



**FY2018/2019
Children's Services Annual Plan & Report
Adopted January 23, 2018**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES FY18/19 ANNUAL PLAN & REPORT

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Thank You!

We acknowledge the efforts of those individuals who provide essential information necessary to assess the needs of children in Manatee County. Input received from private citizens, local social service agencies, the business community, various state agencies and county departments play a major role in the development of this plan.

Introduction

Each year the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) presents the Annual Plan to the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) which includes information that covers three fiscal years, reflecting the past, present, and future work of the Advisory Board and Children's Services staff. The Children's Services Advisory Board reviews program performance from the previous fiscal year, conducts reviews of programs funded during the current fiscal year, and builds the plan for the next fiscal year.

The plan and report is divided into three sections based on the data, which includes:

- FY18/19 Plan - Future fiscal year investment goals and priorities of the Children's Services Advisory Board, and Children's Services Special Initiatives;
- FY17/18 Report - A categorized breakdown of the current fiscal year investments approved for children's programs; and
- FY16/17 Report - A categorized report of the prior fiscal year investments, number of programs and children and families served.

Manatee County Board of County Commissioners

Priscilla Whisenant Trace, District 1

Charles B. Smith, District 2

Stephen R. Jonsson, District 3

Robin DiSabatino, District 4

Vanessa Baugh, District 5

Betsy Benac, At-Large

Carol Whitmore, At-Large

Children's Services Advisory Board

Membership and Term Expiration Dates

Chair
Kimberly Kutch
Dept. of Children & Families
9/30/18

Vice-Chair
Xtavia Bailey
Child Advocate
9/30/20

*Criminal Justice
Representative*
**Jeremy
Giddens**
9/30/19

*Family Law Division
Judge*
Vacant

*Licensed Mental
Health Professional*
**Melanie
Teves Bell, LMFT**
9/30/18

*Manatee County
School Board Member*
**Gina
Messenger**
9/30/20

*NAACP
Representative*
**Sharon
Jefferson**
9/30/20

*Physician/
Pediatrician*
**George
VanBuren, MD**
9/30/19

*United Way
of Manatee County*
**Debbie
Tapp**
9/30/18

**Richard
Aubry**
9/30/20

Child Advocates

**Joanne
Hibbs**
9/30/18

**Pierrette
Kelly**
9/30/19

**Sandra
Stone**
9/30/18

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed
people can change the world..." ~ Margaret Mead*

Fiscal Year 18/19 Investment Goals & Priorities Plan



Fiscal Year 18/19 – Investment Goals and Priorities Plan

The Advisory Board reviews and evaluates comprehensive risk factor and indicator data gathered from a variety of reliable and relevant local, state, and national resources to determine the ongoing and emerging needs of the children and families in our community. At the annual retreat, held on September 29, 2017, the members considered this data and facts brought forth from their individual areas of expertise to determine results focused investment goals and priorities for FY18/19.

Desired Results for Manatee County Children

Children will live in stable and nurturing families

Children are mentally and physically healthy

Children will be developmentally and academically ready to succeed in school

Children will live in safe and supportive community environment

Children will successfully transition into adulthood

The overall desired results for children in Manatee County are not achievable with an unfocused approach to investment, nor are they attainable with the amount of funds available. To make a difference with the available funds, the Advisory Board set the priorities outlined in this plan for FY18/19. These results-focused investments can be tracked and measured in terms of moving the needle toward a set target of improvement for specific indicators of child well-being.

Applications will be reviewed by the Advisory Board in 2018, based on Results First and the priorities contained within this report for improving the health and welfare of our county's abused, neglected, at-risk and economically disadvantaged children. The Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for the investment of the FY18/19 Children's Services Dedicated Millage once all submitted applications have been reviewed.

Fiscal Year 18/19 – Priority/Result Data

A. Desired Result: Children will live in stable and nurturing families

- Indicator: 29% of Manatee County dependent children exiting care to a permanent home within 12 months of entering foster care (Quarter 1 - FY2017/18).
- Target: 50%

Why is this important?

The placement of children in out of home care occurs when a child cannot safely remain with his or her family due to child abuse or neglect; a problem that crosses socioeconomic and racial ethnic boundaries with a profound effect on the well-being of children. Permanent placements for children help prevent placement instability, which can be related to attachment disorders, negative educational outcomes, mental health and behavioral problems and negative adult outcomes. Our youngest children are the most vulnerable for safety issues and for long-term adverse effects (Florida State University, Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, 2016). Child maltreatment causes suffering to children and families and can have long-term consequences. Maltreatment causes stress that is associated with disruption in early brain development. Extreme stress can impair the development of the nervous and immune systems (World Health Organization, Child Maltreatment Fact Sheet, 2016).

- Indicator: 82.2% of Manatee County children who do not re-enter foster care within 12 months of moving to a permanent home (Quarter 1 – FY2017/18).
- Target: 91%

Why is this important?

Many children come back into the system because the root cause of maltreatment was not fully addressed. The emotional consequences of multiple placements or disruptions are likely to be harmful at any age, and the premature return of a child to the biologic parents often results in return to foster care or ongoing emotional trauma to the child.

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect have a heightened need for permanency, security, and emotional constancy and are, therefore, at great risk because of the inconsistencies in their lives and the foster care system. Every effort should be made to rapidly establish a permanent placement for the child. Tangible continuity in relationships with family and friends is essential for a child's healthy development. Multiple moves while in foster care, with the attendant disruption and uncertainty, can be deleterious to the young child's brain growth, mental development, and psychological adjustment (Developmental Issues for Young Children in Foster Care, <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/106/5/1145>).

B. Desired Result: Children are mentally and physically healthy

- Indicator: 28% of Florida students ages 14-17 reported they felt sad or hopeless daily for 2 weeks in a row in the past 12 months on the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey;
- Indicator: 14.4% of Florida students ages 14-17 reported they seriously considered attempting suicide in the past 12 months on the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and
- Indicator: 87% of the 2015/16 involuntary mental health examinations for children in Manatee County resulted in admission to the Crisis Stabilization Unit under Baker Act (457 admissions/ 527 examinations).
- Target: Improved access to mental health treatment

Why is this important?

Behavioral health issues affect children of all ages. Approximately 15% of young children ages birth to five experience some type of emotional, relational, or behavioral disturbance. More than 40% of adolescents have experienced a behavioral health problem before they reach 7th grade (VanLandeghem & Hanlon, Comprehensive Early Childhood Mental Health Systems to Improve Outcomes and Reduce Costs). 75-80% of children and youth in need of mental health services do not receive them (National Center for Children in Poverty, www.nccp.org).

- Indicator: 14.9% of Florida students ages 14-17 who were deemed overweight (BMI percentiles equal to or greater than 85th percentile for their age) based on their responses on the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and
- Indicator: 31.8% of Manatee County children, ages 2-5 enrolled in WIC program for 2017, had BMI percentiles equal to or greater than 85th percentile for their age (overweight or obese) compared to 26.3% of Florida children.
- Target: Healthy BMI

Why is this important?

Excess weight acquired during childhood and adolescence may persist into adulthood and increase the risk for chronic diseases, such as sleep apnea, diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension. Obese adolescents have a 70% chance of becoming obese adults (The Surgeon General, 2000). Excess weight can be prevented and treated through proper nutrition and physical activity, especially during the critical periods of infancy, two to four years of age, and adolescence.

Improper nutrition is one of the leading causes of obesity in children, a condition which can be very dangerous and lead to a lifetime of health complications. Children in families with insufficient access to nutritious foods are in fact significantly more likely to be obese in early childhood than other children. This is especially true of children who regularly consume fast food. Obesity can also result in a negative self-image, eating disorders, a decreased quality of life and other long-term psychosocial problems that are extremely difficult to reverse (Children with Poor Nutrition, www.healthyeating.sfgate.com/children-poor-nutrition-6555.html).

C. Desired Result: Children are developmentally and academically ready to succeed in school

- Indicator: 50.25% of Manatee County 3rd grade students achieved Level 3 (grade level) or higher in 16/17 English Language Arts Florida Standards Assessment.
- Target: 55%

Why is this important?

ELA assesses a student's performance in reading, writing, listening and research. Understanding the performance at the completion of third grade is important because third grade is the year that students start reading to learn, rather than learning to read. Third-graders who lack proficiency in reading are four times more likely to become high school dropouts. (Hernandez, D.J. (2012). Double Jeopardy: How Third-Grade Reading Skills and Poverty Influence High School Graduation. The Annie E. Casey Foundation.) Too many children lose ground over the summer months. Without access to the enriching activities available to more affluent peers, research shows that children from low income families lose as much as three months of reading comprehension skills over the summer. By the end of fifth grade, they are nearly three grade levels behind their peers (The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. www.gradelevelreading.net).

Research shows that learning begins long before a child enters kindergarten. Children, even infants soak up words, rhymes, songs and images. Vocabulary development is particularly important. A child's health, and the recognitions of developmental delays, is another critical aspect of school readiness. Doctors, care providers, preschool teachers and parents play a key role.

- Indicator: 51.07% of Manatee County 3rd grade students achieved Level 3 (grade level) or higher in 16/17 Math Florida Standards Assessment.
- Target: 55%

Why is this important?

The mathematics component assesses a student's performance in applying mathematical concepts and procedures, using appropriate tools and strategies to solve problems and demonstrating an ability to support mathematical conclusions. It is known that math difficulties are cumulative and worsen with time. Understanding third grade performance is important because it is the year that students start utilizing the decimal system to do multi-digit number calculations, an important foundation for future success in mathematics.

D. Desired Result: Children will live in safe and supportive community environment

- Indicator: 10% of Florida students ages 14-17 reported they skipped school at least once in the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school, or on the way to or from school, on the 2017 Florida Youth Risk Behavior Survey; and
- Indicator: 29.6% of Manatee County students ages 10-14 and 21.6% ages 15-17 reported being verbally bullied in the past 30 days on the 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.
- Target: Decrease bullying

Why is this important?

Children and youth who are bullied can experience negative physical, school, and mental health issues. They are more likely to experience health complaints, depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy. These issues may persist into adulthood. They are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school, have decreased academic achievement and school participation (Effects of Bullying, www.stopbullying.gov).

Some children with disabilities have low self-esteem, feel depressed, lonely or anxious because of their disability, and bullying may make this even worse. Bullying can cause serious, lasting problems not only for children who are bullied, but those who bully or witness it (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, www.cdc.gov).

Out of school time programs are well-placed to raise awareness about bullying and can easily integrate and track the results of lessons that build self-control, confidence, and even resilience to bullying.

- Indicator: 53% protective factor prevalence rate in Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement for Manatee County youth ages 10-17 in the Family Domain;
- Indicator: 33% risk factor prevalence rate in Family Conflict for Manatee County youth ages 10-17 in the Family Domain; and
- Indicator: 46% risk factor prevalence rate in Family Management (supervision/discipline) for Manatee youth ages 10-13; and 39% for ages 14-17 on the 2016 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey.
- Target: Decrease risk factors/Increase protective factors

Why is this important?

When family members reward their youth for positive participation in activities, it further strengthens the bonds the youth feel to their families and helps promote clear standards for behavior. Youth with lower scores on the Family Rewards for Prosocial Involvement scale are less likely to receive praise and support from their parents when they accomplish something positive. This lack of positive feedback may weaken the parent-child bond and inhibit the parents' ability to transfer prosocial values to their children.

Teens and their parents often have conflict. How this conflict is managed is critical. Conflict can spin out of control if not managed constructively. Youth with higher prevalence of risk in family conflict may be experiencing emotional tension and difficulty communicating with their parent(s). As communication breaks down, relationships suffer and undesirable, even criminal behaviors may surface.

Youth who experience inadequate family supervision and inappropriate family discipline are at higher risk of developing problems such as drug use, delinquency, violence and school dropout. Youth reporting risk factor prevalence in Family Management are likely to have a family life in which parents fail to supervise and monitor them, fail to communicate clear expectations for behavior, and give excessively severe, harsh or inconsistent punishment. The average number of hours per week reported as unstructured or unsupervised time reported by Florida youth on the 2017 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey was: 4.3 hours for ages 11-13; 5.6 hours for ages 14-15; and 6.6 hours for ages 16-17.

Children's Services Special Initiatives



RESULTS FIRST INITIATIVE

Over the past 26 years, the Children's Services Dedicated Millage has been used to fund hundreds of programs for children and their families. While this funding has produced volumes of data it was compliance driven data vs. results driven data. The Results First initiative provided a solution to this problem. Now the Children's Services Advisory Board and staff are progressing toward a new goal. With Results First, before any money goes out the door the CSAB and citizens will know the specific human gain it will bring to fruition and how many of our children are doing better as a result. Targets and milestones are being developed so that we will know if the desired results were achieved. This is the heart of the Results First framework.

We are much less focused on document driven compliance and have turned more to the results of how many people or situations get better. We are no longer a funder of programs; we are an investor for results. As investors, we focus on three questions whenever we consider funding a program:

1. What are we buying?
2. What are the chances that this result will be achieved?
3. Given other ways we could spend the money to achieve the same human gain, is this the best possible use of our resources?

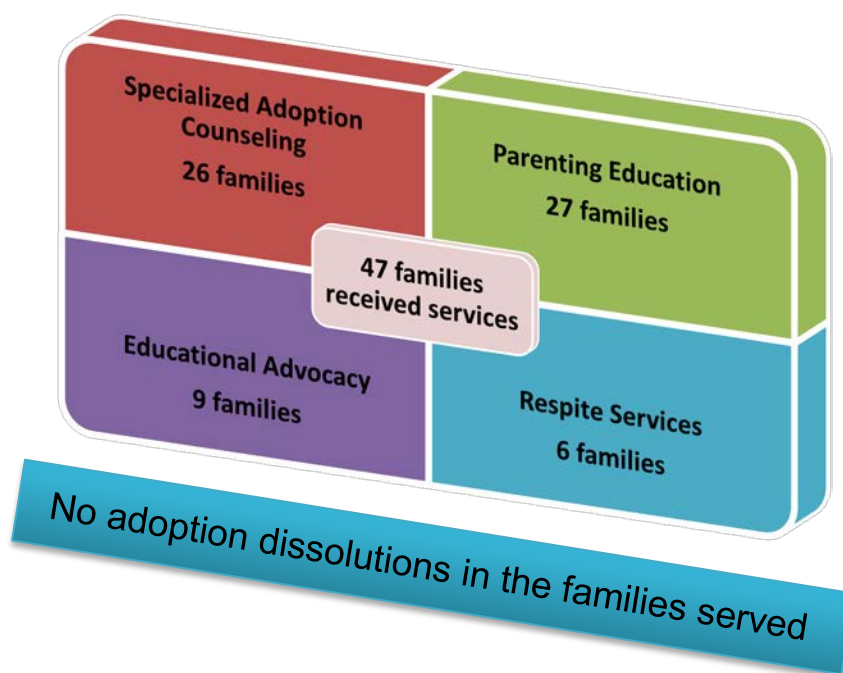
How will we know if we are successful? First, we will have much more clarity on results achieved with our investments. Second, we will see results go up over time. We will track these two factors very specifically for each program; and we can because a result focus gives us fewer documents with richer data. The conversation is challenging — but much more streamlined and meaningful.

Our first year efforts in the Results First Initiative began in June 2016. Our consultant, Hal Williams, provided training and guidance, using a prototype approach, to staff and eight programs in the cohort. In 2017, efforts expanded to cohorts with like programs, such as counseling, respite and therapeutic services. These groups worked together to develop shared results and milestones in an effort to add up the cumulative benefits to the children receiving these services.

Hal Williams has worked with staff to develop a new results-based funding application, which will be used when the process opens for FY18/19 in the first quarter of 2018. A corresponding scoring matrix has also been developed for the Advisory Board.

Through a partnership of Manatee Community Foundation, Manatee County Government, and United Way Suncoast, a workshop entitled, "Results First: Tools for High Achievement by Nonprofits", was presented December 7, 2017, to approximately 80 people from local nonprofits. This was the first opportunity for many to hear about Results First and to learn what they need in preparation for the Results First grant application. They learned practical steps to better define, track, verify and communicate **results** of their programs and services. Nonprofits were also introduced to members of the original prototype cohort who have generously offered to act as mentors to other agencies.

CHOSEN FAMILIES PROGRAM - FIRST 2 YEAR RESULTS – FY16 & FY17



PARENT FEEDBACK

"I am so happy I have my Parenting Educator these days. Just as she predicted, my young daughter is asking about her bio family more and more, and I am prepared to answer her."

Sheila, mother of a 4-year-old adoptee

"I have learned so much from my Parenting Educator and become so connected with resources. Before Chosen Families, I had no one. Literally, no one."

Kim, mother of a 3 pre-adolescent adopted children

"I have learned that my child's behavior came from a place of not feeling loved/valued based on the trauma of her past." Mother of adopted daughter

"This program has helped me understand the adoptive child's point of view and how trauma affects the brain. The retreat at Dream Oaks retreat helped quite a bit and showed our family how to have fun AND learn at the same time."

Parent of adopted children – Family attended the spring Charting the Course workshop held at Dream Oaks Camp

ADOPTION PRESERVATION AND SUPPORT



In response to many adoptions in the community that have dissolved in recent years, a 4-year RFP was developed and released to begin the program in FY2015/16. The specifications required multifaceted prevention and intervention to address needs of families formed by adoption, performed by adoption-competent professionals.

Funding has been awarded for 2 years and continues for a 3rd year through FY17/18 to Exchange Club Parenting Matters for the Chosen Families program, a collaborative effort between three local non-profit agencies with a single point of entry design. The basic premise is to educate and empower adoptive parents to handle problems themselves, maintain their commitment to the child, and encourage realistic expectations.

Specialized services help adoptive parents understand their child's identity issues and anger; provide guidance and support throughout the adoptive child's growing years to parents seeking services that address a wide range of issues, behaviors and emotions related to a family formed through adoption. The program also provides counseling for the adopted child, siblings, and the family. Support networks provide access to other parents knowledgeable about adoption; coaching for parents to help in assessing their child's need, managing crisis, navigating the school system and advocating for educational needs of the child. Respite services provide child care for parents who need to recharge and exercise self-care and managing day-to-day struggles.

ADOPTED CHILDREN'S FEEDBACK

"When I feel myself getting angry now, I go and sit by myself and start to count backwards from 100 and that calms me down, then I can go back and play. That little trick you showed me works."

Nathan – 12-year-old adoptee

"Now I know that whenever my stomach starts to hurt, I will get nervous. So, I'll go and do something quiet, like one of the things we talked about . . . and usually color or focus on my breathing and my stomach will stop hurting and it won't grow into a headache and all over nervousness."

Anna – 9-year-old adoptee

"When I start to have bad or sad thoughts or start to feel sorry for myself, I use my journal and write down my feelings. When I read back over them, I know that's just negative self-talk and is not true."

Shana – 14-year-old adoptee

"Well . . . now I think before I do something impulsive. I remember to use the 3-step rule that you showed me. 1) I get the idea, and 2) Before I act on it I think about the consequences and how the person will feel, then 3) I can decide if this is something I really want to do or not. Before I used to just get the thought and do it."

Tim – 12-year-old adoptee

FY2017/18 Investment Report

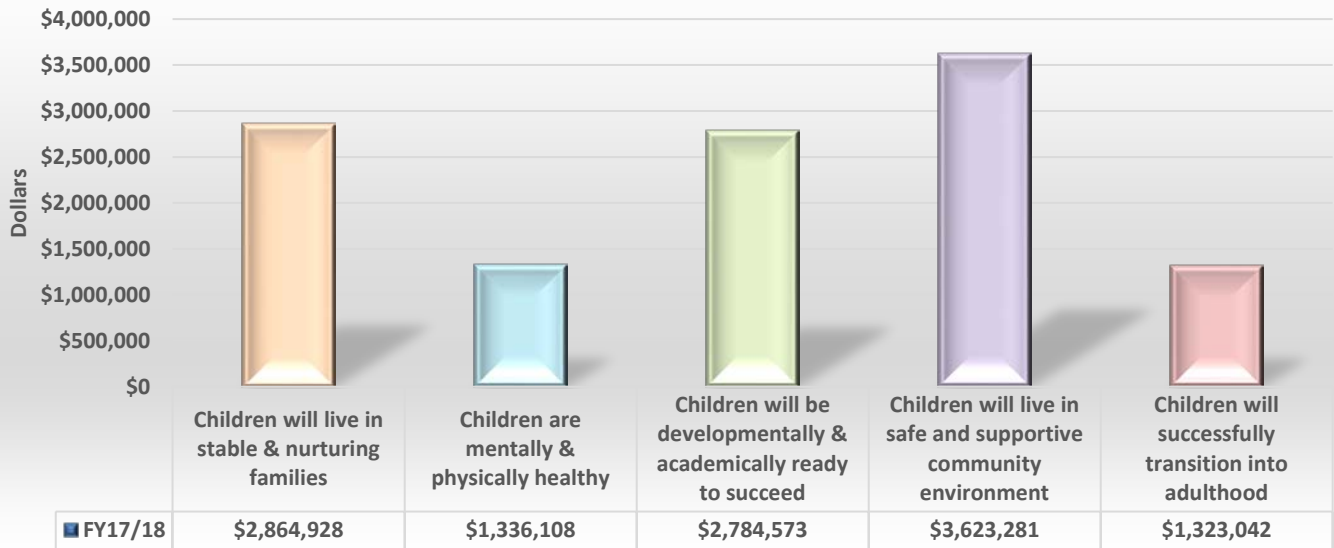


FY2017/18 Investment Report

This section of the Annual Report contains a categorized breakdown of the current fiscal year investments approved for children's programs and services.

Children will live in stable and nurturing families		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Invested
Stabilizing and strengthening and reducing incidence of child abuse	Adoption preservation Family counseling Kinship caregiver Parenting education & support Special needs parent mentoring, respite, treatment/other	\$2,864,928
		Programs: # 13
Children are mentally and physically healthy		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Invested
Promoting and improving detection, prevention and intervention in mental and physical health and well-being throughout childhood	Baker Act Behavioral/mental health screening & treatment Counseling Food security Healthy lifestyle	\$1,336,108
		Programs: # 9
Children will be developmentally and academically ready to succeed		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Invested
Ensuring safe and healthy development of our children during early childhood and preparing them to be socially, emotionally, and intellectually ready for school	Child care Early education and literacy Early screening and intervention for: developmental delays, learning disabilities, behavior health, social and emotional concerns	\$2,784,573
		Programs: # 6
Children will live in safe and supportive community environment		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Invested
Providing a safe, positive environment for youth with adult supervision and role models that enhance academic achievement and support social and physical youth development	Bullying prevention/intervention Grade level reading assistance Juvenile crime prevention Out of School Time care Personal safety education Substance abuse prevention Suspension and truancy prevention	\$3,623,281
		Programs: # 15
Children will successfully transition into adulthood		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Invested
Promoting positive behavior and academic achievement for youth through informed decision-making and life skills	Career exploration Mentoring Social and behavior skills Teen pregnancy prevention	\$1,323,042
		Programs: # 10

FY17/18 Investment Allocations



FY16/17 Investment Report



FY16/17 Investment Expenditure Report

This section of the Annual Report contains a categorized breakdown of the prior fiscal year investment expenditures, number of children and families served, and types of programs.

Children will live in stable and nurturing families		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Expended
Stabilizing and strengthening and reducing incidence of child abuse	Adoption preservation Family counseling Kinship caregiver Parenting education & support Special needs parent mentoring, respite, treatment/other	\$1,982,895.17
		Programs: # 10
Children are mentally and physically healthy		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Expended
Promoting and improving detection, prevention and intervention in mental and physical health and well-being throughout childhood	Baker Act Behavioral/mental health screening & treatment Counseling Food security	\$1,335,123.00
		Programs: # 9
Children will be developmentally and academically ready to succeed		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Expended
Ensuring safe and healthy development of our children during early childhood and preparing them to be socially, emotionally, and intellectually ready for school	Child care Early education and literacy Early screening and intervention for: developmental delays, learning disabilities, behavior health, social and emotional concerns	\$2,720,903.80
		Programs: # 7
Children will live in safe and supportive community environment		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Expended
Providing a safe, positive environment for youth with adult supervision and role models that enhance academic achievement and support social and physical youth development	Bullying prevention/intervention Grade level reading assistance Juvenile crime prevention Out of School Time care Personal safety education Substance abuse prevention Suspension and truancy prevention	\$3,424,483.24
		Programs: # 16
Children will successfully transition into adulthood		
Positive Vision Statement	Program Areas	Total Expended
Promoting positive behavior and academic achievement for youth through informed decision-making and life skills	Career exploration Mentoring Social and behavior skills Teen pregnancy prevention	\$1,396,253.56
		Programs: # 10

