandez, an early educator who is participating in the program. "The work we do... this supports us and helps us economically. It motivates us every day to grow as educators." Another early learning educator in the program, Maria Sanchez, said that while the salary supplement is needed, professional development is even more important. "There comes a time when you have to be better prepared to give more to the children. It's important for us because we do this with love, and we are rewarded. It's marvelous."

For more information, visit: [TheChildrensTrust.org/ThriveBy5](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/ThriveBy5).



**S**chool readiness involves children and their families, early learning environments, schools, and communities. It relates to children's development across health, physical, cognitive and social-emotional domains, along with approaches to learning. Families must be ready to support their children's learning, and communities must be ready to meet the needs of all children. Unfortunately, in Miami-Dade County, 54 percent of public-school kindergarteners in 2022 – more than 11,000 children – lacked the skills needed to succeed.<sup>1</sup>

The Children's Trust invests more than \$61.2 million in a continuum of supports for early childhood development and school readiness. It does so because of the urgency and importance of early brain development and its impact on later life success.



**90%**  
of a child's  
brain is formed  
by 5 years of  
age.<sup>2</sup>

Thrive by 5 strategies focus on improving the quality of early childhood education programs; increasing access to these programs for families with the greatest needs; and encouraging developmental screening, assessment, and when needed, early intervention. Some additional investments described in other sections of this report (like parenting, home visiting, early literacy supports and early childhood health services) are also considered part of Thrive by 5's continuum of services. According to national research, for every dollar invested in quality early childhood education, there is a \$7 to \$17 return on investment.<sup>3</sup>

# Early Child Care Quality Improvement System (QIS)

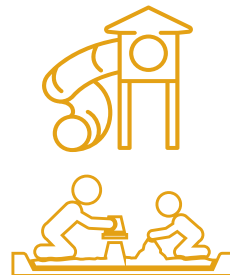
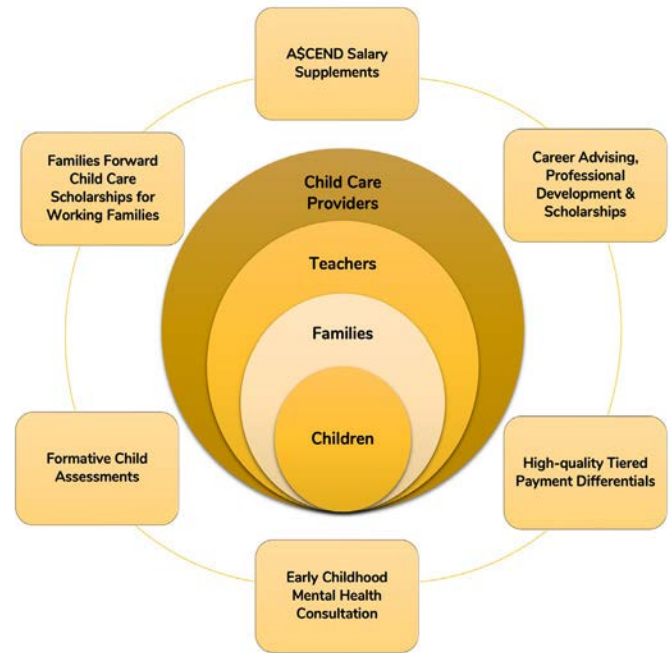
The Children's Trust Thrive by 5 QIS is an integrated system of supports for children, teachers and provider agencies that work together to bring value that is greater than the sum of its individual components. The QIS is grounded in equity principles to drive access to high-quality services that promote healthy development for children living in poverty. The work is guided by The Trust's board policy guidance, the Thrive by 5 Early Learning Provider Advisory Group, program evaluation and national expertise.

QIS providers must meet all the following criteria:

1. 30 percent or more of children served under 6 receive Florida school readiness subsidies.
2. Located in or adjacent to a high-poverty census tract.
3. Serve infants and toddlers.

In The Trust's 2023 community survey, parents of young children and expecting parents selected warm and nurturing caregivers and activities to support learning skills such as kindergarten readiness as the two most important early child care features to them. These are factors supported by the QIS.

## Thrive by 5 QIS Model



**304** programs participated, serving an estimated **25,966** children.



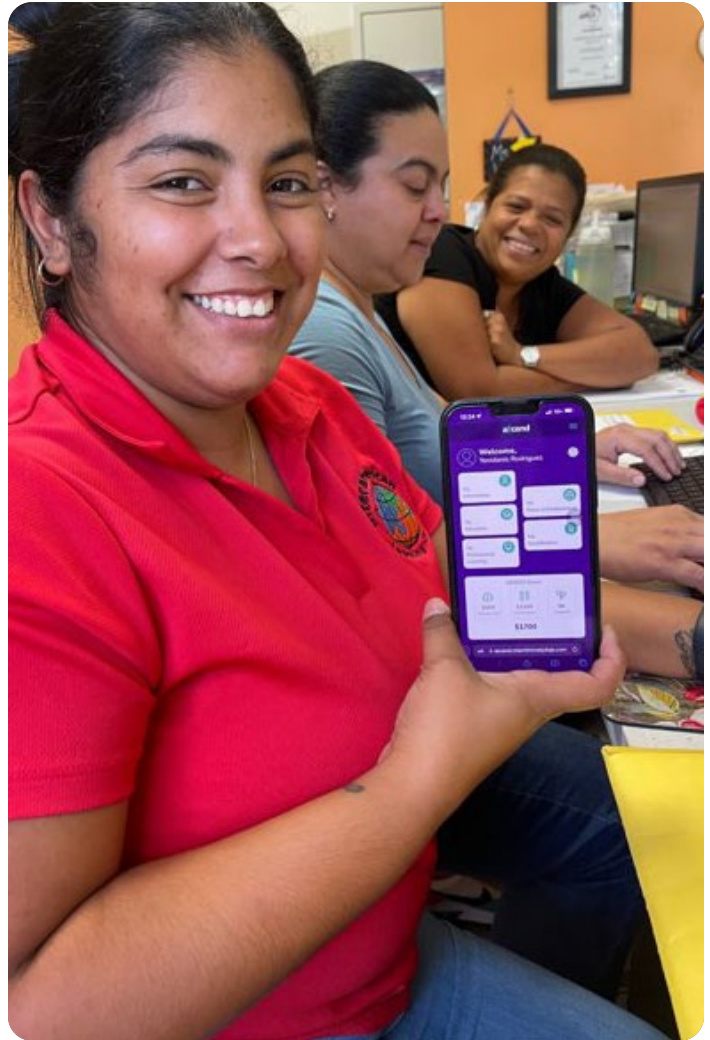
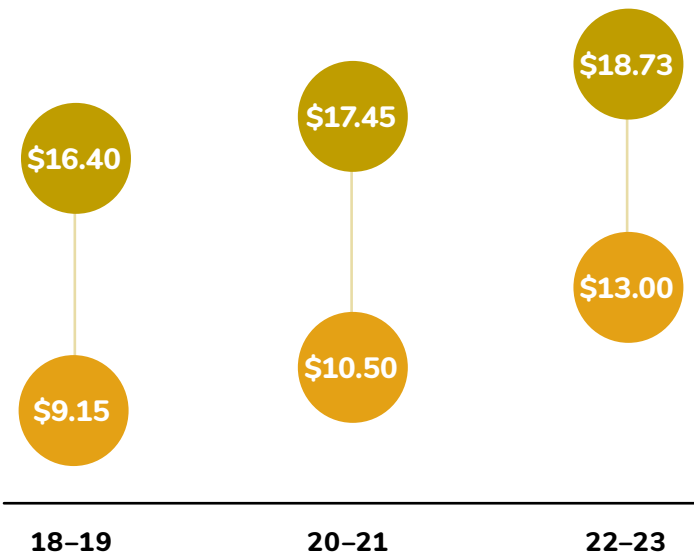


## Salary Supplements

With continually low hourly wages, the salary supplement QIS component is crucial to supporting the early learning workforce. Replacing the INCENTIVE\$ program in October 2022, A\$CEND recognizes teachers' formal educational progress, as well as participation in professional development, quality teacher-child interactions, and longevity as demonstrated pathways of competency. Awards are fully managed through a mobile app and require educators earning \$17.50 or less per hour to work in a QIS program with children ages birth to 5 years at least 20 hours per week.

Trust staff presented on this innovative model, "Out with the old and in with the new: Equitable strategies for workforce compensation," at the BUILD Initiative 2023 national annual conference. In 2022-2023, 932 Miami-Dade educators were paid, with a median award of \$1,750, up \$250 from the prior year's median. Turnover among recipients was only five percent, compared with national average annual turnover rates for child care staff of 30 percent.

**Median hourly wages** for teachers in the QIS have improved but remain well below **hourly living wages** in Miami-Dade County.<sup>4</sup>



## Career Advising, Professional Development & Scholarships

Early child care directors and teaching staff can access career advising services, professional development trainings and formal educational scholarships. There are a wide range of bilingual opportunities available, including college credit-earning courses and continuing education unit (CEU) trainings. As of October 2023, 908 educators received 1,586 scholarships. Across the county, 3,500 educators benefited from professional development supports. One-third of practitioners using professional development supports have an associate degree or higher.

## High-Quality Tiered Payment Differentials

With tight budgets, many early learning programs find investment in program quality improvements difficult. Thrive by 5 QIS adds financial incentives to support high-quality early learning. Programs are categorized into quality tiers, from two to five (lowest to highest quality), based on the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS®) measuring teacher-child interactions. Programs at tiers two and above receive payment differentials for all children ages birth to 5 years attending their program (not only those receiving school readiness subsidies). Tiered payments range from three to 15 percent to incentivize programs to reach and sustain higher levels of quality.

**304 QIS programs**  
by quality tiers for 2022-23



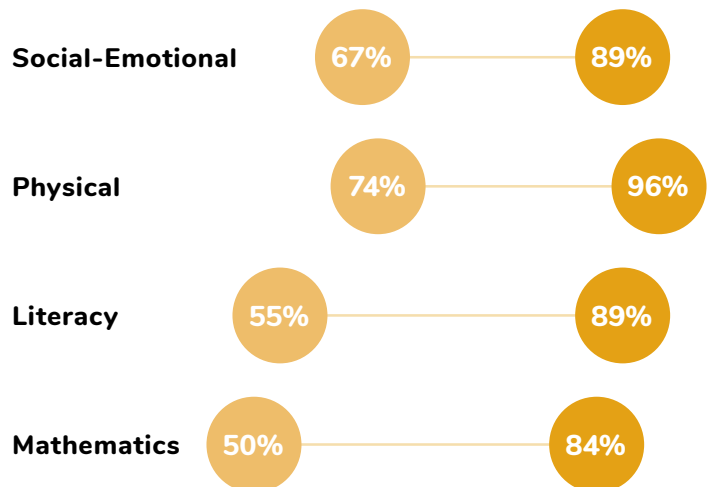
## Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation

The QIS strives to support child development by improving early learning providers' capacity to address challenging behaviors and support healthy social and emotional classroom environments. Infant and early childhood mental health consultation, administered through the Jump Start Early Childhood Consultation program, is based on the nationally recognized Georgetown University model for providing support in school-based settings. Services are tailored to the needs of early learning program administrators, teaching staff and children. In fiscal year 2022-2023, 116 programs were served with an average of 22 consultation hours per classroom, and there were 440 sessions held with children and families. In September 2023, Trust and mental health consultation staff presented "One small step for early learning, giant leap for later life success: Going beyond with infant and early childhood mental health consultation" at the annual Zero to Three conference.

## Formative Child Assessments

Teaching Strategies GOLD® support is critical to ensure the appropriate use of formative child assessment to individualize learning environments, a key element of high-quality learning environments. Technical assistance for educators and administrators connects standards with curriculum to facilitate and document children's learning. Participants learn to collect, analyze and use the industry-standard GOLD® assessment system to evaluate child knowledge, skills and dispositions through coaching, mentoring and communities of practice. Child care staff communicate with families through a feedback loop to demonstrate child progress and kindergarten readiness. In fiscal year 2022-2023, 73 programs participated in Teaching Strategies GOLD® supports, including 576 educators and administrators serving 3,364 children. Young children demonstrated growth across developmental domains from fall 2022 to spring 2023.

The percentage of 4-year-olds in Thrive by 5 early learning programs that met or exceeded developmental expectations increased from **Fall 2022** to **Spring 2023**.



# Early Child Care Access for Those in Need

In addition to improving child care quality, there is a great need in Miami-Dade to increase the number of available high-quality early learning slots. To support this goal, Thrive by 5 QIS offers Families Forward Child Care Scholarships for families who exceed federal school readiness subsidy eligibility (which is up to 150 percent of federal poverty levels) but still cannot afford the high cost of quality child care, for families up to 300 percent of federal poverty levels. Scholarships must be utilized at high-quality, tier four or five QIS programs. In turn, these programs benefit from increased enrollment and are encouraged to sustain their high levels of quality.

The Children's Trust also matches funding through community partners for the federal Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) and Florida's School Readiness Program. These child care program slots are filled by children living within or near the federal poverty level, children with disabilities, children of farmworkers, and children at risk of neglect and abuse. Programs also support labor force participation among parents. Financial security among families improves childhood experiences at home and promotes school readiness.

Through a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to the Miami Integrating Data for Effectiveness Across Systems (IDEAS) Consortium for equity-focused policy research, the University of Miami and University of Florida are examining the intersection of families' use of cross-sector support programs for early child care (school readiness, Thrive by 5 Families Forward child care scholarships), nutrition (SNAP), family income (TANF) and housing benefits. This work aligns with The Children's Trust's two generational approaches to ensure socio-economically disadvantaged families' financial stability and security and children's positive development.

Since August 2022, The Trust has engaged in a partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense as part of the federal Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus program. This partnership enables high-quality QIS child care providers to serve military families who cannot access military-operated child care programs due to distance or waitlists, while leveraging an additional revenue stream.



## 3,300 Thrive by 5

**families  
forward**  
Child care scholarships for working families



### \$3.6 million

from The Children's Trust leverages

### \$28.1 million

in federal funding for

### 3,303

added high-quality child care slots for economically disadvantaged infants and toddlers.

# Developmental Screening, Assessment & Early Intervention

**E**arly detection and intervention are critical to put young children on their best developmental trajectory to reach their full potential. Although The Trust's 2022 early childhood systems mapping survey found that federally funded state early intervention programs can currently serve about 10,000 children annually, the National Survey of Children's Health estimates nearly 19 percent of children under age 5 in Florida, or about 28,000 in Miami-Dade, have special health care needs. Thus, The Trust's additional investments in early screening, assessment and intervention are critical.



## UNIVERSAL SCREENING

In The Trust's 2023 community survey, parents reported that 88 percent of young children received regular developmental screenings, mostly from their health care provider (79 percent), followed by the child's early child care provider (36 percent). About three-quarters of parents agreed that developmental screenings are useful and trustworthy, yet just over one-third still worry that screenings will label their child more than help.

Developmental screening and referral (as needed) are available through Trust-funded early childhood parenting and home visitation programs. During fiscal year 2022-2023, these programs conducted 4,613 developmental screenings of 2,942 children, and 18 percent identified a follow-up need. They also conducted more than 700 maternal depression screenings.

## AUTISM ASSESSMENT

Diagnostic evaluations are conducted by specialized clinicians for children who present complex behaviors suggestive of an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) within the Early Steps or Miami-Dade County Public Schools pre-K diagnostic or FDLRS evaluation processes. Results support timely school placement, interventions and/or specialized learning environments. In fiscal year 2022-2023, 83 percent of the 77 children assessed were diagnosed with ASD.

## EARLY DISCOVERY

This program provides care coordination and early intervention services for children with mild developmental delays who do not meet state-defined criteria to receive early intervention services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), part B or C (i.e., FDLRS, Early Steps). During fiscal year 2022-2023, 413 children were served with an average of seven sessions, with 70 to 86 percent demonstrating improvement, depending on the developmental domain. In addition, 84 percent of surveyed parents with children who later enrolled in public schools reported that their children did not require special education placement.

## EARLY INTERVENTION SUMMER CAMPS

Many young children who qualify for intensive early intervention programming through IDEA are only provided with school-year services. Young children are especially at risk of losing progress during the summer. Therapeutic health and early intervention summer camps use evidence-based methods to develop motor, cognitive, language, literacy, social, emotional, physical and self-care skills. The aim is for children to maintain or improve their developmental skills, achieve school readiness and develop their full potential. Eight programs served 702 children, for an average of 28 summer camp sessions per child.



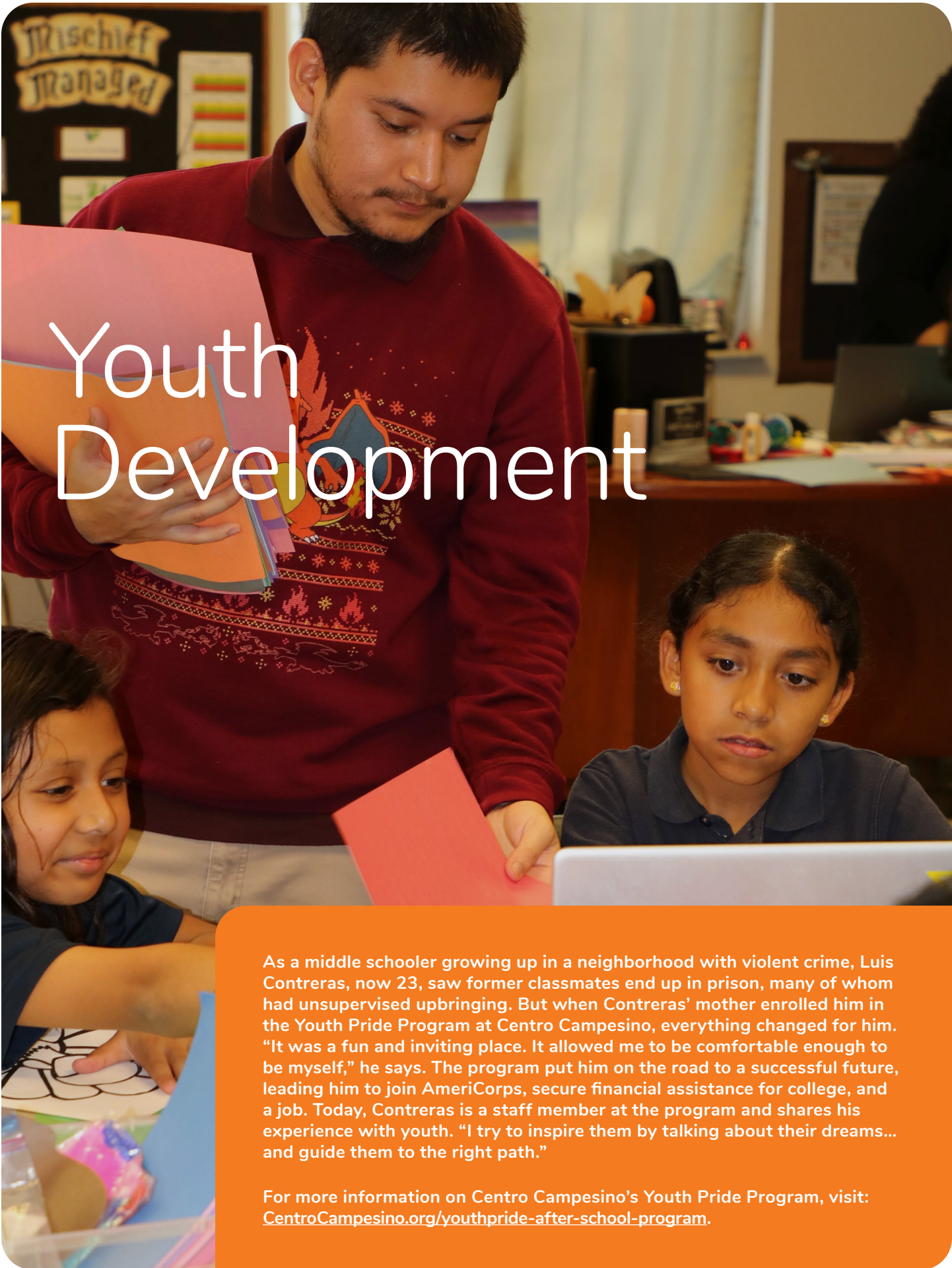


## Community Research Partnerships



Community-based organizations and researchers partner to implement and evaluate evidence-based and promising early childhood interventions for high-need children and their families. The results contribute to the field of learning about what works within the diverse Miami-Dade community, as well as inform other funders about successful services that warrant continuation or scaling. The Children's Trust funded six projects in 2022-2023 that evaluated early child care social-emotional learning supports for teachers and children; maternal and infant health; early literacy and school readiness supports in Pre-K classrooms; early childhood inclusion care for children with visual impairments; and therapeutic parent-child interventions for families experiencing homelessness. The partnerships served 2,229 children, 492 teachers, 425 staff and screened 204 parents across 37 sites.

Research results across projects have been shared through various national professional conferences and peer-reviewed publications. For example, in September 2023, the Black Mother's Care Plan presented at the annual Zero to Three conference during a session focused on mitigations to advance equity in perinatal care, and Miami Lighthouse for the Blind published, "Why an Inclusive Classroom is an Exceptional Classroom" in *Exceptional Parent Magazine*.



# Youth Development

As a middle schooler growing up in a neighborhood with violent crime, Luis Contreras, now 23, saw former classmates end up in prison, many of whom had unsupervised upbringing. But when Contreras' mother enrolled him in the Youth Pride Program at Centro Campesino, everything changed for him. "It was a fun and inviting place. It allowed me to be comfortable enough to be myself," he says. The program put him on the road to a successful future, leading him to join AmeriCorps, secure financial assistance for college, and a job. Today, Contreras is a staff member at the program and shares his experience with youth. "I try to inspire them by talking about their dreams... and guide them to the right path."

For more information on Centro Campesino's Youth Pride Program, visit: [CentroCampesino.org/youthpride-after-school-program](http://CentroCampesino.org/youthpride-after-school-program).



**T**he Children's Trust makes its largest investment, nearly \$82 million annually, in youth development programs for school-age children and youth to have enriching after-school and summer experiences that are accessible, affordable and inclusive.

The major solicitation process that took place in 2022-2023 launched a new five-year funding cycle starting in August 2023 with goals to:

- Increase efficiency and program continuity by including grades K through 12 within one initiative.
- Increase flexibility in program design, with fewer prescriptive activities and scheduling requirements.
- Increase the variety of enrichment activities for children and youth who might not otherwise participate in meaningful, high-quality, dynamic and engaging specialty learning experiences.
- Increase engagement and support of youth with complex needs, including children and youth with disabilities, youth involved in the dependency and/or delinquency systems, and those disconnected from school and/or work.
- Streamline outcomes to reduce data collection burden and increase meaningful results.

In The Trust's 2023 community survey, only about half of parents of elementary school-age children reported their child participating in after-school and summer programming. For parents of middle schoolers, reports of children's after-school participation declined to 44 percent, and only 27 percent of parents of high school-age youth reporting their children's participation. The primary reasons parents gave for not enrolling their child in after-school and summer programs were lack of affordability and convenient locations. Trust youth development programming aims to reduce these barriers to access.

Parents also rated the importance of various after-school and summer camp activities. The most highly rated features included physical activity, a positive social environment and learning life skills. School help emerged as one of the top-rated after-school activities, as well as STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) programs among parents of middle schoolers. At the high school level, post-secondary preparation was also highly rated. Across grade levels, even the less selected activities were rated as "must haves" by more than a third of survey respondents, highlighting a need for varied programming activities to meet families' interests.

Quality youth programs can increase school attendance, improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors, prevent summer learning loss and support working families.<sup>5</sup> Children who participate in after-school programs are more likely to report confidence and school pride, handle anger in appropriate ways, have better school attendance and performance, and develop more positive social identities.<sup>6</sup>

# K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade After-School Programs & Summer Camps

**E**lementary school children need high-quality after-school and summer programs, especially when parents work outside the home and want to ensure safe and supervised environments for their children. In 2022-2023, the final year of a 5-year funding cycle, Trust programs used evidence-based practices in reading, fitness, homework completion, and social and emotional learning skills, as well as provided nutritious food and family involvement activities.

High-quality after-school and summer programming can have long-term effects on children’s quality of life. For example, summer camps can protect against learning loss (especially in reading) while school is out. This loss is often more significant for students living in lower income households and tends to accumulate over time, widening achievement gaps.<sup>7</sup> There are significant needs to support early literacy and reading among elementary school students. In 2022, the portions of Miami-Dade fourth graders scoring proficient or above on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) indicate significant racial disparities, with 21 percent of Black, 40 percent of Hispanic, and 64 percent of White students reaching this achievement.

Trust programs offer general group literacy activities for all participants, along with individualized, small-group differentiated literacy instruction for children reading below grade level. A few programs also specialized in STEM, arts and/or specialized programming for children with disabilities. In summer 2023, program enrollment exceeded pre-pandemic levels by nearly 2,500 children. Similarly, 2022-2023 after-school enrollment improved to nearly full recovery.

Observations of 66 Trust-funded K-5 summer camps in 2023 using the Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment indicated that more than 90 percent of programs met or exceeded quality standards related to creating safe spaces. For example, staff provided safe and welcoming environments through fostering positive emotional climate, conveying warmth and respect, providing support for safe space, demonstrating positive group management style, demonstrating mutual accountability, and showing active inclusion. Other notable program strengths related to fostering growth mindsets through using non-evaluative language and attributing achievement to effort, and to scaffolding learning by breaking tasks into steps and monitoring challenge levels.



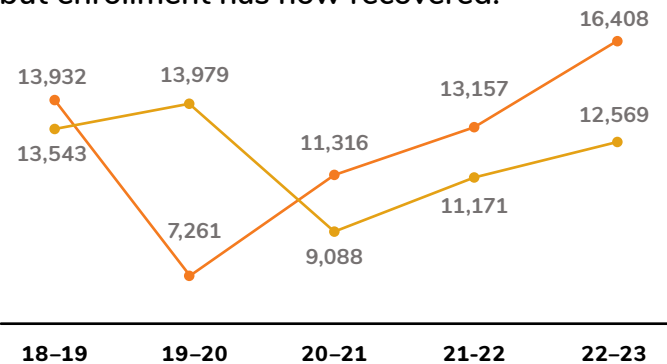
K-5 PROGRAMS	22-23 SCHOOL YEAR	SUMMER 2023	ANNUAL TOTAL*
<b>Programs</b>	82	90	<b>94</b>
<b>Sites</b>	174	182	<b>220</b>
<b>Children</b>	12,569	16,408	<b>23,032</b>

\* Annual totals represent unduplicated counts across timeframes. Some programs, sites and children are in one or both timeframes, so the numbers cannot be added.



**87%** of children improved literacy skills.

K-5 participant enrollment in **after-school** and **summer** programs over the last 5-year cycle was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but enrollment has now recovered.



## Summer Reading Explorers

In 2023, the program assessed 1,871 children during the summer before they entered kindergarten, first and second grade at 71 sites. They identified 1,188 as readers in need of small-group intervention, and over the course of the summer these children received an average of 16.6 sessions. Children demonstrated meaningful growth, with 75 percent of those post-tested demonstrating meaningful improvement (i.e., four or more-point improvement). Parents of participating children and camp program staff were highly satisfied with the services, and 99 percent of parents would recommend the program to others. In addition, 99 percent of parents reported their child increased their enthusiasm for reading.

## Battle of the Books

This fifth annual literary challenge included six weeks of activities and featured special guests who prompted children to read three books by local authors in a quest to be crowned the ultimate “Book Battle Warrior.” Participants at Trust-funded summer camps received over 900 books, and 1,192 children across nine sites participated in the finale. The winning teams participated in a field trip to a Miami Marlins game and the opening of the HistoryMiami Museum Myths and Creatures exhibit.



# 6–12<sup>th</sup> Grade After-School Programs & Summer Camps

**A**fter-school programs for older youth have the potential to support healthy development in many ways, including increasing school attendance, improving academic performance, preventing summer learning loss, supporting mental health and decreasing risky behaviors.<sup>8</sup> Teens who are supervised when not in school will be less likely to take risks that might get them into trouble. Summer months pose similar risks for disengaged youth. In 2022, 1.8 million youth in the U.S. used alcohol for the first time, 437,000 youth smoked cigarettes for the first time, and 1.2 million youth used marijuana for the first time, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health.<sup>9</sup>




The hours youth are not supervised or participating in structured activities are not only times of risk, but also times of lost opportunity to develop competencies and skills to succeed in school and life. Youth’s constructive use of out-of-school time has been associated with higher grades, interest in furthering education, positive social development, enhanced self-image, reduced risk-taking behavior and absences from school, and better behavior in school. Although overall graduation rates have increased over time, multi-year trends for Miami-Dade County demonstrate persistent racial disparities, with a more than 12-point disparity between White and Black students in 2022 (94.5 percent versus 82.4 percent, respectively). Graduation for Hispanic students was 88.9 percent, and 88.2 percent overall.

Through the youth development 6-12 initiative, a variety of after-school and summer enrichment opportunities are offered focusing on academic success (during the school year), social and emotional learning, and at least one specific additional skill-building opportunity to help youth explore careers and topics of interest as they grow towards adulthood. Specialized programming includes arts, STEM, civic engagement, sports, entrepreneurship and college readiness. In addition, programs offer job training and job coaching during the school year to help interested youth meet the enrollment criteria to participate in various existing paid summer work and internship programs in Miami-Dade County. After-school programs engage youth for a minimum of 50 days and at least 150 hours of participation in the school year. Summer programs engage youth for a minimum of 15 days and at least 90 hours of participation. Like the pattern for K-5 programs, 6-12 enrollment in 2022-2023 recovered to pre-pandemic levels seen in 2018-2019.



6–12 PROGRAMS	22–23 SCHOOL YEAR	SUMMER 2023	ANNUAL TOTAL*
Programs	56	60	72
Sites	109	93	147
Youth	4,379	4,340	7,554

\*Annual totals represent unduplicated counts across timeframes. Some programs, sites and children are in one or both timeframes, so the numbers cannot be added.

-  **93%** of youth built knowledge and skills for **entrepreneurship**.
-  **75%** of youth improved **college readiness** skills.
-  **73%** of youth improved **art** skills.

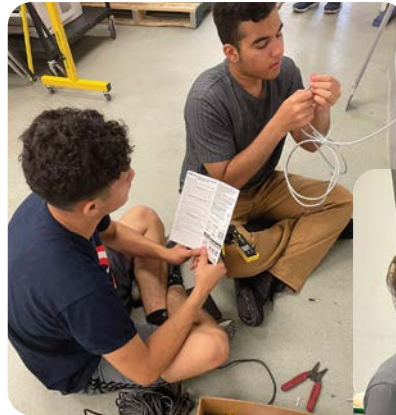


# Funder Collaboration

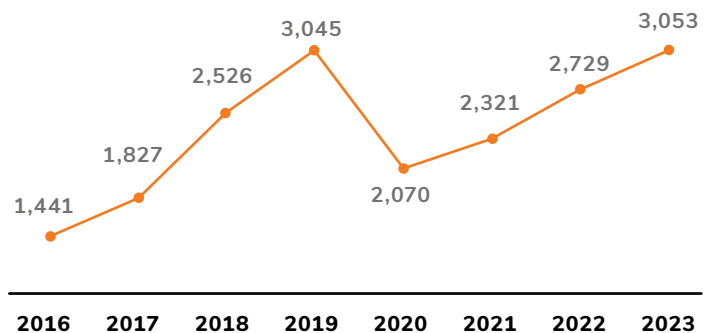
## Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP)

This five-week, work-based learning experience is supported by The Children’s Trust, Miami-Dade County, CareerSource South Florida, EdFed (Education Federal Credit Union), Foundation for New Education Initiatives, and Griffin Catalyst. Managed by the Department of Career and Technical Education at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), SYIP provides meaningful paid summer internships (150 work hours) for high school students (entering 10th to 12th grade) that offer real-life experience in practical settings with professionals in the community. For the first time in summer 2023, SYIP successfully expanded and was open to all charter schools, with 14 charter high schools choosing to participate and 83 charter school students completing the program.

In summer 2023, a total of 3,053 students successfully completed internships at 702 companies and organizations, both increases from the prior summer. Students are placed in professional environments across the county and are supported by certified teachers who monitor their progress over the summer through visits and assignments. All interns open an EdFed savings account where they are paid by direct deposit for the internship. Those who complete the internship receive high school credit, and 473 students also earned college credit in the summer of 2023 through the dual-enrollment program. SYIP has an intentional focus on engaging high-need youth. In summer 2023, 19.8 percent of student participants were identified as living with disabilities (up from 13 percent the prior summer), and 73 percent qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. SYIP collaborated with the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD), providing additional training and support to establish a direct linkage to the program for JSD-involved youth. Nearly 100 percent of youth, employers and instructors surveyed reported being satisfied with SYIP.



The number of **youth completing a SYIP** more than doubled in the first four years of the program, and in 2023 fully recovered to that level for the first time since the 2020 pandemic.





## Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

A partnership that began in 2006 to increase access to the arts, The Children’s Trust annually matches \$1.5 million to the county’s \$3.4 million to fund nearly 80 nonprofit organizations that engage children and youth in cultural arts education and enrichment. Programs include youth arts enrichment, summer arts and science camps, and All Kids Included Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids, which promotes arts and cultural programs so that children of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. During fiscal year 2022-2023, 36,493 children and youth were engaged overall, with 2,162 attending intensive arts or science programs.

## Miami-Dade County Public Library System (MDPLS)

The Children’s Trust supports STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) programming and academic tutoring by MDPLS. The Technobus brings instruction and digital services throughout the community, providing access to high-tech programming, tools and projects in a nurturing environment. During fiscal year 2022-2023, the bus visited 333 community sites, including 83 Trust-funded sites, and engaged 7,233 children and youth. In addition, MDPLS employed 105 part-time tutors (certified teachers) for small groups of students (K-12) to offer free in-person and virtual tutoring in reading, math and science at 29 library sites across the county, with a total of 47,702 tutoring sessions provided.

## Soccer For Success

U.S. Soccer Foundation is a leading expert in utilizing soccer as a vehicle to improve the health and social outcomes of children in underserved communities. Local partners deliver the Soccer for Success curriculum at 31 sites throughout Miami-Dade County. The foundation provides resources, materials, equipment, program curriculum and training. The program offers structured physical activity, nutrition education, mentoring and social emotional learning. During the 2022-2023 school year, a total of 3,307 participants were served. More than 85 percent reported satisfaction with the program. In August 2023, The Trust increased funding to expand this collaboration to include support for the Just Ball League, which will be associated with the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative’s installation of 50 new mini-soccer pitches across under-resourced areas of the county.





# Health & Wellness

In 2023, Anne Auguste took custody of her five nieces and nephews. Suddenly, she became responsible for the health and well-being of children who had not been to a doctor or dentist in years. When registering at John F. Kennedy Middle School, she learned they could get physicals and vaccines at the school's health clinic, one of the 145 locations funded by The Children's Trust. Exams led to the discovery of major hearing issues, vision difficulties, critical dental concerns and even the need for surgery for a serious medical condition. The children were referred to specialists and are now recovering well. "The clinics were like a savior," Auguste said. "We cried together when we found out we could get the help we needed."

For more information, visit: [cshs.dadeschools.net](https://cshs.dadeschools.net).



**T**he Children's Trust health and wellness investments include nearly \$21 million in support of multiple strategies: school-based health, vision follow-up services, oral health training and preventive services, food and nutrition services, public benefits enrollment, and injury prevention education. A child's health and wellness significantly impact learning, behavior and overall quality of life. The Trust's strategies take into consideration the powerful influence of social determinants and the interdependent nature of health, well-being and education. Those with higher levels of education generally have better health outcomes across their lifespan, and access to health care and resources can improve school attendance, learning and educational attainment.

In The Trust's 2023 community survey, most parents reported Medicaid or Florida KidCare as the primary insurance coverage for children across all age groups, ranging from 52 percent of parents with middle school-age youth to 71 percent of parents with preschool-age children. One-third of parents with elementary school-age children reported that their child did not have a personal doctor or nurse for health care. Trust investments aim to increase access to services for all children in participating schools, including those who lack health resources and are underinsured or uninsured.

The Children's Trust has long supported the deployment of various mobile community health units, investing approximately \$1.4 million per year to partner with the University of Miami Department of Pediatrics, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, Community Health of South Florida, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FLDOH-MD) and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Miami. This modality increases access to health, vision, dental and injury prevention services for high-need children and youth, serving more than 12,000 during fiscal year 2022-2023.

Most parents in The Trust's community survey indicated they were very likely or somewhat likely to allow their child to use mobile health units at school, ranging from 83 percent of parents of elementary school-age children to 80 percent and 73 percent, respectively, for parents of middle and high school-age youth.

# School-Based Health

**S**chool-based health centers are one of the most effective ways to deliver preventive services to school-age children and youth.<sup>10</sup> Through this initiative, The Children's Trust aims to equalize access to care for children. Families who lack health insurance or are underinsured, are socioeconomically disadvantaged or have children with special needs can especially benefit from school-based health centers.

A collaborative partnership between The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the FLDOH-MD enables six health care agencies to provide nursing, social work and mental health services in about half of all public elementary, K-8, middle and senior high schools (145 sites) serving more than 108,000 students in the 2022-2023 school year. The overarching goal is to improve access to quality health care through delivery of basic services in schools and community referrals. Services promote a healthy school environment that identifies, prevents and remedies student health problems.

School health providers are required to bring at least a 10 percent match to The Children's Trust funding. In addition, Trust funds for Miami-Dade's four Federally Qualified Health Centers, which are community-based health care providers funded to provide primary care services in underserved areas, were utilized to leverage more than \$4 million from the state and federal Agency for Healthcare Administration's Low-Income Pool (LIP) program for the provision of health care services for uninsured and underinsured populations in Miami-Dade.

Nearly three-quarters of parents of elementary and middle school-age youth on The Trust's community survey reported that there was a nurse or other health professional at their child's school. This dropped significantly for the high school group, where just over half of parents surveyed said that there was a health professional on site. Satisfaction among parents who reported that their child had used school-based health services averaged about 80 percent, with just two to four percent who disagreed or strongly disagreed with being satisfied with the services. Across age groups, the most prioritized school-based health services were: 1) first aid care; 2) medical evaluation (to see if the child needs to go home); 3) emotional, behavioral and mental health screenings, as well as counseling when needed; and 4) support for children with disabilities or chronic health conditions.



SERVICE	VISITS	PREP/ FOLLOW-UP	STUDENTS SERVED*	# STAFF FUNDED
Nursing	157,142	18,480	53,155	200
Mental Health & Social Work	12,032	13,862	5,078	57
BMI, Vision & Dental Screenings	64,429	5,213	37,855	Nursing staff conducts screenings.
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>233,603</b>	<b>37,555</b>	<b>71,140</b>	<b>257</b>

\* Some students received more than one service, so these numbers cannot be added across services.

In the 2022-2023 school year, 71,140 students were served with 233,603 health visits, including nursing, social work and mental health encounters. More than 64,000 screenings were conducted for vision, oral health and body mass index (BMI). Additionally, staff dedicate efforts to preparation for and follow-up on student services, which include calls with students, parents, teachers or other providers, as well as review and preparation of documentation. Follow-ups are critical to ensure students receive necessary care. Nursing visits and follow-up includes early detection, disease prevention and health promotion.

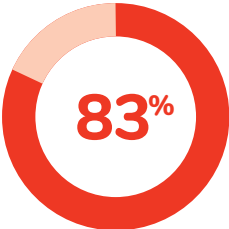
Nearly 15,000 students served in Trust-funded school health clinics have a chronic health condition. Of the 62 different conditions tracked, the most common were severe and not severe allergies (nearly half), asthma (about a quarter) and ADD/ADHD (just over seven percent). Nurses and health professionals working for Trust-funded agencies also conducted 2,217 educational sessions for 47,973 students and 3,332 faculty members. The most frequent educational session topics included mental health, bullying prevention, general health, hygiene and nutrition.



Equally important to physical health, behavioral health services are critical to ensure social and emotional well-being and to support student attendance and academic achievement. Social workers and other school-based mental health professionals are often a primary source of mental health support received by students. Behavioral health services are delivered within a multi-tier model of services that includes schoolwide and small-group interventions, as well as more intensive, individualized interventions when indicated. Services include screening, assessment, prevention programming, counseling and family consultation. In 2022-2023, social workers at agencies funded by The Children’s Trust conducted 3,252 group psychosocial education sessions on topics such as academic issues, anxiety, attendance and adjustment issues (i.e., difficulties coping with stressful life events). The City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities continue to commit \$192,600 per year to ensure behavioral health enhancements remain in place in all eight Miami Beach public schools, as they have for the past seven years.

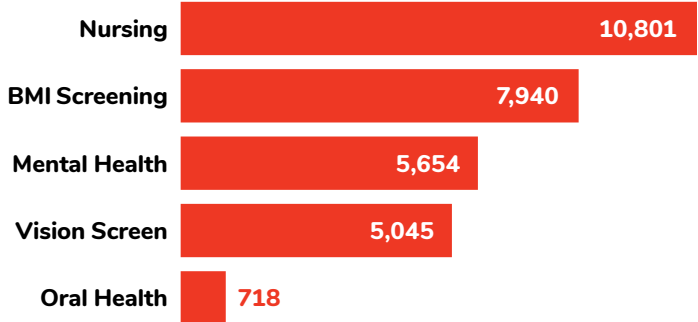
In 2022-2023, nurses screened 37,855 students with 64,429 health screenings. Multiple routine screenings are indicators of child well-being and positive long-term development. Results provide the opportunity for school health staff to identify students in need of follow-up services or interventions. As such, 30,158 referrals were made, with more than a third for follow-up on an issue identified in a nursing visit, and almost one in five for mental health follow-up.

BMI is an indicator of cardiovascular disease risk. As such, the FLDOH requires BMI screenings for students in grades 1, 3 and 6. School health sites funded by The Children’s Trust conduct additional BMI screenings in grade 9, based on its importance. Of the 31,218 students who received a growth screening, one in four needed weight follow-up services.

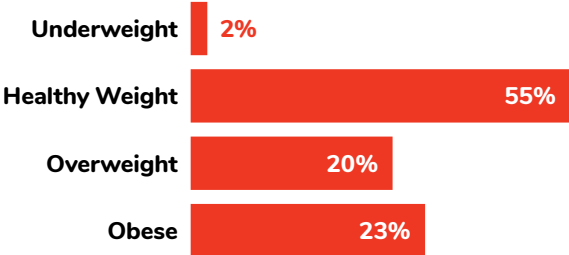


of school health visits resulted in students returning to class.

Last year, more than **30,000** school health referrals were made for community follow-up services related to:



More than **40%** of students screened were overweight or obese:



# Vision Follow-Up Services

Vision impacts a child's physical, cognitive and social development, and good vision is a predictor of academic achievement for school-age children.<sup>11</sup> Early identification of vision problems is critical to a child's health and school outcomes. School-based health programming includes regular vision screenings for students in grades K, 1, 3 and 6, conducted in alignment with the FLDOH requirements, to identify potential vision deficits.

The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind administers the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. This comprehensive vision follow-up program offers free eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses for preschool and school-age children who are financially disadvantaged. The primary goals are early detection of vision impairments, facilitation of access to vision care, and promotion of optimal visual functioning to ensure students succeed academically and socially.



**18%** of 28,082 students screened for vision needed follow-up services.



**5,259** comprehensive eye exams, with **3,005** eyeglasses for students who lack vision care.

# Oral Health Training & Preventive Services

Tooth decay is one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood.<sup>12</sup> If left untreated, it can lead to severe infection and complex treatments with negative implications for routine behaviors like eating, speaking and school performance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2019 Oral Health Surveillance report, the prevalence of tooth decay was 17 percent among 6 to 11-year-olds and 57 percent among 12 to 19-year-olds.<sup>13</sup> One study found children with poor oral health status are nearly three times more likely to miss school as a result of dental pain, and absences caused by pain were associated with poorer school performance.<sup>14</sup> School-based health programming includes regular oral health screenings to identify risk factors for oral disease, even though such screenings are not required by the FLDOH. In the 2022-2023 school year, 118 school nurses received training and 77 received coaching to conduct oral health screening, prevention and referrals.

Oral health education and preventive services are also offered in the community for uninsured or underinsured preschool and elementary children attending Trust-affiliated early child care and Trust-funded after-school and summer programs. Services include oral health education and counseling, screening for oral diseases, fluoride varnish application, dental sealants and referrals for connection to a primary dental care provider for comprehensive continuity of care and any needed restorative services.



**1 in 6** of 4,134 students screened for oral health needed follow-up services.



**3,349** children received oral health services, including fluoride varnish and **930** sealants for **345** children.

# Food & Nutrition Services

Healthy foods and nutrition are especially important for growth and development during childhood and adolescence. All Trust-funded after-school and summer youth development programs provide nutritious snacks, meals and beverages that meet U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements. The focus is to improve children's health by offering healthy and satisfying snacks and meals that are nutrient-dense and low in fat, utilizing the federal Afterschool Meals Program.

Food and nutrition-related supports for programs include monitoring, food acquisition and distribution, meal planning, and facilitation of applications to the FLDOH for the federally-subsidized program. Providing nutritious sustenance in structured after-school settings is critical to learning and engagement, and for some children, this may also be their best opportunity for a hot meal in the evening.



Afterschool Meals Program return on investment was **\$1.5 million** for a Trust amount of **\$600,000** that provided **459,786** snacks and suppers.



## Public Benefits Enrollment

Based upon the critical impact of social determinants on child health and well-being, The Children's Trust invests in supports to assist families with public benefits enrollment. With the significant economic impact of inflation and the high cost of living in Miami-Dade, where many families already have incomes below the federal poverty threshold, these benefits are needed more than ever.

Priority benefits programs supported include family-relevant, federal means-tested programs and other entitlement and assistance programs, including but not limited to Special Supplemental Nutrition Program to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid and KidCare (Florida's Children's Health Insurance Program), and Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

No single strategy can increase enrollment in public benefit programs; it takes strong community partnerships, broad and focused outreach strategies, and one-on-one enrollment assistance to support families' access. Services aim to maximize economic benefits for socioeconomically disadvantaged children and their families, ultimately contributing to the broader local economy and child well-being. In addition to reducing children's poverty and hunger, public nutrition benefits and food assistance during childhood are associated with health, school success, graduation and adult economic success.<sup>15</sup>

In 2022-2023, 2,122 families were served, with 82 percent successfully enrolling in at least one benefit program. Many families are assisted with multiple benefits for several family members. In total, 3,815 benefits were approved, resulting in support for 3,024 individual children, youth and adult caregivers who qualify. For those benefits with a defined financial value, nearly \$400,000 in benefits were obtained by 882 children and parents.

## Injury Prevention Education

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and death among children in the United States.<sup>16</sup> In Miami-Dade County, there were 32,622 emergency room visits by children and youth, ages 0-19 years, due to unintentional injuries in 2020.<sup>17</sup> In that same year, there were 653 hospitalizations and 47 deaths of children due to unintentional injuries.<sup>18</sup>

Injuries can lead to physical, cognitive and emotional trauma, school absences, performance impairment, and family and financial stress.<sup>19</sup> While they vary by age, the primary causes of fatal child injuries are firearms, traffic accidents, poisoning, suffocation and drowning.<sup>20</sup> Trust funding supports Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, which provides multilingual, interactive education for parents, caregivers and youth focused specifically on home safety, child passenger safety and teen driving safety. Education must be responsive and ongoing to address the growing community and its evolving needs.

The coalition also certifies national Child Passenger Safety technicians and promotes media-assisted awareness-raising on injury prevention topics. With the use of a mobile unit, the coalition offered in-person trainings while still providing virtual trainings to meet the interests of participants during fiscal year 2022-2023, providing 350 trainings for 1,552 individuals.





# Parenting

Parenting programs at Sant La Haitian Community Center helped Marie Ulysse and her family three different times. Her first experience with her elder daughter led to better communication. “It taught me how to speak with others, keep (my) composure and how to respect your parents,” her daughter said. Marie then attended with her son, who recalls, “When I was young, I was hardheaded. Sant La helped me become more mature and be more respectful toward adults.” Even before she was 10 (the age for eligibility), Marie’s youngest daughter wanted to be in the program like her siblings before her. “She was so happy. The program helps parents and their children communicate better, like myself, with my three children. We are forever grateful to the program.”

For more information on Sant La’s parenting programs, visit: [SantLa.org/our-programs](https://SantLa.org/our-programs).

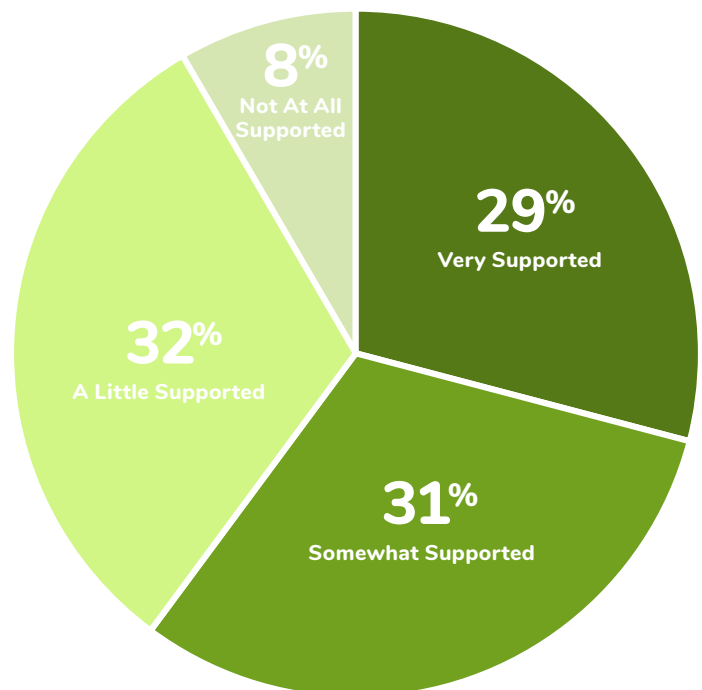




**E**ffective, consistent and supportive parenting prepares children for a lifetime of success. Specifically, nurturing and involved parenting and family supports strengthen positive child outcomes related to emotional, behavioral, social and cognitive competence, and physical health and safety. This stability typically results in an increase in academic success, a decrease in youth violence and disruptive behavior, and positive mental health outcomes for both children and parents.<sup>21, 22</sup>

The Trust's 2023 community survey found that even though most parents in Miami-Dade feel supported in their parenting role, a significant portion do not. Furthermore, half of respondents thought it was very hard or somewhat hard to find parenting programs and services. The most noted barriers to finding services were: 1) timing and schedule difficulties; 2) inconvenient locations and transportation issues; and 3) not being able to find the program they were looking for. Prior parenting program participants made up 62 percent of survey respondents. Of the remaining who had not already participated in a parenting program, class or service, 86 percent expressed interest in doing so in the future. Topics of interest were numerous and varied, including child development, child behavior, social/peer relationships, learning/school-readiness/school performance, reducing child stress/trauma, age-appropriate discipline, parent mental health/stress, child nutrition, and more.

**60%** of parents reported feeling **very or somewhat supported** as parents raising their children in Miami-Dade County.





By investing more than \$30 million in various evidence-based parenting programs and strategies, The Children’s Trust provides Miami-Dade’s diverse families with a continuum of choices to suit their needs and preferences. High-quality information can make a difference for all caregivers,<sup>23</sup> while some families benefit from more intensive supports. The services aim to support parents, caregivers and children of all ages, from the prenatal period through the transition to adulthood, and to improve the overall well-being of families. Funding was added to early literacy programs, as well as through the major parenting solicitation process in 2022-2023 that launched a new 5-year funding cycle starting in October 2023, which had the goals to expand parenting services during the prenatal period, to support family mental health needs, and to support fatherhood programs.

Parenting is a challenging role. All parents and caregivers have questions and concerns about their children, but not everyone has trusted sources for answers and support. Some families experience challenges related to health, lack of economic opportunity and other stressors, such as job loss, health concerns and unmet child care needs. The anxiety and struggles resulting from such adversity may contribute to an increased risk of children entering the dependency system due to abandonment, abuse or neglect.

In 2022-2023, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice reported that 571 youth were arrested for aggressive assault or assault behaviors in Miami-Dade County, with more than 1,700 arrests in total.<sup>25</sup> While youth arrests have seen a downward trend in the past few years, parenting programs offer an essential element in further reducing such problem behaviors and youth violence.

Parenting providers continued to refine virtual and hybrid approaches to service provision in 2022-2023. By adapting to the broad spectrum of needs and preferences expressed by children and families, parenting providers aim to engage the highest possible number of families.

## CONTINUUM OF CARE<sup>24</sup>

### UNIVERSAL

Brief, generally relevant services offer effective, low-cost strategies to reach large, diverse groups interested in promoting positive parenting practices that support child development. Services include one-time workshops and informational resources.

### SELECTIVE

Designed for families when faced with parenting challenges like health or behavior problems related to social, educational, economic or environmental factors. Services include group and individual sessions or home visiting, typically with multiple contacts over several months.

### INDICATED

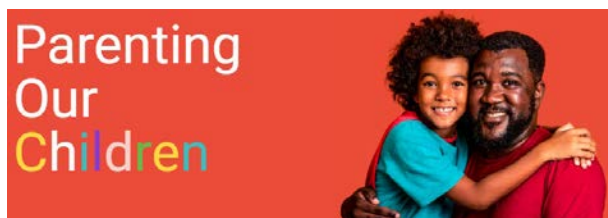
Therapeutic services for families with challenges related to child/youth behavior, parent-child relationships, and/or consequences of violence, mental health or substance abuse. Services are more intensive and frequent, delivered by trained clinicians, in home or clinic environments.



# Universal Services

## Parenting Our Children Newsletter

The *Parenting Our Children* newsletter offers a brief, informative resource, produced in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, to address timely and engaging parenting topics. The newsletter is distributed digitally and in print monthly, and topics include current challenges parenting techniques and information on resources relevant to parents and caregivers from The Children's Trust and others. Anyone can subscribe to this newsletter by visiting: [TheChildrensTrust.org/subscribe](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/subscribe).



**54,110** digital subscribers.

## Parent Club

The Children's Trust Parent Club is operated by local parenting experts with support from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade Public Library System. It provides workshops in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole to enhance awareness and knowledge for thousands of parents and caregivers.

Sessions aim to strengthen social supports by connecting parents with one another and linking families to additional resources when needed. With more than 30 different workshop topics offered throughout the county in person and online, caregivers are encouraged to attend multiple sessions. In 2022-2023, 9,377 parents attended 1,122 workshops. Just under half of workshops took place virtually.



**97%**

of Parent Club participants gained skills they intend to put into practice.

**6 UNIVERSAL CONTRACTS**

**699,551** books distributed through Book Club, Reach Out & Read, Books for Free, Reading Explorers, and the Summer Battle of the Books.

**44,019** active Book Club members.

**9,377** parents and caregivers attended Parent Club workshops.

## Book Club

The Children's Trust Book Club enrolls young children and their families from birth until their fifth birthday. Though available to all Miami-Dade children under 5, there is a focus on enrollment in areas with higher rates of child poverty and lower levels of language development, school readiness and third grade reading scores. In 2022-2023, The Trust launched an expansion of the Book Club through event activations and community outreach. The Book Club hosted families from across the county in a weekend-long activation in the Children's Alley of the Miami Book Fair that included local author read-alouds, sing-alongs, parent workshops, early literacy games, puppetry and face painting.

Throughout 2023, the Book Club expanded efforts in the predominantly Haitian American sectors of the community, providing a five-book home library of Haitian Creole and bilingual books, giveaways and educational materials in Haitian Creole, and engaged more families through a communications and community engagement campaign that featured a musical jingle and advertisements for the Book Club in Haitian Creole. Home library packages were first provided to families at the Little Haiti Book Fair, and subsequently at various community events in Little Haiti, North Miami, Homestead and beyond.

The Book Club far exceeded its initial goal to increase membership to 40,000 children. After a peak of more than 47,000 members in May, the 2022-2023 year ended with a total of 44,019 active members. As children receive a book by mail every month, a total of 531,091 books were distributed, along with family reading guides to support parent interactions with children around sharing books. Due to a surge in enrollment and popularity, which stretched the financial resources allocated to the Book Club, registration was temporarily paused from May through September 2023. The Book Club registration reopened in October 2023, and funding in the coming year will expand initial enrollment goals by 50 percent, to reach at least 60,000 members.



## Books For Free

The Children's Trust Books for Free program utilizes community collection bins and book drives to collect new and gently-used children's books that are then placed in 76 bookshelves at select community sites for children ages birth to 8 years to take home and keep at no cost. Distribution sites include public places where parents and children frequent, such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices, barbershops, laundromats and other community organizations in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the county. Additional outreach and engagement activities incorporated over the past year included cultural storytelling events and temporary pop-up bookshelves throughout the county. In 2022-2023, the program collected 76,359 books and distributed 113,897. Operated by the Miami Dade College Book Fair, the program provided more than 40 percent in-kind match to the program, leveraging an additional \$192,126 value to the program.



**Giving books to young children increases shared reading opportunities. Children who begin reading routines early develop more advanced language and literacy skills.<sup>26</sup>**

## Reach Out & Read

This national model, which is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, champions the positive effects of reading daily and engaging in language-rich activities with young children within the context of positive parent-child interactions. The program trains medical providers on the importance of early relationships as the foundation for healthy brain development leading to the emergence of early language, literacy and social-emotional skills. Funding provides families with children from birth to 5 years of age with developmentally appropriate books in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole at well-child checkups. Services are available in 67 pediatric clinics across the county where at least half of the patients are uninsured or publicly insured. The Beginning at Birth expansion started in 2022-2023, adding services at four additional well-child checkups from birth to 6 months to the previously funded 10 visits in the core model from 6 months to 5 years.

# Selective Services

## Parenting Education

Short-term group and individual parenting services offer parents of children from birth to 18 years of age an opportunity to connect with and support each other as they learn and practice parenting skills through weekly structured activities. Session content includes strategies for effective communication, age-appropriate child development, behavior management, child safety and injury prevention. Services are offered in varied locations across the county, including community agencies, schools and child care centers. In fiscal year 2022-2023, about six percent of services were provided virtually.

## Home Visiting

Home visiting programs serve families who face parenting challenges and would like support throughout their child's early development. Multi-year programs offer education and skill-building for parents of children ages birth to 5 years. Providers offer evidence-based programs mainly in homes, with some sessions in pediatric offices and other therapeutic settings. Programs focus on child health, development and school readiness by encouraging nurturing parent-child relationships and safe homes. Developmental screenings help parents understand important milestones and connect them with resources and further assessment when needed. In addition, maternal depression screenings help parents understand their mental health status, mitigate parental stress and connect with essential services to enhance their well-being.



**38 SELECTIVE CONTRACTS**

**5,529** families of **9,901** children.

**8** education group sessions attended per family, on average, over 3 to 6-month timeframe.

Home visiting and individual services vary from 18 months to 5 years, with weekly to monthly visits based on needs.



## Indicated Services

### Family Behavioral Health

Clinical interventions are implemented individually in homes and other therapeutic and virtual settings with families and their children ages 2 to 18 years. Services include psychoeducation, parenting consultation, behavioral health and family therapy, with the goals of improving the parent-child relationship while reducing parent stress and child/youth disruptive behavior. A few programs enhance their models with natural helper supports that encourage treatment engagement and follow-through on needed behavioral health, substance abuse and other parenting services.

### Outcomes Across Selective & Indicated Services



**81%** improved parenting skills.  
**79%** increased positive parent-child interactions.

**88%** decreased child problem behavior or maintained appropriate behavior.  
**82%** decreased parenting stress.



**9 INDICATED CONTRACTS**

**865** families of **1,731** children.

**9** individual sessions attended per family, on average, ranging from 1 to 32 sessions.

Average duration is 3 to 6 months, based on model and needs.



# Family & Neighborhood Supports

Maria Torrez's life was thrown into chaos in 2023, with the loss of her 15-year-old daughter to cancer and the need to escape an abusive relationship. She and her two sons, 15 and 17, moved to Miami for a fresh start and found Amigos for Kids, which gave them hope and help with her new empty apartment. The organization provided beds and other furniture to help stabilize her family. "My kids slept so good like they hadn't slept in like a year. Just to see the faces on my kids, that they were comfortable, and we can sit down and have dinner. I know my daughter in heaven is looking over me, and I just want to thank Amigos for Kids for making my little apartment a home."

For more information on Amigos for Kids' Family & Neighborhood Supports program, visit: [AmigosForKids.org/programs](https://AmigosForKids.org/programs).



**C**hildren and youth growing up in neighborhoods with fewer economic opportunities are less likely to have access to quality schools, other public services and safe places to live and play that can help them thrive.<sup>27</sup> A range of positive childhood experiences and supports can promote good mental health, resilience and success as adults.<sup>28</sup>

Work in this area follows the Center for the Study of Social Policy's (CSSP) Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, which aims to increase family strengths, enhance child development and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs and communities in building five key protective factors.<sup>29</sup>

- 1. Parental resilience**
- 2. Social connections**
- 3. Knowledge of parenting and child development**
- 4. Concrete support in times of need**
- 5. Social and emotional competence of children**



The Children's Trust invests nearly \$16.2 million in Family and Neighborhood Supports. This includes 23 comprehensive community-based partnerships, along with a countywide 211 helpline and web-based community services directory. The overarching goal is to empower and connect families and youth with community resources that build on their strengths, address life challenges and offer individualized supports for families in need.



# Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships

**F**iscal year 2022-2023 was the first year of a new and expanded Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) funding cycle and service model. There are 22 FNSPs that offer comprehensive and individualized services for children, youth and their families experiencing challenges that may limit them from realizing their full health, social, educational and economic potential. Supports aim to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community trauma and violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, and extreme poverty.

FNSPs contribute at least 10 percent in match funding to programming. Lead agencies collaborate with formal and informal community partners to coordinate an array of services to meet participant needs. Partners may refer families and youth to FNSPs and may also offer services to which FNSPs refer participants in pursuit of their success plan goals. Partners may include community-based health and social service organizations, governmental agencies, educational and child care entities, law enforcement and justice agencies, faith-based organizations, and other agencies that work together to strengthen the system of care.

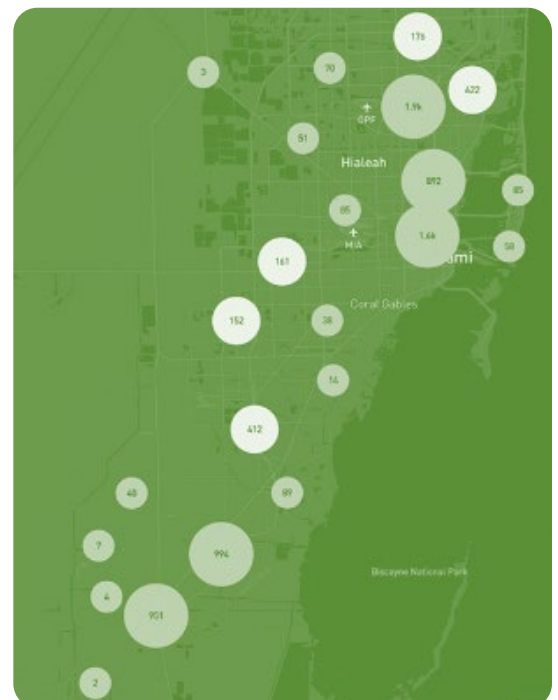
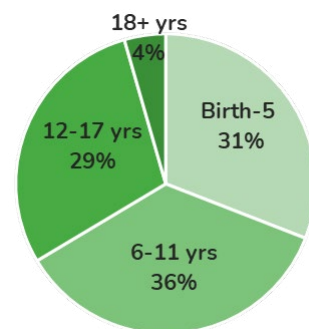
The foundational assumption for making this investment is that if The Trust promotes positive childhood experiences, builds family and youth strengths and relationships, and supports basic needs, children, youth and families will achieve better outcomes.

Populations served are listed below:

- Children and youth residing in neighborhoods affected by poverty, crime, unemployment and community violence
- Children exposed to family conflict and domestic violence
- Children of incarcerated parents
- Youth involved in or transitioning out of the child welfare system
- Children and youth affected by sexual abuse and/or human trafficking
- Families and youth experiencing homelessness or chronic housing instability
- Youth experiencing immigration challenges and/or in need of legal advocacy
- Families living with significant disabilities
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth



**FNSPs serve children and youth across all ages and across high-need areas of Miami-Dade County.**



**FAMILY & NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPORTS**

Because each family may need different frequency, intensity and duration of supports, contracts are based upon the number of direct service contact hours to be delivered, which is determined by the number of direct service staff members funded. All direct services are documented through a care coordination and referral system (CCRS). Three required services are designed to stabilize child and family environments.

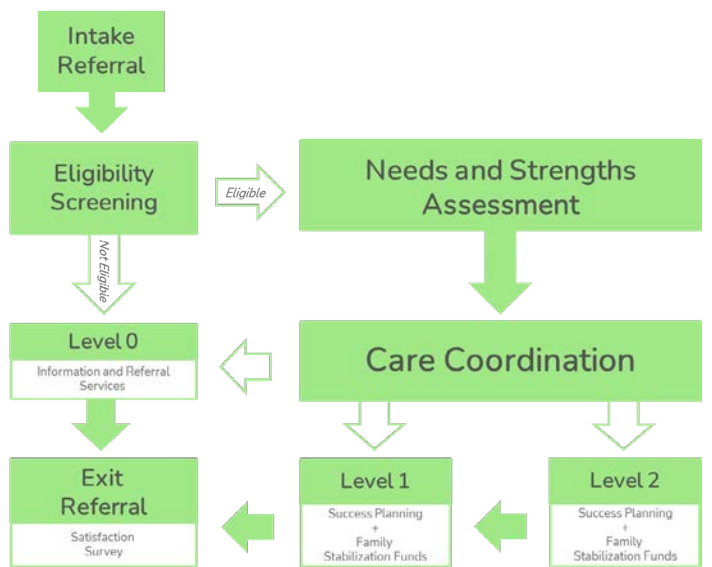
**Screening and assessment** uses standard and population-specific tools to determine family and youth eligibility, assess strengths, risks and needs to guide success plans and the level of care coordination required.

**Care coordination** includes tailored levels of wraparound supports from a team of success coaches and natural helpers, guided by jointly developed success plan goals that are supported by community service referrals, follow-up and resource connections. A dynamic, leveled care coordination approach allows providers to meet families where they are. Through flexibility to adjust service levels, success coaches can accommodate strength-building and goal achievement, as well as adjust service levels if there are setbacks or destabilizing factors.

**Family stabilization funding** in a total of \$500,000 annually across partnerships is available to reduce barriers to services and address family and youth emergencies, such as food insecurity, job loss, the threat of eviction, termination of utilities, and child endangerment related to family stressors and lack of basic needs.

Some programs offer additional services to meet the needs of participants, such as academic supports; behavioral, mental health or parent-child relationship supports; legal services and education; life skills supports; and vocational training and supports. One contract also includes \$500,000 annually to fund youth program inclusion and in-home respite supports for children with significant disabilities and accommodation needs, which are described in more detail in the Special Populations section of this report.

In fiscal year 2022-2023, FNSPs served 2,748 families, including 4,426 children and youth. Of these, 72 percent of families were enrolled in ongoing services and received 32,234 hours of care coordination. Another 10,886 hours of additional services were provided. Participating families had 5,115 activated success plan goals. The most frequent areas families were working on include housing stability, school achievement, basic needs, family functioning and caregiver mental health. Programs track the extent to which families and youth are progressing toward and achieving individualized success plan goals.



**More than 90% of families achieved or made progress on their success plan goals.**



FNSPs made 6,538 referrals related to supporting family and youth success plan goals. Of these, 57 percent were completed, 17 percent remain in progress and 25 percent were incomplete due to participant decision or lack of availability. The top referral types needed were for basic needs, housing and mental health services. Families exiting the program report high satisfaction levels.

# 211 Helpline

The 211 Helpline is a centralized point of coordination for information and referral for health and human services in Miami-Dade County. The service aims to provide up-to-date information for children and families to get the right services, at the right time and place. Telephone and text messaging assistance are offered in English, Spanish or Haitian Creole, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including crisis counseling. Trained counselors use an online, publicly available resource directory containing 4,463 resources provided by 1,152 agencies. There are details on programs, service sites, eligibility criteria and other specifications for a variety of needs such as food, housing, employment, health care, mental health and more. More than 23,500 individuals made 91,845 searches for services during fiscal year 2022-2023.

To make it easier for families to find low or no-cost summer camps and after-school programs, The Children’s Trust partnered with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Jewish Community Services of South Florida to promote the “More Choices” initiative. Starting with More Summer Camp Choices, nearly 500 programs funded by or operated through the anchor partners were listed on 211miami.org and widely promoted throughout the community. The efforts resulted in 400 times as many online searches than in the previous year (from 90 in 2022 to 35,778 in 2023) and a 40 percent increase in calls to the 211 Helpline for summer camps. This success led to More After-School Choices and More School Break Choices, which similarly list after-school programs and school break options for full-day camps on teacher planning days and holiday breaks.

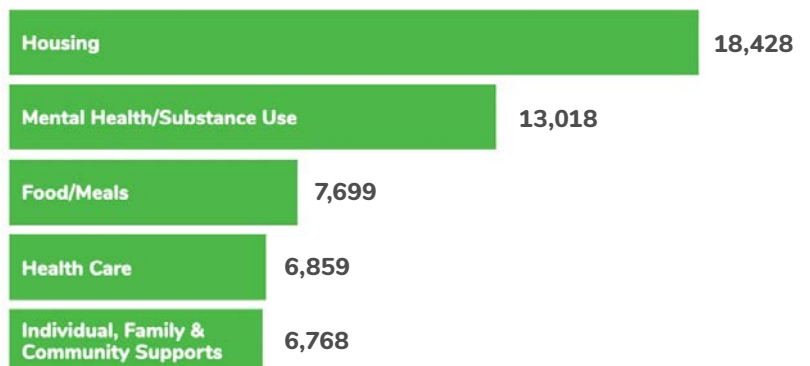
Jewish Community Services, as the 211 Helpline implementing agency, provides enhanced advocacy services for callers with chronic needs who are unable to address their needs on their own due to various impeding factors. In fiscal year 2022-2023, nearly 4,200 enhanced advocacy calls were completed. Overall, the top needs of callers remain similar to those in previous years, relating to various basic and health needs.



**49,150**  
callers were  
assisted with  
**67,663**  
needs.

**90%**  
recommend  
the 211  
Helpline  
services.

## Top 5 Needs of 211 Callers





## Family & Neighborhood Collaborations

**Together for Children** is a neighborhood-driven community coalition of governmental, public, private and nonprofit entities in Miami-Dade working to address the root causes of youth violence by strengthening families and empowering and protecting youth. The Trust is a member of each of the six neighborhood coalitions (in Homestead/Florida City/Naranja, Perrine/Goulds/Richmond Heights, Northeast Corridor, Overtown, Miami Gardens/Opa-locka, Liberty City/Brownsville) that follow local community action plans resulting from comprehensive community engagement efforts.

In addition, The Children's Trust partners with several community collaborations that support children and families, including: Community Based Care Alliance, Chapman Partnership Neighborhood Advisory Committee, Federal Human Trafficking Coalition, Florida Juvenile Justice Association, Florida KidCare Coalition, Goulds Community Action Advisory Committee, Goulds Ministerial Alliance, Helping Our Miami Youth Housing Committee, Live Healthy Little Havana, Live Healthy Miami Gardens, Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board, Miami-Dade County Human Trafficking Task Force, Miami-Dade County KidCare Coalition, Miami-Dade County Youth Crime Task Force, Northeast Corridor Early Childhood Committee, Richmond-Heights Ministerial Alliance, South Dade Cares, and Umbrella of Hope, among others.

**The HERO (Here Everyday Ready and On-time) Truancy Prevention Program** is an initiative funded by The Children's Trust, in partnership with Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, to aid in the prevention of youth violence. The HERO Program identifies elementary and K-8 students most at risk and provides them with the necessary prevention and intervention services to increase school attendance and reduce risk related to youth violence. During the 2022-2023 school year, students were engaged in intervention and prevention activities, including 1,763 home visits, 876 student conferences, and 1,559 parent conferences, resulting in 1,159 referrals for additional community-based services. The portion of participants with passing grades in mathematics was 82 percent, reading 73 percent, and science 87 percent.



# Special Populations

Born prematurely and following the death of his twin, Jayden is a miracle baby to his parents. But at 10 months old, they realized Jayden's speech was delayed and he wasn't reaching other milestones typical of toddlers, including only expressing frustration through crying. That changed soon after his parents enrolled him in the Child Development Center at Easterseals South Florida. In one year, he learned to communicate through spoken word and sign language, he loves to participate in circle time and sing-alongs, and is generally a happy toddler. "Since he began at Easterseals, we've seen improvements in his speech and social skills," says his mother. "I know that one day Jayden will be independent on his own."

For more information on Easterseals South Florida, visit: [Easterseals.com/southflorida](https://www.easterseals.com/southflorida).

**A**cross all priority investment areas, The Children's Trust maintains a commitment to supporting special populations with greater need for resources. These populations include children and youth with disabilities, as well as those involved in the child dependency or delinquency systems. This may also include children and families residing in neighborhoods affected by poverty, crime, unemployment, community violence and trauma. It is critical to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the negative impacts of child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, family housing instability, and extreme poverty. All Trust-funded programs are expected to be fully inclusive and competent at serving these special populations, and numerous resources are available to assist providers in accomplishing this goal.

## Children with Disabilities

**\$39.5 million** invested across service areas in support of children and youth with disabilities.

The need for services to be more inclusive and supportive of children and youth with disabilities was a major theme across the participant input collected over the past year. The 2023 community survey and numerous focus groups gathered parent input about their needs and interests regarding summer and after-school programs, parenting education and support, early child care and education, and health and wellness. Across the board, parents repeatedly mentioned supports for children's special health and mental health care needs.

- One of the reported barriers to after-school and summer program participation was a lack of special education accommodations that meant programs could not meet their children's needs. Among the suggestions for program improvements was for programs to be "adapted but inclusive for children with special needs." Parents mentioned children's needs related to developmental delays, autism spectrum disorders and ADHD.
- When asked about needs related to parenting services, parents of children with disabilities mentioned a need for respite care to give parents a break from caring for children with significant support needs. They also mentioned the need for assistance navigating education systems and advocating for their child's best interests, inclusive of legal advice at times.



- One of the top three priorities parents had for school-based health programs was to offer support for children with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Parents noted this was also an area for improvement for existing services.

Children and youth with disabilities require intentional efforts to ensure they are welcomed into all funded programs and served effectively with reasonable accommodations. This is a contractual obligation for Trust-funded services, and The Trust provides monetary and capacity building resources to ensure that program direct service and management staff can meet this expectation.

Families of children with a disability often experience high levels of stress and significant economic impact related to reduced work hours or labor force participation and the costs of specialized child care, health care and other psychosocial programs. Family challenges vary by type and severity of childhood disability, with learning and communicative difficulties specifically linked to more financial burden and work changes.<sup>30</sup> For example, accounting for the costs of special services and lost wages, autism costs an estimated \$60,000 a year throughout childhood. Additional costs are incurred that are related to raising a child with an intellectual disability.<sup>31</sup>

In fiscal year 2022-2023, The Children's Trust invested \$500,000 to directly fund youth program inclusion and in-home respite care supports for children with significant disabilities and accommodation needs.

To increase participation in Trust-funded youth development programs in fiscal year 2022-2023, more than a third of this funding supported 12 individual children's after-school and summer programming needs. Notably, inclusion supports for one child often benefit multiple children, such as when the presence of a sign

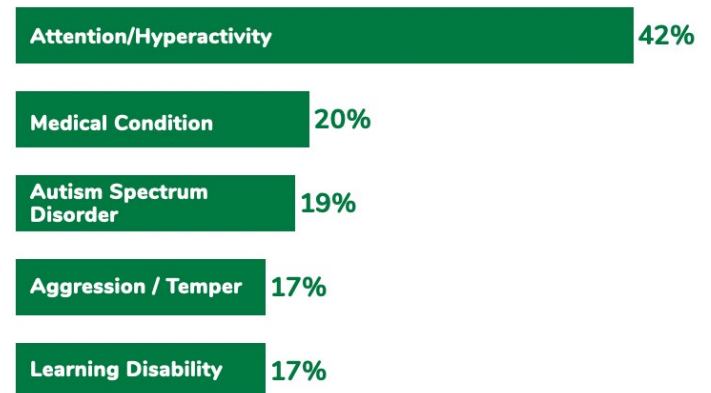
language interpreter allows for additional deaf children to participate. Additionally, children with and without disabilities can benefit from inclusive approaches, including academics, social and emotional development, peer friendships, and empathy.<sup>32</sup> Some examples of program inclusion supports include:

- Supporting field trip participation.
- Providing adaptive equipment.
- Hiring additional direct service staff to lower ratios.
- Engaging therapeutic and individual specialized professionals, such as sign language interpreters, Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapists and speech therapists.
- Equipping spaces to meet individual child needs, such as quiet rooms, calm spaces and ramps.

Just over half of the Trust investment funded 14,890 hours of respite, in-home supports tailored to each family’s needs for 61 children and youth with significant and multiple challenges, such as those related to activities of daily living (e.g., using the bathroom, eating or moving); verbal or nonverbal communication; medication administration or assistance related to medical conditions; and/or aggressive or self-injurious behaviors. These in-home supports provide critical relief to often overburdened parents, support family stability and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.

Disability types reported include autism spectrum disorder, developmental delay, intellectual disability, hearing impairment, learning disability, medical condition, physical disability, problems with aggression, problems with attention or hyperactivity, problems with depression or anxiety, speech/ language condition, and visual impairment. Attention/hyperactivity challenges are the most frequently reported condition expected to last a year or more, and notably this percentage almost doubled from the prior year.

### Top 5 Challenges Reported



### Child/youth-serving programs report 35,678 (19%) children/youth living with a disability.

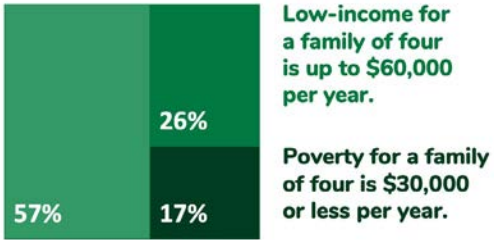
Initiative	Total Participants	Participants w/ Disabilities	% Reporting Disability
Early Intervention Summer Programs	702	702	100%
Family Inclusion Supports	73	73	100%
Early Discovery	413	413	100%
Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships	4,426	1,819	41%
Cultural Affairs	36,493	9,925	27%
Parenting Programs	4,677	1,088	23%
6-12 Youth Development Programs	7,613	1,668	22%
Summer Youth Internship	3,053	606	20%
K-5 Youth Development Programs	23,148	4,361	19%
School Health	98,438	14,500	15%
Oral Health Education and Prevention Services	3,353	465	14%
Benefits Enrollment	3,914	58	1%
<b>Total Direct Children/Youth Served</b>	<b>186,303</b>	<b>35,678</b>	<b>19%</b>



# Children Impacted by Poverty

Children growing up experiencing the impacts of high-poverty households and neighborhoods are more likely to exhibit challenges related to physical and mental health, cognitive delays, and behavioral and emotional problems.<sup>33</sup> There is significant poverty among children and families in Miami-Dade County, as noted below. Trust-funded programs are available countywide, but in general there is a higher concentration of programming available and of children served in locations where more children and families are experiencing poverty.

Nearly half of children live in impoverished or low-income households.<sup>34</sup>



Low-income households are between 100%-200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

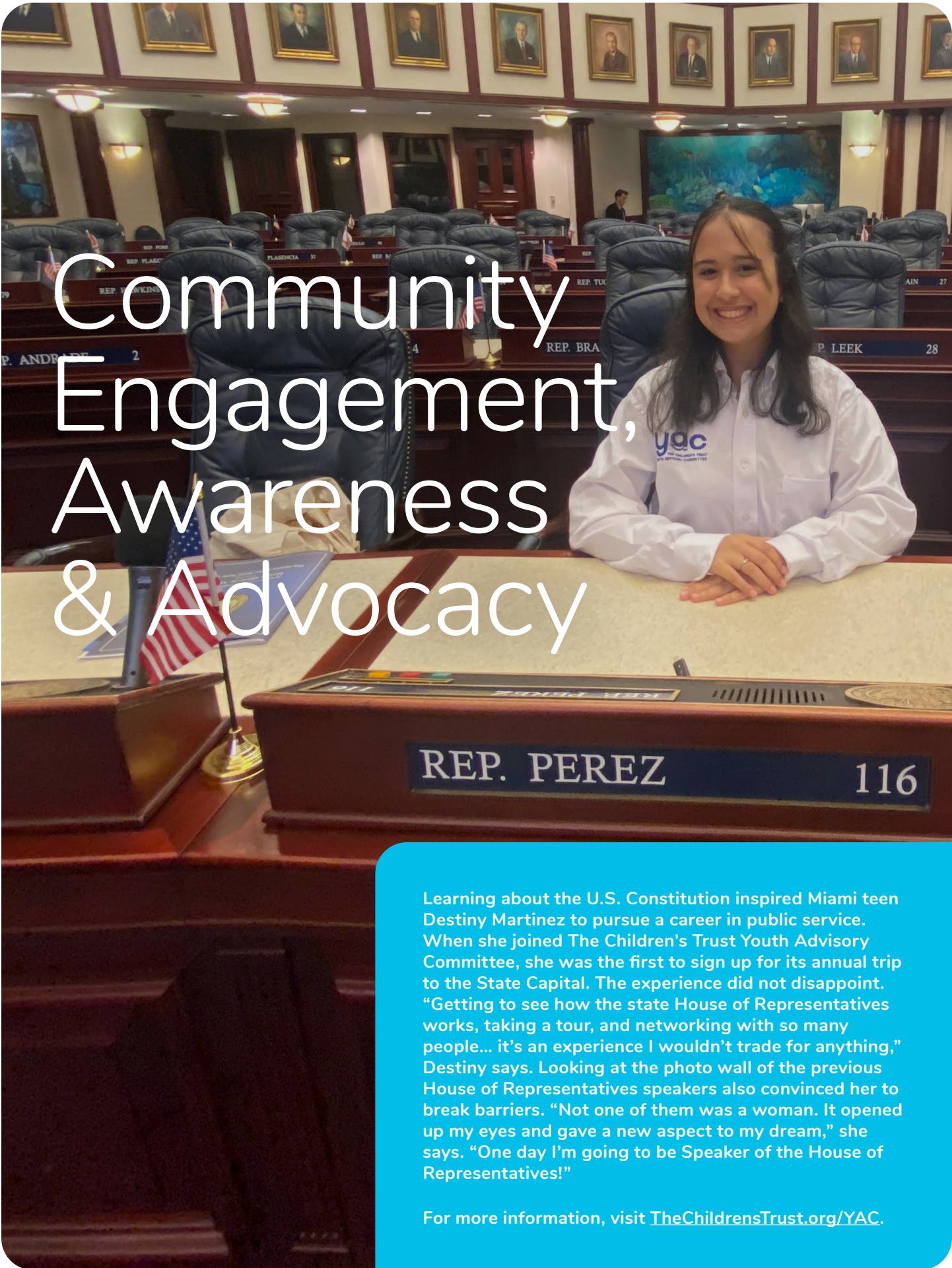
Across Trust initiatives, programs reach more than 101,000 children and families living in high-poverty areas.

Initiative	% Participants Living in High Poverty Areas
Oral Health Education and Prevention Services	75%
Summer Youth Internship**	73%
6-12 Youth Development Programs	67%
Comprehensive School Health**	65%
K-5 Youth Development Programs	65%
Parenting Programs	64%
Benefits Enrollment	64%
Thrive by 5 Quality Improvement System*	61%
Family Inclusion Supports	59%
Early Intervention Summer Program	57%
Early Discovery	42%
Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships	24%

High poverty areas are those where 30% or more children live in households with income less than 150% of the Federal Poverty Level.

\*These initiative percentages are based on the percentage of child care programs located in high poverty areas.  
 \*\* These initiative percentages are based on the percentage of children eligible for free and reduced-price lunch.





# Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy

Learning about the U.S. Constitution inspired Miami teen Destiny Martinez to pursue a career in public service. When she joined The Children's Trust Youth Advisory Committee, she was the first to sign up for its annual trip to the State Capital. The experience did not disappoint. "Getting to see how the state House of Representatives works, taking a tour, and networking with so many people... it's an experience I wouldn't trade for anything," Destiny says. Looking at the photo wall of the previous House of Representatives speakers also convinced her to break barriers. "Not one of them was a woman. It opened up my eyes and gave a new aspect to my dream," she says. "One day I'm going to be Speaker of the House of Representatives!"

For more information, visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/YAC](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/YAC).

# Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supports & Coalition Building

Community engagement is a catalyst to unleash and support the capacity of communities to find solutions to problems. The Children's Trust understands that no amount of funding will be enough if residents and organizations do not drive improvement efforts through collaborative decision-making and initiatives. It is also imperative that community members are engaged to inform Trust processes and strategic planning. Trust team members work across the county – listening, connecting and engaging, while supporting participatory decision-making and helping reveal and mobilize community assets, strengths and resources. Using a collective impact model, community groups lead the way, supported by The Children's Trust as a backbone organization that convenes and coordinates partners. Through these community engagement efforts, Trust staff also close gaps and better align priorities and funded programs with community organizations, anchor institutions and other stakeholders to ensure maximum utilization of available resources.

Trust-building, community empowerment and collaboration are by nature more challenging to quantify than direct services. That said, The Children's Trust continued making significant inroads and progress in these endeavors. Staff participated in regularly scheduled meetings of 85 community collaboratives, boards, task forces and associations.

Trust staff also led efforts to engage a wider cross-section of community partners, strategized and took action to expand participation in The Trust's solicitation and funding processes. This was demonstrated through 67 focus groups, widespread community surveys in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole with nearly 3,500 parents, and Trust solicitation information sessions, which were attended by hundreds of attendees, including many who have not previously received Trust funding.

Staff continued to support ways to improve and expand services for youth who are disengaged and/or involved in



the justice and dependency systems. Together with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department, The Trust is working to align referrals for relevant Trust-funded services that can assist families with parenting supports, care coordination, wraparound care, benefits enrollment and the like.

Trust staff continued a focus on Haitian American community-based strategies in the Northeast Corridor and South Miami-Dade County. Through a Haitian Affairs liaison team and Trust staff, The Children's Trust is actively engaged in collaboratives, events and issues that affect the Haitian American community throughout Miami-Dade.

Trust staff supported the seventh annual 10 Days of Connection initiative, which engaged 201 organizations with 63 community connection experiences, resulting in more than 5,700 people engaged and 36,800 locals reached via social media.

Considering the need for water safety education in our community, The Trust worked in partnership with the City of Miami Parks and Recreation Department and the Progressive Firefighters Association to host a water safety and swim instruction program. More than 300 children attending camps at six Miami parks were provided swim lessons at Charles Hadley Park in Liberty City. This work continues through engagement with neighborhood-focused collaboratives and anchor partners to explore solutions for expanded drowning prevention opportunities through water safety instruction for children.

The Children's Trust's Community Engagement Fund builds upon existing community assets, encourages collaboration and supports the sustainability of grassroots and innovative programs and projects. In 2022-2023, The Children's Trust provided small grants to 85 local organizations serving children and families. Fifty-two agencies were supported through the direct services program enhancement grant and an additional 33 organizations were awarded promotion of citizen engagement, advocacy and leadership grants.

# Public Policy Priorities, Advocacy & Youth Civic Engagement

**M**iami-Dade County has an incredibly vibrant diversity of cultures and backgrounds, and it also has great needs and disparities, with many families living in lower socioeconomic conditions and experiencing associated challenges. Compounded with inflation and an affordability crisis, laws and policies that improve the lives of children by addressing these needs are of paramount importance. To achieve this, efforts are necessary to engage and educate legislators and other stakeholders to underscore the impact of these issues and beyond.

The Children's Trust works closely with other children's services councils across the state through the Florida Association of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) to develop comprehensive policy priorities. Legislative policy focus areas include two-generational strategies to improve the lives of children and families through high-quality early learning programs, out-of-school programs, a focus on healthy development, supports for children with disabilities, and child protection and juvenile justice initiatives.

In addition to continued education and engagement of elected officials and other leaders and stakeholders, The Trust's weekly *Capitol Connection* newsletter keeps the wider community informed about legislative progress and actions that may be taken on behalf of children during the state legislative session.

In 2023, 29 editions of *Capitol Connection* were published. These leadership efforts are realized in partnership with several statewide organizations and coalitions, in addition to FACCT, including: Florida Early Learning Childhood Consortium, First 1,000 Days Coalition, Florida Covering Kids and Families, Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign, Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA), Florida KidCare Coalition of Miami-Dade County, Florida's Children First, The Association of Early Learning Coalitions, The Children's Movement of Florida, and United Way of Florida.



The Children's Trust's 2022-2023 advocacy, policy and legislative highlights include:

- Continued promotion of strategic statewide two-generational approaches to ensure socioeconomically disadvantaged families' financial stability and security and children's positive development.
- Collaboration with legislative bill sponsors and stakeholders for policies that improve the quality and accountability of the state's early learning programs.
- Successful advocacy to increase funding for early childhood education and K-12, including increased funding for teacher salaries, healthy development, children with disabilities, child protection and juvenile justice.
- Passage of 22 priority bills, including Florida KidCare Eligibility Expansion and Level Two Background Screening, which were signed into law.

The Children's Trust also leads local intergovernmental relations efforts with Miami-Dade County, municipalities and other governing bodies like The Homeless Trust. The Trust continues to play a pivotal role in the Steering Committee of Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Children's Commission. Trust staff, together with Miami-Dade County staff and various other community partners, are working on the implementation of the Mayor's Roadmap for Child Success to ensure alignment of community efforts to support and serve Miami-Dade's youngest children. Trust staff members also chair and serve on various sub-committees of the Steering Committee to further support these efforts.

The Trust leads the Miami-Dade County Fiscal Cliff Collaborative comprised of key community leaders to strategize economic and funding solutions, help shape local policy and community planning, and advance local and statewide policy to keep families and businesses thriving while building a strong economy.



The Children's Trust is the host of the Miami-Dade County Grade-Level Reading (MDGLR) Campaign, which regularly engages more than 50 community partners to elevate literacy. In 2022-2023, the campaign held six summits that included collaboration to implement the third annual READY, Set, Go Miami! early literacy initiative and the fifth annual Summer Battle of the Books. READY, Set, Go Miami! received the National Grade Level Reading 2023 Pacesetter Award. In an exciting effort to mitigate summer learning loss, the Battle of the Books included the development of six weeks of activities, the distribution of 900 books and participation from nearly 1,200 children throughout nine Trust-funded sites to mitigate summer learning loss.

The Trust supports youth civic engagement through its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), which has served as its youth voice since 2006. The leadership development program focuses on community service and advocacy, especially relating to children and families. During the 2022-2023 school year, the YAC had 220 active members across six meeting sites and six Instagram accounts throughout the county to facilitate participant communication.

- Students represented 56 high schools and dedicated 3,230 hours of service in collaboration with more than 14 community partners.
- Approximately 40 YAC members participated in the 2023 Legislative and College Tour during Florida Children's Week in Tallahassee, which included meetings with Florida legislators, tours of the House of Representatives and visits to both Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University and Florida State University.



- YAC participants developed and executed six community initiatives. Several themes arose in the student-driven projects ranging from the environment to education. The projects included creating hydroponic gardens in urban spaces, including at a homeless shelter; seed bombing to increase native plant landscapes and the beautification of neglected outdoor spaces; as well as academic-focused initiatives ranging from family activities and community meetings about school readiness to ACT/SAT resource drives to support fellow students with college preparation, and more.

# Public Awareness, Outreach & Program Promotion

**T**hrough communications and community outreach efforts, The Trust strives to increase awareness and understanding of its many funded programs and services that build stronger families and help children reach their full potential.

During fiscal year 2022-2023, The Trust celebrated its 20th Anniversary as a way of building awareness of the organization's history of impact and growing influence in the community. This was accomplished through a variety of events and activities around Miami-Dade County, including:

- A comprehensive marketing campaign that highlighted essential data points over its 20 years that demonstrate The Trust's impact on the community, while also featuring stories of children and youth whose lives have been greatly enhanced thanks to the support of The Trust. The campaign included TV, radio, billboards and digital and print advertising.
- Production of a 10-minute mini-documentary, *The Children's Trust – 20 Years Nurturing Greatness*, that delves into the creation of the organization, the impact it has had, and the involvement of Founding Board Chair David Lawrence Jr. in its establishment.
- A partnership with HistoryMiami Museum that culminated in a full exhibition commemorating the 20th Anniversary of The Children's Trust, created and curated by The Trust, that ran from September to December 2022. The launch of the exhibition included a special reception at HistoryMiami Museum with nearly 50 attendees, including Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and other dignitaries.
- A collaboration with Miami's Community Newspapers to publish a 40-page Special Edition "20 Years Nurturing Greatness" detailing the history and impact of The Children's Trust. Nearly 30,000 copies were printed and distributed countywide. The special edition was also featured on Miami's Community Newspapers website and was shared via e-newsletter to their subscribers.
- A joint Op-Ed in the *Miami Herald* by David Lawrence Jr., founding board chair, Kenneth C. Hoffman, chair of the board, and James R. Haj, president & CEO of The Trust, entitled "Promises Kept to Miami-Dade: Celebrating the Meaningful Impact of The Children's Trust."

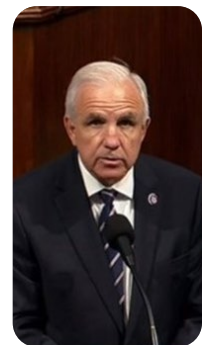


- The Miami Dolphins honored The Children's Trust as the official "Partner of the Game" in October 2022. Before the nationally broadcast game, singer Silvio Plata, whose story and connection to The Trust was featured as part of the 20th Anniversary campaign, sang the National Anthem.

- Professional soccer team Miami FC honored The Children's Trust at a game in May 2023, with Trust staff and Trust-funded program participants taking part in pre-game festivities, and children and youth wearing Trust t-shirts welcoming players on the field.



- Numerous proclamations to commemorate The Trust's anniversary from government entities, including being read into the Congressional Record at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., by Congressman Carlos Gimenez, having Miami-Dade County declare September 10 as "The Children's Trust Day," and receiving a proclamation from Miami-Dade County Public Schools.



- The American Society of Public Administrators (ASPA) award for distinguished public service over 20 years.
- A community-wide landmark building lighting campaign, with support from Miami-Dade County, the Downtown Development Authority, Florida International University, Miami Dade College, Florida Memorial University and other community entities that lit their buildings in Trust green in an "Illuminating Greatness" event on September 7, 2023. To learn more and watch videos about The Children's Trust's 20th Anniversary celebration, visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/20Anniversary](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/20Anniversary).

Additional community awareness efforts during the 2022-2023 fiscal year included the following.

- To expand awareness of funding opportunities for service providers, including those not previously funded by The Children’s Trust, staff supported multiple solicitations with coverage on a variety of Trust platforms including email marketing, online articles and print media. There were nearly 50 new agencies funded across multiple solicitations in 2022-2023.
- For the first time, The Trust partnered with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Jewish Community Services of South Florida to create the “More Summer Camps Choices” initiative to bring awareness to the hundreds of free or low-cost summer camp options for children and youth. The comprehensive marketing campaign and communications efforts resulted in a whopping 400 percent increase in online searches to 211miami.org from the previous year (from 90 in 2022 to 35,778 in 2023). The initiative also led to a 40 percent increase in calls to the 211 Helpline for summer camps.
- As a result of the success of the “More Summer Camps Choices” initiative, The Trust led efforts to extend the partnership and create the “More After-School Choices” initiative. On August 24, the initiative was officially launched in a joint news conference, securing coverage from several media outlets.
- The Trust awarded 20 Community Outreach Grants to local organizations, and the Brand Ambassador team represented The Trust at 33 events – more than twice as many as in the previous year.
- To reach specific populations, The Trust supported community initiatives through sponsorships of multiple events, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day festivities, Spooky Symphony, National Adoption Day, the *Miami Herald’s* Silver Knight awards and Spelling Bee, and the Miami Book Fair.
- As a part of its faith-based grassroots outreach efforts, The Trust distributed Trust-branded literature racks that are refilled and maintained on a monthly basis at approximately 45 churches across Miami-Dade County and attended community events aligned with faith centers at approximately 35 locations.
- The Trust launched “Trust Tuesday,” a social media campaign that highlights Trust-funded providers and their accomplishments on a weekly basis. The campaign runs on all social media platforms while also being featured in the *Weekly Provider Bulletin*.



- Trust staff organized, executed or otherwise participated in three news conferences to bring attention to Trust initiatives and partnerships, including Youth Development funding awards, the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative and the More After-School Choices initiative. These news conferences attracted extensive media attention and resulted in a wide range of broadcast and print coverage for The Trust.
- To directly inform a variety of audiences, staff produced and distributed 51 *Weekly Provider Bulletin* digital newsletters, reaching over 21,000 subscribers a month in 2023 (an increase of more than seven percent from the previous fiscal year).
- The Trust also produced 10 *Parenting Our Children* newsletters in both digital and print formats and in three languages (English, Spanish and Haitian Creole). In total, the newsletter featured 55 original content pieces and reached over 54,000 digital subscribers monthly, with an additional 5,825 copies printed each month. Subscribers can sign up for the newsletters at [TheChildrensTrust.org/subscribe](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/subscribe).



- Through the 2023 Family Expo, The Trust continued to demonstrate its commitment to the community as the events drew record crowds to learn about Trust providers and their services, distribute resources for families, and provide a day of entertainment and fun:
  - The Trust partnered with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami Dade College and Florida Memorial University to bring resources to children and families at three indoor venues. More than 10,700 children and families attended – a 300 percent increase from 2022.
  - The Trust also partnered with Uber for the first time to expand families' transportation access to the events. This partnership resulted in the redemption of 405 Uber vouchers good for \$15 ride credits to and from Family Expo events.
  - The Trust facilitated the distribution of over 1,800 free meals and 1,000 free icees.
  - Staff and volunteers distributed 2,250 bookbags to children at the Family Expo events, and over 4,900 book bags to families and community organizations throughout the year.

- The Champions for Children Awards Ceremony had a record attendance of nearly 1,200 guests. Honorees included President/CEO of Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe Evelio C. Torres; University of Miami Parent-Child Interactive Therapy Staff Psychologist Abigail Peskin; and Community Advocate Regina Davis. Breakthrough Miami Summer Institute, Early Learning Coalition's Thrive by 5 Child Care Scholarship Initiative and Jessie Trice Community Health System School Health Services received Program of the Year awards. A new award category, Excellence in Youth Leadership, was presented to 11th grader Lauren Page from Ransom Everglades School. To learn more about the Champions for Children Awards Ceremony and to watch a recap video, visit [TheChildrensTrust.org/Champions](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/Champions).
- The Young Talent Big Dreams competition, sponsored and presented by The Children's Trust, continues to be a unique opportunity for children and youth in Miami-Dade County to be exposed to the performing arts in a real-world, professionally executed experience. In 2023, the talent competition drew a total of 184 contestants, a six percent increase from the previous year, who performed 149 acts in total.
- TheChildrensTrust.org website accumulated nearly 1.9 million page views during fiscal year 2022-2023. The Trust's email marketing list has over 52,000 subscribers, and The Trust has a strong social media presence, increasing to more than 80,800 total followers on Facebook, Instagram, X and LinkedIn.



# Funder Collaboration Initiatives

**C**ollaborating with other funders on shared goals, strategies and resources involves multiple entities working as one to align purposes and interests, pool resources and knowledge, and fund organizations to address complex issues.



These strategic collective efforts result in much more than can be accomplished by any one entity alone. These investments offer local match dollars to leverage additional funds in support of children and families. This enables the partnering funders to learn from others' experiences and make more effective investments; scale efforts efficiently; strengthen their presence regionally and nationally; and share responsibility for local organizational capacity building.

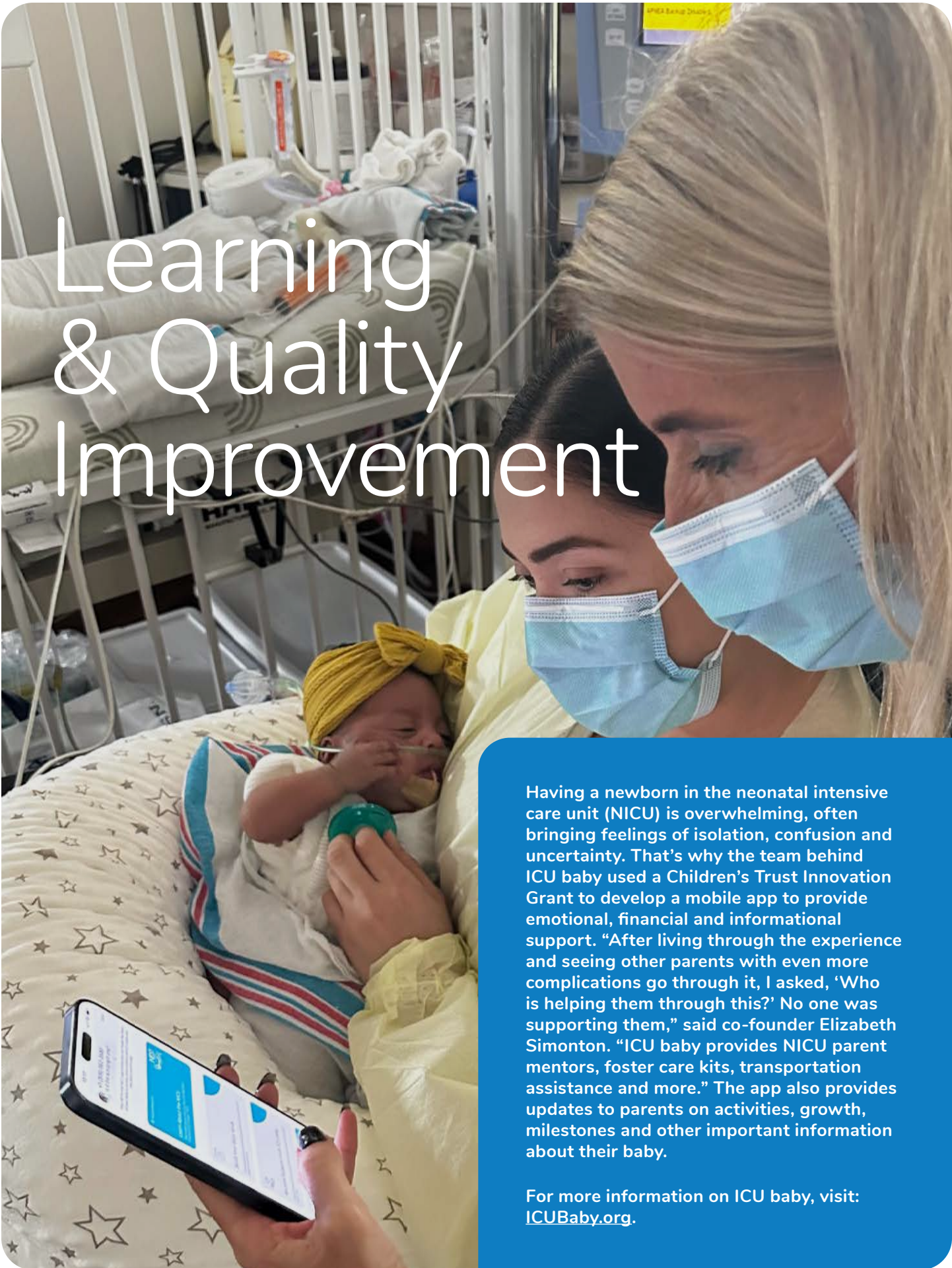
In fiscal year 2022-2023, 15 funder collaborations reached nearly 128,065 people in Miami-Dade County. About half were funded from the funder collaboration budget, while the others were funded within other direct service lines. Funder collaborations are detailed in the table below, and several are described further throughout this report.

**\$ 9 million** in Trust funding leveraged  
**50.1 million** in funder collaborations, for a **\$5.54** return on each Trust dollar invested.

PARTNERSHIP DESCRIPTION & FUNDERS	TRUST \$	MATCH \$	ROI	People Served
<p><b>Catalyst Miami: Future Bound Miami</b></p> <p>This long-time collaboration fully expanded countywide to all kindergarten students who attend a Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) elementary school or K-8 center. Through this initiative, these students are provided access to a free savings account, including an initial seed deposit of \$25 or \$50 for students who qualify for free and reduced priced lunch for their post-secondary education. Initiative is in partnership with the City of Miami, EdFed - Educational Federal Credit Union, Health Foundation of South Florida, Jorge M. Perez Family Foundation, Miami-Dade County, United Way Miami, M-DCPS and Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center.</p>	285,000	1,325,000	\$4.65	4,991 Children
<p><b>Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade: Early Head Start (EHS)</b></p> <p>This match investment funds the EHS Child Care Partnership for high-quality early learning slots for infants and toddlers, including comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition and family self-sufficiency services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	650,000	8,877,841	\$13.66	750 Child Care Slots
<p><b>Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade: School Readiness Match Program</b></p> <p>This match investment funds child care subsidies for low-to-moderate wage working parents earning up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, in partnership with the Florida Office of Early Learning.</p>	1,230,000	1,230,000	\$1.00	881 Child Care Slots
<p><b>Key Biscayne Community Foundation: Evidence2Success</b></p> <p>This initiative is led by stakeholders in the Liberty City community to support assessment and improvement of the well-being of children and youth through smart investments in evidence-based programs. This collaboration includes the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Miami Children's Initiative and a community workgroup that is reflective of the population in Liberty City. The Strong African American Families evidence-based curriculum was implemented and is a model that is well-aligned for expansion and sustainable funding through partnerships with child welfare and juvenile justice systems.</p>	60,000	125,000	\$2.08	Community Planning Project



PARTNERSHIP DESCRIPTION & FUNDERS	TRUST \$	MATCH \$	ROI	People Served
<p><b>Key Biscayne Community Foundation: Fab Lab</b></p> <p>This collaboration funds a makerspace and STEM education at the Belafonte TACOLCY Center where youth from programs throughout the Liberty City area and beyond learn about design and engineering processes and receive college prep supports. This collaborative includes the Himan Brown Charitable Trust, an anonymous donor and the Key Biscayne Community Foundation. A second Fab Lab location is launching at the Phicol Williams Community Center in the City of Homestead. Funders for this expansion along with the Key Biscayne Community Foundation are: the Ocean Reef Community Foundation, the Kirk Foundation and The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation.</p>	200,000	260,000	\$1.30	225 Students
<p><b>Miami-Dade County: Community Action &amp; Human Services Dept EHS</b></p> <p>This match initiative funds the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership for high-quality early learning slots for infants and toddlers, including comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition and family self-sufficiency services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	850,000	7,967,936	\$9.37	552 Child Care Slots
<p><b>Miami-Dade County: Department of Cultural Affairs</b></p> <p>This match initiative funds 86 nonprofit organizations to expand cultural arts programs to over 36,000 children and youth, with a focus on including children with disabilities. 951 children and youth engaged in summer, intensive arts or science programs, in partnership with the County's Department of Cultural Affairs.</p>	1,500,000	4,530,279	\$3.02	36,493 Children & Youth
<p><b>Miami-Dade County: Summer Youth Internship Program</b></p> <p>This funder collaboration facilitates a five-week, paid internship for public and charter school students at several hundred companies and organizations throughout Miami-Dade across various career fields. Certified teachers support student progress, and students earn an honors credit and can qualify for dual enrollment. This collaboration includes CareerSource South Florida, EdFed - Educational Federal Credit Union, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Griffin Catalyst and the Foundation for New Education Initiatives.</p>	2,000,000	6,000,000	\$3.00	3,060 Youth
<p><b>Miami-Dade County: HERO Truancy Prevention</b></p> <p>This initiative focuses on countywide efforts to prevent youth violence by identifying children who are most at risk and providing them with case management referrals and prevention/intervention services. The focus on elementary and K-8s is to ensure young children do not fall behind due to truancy caused generally by family stabilization needs. The intent is to increase school attendance and stabilize families to support academic achievement and is in partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade County.</p>	880,000	1,224,051	\$1.39	1,763 Home Visits & 876 Student Conferences
<p><b>Miami-Dade County: Public Library System STEAM Program &amp; Tutoring</b></p> <p>This match funding facilitates a Technobus for STEAM-based instruction and digital services that reached 1,646 children and youth. It also funds tens of thousands of small group K-12 academic tutoring sessions at 29 libraries.</p>	175,000	1,069,000	\$6.11	1,646 Children & 47,702 Tutoring Sessions
<p><b>Redlands Christian Migrant Association</b></p> <p>Match initiative to fund child care subsidies for federally designated "working poor" farmworker families, in partnership with the Florida Office of Early Learning.</p>	102,000	1,632,000	\$16.00	600 Child Care Slots
<p><b>The Miami Foundation: Miami Connected</b></p> <p>This initiative is a community-wide collaboration, which seeks to ensure all students and families are set up for success in a digital world by providing access to free broadband internet at home, digital skills training and career opportunities in technology. This program is funded in partnership with Blackstone, Cindy &amp; Robert Friezo Foundation, City of Miami, Comcast, eMerge Americas, Helios Education Foundation, Griffin Catalyst, Leslie Miller Saiontz, Samvid Ventures, Simikins Family Foundation, TD Bank &amp; Miami Heat, Terra Group and The Miami Foundation.</p>	150,000	6,290,472	\$41.94	78,343
<p><b>Community-Based Care (CBC) Alliance</b></p> <p>This funding supports the infrastructure of the CBC Alliance, including a CEO position for the state-mandated collective that guides the provision of Miami-Dade's child welfare services. The alliance includes funding support from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Magic Waste Foundation, Voices for Children Foundation and United Way Miami.</p>	64,000	43,066	\$0.67	Infrastructure Supports
<p><b>United Way Miami: Early Head Start (EHS)</b></p> <p>Match initiative that funds the EHS Child Care Partnership for high-quality early learning slots for infants and toddlers, including comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition and family self-sufficiency services, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.</p>	770,000	8,373,608	\$10.87	520 Child Care Slots
<p><b>U.S. Soccer Foundation: Soccer for Success</b></p> <p>This initiative funds soccer as a vehicle to improve health and social outcomes of children in underserved communities, including nutrition education and mentoring, at 31 sites. Established in partnership with Adidas, Dick Sporting Goods, Health Foundation of South Florida, Himan Brown Charitable Trust, The Miami Foundation, Target Corporate Social Responsibility, and the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Community implementation partners include After School All Stars, City of Miami Gardens, City of North Miami, FLIPANY, Liberty City Optimist Club and YMCA of South Florida.</p>	125,000	1,160,000	\$9.28	3,307 Children



# Learning & Quality Improvement

Having a newborn in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is overwhelming, often bringing feelings of isolation, confusion and uncertainty. That's why the team behind ICU baby used a Children's Trust Innovation Grant to develop a mobile app to provide emotional, financial and informational support. "After living through the experience and seeing other parents with even more complications go through it, I asked, 'Who is helping them through this?' No one was supporting them," said co-founder Elizabeth Simonton. "ICU baby provides NICU parent mentors, foster care kits, transportation assistance and more." The app also provides updates to parents on activities, growth, milestones and other important information about their baby.

For more information on ICU baby, visit: [ICUBaby.org](http://ICUBaby.org).

# Supports for Quality Programming



**K**ey organizational supports and staff competencies are essential to delivering high-quality programs. In fiscal year 2022-2023, 10 agencies funded as Trust Academy Partners served the direct service and management staff members from Trust-funded provider agencies. Supports offered include online courses, live trainings, coaching, content consultation, peer learning and access to resources that aid in continuous learning and quality improvement.

The aim is to strengthen organizations, build service staff’s knowledge and skills for effectively delivering best practices, and ultimately achieve meaningful outcomes for children and families. Trust Academy Partners work across six content areas.

- Family Services
- Youth Development
- School-based Health
- Inclusion Supports for Serving Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Social and Emotional Wellness (SEW)/Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI)
- Organizational Capacity and Leadership Development



The Trust Academy’s learning management system (LMS) provides an easily accessible platform to post live training, house online courses and display discussion boards and resources for its current 9,851 registered users.

- Online courses are available to learners 24/7 virtually in the LMS. Of the course completions in 2022-2023, more than half were from the 75 Trust Academy Partner-created courses.
- Live training participation included 65 percent in virtual events and 35 percent in-person. Ninety-six percent of training participants met their learning goals and were satisfied with the trainings.
- Staff benefit from individualized coaching that builds skills based on identified strengths and needs. Supports include real-time observation, feedback and practice, methods shown to improve implementation, and increase job satisfaction.<sup>35</sup> Just over half of coaching sessions were in-person. Also notable, 76 percent of staff attended three or more coaching sessions (up 19 percent from last year), and 100 percent met their goals.
- Staff engagement increased in 2022-2023 for peer learning opportunities related to youth development, program inclusion, parenting, and family and neighborhood support partnerships.

Supports	Events	Total Attending (Duplicated)	Participants* (Unduplicated)	Programs* Represented
Courses	289	7,775	1,710	247
Trainings	251	4,727	1,166	284
Coaching	1,015	1,545	340	117
Peer Learning	102	1,867	411	158
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>15,914</b>	<b>2,406</b>	<b>365</b>

\*Some staff and programs are represented in more than one support type, so these numbers cannot be added across supports.

## Family Services

The first contract year for the new 5-year funding cycle for Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) started in October 2022, and there were numerous supports for provider learning and skill-building regarding the new model requirements and processes. As providers worked to hire and onboard new staff, existing and new staff alike participated in more than 80 hours of training sessions, offered through 29 events, including content training, open labs/technical support sessions, and formal certification in the required assessment tools. Training was offered by Trust staff, Trust Academy Partner—Training and Implementation Associates (TIA), and the Praed Foundation, which supports the assessment tool certification process. As of September 2023, 128 FNSP staff are certified in the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) assessment tools.

University of Miami’s Team COACH (Children Optimally Achieving Comprehensive Health), which serves Trust-funded parenting programs, focused on creating supportive communities of practice networks, with discussion topics related to recruitment, outreach, parent and provider stressors. After participating with Team COACH for the past three years, supervisor Claudia Lear at Family Central’s parenting program said, “(The peer learning group) was a great way to connect with other providers and share our struggles with serving families during the pandemic. We then joined individual coaching sessions and what started off as feedback with our flyers, turned into a total program tune-up! New goals were born at each meeting and before we knew it, the quality of our program had reached new levels!”



## Youth Development

To start the new 5-year funding cycle, The Trust held a Youth Development kickoff meeting in May 2023, which was attended by more than 300 provider staff. The topics covered stakeholder input from parents, youth and systems partners that was collected through surveys and focus groups; an overview of seven Trust department roles and partnership goals; initiative onboarding; and contracting processes, resources and timeline. There was a panel of Trust Academy Partners, including the Advocacy Network on Disabilities, Project RISE, SkillBuild Powered by Breakthrough Miami, FIU Reading Explorers, The Pontis Group and the YWCA South Florida SEW/REDI lead agency. Partners shared the work they do and resources available for youth development providers.

## School Health

In August 2023, The Trust hosted a two-day annual HealthConnect conference at Florida Memorial University to prepare school-based health staff for the opening of schools. The theme was “Building Resilience in School Healthcare,” with an emphasis on social and emotional wellness, mindfulness, suicide prevention and crisis management. The 345 participants included school nurses, social workers and mental health professionals.

In February 2023, The Trust sponsored the three-day Miami International Child and Adolescent Mental Health (MICAMH) conference, the leading interdisciplinary conference presenting state-of-the-art, evidence-based prevention and treatment interventions for mental health and educational challenges in children and adolescents. The conference offered keynote presentations, hands-on breakout workshops, student poster sessions and continuing education credits. MICAMH focused on pandemic recovery-related issues and other current mental health concerns. The Trust’s sponsorship enabled 98 local Trust-funded program mental health staff members to attend each day at no cost.

## Inclusion Supports

In 2022-2023, The Advocacy Network on Disabilities helped Trust-funded providers offer more inclusive programming through 461 coaching sessions with 180 staff from 82 programs, totaling 1,352 hours. Sessions focused on developing individual child inclusion plans, inclusion orientation and staff training, and inclusion materials, equipment and supplies. Additionally, they offered regular live training events on topics such as Administrative Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Structure for Success, and Navigating Community Resources, resulting in 97 percent of attendees reporting that they gained the expected knowledge.

## Social and Emotional Wellness (SEW)/Racial Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (REDI)

During this inaugural 2022-2023 year of having the YWCA of South Florida as a Trust Academy Partner lead agency focused on SEW/REDI, efforts were focused on content development and piloting of various voluntary professional development opportunities for Trust providers, staff and board. Partners in this effort included the Aqua Foundation, Community Learning Coalition, Florida Association for Infant Mental Health, GladED Leadership Solutions, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Miami-Dade County, Trinity Church, Think Beyond Public Relations, and UM Mailman Center for Child Development.



Continuing from a participatory process started the prior year, UM shared an organizational guide to promoting SEW, with accompanying courses and trainings. They also collated available SEW courses, live trainings and other supports for Trust and provider staff and the community and consulted on the SEW/REDI evaluation framework.

Trinity Church piloted a Wellness Mindfulness Retreat for 45 staff members to deepen their understanding of the science supporting the efficacy of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and engage in a set of diverse mindfulness-based practices, such as body scanning, Quigong, forest bathing, sound bath meditation and breathwork.



## Leadership Development and Organizational Capacity

The Program Management Leadership Academy returned in 2023 after a two-year hiatus. This is a nine-month leadership development program for supervisory-level leaders to move to the next level of personal and professional growth. The multi-session program includes workshop topics, small- and large-group exercises and activities, peer-learning sessions led by professional coaches, and personal leadership growth plans and assignments. Eighteen leaders from Trust-funded agencies participated and graduated from the Leadership Academy in September 2023.

In April 2023, The Trust released a Request for Proposals for the third two-year cohort for Small Community-Based Organization (CBO) Capacity Building since 2015. In July 2023, the board approved funding for 16 child and family-serving small agencies to begin in October 2023, with a total of nearly \$1.2 million invested over two years. Trust Academy Partner, The Pontis Group, will support agencies in a learning network to strengthen their capacity to deliver high-quality services, practice strong administrative and fiscal management, engage in continuous learning and quality improvement, foster financial sustainability, and advance parent and community engagement.

# Program Evaluation & Community Research

**P**rogram evaluation helps The Trust understand and strengthen the performance of funded programs. Community research contributes context and understanding of factors related to children’s well-being across Miami-Dade County’s diverse neighborhoods, from their strengths and assets to their challenges and needs. As a steward of public dollars, it is critical that The Trust regularly reflects on and learns from investments through performance assessment, growth planning and connection to needed capacity building supports. The Children’s Trust’s success depends on the success of its funded providers.

The Children’s Trust makes key data and information available to inform policy and practice decisions in support of children and families in Miami-Dade County. Research and evaluation take place at multiple levels – from county and sub-county community research to cross-site initiative-level program evaluation and individual contract-level performance metrics. The Trust informs its program investments with lessons from the field to incorporate best practices and also continuously evaluates them, with a goal to share learnings with others. Several Trust staff members and provider partners contributed to professional conferences and publications over the past year as mentioned throughout other sections of this report.

## Participant Input

The Trust continued its participant input collection efforts with Q-Q Research Associates throughout 2022-2023. The community parent survey collection concluded in November 2022, with 3,477 respondents, and four executive summary reports were published in September 2023 highlighting survey and focus group results related to Summer and After-school Programs, Early Child Care and Education, Health and Wellness, and Parenting Education and Support. The reports are available online at [TheChildrensTrust.org/community-needs-assessment](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/community-needs-assessment).

## CORE FUNCTIONS



**PLAN** through strategic board sessions, community collaboration around results for children, and continuous learning initiative reviews.

**COLLECT** program, operational and community information through user-friendly systems that are participant-centered, and yield timely, quality, accessible and actionable data.

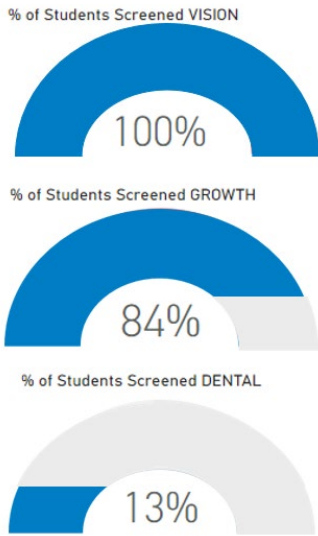
**MAKE MEANING** through contract, initiative and community data analyses, dashboards and reports, quantitative and qualitative methods, participatory input/interpretation and content field knowledge.

**MAKE USE** with compelling learning products about what works, specific to audience and purpose, to build the capacity of stakeholders to make data-informed decisions and actions.

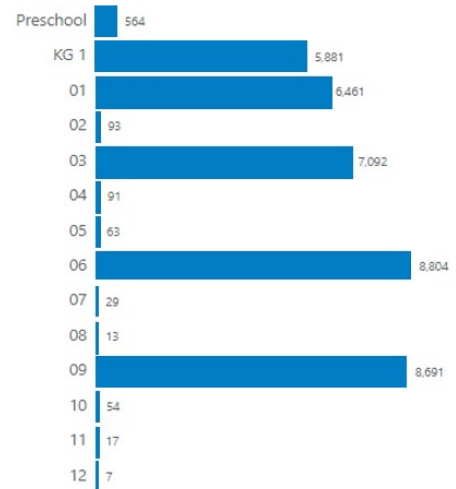


## School Health Screenings

Over 64,000 screenings were completed to assess students' vision, growth, and dental health.



Students Screened by Grade



## Health Strategic Planning

Strategic planning related to The Trust's school health investments launched with a board health committee meeting in July 2023. Since that time, Q-Q Research conducted 23 focus groups with parents, youth, nursing staff, mental health and social work staff, school health provider administrators, and systems partners at Miami-Dade County Public Schools and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade to gather input on school-based health needs and services. The Trust has also engaged in a pro bono consulting agreement with Guidehouse, Inc. for health industry expertise and market research to further inform school-based health strategic planning.

## Book Club Evaluation

The Children's Trust Book Club continues a robust evaluation, with online parent surveys of members collected every six months to gather input about home reading frequency, duration, enthusiasm and interactions, as well as the cultural relevancy of books, helpfulness of multilingual reading and activity guides, and satisfaction with the program. Parent surveys and key performance metrics from the Book Club data system help assess recruitment, implementation and impact. In total since the expansion of the Book Club in July 2020, six parent surveys have been collected, with nearly 42,300 responses (response rates ranged from 15 to 36 percent).

## Community Research

Research staff presented at the Mayor's Children's Summit in October 2022 on the early childhood systems funding landscape at the federal, state and local levels that helped to illuminate gaps between family needs and available resources and to inform future policy and advocacy efforts.

The Miami-Dade IDEAS (Integrating Data for Effectiveness Across Systems) Consortium for Children includes several leading systems that impact early learning outcomes, including The Children's Trust, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, the Miami-Dade County Community Action and Human Services Department's Head Start/Early Head Start Program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the University of Miami (UM). Collectively, partners provide early childhood services to over 80 percent of young children in the county before kindergarten. This integrated data system aims to improve coordinated early childhood research, practice and policy, and to support school readiness and early school success for all young children, especially those most vulnerable to negative neighborhood and social determinants.

Over the past year, the consortium has continued collaborating on analyses for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation equity-focused policy research grant with UM and the University of Florida that examines how families in school readiness and Thrive by 5 scholarship programs are served by other economic security supports from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) related to nutrition (SNAP), family income (TANF) and housing assistance.

# Technology Design & Solutions

**C**ontinued use of a digital work management platform for project management has helped Trust staff realize work efficiencies, document repeating processes and track funding cycles across initiatives with different timelines to ensure adequate planning time for reflection, evaluation and implementation.

All scheduled solicitations were released on time in fiscal year 2022-2023, including K-12 Youth Development, Parenting and Family Strengthening, Benefits Enrollment Supports and Small CBO Capacity Building, along with six infrastructure support procurements for Financial Software, Human Resource and Payroll Solutions, Auditing Services, Website Development, Integrated Data Repository/Data Visualization Services and Office Redesign.

The Children's Trust remains a key influencer within the SAMIS (Services and Activity Management Information System) Collaborative, driving new and innovative data collection functionality benefitting children's services councils and partners throughout the state.

As an example, the Care Coordination and Referral System was deployed in October 2022 for The Trust's

FNSP initiative. The custom-developed system supports the fidelity to the FNSP strengths-based service model, including tracking standard screening and assessment tools, progress on individualized success plan goals, ongoing care coordination and other special services, referrals for community services, requests and approvals for family stabilization funding, and participant satisfaction with services. Similarly, The Trust spearheaded the development of daily attendance reporting functionality within after-school and summer programs. Beginning in 2023-2024, the new reporting mechanism allows youth development program providers to easily capture child attendance with the click of a button through a mobile-friendly interface.

The Trust also recently launched an updated version of Find a Program on its website, enabling the broader community to more easily search for current Trust-funded after-school and summer programs, family support services, benefits enrollment assistance, Thrive by 5 child care programs and Families Forward scholarship sites. Further enhancements planned for development include a specialized module for the Parent Club that will facilitate caregivers' ability to search and register for workshops offered both in-person and virtually across Miami-Dade County.

**FIND A PROGRAM**  
Search Results: 476 Program(s)

Q Show/Hide Filters Clear Filters Download English

**Program Name**  
Abundant Living Citi Church, Inc. - Abundant Living Citi Chu...  
Abundant Living Citi Church, Inc.  
Contact: Keisha Pearson  
3001 NW 22nd Ave. Miami, FL 33142

**Location**  
Address/ZIP Code

**Within (miles)**  
5

**Category**  
 After-School  
 Summer Camps  
 Special Needs  
 Family Support

**Grade Range**  
Search

**After-school & Summer Camps**  
Programas Extracurriculares y Campamentos de Verano  
Pwogram Apre Lekol ak Kan

**After-School Programs**  
Programas Extracurriculares  
Pwogram Apre Lekol

Youth Development programs include enriching after-school and summer experiences that are accessible, affordable and inclusive. These quality youth programs increase school attendance, improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors and prevent summer learning loss while supporting working families.

**Map**  
Miami-Dade County map showing program locations (green pins).



# Innovation Fund

Innovation is a driver of growth and contributes to the development of solutions to persistent economic and social challenges. While evidence-based programs yield proven results when implemented with fidelity, there is also a need for practice-based innovation to identify and address new or evolving social problems.

The Children's Trust Innovation Fund supports the piloting of innovative ideas, strategies, methods and partnerships not previously utilized in Miami-Dade's diverse community to promote effective and equitable opportunities for populations of children with greater needs to thrive. Innovation aims to build on existing community assets, encourage collaboration and promote the sustainability of successful projects that identify issues, develop potential solutions and test strategies.

In October 2022, a new 12-month innovation cycle began, including 17 contracts totaling \$1,230,000. Some examples of funded projects are noted below.



**Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts** implemented a countywide initiative to leverage the arts to promote mental health wellness across our community. The Arsht Center worked with licensed art therapists to create and guide the content to share how the community can use art to help, cope, self-express and practice self-care. Examples of their art-engaged wellness components include a 3D mapping space with live music, virtual reality meditation, an interactive art wall where guests contribute to an active mural, a wellness dance disco, percussion sessions, theater games and wellness workshops, song circles, and dance and creative body movement workshops.



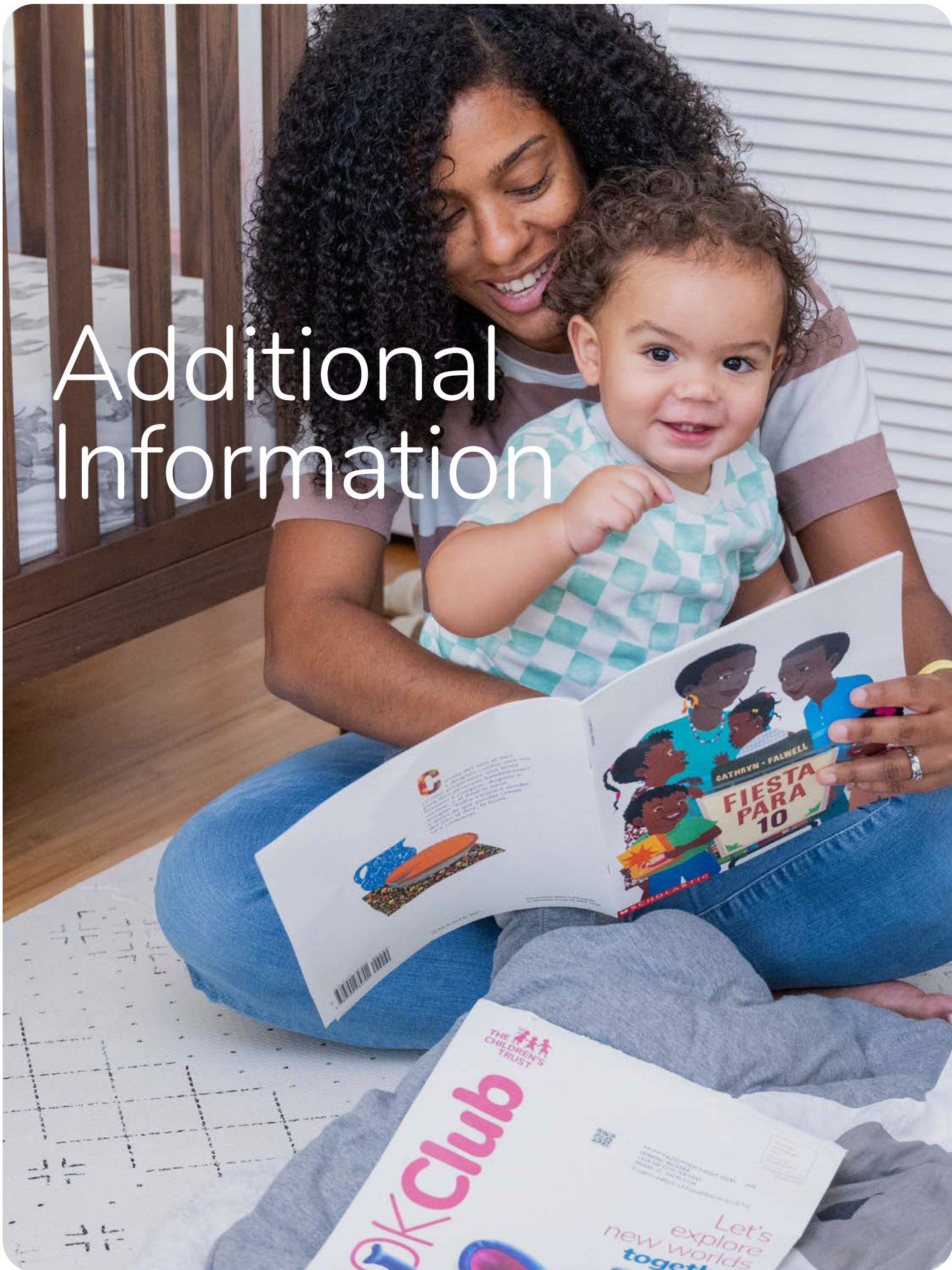
**Miami Diaper Bank** launched a Mobile Diaper Pantry – an innovative diaper distribution program to fill a gap in services for underserved families in Miami-Dade. They distributed 21,100 diapers, 30,240 baby wipes and 778 additional essentials such as baby bottles, pacifiers, body wash, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Ten volunteers assisted with distributions and connected 422 children in need with services.

**Southern Birth Justice Network, Inc.** implemented a Mobile Midwifery Clinic that provides accessible prenatal health care for vulnerable populations by reducing traditional barriers to access (e.g., transportation, time constraints, distrust of the health care system). The mobile clinic launched in February 2023, and has since participated in six community events attended by 1,500 people.



**Women's Fund of Miami-Dade** developed a dynamic and innovative Gender Equity Index within its broader dashboard. The dashboard focuses on the impact of system design, public policies, economic trends and macro-issues. Metrics relate to four pillars of economic mobility, health and well-being, leadership, and freedom from violence. This resource identifies current, emerging and long-term needs and progress critical to the advancement of women and girls in Miami-Dade County and will be used to set goals to reduce gender disparities.

# Additional Information



## Funded Service Providers

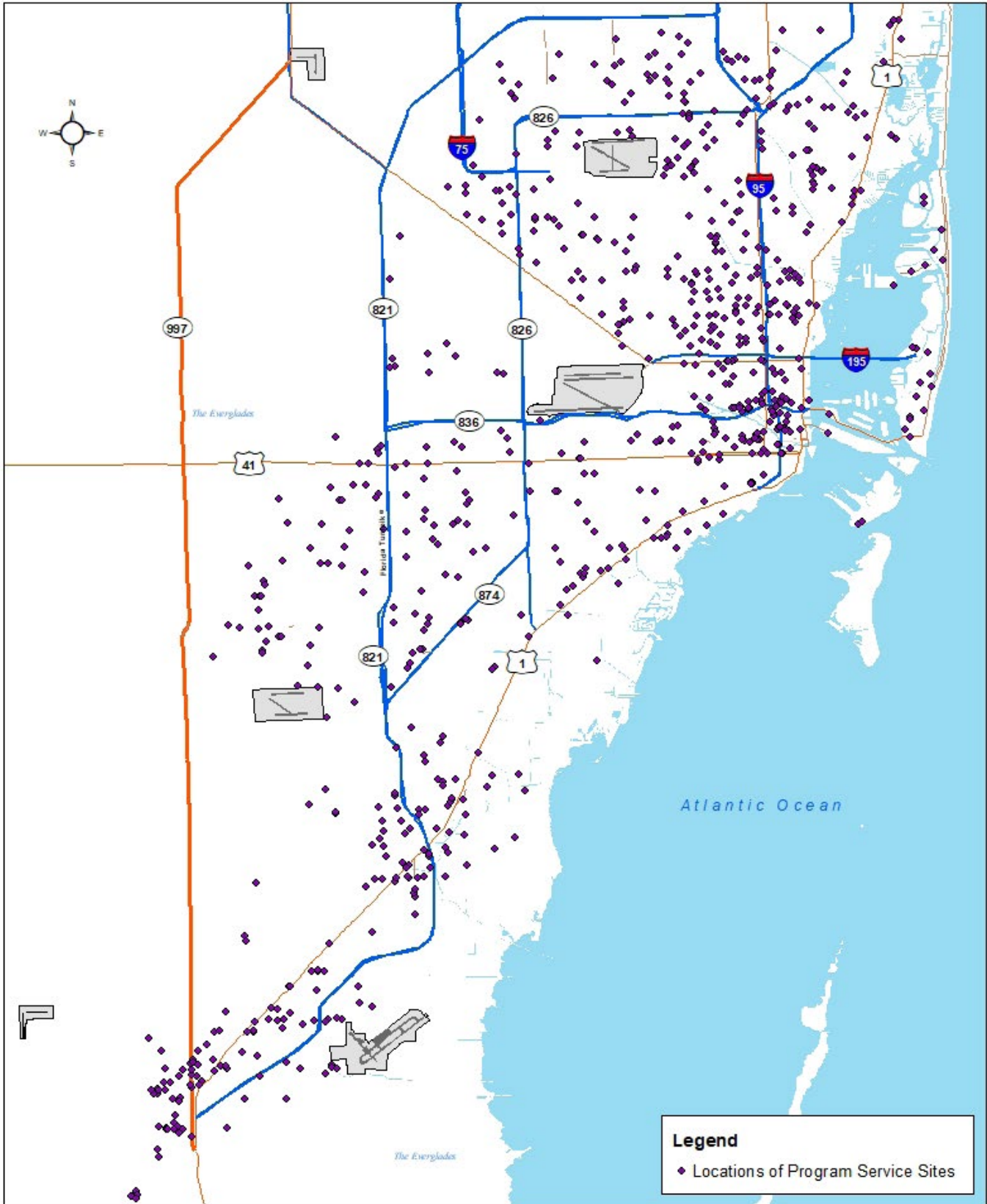
Agencies may be funded to provide multiple programs and may also fund additional agencies as subcontractors. For a complete list of funded programs, see: [TheChildrensTrust.org/HowWeFund](https://TheChildrensTrust.org/HowWeFund).

1 World Learning Center	Brilliant Kids Academy	Dibia DREAM
5000 Role Models of Excellence Project	Building Tools Learning Center	Discovery Years Child Care Centers
93rd St Community Development Corporation	Bumble Bee Day Care & Learning Center	Diva Arts & Entertainment
A Gift From Heaven Child Care	Cabrera Large Family Day Care Home	Do Good 41
A Magical Learning Center	Candyland Learning Center	Dr. John A. McKinney Christian Academy
A Sunny Start Preschool	Cannonball Youth Club	Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Parade and Festivities Committee
A Worthy Cause	CareerSource South Florida	Early Childhood Quality Consultant
Above & Beyond Learning Daycare	Carlmar	Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade
Above And Beyond Learning	Carol City Early Learning Center	Easter Seals South Florida
Abrahams Large Family Child Care Home	Carousel Of Angels	Educate Tomorrow
Abundant Living Citi Church	Carreno Large Family Child Care Home	Einsteins Learning Center
Adrienne Arshnt Center for the Performing Arts	Casa Valentina	El Ingenio
Adults Mankind Organization	Catalyst Miami	Elite Scholars Learning Center
Advocate Program	Catholic Charities	Empowering Youth
Agape 4 Orphans International	Cayuga Centers	Encouraging Dreamers Breaking Barriers
Aguilar Large Family Child Care Home	Celebrity Kids Club of Miami Gardens	END1IN4
Albert C. Pierre Community Service Center	Center for Family and Child Enrichment	EnFamilia
Alhambra Music	Center for Virtual and Community Advancement	Epilepsy Florida
Always Children Day Care	Centro Campesino Farmworker Center	Excel Kids Academy
Amazing Learning Academy	Centro Mater	Excelsior Prep Academy Preschool
Amber's Room	Charming Kids Preschool	Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden
American Children's Orchestras for Peace	Children of Destiny Learning Academy	Faith Center for Girls Corporation
America's Little Leaders Christian Academy	Children of Inmates	Family & Children Faith Coalition
Amigos For Kids	Children's Bereavement Center	Family Action Network Movement (FANM)
Amplify Community Resources	Children's Forum	Family Central
Anderson Large Family Child Care Home	Children's Home Society	Family Christian Association of America
Angels Love & Care	Childrens International Academy Center	Family Resource Center of South Florida
Angelz on Deck	Children's Paradise Academy II	Fantasy Theater Factory
Anolan D. Arias Large Family Child Care Home	Children's Paradise Learning Centers	Fantasy World Learning Center
Arc Project Thrive #4	Children's Village/The Resource Room	Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter
Area Stage Company	Christian Fellowship Community Development Corporation	Fernandez Large Family Day Care Home
Arelis Orozco Family Day Care Home	Citrus Health Network	FilmGate Miami
Arias Family Day Care Home	City of Hialeah	First Discovery Links Learning Center
Armour Dance Theatre	City of Homestead	First Serve Miami
Arts Ballet Theatre of Florida	City of Miami	First Step Champions
Arts for Learning	City of Miami Beach	Fit Kids of America
ArtSouth	City of Miami Gardens	Five Star Learning Center
Artwalk Presents	City of North Bay Village	FL Academy Corp
Avenues of Excellence	City of North Miami Beach	FLIPANY (Florida Introduces Physical Activity and Nutrition to Youth)
Ayuda	CMB Visions Unlimited	Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County
B & G Preschool	Coalition of Florida Farmworker Organization (COFFO)	Florida Film Institute
Barry University	Coconut Grove Optimist Preparatory	Florida International University
Be Strong International	Common Threads	Florida Memorial University
Beautiful Beginnings Preschool & Daycare	Community Arts and Culture	FOCAL (Foundation of Community Assistance & Leadership)
Belafonte TACOLCY (The Advisory Committee of Liberty City Youth)	Community Coalition	Focal Point Dance Company
Believers of Authority Ministers	Community Health of South Florida	Francis Large Family Child Care Home
Bell Large Family Day Care Home	Concerned African Women	Friends of the Bass Museum
Bethany Child Development Center II	ConnectFamilias	Friendship Circle of Miami
Bethel Apostolic Temple	Coral Gables Congregational Church	Frontline Education
Big Ideas Educational Services	Counrly Club Children's Education Center Inc	Full Deliverance Baptist Church
Blue Angel Learning Center	Countryside Learning Center	Future Leaders Academy
Borinquen Health Care Center	Creative Kids Academy	Future Leaders Academy of Kendall
Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade	Dance Center of Florida	Future Leaders of Tomorrow Academy (FLOTA)
Branches	Dance Now! Miami	GableStage
Brazilian Voices	Dave and Mary Alper JCC	Gamebred Youth and Families
Breakthrough Miami	Decroly Learning Child Care Center	Gandara Large Family Child Care Home
Bricks Early Learning Center	Deering Estate Foundation	Gang Alternative
Bright Futures Preschool and Learning Center	Demerville Family Day Care Home	
Bright Star Academy Day Care	Diamond Learning Center	
Bright Steps Academy		

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Garden Of Light Academy  
 Genesis Hopeful Haven  
 Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida  
 Golden Apple Academy  
 Gomez Family Day Care Home  
 Gonzalez Family Day Care Home  
 Grace Christian Preparatory  
 Grace United Learning Center  
 Great Expectations Learning Center  
 Greater Goulds Optimist Club  
 Greater Love Primary Learning Center  
 Greater Miami South Florida Youth and Community  
 Greater Miami Youth for Christ  
 Greater Miami Youth Symphony  
 Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church  
 Greater Saint Matthews Holiness Church  
 Growing Angels  
 Growing Treasures Learning Center  
 Guitars Over Guns  
 Hanan's Academic Development Center  
 Happy Dreams Learning Center  
 Happy Family Learning Center  
 Happy Garden Learning Day Care Center  
 Happy Hearts Day Care  
 Happy Memories Learning Center Corp  
 Happy Place Academy  
 Hard Knocks Foundation  
 Health Council of South Florida  
 Helping Individuals Succeed  
 Hernandez Large Family Child Care Home  
 His House Children's Home  
 Historic Hampton House Community Trust  
 Holmes Large Family Child Care Home  
 Homestead Christian Academy  
 Homestead Haitian Pastor Association  
 Homestead Youth Arts Center  
 Honey Bee's Garden Daycare  
 Honey Shine  
 Hope, Heart and Home  
 Hosanna Community Foundation  
 Human Trafficking Front  
 ICU Baby, Inc.  
 Inspiring Community Health  
 Interamerican Learning Center  
 International Bilingual Preschool  
 International Children's Academy  
 International Rescue Committee  
 Irena Rodriguez Large Family Child Care Home  
 Ismary Capote Family Day Care Home Corp  
 It's A Small World Academy  
 It's A Small World Learning Centers  
 Jay's Learning Center  
 Jessie Trice Community Health Center  
 Jewish Community Services of South Florida  
 Jitta Large Family Child Care Home  
 Joann's A Place Of Refuge  
 Johnson Family Day Care Home  
 Jordan Family Day Care Home  
 Jordan Grove MBL Corporation  
 Judah Christian Center Ministries  
 Junior Achievement of Greater Miami  
 Just Kids Centers  
 K.C Kiddie Care  
 Karen Peterson and Dancers  
 Kayleen's Learning Center  
 Kerube's Korner PreK of Coral Gables  
 Ket & Ray Friendly Christian Preschool  
 Key Biscayne Community Foundation  
 Kiddie Corner Academy  
 Kiddy Academy  
 Kids 4 Us Corp  
 Kid's Club Academy  
 Kids Colors Learning Center  
 Kid's Day Care & Kindergarten  
 Kids Dream Learning Center  
 Kid's Haven Academy  
 Kids In Action Daycare Kindergarten  
 Kids Land Day Care  
 Kid's Land Family Daycare  
 Kids Learning Center of South Dade  
 Kids N Touch Academy  
 Kids Paradise Child Care & Learning Center  
 Kids R Us Day Care Corp  
 Kids Rainbow Learning Center  
 Kids Small World Learning Center  
 Kids Zone Day Care Center  
 Kidsville Learning Centers  
 Kidworks USA  
 Kidz Rainbow Learning Center  
 Kindercare Learning Center  
 Kinderkids Learning Center & Preschool  
 Kingdom Academy  
 KLC Academy  
 Knowledge Builders of Florida  
 Kristi House  
 La Casita Academy  
 La Viña Del Señor  
 Lago Mar Preschools  
 Laurencio Large Family Child Care Home  
 Le Jardin Head Start Program  
 Leadership Learning Center at St. John Bosco  
 Learn & Play Preschool  
 Learning City Academy  
 Leisure City Modello Optimist Club of Florida  
 Level Up Tutoring Service  
 Liberty Academy Daycare and Preschool  
 Liberty City Optimist Club  
 Lincoln Marti Child Care Center  
 Literacy Partners  
 Little Angel Academy  
 Little Angels Academy  
 Little Angels Christian School & Daycare  
 Little Beginners  
 Little Big Planet Learning Center  
 Little Children's Learning Academy  
 Little Dolphins Day Care Center  
 Little Genius Learn & Play  
 Little Hands of America  
 Little Innovators Early Learning Academy  
 Little Kids Learning Center I  
 Little Kingdom  
 Little Me Learning  
 Little One's Academy Corp  
 Little Red School House of Homestead  
 Little Star Day Care Homestead  
 Little Stars Learning Center Corp  
 Little Starz Academy  
 Little Steps Childcare & Preschool  
 Little Steps Day Care  
 Little Tigers Of Miami Gardens  
 Little Treasures Of Homestead Daycare  
 Little Village Childcare & Learning Center  
 Locust Projects  
 Lopez-Acevedo Large Family Day Care Home  
 Los Pinos Nuevos Academy  
 Love Thy Kids Academy  
 Lovely Stars Child Care  
 M Ensemble Company  
 Macedonia Community Outreach Ministries  
 Magic Kids Learning Center  
 Magic Waste Youth Foundation  
 Mahogany Youth Corporation  
 Maldonado Large Family Child Care Home  
 Maranatha Child Development Center  
 Margaritas 2 Child Care Home  
 Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center  
 Martija Large Family Day Care Home  
 Memorial Temple Early Childhood Education Center  
 Merry Poppins Daycare Kindergarten  
 Mexican American Council  
 Mi Mundo Feliz Child Care Home  
 Miami Book Fair  
 Miami Bridge Youth & Family Services  
 Miami Center for Racial Justice  
 Miami Children's Initiative  
 Miami Children's Museum  
 Miami Children's Theater  
 Miami City Ballet  
 Miami Dade College  
 Miami Dance Project  
 Miami Diaper Bank  
 Miami Immortals  
 Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired  
 Miami Music Festival  
 Miami Music Project  
 Miami New Drama  
 Miami Strike Force  
 Miami Theater Center  
 Miami Youth Garden  
 Miami Youth Orchestra  
 Miami-Dade County  
 Miami-Dade County League of Cities  
 Miami-Dade Family Learning Partnership  
 Michael-Ann Russell JCC  
 Mickey Mini Miracles Academy  
 Milo Family Day Care Home  
 Mini Me Day Care Learning Centers  
 MJ Hoops  
 Molina Large Family Child Care Home  
 Moonlighter FabLab  
 Mosaic Dance Project  
 Mothers Fighting 4 Justice  
 Mrs. Alvarez's Family Day Care Home  
 Ms. Claudia's Village Academy  
 Multi-Ethnic Youth Group Association (MEYGA)  
 Museum of Contemporary Art  
 Musically  
 My Child's Dreams  
 My First School  
 My Little Angels Day Care Center

- My Little School Academy  
 My Little World  
 My World Learning Center  
 NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Miami Dade County  
 Naranja Prep Academy Annex  
 National Black Child Development Institute  
 Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship  
 New Aladdin Learning Center  
 New Hope Development Center  
 New Horizons Community Mental Health Center  
 New Jerusalem Community Development Corporation  
 New Wave Learning Centers  
 New World Symphony  
 Nicklaus Children's Hospital  
 North Dade Regional Academy  
 Nova Southeastern University  
 O, Miami  
 Odalis Gonzalez Large Family Child Care Home  
 O'Farrill Learning Center  
 OIC of South Florida  
 Omega Power and Praise Ministry  
 On The Horizon Learning Center & Dance Studio  
 Opa-locka Community Development Corporation  
 Oral Health Florida  
 Orchestra Miami  
 Ortiz Family Day Care Home  
 Our Little Hands of Love  
 Overtown Youth Center  
 Paige and Friends Helping Hands  
 Para Bajitos  
 Paredes Large Family Child Care Home  
 Parent to Parent of Miami  
 Parks Foundation  
 PATH: Preserving, Archiving & Teaching Hiphop  
 Patterson Large Family Child Care Home  
 Peace CDC  
 Pena Large Family Child Care Home  
 Peter Pan Childcare & Learning Center  
 Philanthropy Miami  
 Pierre Toussaint Leadership and Learning Center  
 Pink & Blue Daycare  
 Play & Learn Child Care Centers  
 Play & Read Academy Corp  
 Play ABC Academy  
 Precious Little Angels Learning Centers  
 Precious Smiles Preschool  
 Preschool Curly's Kids  
 Propelling Into Triumph Incorporated  
 Prosperity Social Community Development Group  
 PSWAP (Professionals Sharing With A Purpose) Mentoring and Swim Organization  
 Public Health Trust  
 Puzzle Academy  
 Radical Partners  
 Rainbow Kids Center  
 Reading & Math's Florida Reading Corps  
 Reagan Educational Academy  
 ReCapturing the Vision International  
 Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)  
 Reina Learning Center  
 RER Consulting Enterprise  
 Reyes Large Family Child Care Home  
 Richmond-Perrine Optimist Club  
 Rise Up 4 Change  
 Rosalphanie Child Care 1  
 Rufo The Kangaroo Integral Center  
 RV Little Giant Day Care Center  
 S.E.E.K (Seeking Education Empowers Knowledge) Foundation  
 Saint James Baptist Church of Coconut Grove  
 Saint Martha Concerts and Cultural Affairs  
 Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center  
 SBC Community Development Corporation  
 Seraphic Fire  
 Shake-A-Leg Miami  
 Shakevia Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation  
 Shining Light Childcare Development Center  
 Shining Stars Childcare Center  
 Siewnarine Large Family Child Care Home  
 Soler Stars Academy  
 Sosyete Koukouy of Miami  
 South Dade Chamber of Commerce  
 South Florida Arts & Counseling  
 South Florida Autism Center  
 South Florida Foster and Adoptive Parent Association  
 South Florida Symphony Orchestra  
 South Florida Youth Symphony  
 South Temple Empowerment Project  
 Southern Birth Justice Network  
 Sowing Hearts Academy  
 Sparks Day Care and Preschool  
 Springview Academy  
 Sprout Up  
 St. Alban's Child Enrichment Center  
 Star Student Success Academy  
 Stars Learning Day Care Center  
 START (Striving To Attain Remarkable Teens) Program  
 Step Above Academy  
 Steps for Learning Preschool  
 Steve's Academy  
 Sundari Foundation's Lotus Village  
 Sunflowers Academy  
 Super Kids Christian Day Care Center  
 Su's Creative Corner Preschool  
 System Miami  
 T5 Foundation  
 Teen Upward Bound  
 Teeter Tots Childcare & Learning Center  
 The 2nd House Day Care & Pre-School  
 The Advent School Academy  
 The Advocacy Network on Disabilities  
 The Alliance for LGBTQ Youth  
 The Alternative Programs (TAP)  
 The Arc of South Florida  
 The Carter Academy  
 The Children's Voice Chorus  
 The Education Fund  
 The Florida City Foundation  
 The Giving Tree Christian Learning Center  
 The Green Haven Project  
 The Home Team Miami  
 The Kids Academy Preschool  
 The Learning Center For Kids  
 The Learning Corner Academy  
 The Miami Foundation  
 The Motivational Edge  
 The Murray Dranoff Foundation  
 The Opera Atelier  
 The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds Florida  
 The Pontis Group  
 The Pumpkin Share  
 The Salvation Army  
 The Trayvon Martin Foundation  
 Thumbelina Learning Centers  
 Thy Kingdom Kids Learning Academy Corp  
 Tiger & Dragon Miami  
 Tiny Kingdom Learning Center  
 Tiny Steps Day Care Learning Center  
 Tiny Steps Preschool  
 Tiny Town Daycare Center  
 Tiny Town Development Center  
 Tiny Tykes Learning Center  
 Tops Christian Academy  
 Tot "R" Us Christian Preschool  
 Touching Miami with Love  
 Town Center Pre-School  
 Town of Cutler Bay  
 Training & Implementation Associates  
 Trinity Church  
 Tutor Me Day Care & Learning Corp  
 U Turn Youth Consulting  
 U.S. Soccer Foundation  
 Unique Kids Family Childcare  
 United Community Options (UCO) of South Florida  
 United Way Miami  
 UniverCity Early Learning Center  
 University of Miami  
 Urban League of Greater Miami  
 Urgent  
 Uribe Large Family Child Care Home  
 Victoria's Playhouse Day Care & Pre-K  
 Village Learning Center  
 Voice of Love Training and Development  
 Voices For Children Foundation  
 Voices of Miami  
 Walk by Faith Educational Centers  
 Watch Me Grow Learning Centers  
 Waterston Large Family Child Care Home  
 West Perrine Community Development Corporation  
 Westchester Academy & Learning Center  
 Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center  
 Women's Fund of Miami-Dade  
 World Literacy Crusade Girl Power Rocks  
 World To Grow Learning Centers  
 Wynwood Learning Centers  
 Xavier Cortada Foundation  
 YES (Young Excellent Scholars) Academy  
 Yesan Large Family Child Care Home  
 Yin Yang Academy  
 YMCA of South Florida  
 Young Children's Learning Center  
 Young Musicians Unite  
 YWCA South Florida



**Program Service Sites  
2022-2023**

Data Sources:  
-The Children's Trust

Location:  
Miami-Dade County,  
Florida

Created by  
Research and  
Evaluation  
November 2023

The Children's Trust  
3150 SW Third Ave  
Miami, FL 33129  
[www.thechildrenstrust.org](http://www.thechildrenstrust.org)

**LEGEND** Positive Change Negative Change

## Community Results & Indicators

	Miami-Dade Most Recent Value (Year)	Miami-Dade Previous Value (Year)	Change Between Years	State of Florida Most Recent Value	National (US) Most Recent Value
<b>CHILDREN ATTEND QUALITY CHILD CARE</b>					
Child care programs participating in Thrive by 5 QIS <sup>1</sup>	<b>323 programs</b> (2023)	<b>304 programs</b> (2022)	↑	not comparable	not comparable
Thrive by 5 QIS child care programs at the highest quality levels (tier 4/5) <sup>1</sup>	<b>62%</b> (2023)	<b>49%</b> (2022)	↑	not comparable	not comparable
Children attending Thrive by 5 QIS child care programs <sup>1</sup>	<b>27,741</b> (2023)	<b>25,966</b> (2022)	↑	not comparable	not comparable
Thrive by 5 QIS early care & education staff with 60 credits/associates or higher degree <sup>2</sup>	<b>1,108 staff</b> (2023)	<b>1,120 staff</b> (2022)	↓	not comparable	not comparable
<b>CHILDREN ARE SUPPORTED BY NURTURING AND INVOLVED PARENTS</b>					
Families with children under 18 years in the labor force <sup>3</sup>	<b>73%</b> (2021)	<b>72%</b> (2020)	↑	<b>73%</b> (2021)	<b>70%</b> (2021)
Children in food insecure households <sup>4</sup>	<b>14%</b> (2021)	<b>18%</b> (2020)	↓	<b>14%</b> (2021)	<b>13%</b> (2021)
Child maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children) <sup>5</sup>	<b>1.5</b> (2021)	<b>1.2</b> (2020)	↑	<b>5.4</b> (2021)	<b>8.1</b> (2021)
Rate of unintentional child injuries resulting in hospitalization (per 100,000) <sup>6</sup>	<b>133</b> (2021)	<b>115</b> (2020)	↑	<b>124</b> (2021)	<b>124</b> (2020)
Children living in safe neighborhoods <sup>7</sup>	<b>36%</b> (2022)	<b>82%</b> (2010)	↓	not available	not available
<b>CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN</b>					
Kindergartners Ready for Kindergarten (Star Early Literacy Assessment) <sup>8</sup>	<b>46%</b> (2022)	<b>51%</b> (2021)	↓	<b>49%</b> (2021)	not comparable
<b>STUDENTS ARE SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY</b>					
Elementary students attending school regularly (< 10% absences annually) <sup>9</sup>	<b>86%</b> (2022-23)	<b>85%</b> (2021-22)	↑	not available	not available
Middle students attending school regularly (< 10% absences annually) <sup>9</sup>	<b>83%</b> (2022-23)	<b>83%</b> (2021-22)	—	not available	not available
High school students attending school regularly (< 10% absences annually) <sup>9</sup>	<b>73%</b> (2022-23)	<b>72%</b> (2021-22)	↑	not available	not available
3rd grade students reading at a satisfactory or higher level (FSA ELA exam) <sup>10</sup>	<b>52%</b> (2023)	<b>56%</b> (2022)	↓	<b>50%</b> (2023)	not comparable
4th grade students reading at or above the basic level (NAEP Reading exam) <sup>11</sup>	<b>71%</b> (2023)	<b>70%</b> (2022)	↑	<b>71%</b> (2022)	<b>62%</b> (2022)
8th grade students reading at or above basic level (NAEP Reading exam) <sup>11</sup>	<b>72%</b> (2022)	<b>71%</b> (2019)	↑	<b>68%</b> (2022)	<b>70%</b> (2022)
8th grade students' math scores at or above basic level (NAEP Math exam) <sup>11</sup>	<b>63%</b> (2022)	<b>64%</b> (2019)	↓	<b>58%</b> (2022)	<b>62%</b> (2022)
<b>CHILDREN REGULARLY ACCESS MEDICAL, DENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES</b>					
Children who regularly access medical services <sup>12</sup>	<b>47%</b> (2022)	<b>76%</b> (2020)	↓	not available	<b>77%</b> (2020)
Children who regularly access dental services <sup>12</sup>	<b>69%</b> (2020)	<b>84%</b> (2018)	↓	not available	<b>72%</b> (2020)
Children who needed mental health services in the past year <sup>12</sup>	<b>59%</b> (2022)	<b>12%</b> (2020)	↑	not available	<b>17%</b> (2020)
Children who have health insurance <sup>3</sup>	<b>93%</b> (2022)	<b>94%</b> (2021)	↓	<b>93%</b> (2021)	<b>96%</b> (2022)
Students screened by HealthConnect schools at a healthy weight <sup>13</sup>	<b>52%</b> (2022)	<b>58%</b> (2021)	↓	<b>59%</b> (2021)	not comparable
Kindergartners with required immunizations <sup>14</sup>	<b>92%</b> (2022)	<b>93%</b> (2021)	↓	<b>92%</b> (2022)	not available
<b>YOUTH SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD</b>					
Connected youth (16–19-year-olds who are in school and/or employed) <sup>3</sup>	<b>94%</b> (2021)	<b>95%</b> (2020)	↓	<b>94%</b> (2021)	<b>95%</b> (2021)
Students graduating within four years of entering 9th grade <sup>9</sup>	<b>88%</b> (2021-22)	<b>91%</b> (2020-21)	↓	<b>87%</b> (2021-22)	<b>86%</b> (2018-19)
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 15–19-year-old females) <sup>15</sup>	<b>9</b> (2021)	<b>10</b> (2020)	↓	<b>14</b> (2021)	<b>22</b> (2020)
Youth who vape (all middle and high school students) <sup>16</sup>	<b>20%</b> (2022)	<b>29%</b> (2020)	↓	<b>21%</b> (2022)	<b>20%</b> (2022)
Youth arrested for crimes (per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17 years) <sup>17</sup>	<b>3</b> (2021)	<b>5</b> (2020)	↓	<b>10</b> (2020-21)	not available
Youth homicides by firearms <sup>17</sup>	<b>10</b> (2021)	<b>29</b> (2020)	↓	<b>114</b> (2021)	not available

## Community Results & Indicators

Last updated January 2024

### CROSCUTTING FACTORS (2022)

	Miami-Dade	State of Florida	United States
<b>CHILD POPULATION (BIRTH TO 17 YEARS)</b>	<b>536,368</b>	<b>4,277,487</b>	<b>73,261,609</b>
Annual births <sup>3</sup>	28,949	224,419	3,667,758
Under 6 years <sup>3</sup>	32%	31%	32%
6-11 years <sup>3</sup>	33%	33%	34%
12-17 years <sup>3</sup>	35%	36%	36%
<b>DIVERSITY OF CHILDREN BY RACE / ETHNICITY</b>			
Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	62%	32%	12%
White, non-Hispanic <sup>3</sup>	15%	39%	48%
Black <sup>3</sup>	18%	19%	13%
All other <sup>3</sup>	5%	10%	13%
<b>CHILDREN WHO ARE FOREIGN BORN AND/OR WITH FOREIGN-BORN PARENT(S)</b>			
Child is foreign born <sup>3</sup>	28%	12%	6%
Child has one or two foreign-born parent <sup>3</sup>	67%	35%	26%
<b>PRIMARY HOME LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES*</b>			
Population 5 and over that speak only English at home <sup>3</sup>	25%	70%	78%
Population 5 and over that speak Spanish at home <sup>3</sup>	66%	22%	13%
* 9% speak a primary language at home other than English or Spanish (i.e., 41 other Indo-European, Asian and Pacific Island, and other languages).			
<b>FAMILY TYPE</b>			
Children in married-couple families <sup>3</sup>	64%	66%	70%
Children in female householder families <sup>3</sup>	28%	26%	23%
Children in male householder families <sup>3</sup>	8%	8%	7%
<b>FAMILY POVERTY STATUS</b>			
Children in families with income less than 100% poverty level <sup>3</sup>	17%	17%	16%
Children in families with income between 100-199% of poverty level <sup>3</sup>	26%	23%	20%
Children in families with income greater than 200% of poverty level <sup>3</sup>	58%	60%	64%
<b>CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS/ CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES</b>			
Public school students with disabilities <sup>9</sup>	12%		



## End Notes

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