

WEAVING THE THREADS OF COMMUNITY IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN



Children's Services Council
of Broward County
Our Focus is Our Children.

2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Letter from the Council Chair, Emilio Benitez



One of the greatest features of our community is its diversity. Whether reflected through those whose families have lived here for generations or those who have arrived most recently and continue to arrive, the breadth and complexity of culture, language, arts and knowledge we are privileged to tap into, makes for a truly unique environment where challenges and opportunities are best identified and addressed locally.

That is why the involvement and commitment of homegrown stakeholders is such a key to our successes. The theme of this year's Annual Report provides a visual representation of what those of us who work in the child welfare system in Broward County know very well: this is "Collaboration County". As a community, we tackle, solve and improve the many challenges that children and families in Broward face on a daily basis.

The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) is uniquely positioned, as a funder, convener, trusted broker and backbone of the Children's Strategic Plan to provide the structure within which all community partners, whose mission is to improve children's lives, come together to find common ground.

I am grateful to my colleagues on the Council who work diligently to maintain the CSC's highest standards of program effectiveness, advocacy on behalf of Broward's families, education of the public about community resources, and fiscal responsibility. As stewards of taxpayers' dollars, each of us takes our roles most seriously. All of our decisions are taken after careful consideration and with an eye toward what makes most sense as investments for the future.

In my first year as Chair of the CSC, I would be remiss if I did not give special thanks to my predecessor, School Board Member Robin Bartleman, who led us through a challenging but ultimately rewarding reauthorization campaign. I also want to recognize the long lasting contributions of those Council Members who have recently left the board: former Broward County Commissioner and original Council Member Sue Gunzburger, Judge Martin Dishowitz, Tara Philipp and Elyse Claprood. Though we will miss their insight and commitment to the children and families of our community in their roles as Council Members, we know they continue to advocate for those interests moving forward. In their stead, I am happy to welcome Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr, Judge Michael Orlando, Cathy Donnelly and Tom Powers. In their short tenure to date, they have all already demonstrated a clear understanding of the challenges we face and have injected the energy and willingness to make this a better community for generations to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Emilio Benitez".

Emilio Benitez

Council Members



Standing I-r: Tom Powers; Kim Gorsuch, Vice-Chair; Dr. Paula Thaqi; Judge Michael Orlando; Superintendent Robert Runcie
Seated I-r: Cathy Donnelly; Robin Bartleman, Immediate Past Chair; Emilio Benitez, Chair; Ana Valladares.
Not pictured, Commissioner Beam Furr, Secretary; Maria Schneider.

Letter from Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO



Last November the voters of Broward County overwhelmingly affirmed their commitment to Broward’s children by supporting the reauthorization of the Children’s Services Council. The path to that reauthorization brought even more partners to the table and even higher expectations of the Council, the staff and our provider network. As you read through the pages of this Annual Report, I hope it will be clear that we took that charge very seriously – continuing to build on our track record of accountability and our commitment to ensuring our funded programs are making a difference in the lives of children. But that is only part of the story. To truly efficiently and effectively serve children and their families takes all of us working together, hence the theme of this year’s Annual Report: “Weaving the Threads of Community in Support of Children”.

Each partner, whether they be from the government, business, non-profit, philanthropic or faith communities, or a parent, youth or volunteer contribute a thread that when woven together form a beautiful tapestry. As staff, we work every day to add new threads to the tapestry and strengthen the weave so it is not just pretty to look at but it also supports and surrounds Broward’s children and families.

Throughout this report you will read of many beautiful pictures that have been part of the tapestry for years as well as a few new pictures that have added depth and breadth to the work of art. With the leadership of Council Member Kim Gorsuch, the Safer by 4 Campaign was launched to target the two leading causes of accidental death of our children 0-4: accidental drowning and unsafe sleep. I’m happy to report our city threads have been very strong in this weave. Also, our innovative new program to provide vouchers for water safety lessons to parents’ of children 0-4 was extremely popular.

Council Member and County Commissioner Beam Furr is providing leadership in another beautiful picture – the Campaign for Grade Level Reading known as Broward Reads. This initiative is weaving together every type of thread to ensure that all of Broward’s children are reading on Grade Level by third grade.

For our older youth who have had a brush with the law, the LAW line was launched to help those youth understand their rights and responsibilities. I’ve also had the opportunity to be a leader in an initiative looking at police and community relations led by Congressman Alcee Hastings and Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Through this work we hope to diffuse tensions that have erupted in other communities in this country.

In closing, as you read the success stories of youth who have benefited from CSC funded programs, remember our contribution is intricately interwoven with our partners throughout the community. Let’s all continue to work together to weave a solid, long lasting and priceless tapestry for our children and families.

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer | President/CEO

CSC Management Team



Back row, l-r: Audrey Stang, Interim Chief Programs Officer; Kathleen Campbell, Dir. Finance; Sue Gallagher, Chief Innovation Officer; Marlando Christie, Dir. Management Information Systems; Maria Juarez Stouffer, Dir. Program Services; Michelle Hamilton, Dir. Human Resources
Seated, l-r: Sandra Bernard-Bastien, Chief Communications Officer; Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Monti Larsen, Chief Operating Officer



A Strategic Approach for Success

CSC is the Backbone of the Broward County Children's Strategic Plan

Since 2000, the CSC has worked with hundreds of community partners to systematically address issues that our children and families facing. The Broward Children's Strategic Plan is comprised of nearly 50 committees and subcommittees where passionate stakeholders figure out how to improve outcomes. Using Collective Impact and Results Based Accountability approaches, the Plan reduces service duplication, builds effective networks of collaboration and maximizes resources available to the community. The Plan is a mechanism for all children to (1) live in stable and nurturing families, (2) be ready to succeed in school, (3) live in safe and supportive communities, (4) be physically and mentally healthy and (5) successfully transition to adulthood. In addition to improving programs and service systems, the Plan connects to community efforts to improve access to attainable housing, transportation and economic prosperity – the Plan connects child and family networks with other community networks that are working to improve our community. Visit results4browardchildren.org to get involved.



CLICK ON HIGHLIGHTED LINKS THROUGHOUT THE PUBLICATION TO LEARN MORE INFORMATION

Broward Reads!

In FY 2014-15, the CSC joined a national campaign aimed at ensuring that children read at grade level by the time they complete the third grade. A broad array of studies have determined that this is a crucial milestone in the development of children and that missing it is likely to have negative repercussions for their entire lives.

As a result, the CSC convened dozens of community partners who formed a Grade Level Reading Committee, known as Broward Reads, as part of the Broward County Children's Strategic Plan. Chaired currently by Broward County Commissioner Beam Furr and Dr. Dan Gohl, Broward County Public Schools Chief Academic Officer, the committee encompasses representatives from government, private, philanthropic, and non-profit entities who understand the far reaching implications of fostering literacy in current and future generations.

The launch of the committee took place on October 21, 2014, when the CSC partnered with the Broward County School Board, local businesses, non-profit organizations and other community stakeholders to participate in the national JumpStart reading campaign known locally as Broward Reads for the Record. On that day, over 700 volunteers read the story "Bunny Cakes" to 40,000 children at approximately 500 voluntary pre-Kindergarten centers, 225 schools and 1,500 classrooms in our community. Every four and five-year-old child went home with a book purchased by the CSC.

Among those who read on that day were Ron Magill, of the Miami Metro Zoo who brought along some of his critters and joined CSC President/CEO Cindy Arenberg Seltzer at New Mirawood Academy in West Park. The Fort Lauderdale Strikers; cheerleaders and volunteers from the Miami Dolphins; CSC Council Members, staff and many others also read.



Weaving a Healthy Foundation and a Permanent Family

Swim Central

- 100%** of children who participated in the swim program have not drowned 3 years after program completion
- 60%** of participants completing between 3 and 6 classes demonstrated an improvement of one or more levels on the revised Water Safety Skills Checklist
- 73%** of participants completing 7 or more classes, with a maximum of 10 classes, demonstrated an improvement of one or more levels on the Water Safety Skills Checklist



Safe Sleep Practices

- 7** Broward Municipalities participate in Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE) safe sleep instruction
- 318** Cribs were distributed through the Cribs for Kids Program



The Safer by Four Campaign

Nearly half of child fatalities in Broward County are caused by unsafe sleep practices and drowning. FY 2014-15 saw renewed efforts to address these preventable tragedies. In October, in an effort to stem the number of fatal and non-fatal drownings that remain the number one cause of death and injury for children under five in Broward, the CSC authorized a \$50,000 voucher program that allowed up to 1,250 children, ages 6 months through 4-years-old, to participate in low or no cost water safety classes at a wide array of community pools. Managed by Swim Central, the program proved so successful that by May the Council approved an additional \$50,000 expansion through the end of FY 14-15.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of CSC Council Member and Department of Children and Families (DCF) Community Development Administrator Kim Gorsuch, a series of public events drew attention to both drowning and unsafe sleep practices as preventable causes of death and injury.

At a July press conference the Department of Children and Families, all 31 municipalities in Broward County, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Broward Health, Broward County Health Department, the CSC, Broward League of Cities, Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue, Coral Springs Fire Department, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Broward County, the Y of South Florida and other community partners recommitted to working together in support of the #SaferBy4 public awareness campaign to reduce child fatalities.

With additional financial support from the Pediatric Associates Foundation, the CSC also produced a Drowning Prevention Resource Guide and accompanying drowning prevention video in English, Spanish and Creole that, in partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Broward, is currently being shown at all WIC offices. The materials were produced together with the official launch of the Water Smart Broward Campaign, in March 2015.



Afterschool @ Your Library

CSC funding for the Afterschool @Your Library (AS@YL) program, operated by the Broward County Libraries Division, was initially approved by the Council in September 2003. The program emphasizes reading and phonics skills and provides daily homework assistance to 300 children at select community library locations throughout Broward with low staff to child ratio to allow for individualized assistance.



AS@YL (LITERACY GOAL)

- 96%** of children improved reading
- 97%** of parents responded that homework completion improved
- 100%** of children remained safe



Weaving a Healthy Foundation and a Permanent Family

School Health

School Health services enhance the educational process by assessing, protecting and promoting the health status of school-age youth physically, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and developmentally. School Health services support children's health needs while at school. In addition, they encourage parental attention to student health status; identification and prevention of health problems; and increase access to physicians, dentists, KidCare subsidized insurance and other preventative health provider services.

In FY 2014-15, the CSC continued to work with the [Florida Department of Health in Broward County](#) and the School Board of Broward County on the implementation of the Differentiated Staffing School Health Model, which includes:

- Registered Nurse (RN)/Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) assigned to selected schools with high priority health needs;
- Health Support Technicians with RN supervision for each cluster of five schools, needing only Basic School Health services; and
- On-Call RNs available to provide School Health services

Registered Nurses "Floaters" serve as back-up and provide additional clinical assistance and support. School site programs emphasize:

- Health instruction through a comprehensive health education curriculum that will increase student understanding of health principles and modify health-related risk behaviors;
- Health services that focus on prevention and early identification and treatment of student health problems; and
- Compliance with immunization requirements.

School Health CSC Funding Covered 45 Schools Where:

124,892 duplicated students received First Aid, Emergency Services, and services for prevention, acute and chronic health care needs

84% of students returned to class after receiving School Health Services per semester

1,920 unduplicated students received school health services based on Individualized Health Care Plans per semester

KidCare

The CSC provides support for the [Broward County Health Department](#) to deliver personalized assistance to prospective KidCare enrollees and answer the many calls to 954-INSURES.

KidCare outreach staff work closely with governmental and community based organizations to promote the program and serves as the leading source of application distribution to Broward schools and child-care facilities. Following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, KidCare staff has been instrumental in providing registering families with the most accurate and up to date information on child health insurance options.



KidCare Outreach

142 community outreach and public education events

220,058 average KidCare & Medicaid enrollment



"I did not know what to do. My child needed a specialist that I could not afford. A mother whose child is in the Florida KidCare program referred me to them. They helped me with the application and faxed the required documents. My child was approved, has been receiving medical care and is seeing the specialist to receive treatment. She has been hospitalized five times since being enrolled in the program. I am extremely thankful for all they have done to help my child."

KidCare Enrollee Parent

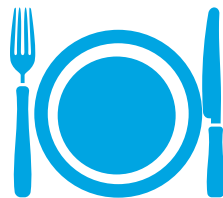
Hunger Relief Programs

The CSC works closely with the [South Florida Hunger Coalition](#) and other Community Partners to help reduce childhood hunger. Among a number of initiatives was Summer BreakSpot. This creative mobile pilot, launched in the summer of 2014, was widely hailed as a huge success. In the summer of 2015, it was greatly expanded from 6 to 27 sites throughout the county. In addition to working with the Broward Meals on Wheels distribution system to ensure children are fed, it expanded to include drowning prevention, child safety, literacy, fitness and culturally enriching activities among others that benefited 2,491 children at 27 sites. As it has over the past several years, the CSC also continued funding the Summer Food Boxes and Harvest Drive programs.



2015 Summer BreakSpot Meals and Children Served

65,904 mobile meals served
2,491 children served



Promoting the Adoption of Children in the Foster Care System

The CSC has been a proud sponsor of [Forever Family](#) since 2002. The program, founded by Gia Tutalo-Mote and airing locally on NBC 6, uses the power of broadcast media to tell the story of dozens of children who, at any given time, are in foster care and are available for adoption. Working closely with ChildNet, the local Community-Based Care lead agency, Forever Family focuses on the harder to adopt cases: children and youth who are older, those with special needs, children of color and sibling groups. In FY 2014-15, Forever Family aired over 300 promos featuring 30 children, 10 of whom were adopted, and seven of whom are in the process of being adopted.

Another major partner in promoting adoption is the [Heart Gallery of Broward](#). The CSC began funding the Heart Gallery in 2013. Using photographic exhibits and kiosks throughout malls, faith based centers and other facilities, the Heart Gallery complements the work of Forever Family by providing a more intimate experience for prospective adoptive families. In April 2015, the Heart Gallery, ChildNet and the CSC partnered to participate in the [Inside Out global photographic exhibit](#), as part of the Broward 100 Anniversary celebration. Close to 50 oversized photographs were exhibited for a month on the CSC grounds featuring children and youth in the foster care system, and it elevated awareness on the importance of their finding permanent homes through adoption.



Both programs promote and support activities related to National Adoption Day in November. Close to 30 children were adopted at the Broward County Courthouse in 2014. In addition, Forever Family and Heart Gallery also help raise money to support the needs of children in care.

Improving the Lives of Children and Families

MOMS

Since 2005, the Mothers Overcoming Maternal Stress (MOMS) program has been supporting mothers and their infants. These programs are designed to decrease symptoms of pre/postnatal depression and /or anxiety, promote healthy bonding between mother and child, increase parenting skills and reduce risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect. Engaging and effective services are delivered in-home by knowledgeable and caring health professionals to ensure children are meeting developmental milestones in nurturing home environments.



MOMS 231 Mothers Served

- 82% of families participated in all program requirements
- 89% of mothers reported fewer symptoms of depression
- 94% of infants and children met developmental milestones for communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and social skills
- 99% of families demonstrated improvements in family functioning



“When I gave birth I was a single mom. I was extremely depressed and felt like giving up. My counselor has been there for me and my baby 150%. She went above and beyond to make sure I got what I needed. When I don’t have anyone else to talk to I know I can talk to her. I can’t thank you enough.”

MOMS Program Participant

Healthy Families

The CSC is a funder of Healthy Families Broward, managed by the Broward Regional Health Planning Council. As the leading child abuse prevention program targeting new mothers assessed at high-risk for child abuse, Healthy Families uses uniform screening, in partnership with Healthy Start, Memorial Healthcare System and Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies in five high-volume hospitals.

The program targets thirteen low socioeconomic zip codes for extensive in-home parent training and well-baby and well-child care. Services include: long-term, in-home visitation for families from pregnancy and birth to three, based on continuing family needs.

Healthy Families 585 Families Served

- 80% of assessments occurred prenatally or within the first two weeks of birth
- 80% of families completed the program with improved and/or maintained self-sufficiency
- 100% of families completing the program had no findings of verified child maltreatment within 12 months
- 99% of target children enrolled in the program six months or longer were linked to a medical provider



“Excellent program! He was not only able to communicate and address the issues with my son, he took a holistic approach. He addressed all members of the family. This is the most positive experience we’ve had.”

Family Strengthening Program Participant

Family Strengthening

CSC’s diverse array of Family Strengthening programs offer in-home programming and group services to help families stay strong and healthy, reducing the risk for child abuse and neglect. Strong Child Welfare partnerships with the Department of Children and Families, ChildNet and BSO Child Protective Investigations, among others, keep services relevant and effective. Evidence based and best practice interventions are designed to bring stability to families in crisis and reduce the need for out-of-home placement of children. Services help families address multiple social and environmental factors and effective parent education improves family functioning to prevent involvement with the dependency system.



Kinship

Kinship Initiatives for Supportive Services (KISS) helps maintain stable homes for families in which children are being raised by a kinship caregiver, relative or non-relative, when the biological parent(s) are unable to do so. These programs provide a variety of coordinated, comprehensive services in-home and at convenient community locations to support and strengthen families, as needed. Services include linkages

to healthcare and mental health services, assistance in navigating the school system emergency financial assistance, parent skills training, information about public benefits, legal assistance program, respite care, support groups, training in self-advocacy, and transportation assistance. Legal Aid of Broward County provided services to Kinship families.



Family Strengthening 2,887 Families Served

- 86%** of families participated in all program requirements
- 90%** of families improved family functioning
- 94%** of families had no verified abuse findings 12 months post program completion

Kinship 338 Families Served

- 95%** of families did not require foster or institutional care while receiving Kinship services
- 100%** of families did not require foster or institutional care 12 months post program completion
- 99%** of caregivers demonstrated acceptable level and/or decreased their experienced level of parenting stress
- 99%** of caregivers reported satisfaction with Kinship services



Providing Affordable High-Quality Out of School Programs

Maximizing Out of School Time

Maximizing Out-of-School Time (MOST) programs funded by the CSC and delivered by 22 agencies at close to 60 locations, provide safe, positive environments for children that enhance academic achievement, support social and physical development and provide educational field trips and cultural arts opportunities for general population children as well as those with special needs. Flexible and individualized staff to child ratios promote effective interaction with children with special needs.

Services are provided afterschool, on some non-school days, days of early release and during the summer with sliding fees assessed on the family's ability to pay. Academic support is provided daily by certified teachers, in addition to activities that encompass the arts, culture, outings and physical fitness. Rigorous performance measures, effective technical assistance and programmatic and fiscal monitorings ensure that high quality services are provided. Additionally an extensive array of trainings are provided to direct program staff. This year, over 100 staff members were trained in curriculum delivery, the importance of reading aloud to children and classroom management.

This year's Summer Literacy Initiative, provided over 5,000 of books to children to take home for their personal libraries. In addition, CSC staff presented at the Florida After School Alliance (FASA) conference in Orlando, FL. The workshop focused on expanding read aloud times with quality extension activities. Children and youth in CSC's afterschool programs are fed a snack and supper through a partnership with federal programs (Florida Department of Health's National School Lunch Program and Afterschool Meal Program, and the Department of Education's National School Lunch Program and Summer Food Service Program).

Respite

CSC funded BREAK respite programs provided by Memorial Healthcare System and Smith Community Mental Health delivered facility-based care and supervised activities to support parents and caregivers of children with severe emotional and behavioral conditions that severely disrupt family daily functioning and for whom there are few care options. In FY 2014-15 the Respite program offered the caregivers of 160 children between the ages of 3 and 13-years opportunities for much needed breaks while their children were being appropriately supervised in a fun safe, and enriching environment at times convenient to families.



MOST
General Population
8,579 Children Served

84% of children improved math
94% of children improved reading
100% of children remained safe

MOST
Special Needs
1,386 Children Served

72% of children improved reading and language development
100% of children remained safe

Respite/BREAK
206 Children Served

98% of parents were satisfied with respite services

"This program is a savior for parents who work! Counselors are very nice and very warm."

MOST Program Participant Parent

“We are thankful that you accepted our daughter to the (CSC funded) BCC Camp this Summer. Our goal was to maintain the momentum she had gained at Collins Elementary by keeping her engaged with children her age. We are happy that she has surpassed this goal. Over the weeks that she has been in attendance, we see that she has taken an increased interest in initiating communication and she continues to surprise us with new phrases and purposeful speech. Her drawings are much more elaborate and her play has become more imaginative. All of the staff we have encountered are kind, caring, attentive and professional. Overall, we are very pleased and we highly recommend the BCC Summer Camp.”

MOST Special Needs Parents

Youth FORCE

Youth FORCE programs offered through 12 providers at about 20 sites, provide robust activities for at-risk middle school students, with an academic theme focusing on literacy in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). Fun and enriching activities such as robotics, cycling, drama and dance are provided after school and during the summer at 19 school and community sites across the county. Additionally, homework assistance and tutoring by certified teachers helps students succeed in school. Weekly Teen Outreach Program (TOP) prevention education classes assist youth in exploring their values, building communication skills, and feeling empowered through community service learning projects. USDA snacks and supper are offered daily to ensure all youth have nourishing, wholesome food each day, and nutrition and exercise classes promote an overall healthy lifestyle.



Youth FORCE 1,664 Youth

- 86% of youth decreased risk behaviors
- 92% of youth improved school grades or attendance
- 100% of female youth did not become pregnant and male youth did not cause a pregnancy
- 100% of youth self-report not using alcohol or drugs
- 100% of youth did not obtain new law violations during the program

“It keeps me safe and entertained, and helped me improve my behavior and my grades. I have been more social and happier. They helped me become a better person. I am not as mean. I make friends and have fun.”

Youth FORCE Participant



Andreina - Regaining Confidence

Andreina was a happy child growing up in the Dominican Republic. The youngest of four, her father died when she was three-years-old. Her mom, devastated by the event, moved to a different country to pursue a better life, leaving Andreina and her siblings behind. Her aunt, a US citizen, travelled to the Dominican Republic to adopt her. The process took several years. Andreina finally came to the US to start a new life with her aunt at the age of 10. Her aunt registered her at McNichol Middle School in Hollywood. Because she worked as a housekeeper and had no money to pay for aftercare, the aunt was able to enroll Andreina in the CSC funded Youth FORCE afterschool program being offered by Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF), at no cost for low income families.

A quiet girl with few social skills, Andreina was bullied by fellow students for not speaking English. She also had low self-esteem, due to her mother's abandonment, and her grades suffered. The HUF case manager and the aunt spoke about it. Andreina had been a really good student in her native country. With the support of the case manager, the teachers and different enrichment activities she finished the 8th grade with 2B+'s and 4A's. Her self-esteem improved and she is now fluent in English and participating in the 8th grade prom queen election and different school clubs.

At one point, Andreina expressed concern about her aunt's situation. Her hours had been reduced at work and she was having a hard time paying the electric bill. all because of a number of health issues. The case manager secured gift cards to pay for food also helping her apply for Social Security and Medicare, which she now receives. Andreina is in high school this year. She is back to being the very smart kid that her aunt always knew she was, with great social skills and a high self-esteem.

William - Becoming a Responsible Father

"I had a very good time in the program. I really like working with Sam Brown (Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Program Coordinator). He is more like a big brother than a counselor. He takes his time, and even helped me with some personal issues I was going through. He keeps me level and helps me stay focused and be a better father. That helps a lot.

During the (12-week) program, everybody can be themselves, ask questions and talk about how they want to do better by their families. This really gives you a better understanding on how to be a better, more responsible parent. For me it was an eye opening experience. Even though I graduated a few months ago, I keep coming back and help mentor some of the new fathers in the program. I love it so much. My goal now is to spend more time with my son, finding a job and eventually own a business."



Simone - A Vision for Her Future

Simone Nelzi was a participant in the CSC funded and YMCA run 21st Century Community Learning Center (CCLC) program at Hallandale High School between 9th and 12th grades, until her graduation in June 2015.

An internet search of Simone's name results in multiple hits, including her interview of ESPN sportscaster Mike Wallace and her byline as a Huffington Post contributor. In addition, she was vice president of the Student Government Association; a Ford Scholarship recipient and a reporter for Broward Teen News. Her social media pages shows active involvement with community charity projects and she has a webpage called "Diaries of a Journoholic".

"I was in cheerleading and in the drama club at Hallandale High," says Simone Nelzi. "These are linked to the 21st CCLC program in that members of school clubs are encouraged to participate in the afterschool program that also offers academic assistance and tutoring. The drama club teacher also coaches leadership skills. You must demonstrate these leadership skills before you can perform on stage. When I got to that point, the drama coach encouraged me to join more clubs, and it seemed the other clubs wanted me in leadership roles, as well," she says.

Simone knows what it takes to make her dreams reality. Her passion for communication began as far back as elementary school. Later, as a student at Attucks Middle School Magnet, she was required to try each offered program before committing to one. When she attended the TV production track, she knew broadcasting was the career for her. It combines her love for writing and researching stories with on-camera reporting.

Other influences that inspired her are her parents. "They encouraged me," she says. Research supporting 21st CCLC indicates the importance of parental involvement in students' success. Simone's advice to fellow students? "Balance is key. Be a leader and stay focused. Keep up with homework and studying as well as extracurricular activities. Help others." Simone is an excellent role model and is now at Florida Gulf Coast University majoring in Broadcasting and Communications.



Robert - Learning to be an Advocate

"Youth in Government (YIG) at Boyd Anderson High helped me organize my time better while improving my writing skills. I learned to conduct legislative research, write statutes, and present my bill to the Florida statewide YIG session in the chamber of the Florida House of Representatives. I was extremely honored to be elected first committee chair in Tallahassee, have my bill approved, and be elected to represent Florida at the National YIG in Raleigh North Carolina. This was an experience of a lifetime!"



Helping Young People Improve Their Chance of Success

LEAP High and 21st Century Programs

The CSC's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and LEAP High (Literacy, Enrichment and Academic Pursuits) programs are designed to help high school students improve school performance and graduate on time. Since 2007, with 21st CCLC grants awarded by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), the CSC has provided high quality academic remediation, homework assistance, and enrichment activities to over 1,500 struggling students attending 11 Broward County high schools through the YMCA and Hispanic Unity. As the FDOE grant funds "sunset", CSC funding sustains these 21st CCLC programs as LEAP High. Students benefit from project-based learning activities that reinforce core academic subjects and personal enrichment to improve social skills and keep high schoolers engaged with their school and their community. The programs provide daily homework help; credit recovery; Science/Technology/Engineering/Math (STEM) projects; preparation for end-of-course exams, college and career readiness, health and wellness, and arts and music education. This educational partnership with FDOE also includes the Broward School Board, providing students with daily snacks, lunch and supper and bus transportation as well as data to assess student progress. Rigorous performance measures prove that the CSC's 21st CCLC and LEAP High programs are improving academic performance and school behavior which increases graduation rates for our high schoolers most in need.

21st Century Programs 1,549 Youth Served

- 100%** of youth decreased suspensions or had zero external suspensions
- 91%** of youth improved reading grades
- 88%** of 21st CCLC youth improved day school attendance or had three (3) or fewer unexcused absences
- 83%** of youth improved science grades



New DAY

CSC funded New DAY programs provide impactful services to divert youth with low risk offenses from entering the formal Juvenile Justice System. These youth may be referred by the State Attorney's Office (SAO), Broward County Office of Civil Citation and law enforcement. Nine organizations reduce recidivism by providing highly-structured interventions that decrease the likelihood of re-offending through supervision, counseling, community service, restorative justice conferencing, parent support and case management. During FY 2014-15, partnering law enforcement agencies issued 1,080 Civil Citations instead of detention, thereby allowing the offending youth to maintain a clean slate moving forward.

New DAY 1,635 Youth Served

- 87%** of youth successfully completed diversion program
- 91%** of youth increased their level of protective factors and decreased risk factors
- 93%** of youth had no law violations during program participation
- 88%** of youth had no re-offenses 12 months after program completion



"Without this program, I would be in jail just getting mad instead of having an opportunity to learn."

New DAY Participant

Future Prep

Transitional Independent Living (TIL) Programs prepare youth aging out of foster care, youth in protective supervision and youth in relative or non-relative care for adulthood through provision of independent living skills training, vocational exploration and training, mentoring, case management and a range of other supportive services. The CSC's allocation of nearly \$1.6 million, which includes a \$340,000 contribution from the Jim Moran Foundation, funds five agencies to serve over 400 youth in this population. In addition, the CSC became a funding partner for FLITE Center, a one-stop-shop for TIL youth.



"Since I have been in the TIL program I've learned about budgeting and the counselors have been helping me to go to school so I can succeed in life."

Transitional Independent Living Program Participant

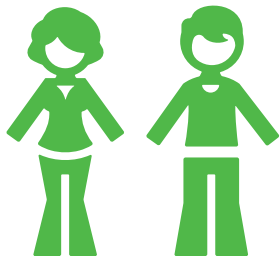
Transitional Independent Living (Future Prep) 436 Youth Served

- 98%** of youth had no new pregnancies or caused a pregnancy during the program
- 95%** of youth had no new law violations during the program
- 87%** of youth demonstrated proficiency in employability and job retention skills
- 80%** of youth made progress in school, graduated or obtained a GED, and/or maintained employment
- 91%** of youth had stable housing during the program



Legal Advocacy Works (LAW) 216 Youth Served

- 86%** of youth did not obtain any new law violations during the program
- 87%** of youth improved housing stability
- 94%** of youth reduced delinquency risk
- 90%** of youth did not obtain new law violations 12 months after successful program completion



Legal Advocacy and LAW Line

The CSC funded Legal Advocacy Works (LAW) program provided by Legal Aid of Broward County, serves low-income youth, up to age 18, who are dually involved in the dependency and delinquency systems and/or youth in either the dependency or delinquency system at risk of dual involvement (i.e. "crossover youth" or youth at risk of becoming "crossover youth"). Youth served by LAW may be referred by the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, or any other community, child welfare or children's service agency.

Partnering with Legal Aid of Broward County, in FY 2014-15, the CSC also began funding the LAW-line, a legal helpline for youth and families with questions or concerns related to a youth's involvement with the delinquency and/or dependency systems. The helpline is supported by a qualified attorney who identifies the legal issues brought forward and the potential legal consequences for the different options available. Conversations with the attorney are protected under attorney-client privilege, providing the opportunity for youth and family to be honest and safe when calling the helpline.

Providing Youth with the Opportunity to Become Productive Adults

Summer Job Opportunities

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) provides economically disadvantaged and high need youth ages 16-18 with opportunities to gain employability skills and earn minimum wage through a 6-week paid work experience. Services include a pre-orientation job readiness workshop and case management support to foster success in what is most often the first real exposure to employment for these teens. Working in partnership with CareerSource Broward, the CSC funded placement of over 600 at-risk teens at 160 work sites across the county during the summer of 2015. Demand in the community for this program remains high, with approximately 4,000 youth applying each year.

Program satisfaction also remains high, with 97% of the participating employers and 98% of the youth reporting a positive experience with the program. Youth job retention also remains strong, with 95% of youth completing the program. In 2015 CareerSource Broward employed over 100 additional youth at SYEP worksites through leveraged funding from the following sources: Cities of Ft. Lauderdale, Hallandale Beach and Pembroke Pines, as well as Broward County and Welfare Transition Program (WTP).



Youth Employment

SYEP
602 Youth Served

- 85%** of youth demonstrated proficiency in employability skills
- 95%** of youth successfully completed the program
- 97%** of employers reported satisfaction with the program
- 98%** of youth reported satisfaction with the program

STEP
196 Youth Served

- 91%** of youth acquired measurable skills in Work Required Behavior
- 91%** of youth acquired measurable skills in Job Duties.
- 95%** of youth acquired measurable skills in Daily Living Activities
- 97%** of youth were employed or pursuing post-secondary education 6 months post program completion



“I am more confident and outgoing. All the stress I had before coming to group therapy disappears and I am in a better mood.”

LGBTQ Support Program Participant

Supporting Youth with Special Needs

The Supported Training Employment Program (STEP) program, offers year-round transitional youth development and employment opportunities for youth ages 16-21 with physical, developmental or behavioral disabilities. STEP incorporates best practices and offers an array of activities designed to foster independence and improve communication and employability skills.

The overall goal of STEP is to assist youth in reaching the following outcomes:

- Increase future employment and secondary educational opportunities by providing differentiated instruction and community-based experiences.
- Provide highly-structured youth development activities that strengthen protective factors and reduce risk factors.
- Reduce rates of unemployment for youth with developmental, physical and behavioral health disabilities, by providing paid supported employment experiences.
- Connect youth and families to resources to ensure a smooth transition into adulthood.



Open Hearts/Open Minds

Open Hearts provides county-wide training for youth service providers in direct service positions regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) sensitivity and cultural competency. The program also provides outreach and peer education, connecting activities and referrals to youth who identify as LGBTQ in order to promote healthy lifestyle choices.

Open Minds provides professional assessment and counseling to LGBTQ youth in order to address needs and promote successful life outcomes. Additionally, the Open Minds program utilizes peer educators to facilitate psychoeducational support groups throughout the county in order to support and encourage healthy, age-appropriate, safe exploration and expression of sexual orientation and gender identity for all youth.

“My daughter was a STEP participant and participated in the summer internship program at the Weston Publix for the past two summers. She was subsequently hired at that location. The opportunity to be a part of the Publix family has truly been life-changing. She is so proud, and I thank you for your efforts and dedication to individuals with disabilities. As we all can attest, this population has much to offer, and I am so proud that she is contributing to her community through her work at Publix. It is so wonderful to see her happy.”

Mother of STEP Program Participant

Agency Capacity Building through Partnerships and Trainings

"I'm happy to say that my association with CSC has been very beneficial to me. Through your weekly electronic newsletters, I'm kept informed of information that is essential to nonprofit organizations like mine. The CSC underwrote my attendance at the Jim Moran Institute this summer which was not only educational but introduced me to a business coach from whom I have learned critical organization skills. Most important was the absolute turn around for our organization after learning from CSC about the sunshine certification for non-profit management. I was able to be certified with the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations (FANO) and now have a much better understanding about running my agency. Last but not least, I thank you for letting me know about the University of California Berkley and Philanthropy University free classes for entrepreneurs and nonprofits. It's all been a continual life-altering experience hopefully that will also benefit those we serve."

Chantal Napoleon, CEO
Goshen International Community Services, Inc.



As the nationally designated Community Information and Referral number since 2000, 211 First Call for Help, Inc. is a centralized 24-hour comprehensive helpline and support service for individuals seeking crisis intervention assistance and/or information and referrals to health and human services in Broward County. In addition to the General Hotline, a Special Needs Helpline provides information about special needs services, from social service needs to medical, dental and therapy needs. Professional staff with specialized training, education and experience specific to serving this community responds to in any number of languages. In addition, staff provides community outreach and education through their website and presentations. Through a subcontract with JAFCO, Case Management services provide guidance to assist families that call the Special Needs Referral and Information Line and need help in navigating the system.

First Call for Help (2-1-1)

98,751 GP hotline calls

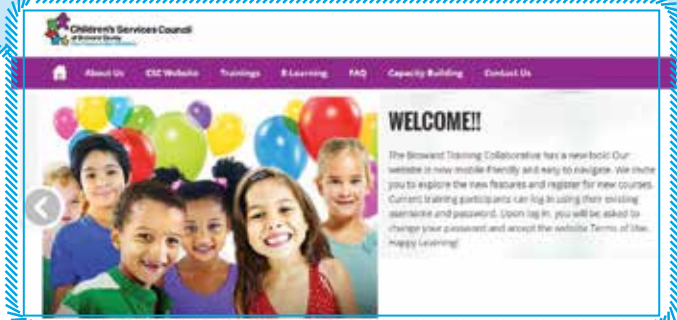
2,653 SN & BH calls

140,481 website hits

99% of callers were satisfied with 211 assistance

Training Website

The Broward Training Collaborative (BTC) powered by the CSC is now sporting a new look! The mobile device friendly website allows for an optimal registration experience. Ease of access to training information is important as attested by the fact that 3,280 participants representing 212 agencies attended CSC funded trainings in FY 2014-15, with a satisfaction rate of 97%. Similarly, the Online Learning Center experienced an overall increase in course completion and participation. Over 1,936 participants representing 240 agencies took advantage of online classes and podcasts.



Trainer Cadre

The CSC offers a broad array of classroom trainings covering a multitude of subjects that improve the capacity of child service professionals. To broaden the array of available trainings, in FY 2014-15, the CSC's Public Affairs and Organizational Development Department (PAOD) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for a Trainer Cadre that will deliver professional development opportunities for those that serve children and families in our community. Over 50 consultants were selected to deliver approximately 100 innovative topics enhancing the competencies of our child serving community.

Weaving a Tapestry of Safety and Security

Lights On Afterschool

Since 2012, the Children's Services Council has participated in Lights On Afterschool, an event celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America's children, families and communities. In FY 2014-15, the CSC hosted an event at Roosevelt Gardens Park, in Ft. Lauderdale, attended by over 500 elementary and middle school students.



Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal anti-poverty program that provides financial assistance for working families. In 2002, the Children's Services Council began promoting EITC through a county-wide public awareness campaign and funding the operation of a number of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) centers. Since then, an additional \$540 million have been returned to Broward residents through what has been touted as the most successful anti-poverty program available.

In FY 2014-15, for the first time, the CSC issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to contract with one agency that would be fully responsible for implementing and marketing the program. Hispanic Unity of Florida was selected as the lead provider of EITC/VITA services for a three-year contract in partnership with Community Access Center, HandsOn Broward and 211 Broward.

Broward AWARE!

The CSC has supported public awareness activities related to "April, Child Abuse Prevention Month," since 2009. In 2012, working closely with the Nancy J. Cotterman Center, Broward County Parks & Rec, Dept. of Children and Families, ChildNet, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, 211 Broward and many other organizations whose mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect or heal its effect, the CSC provided additional support for the creation of a four month public awareness campaign: the Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children.

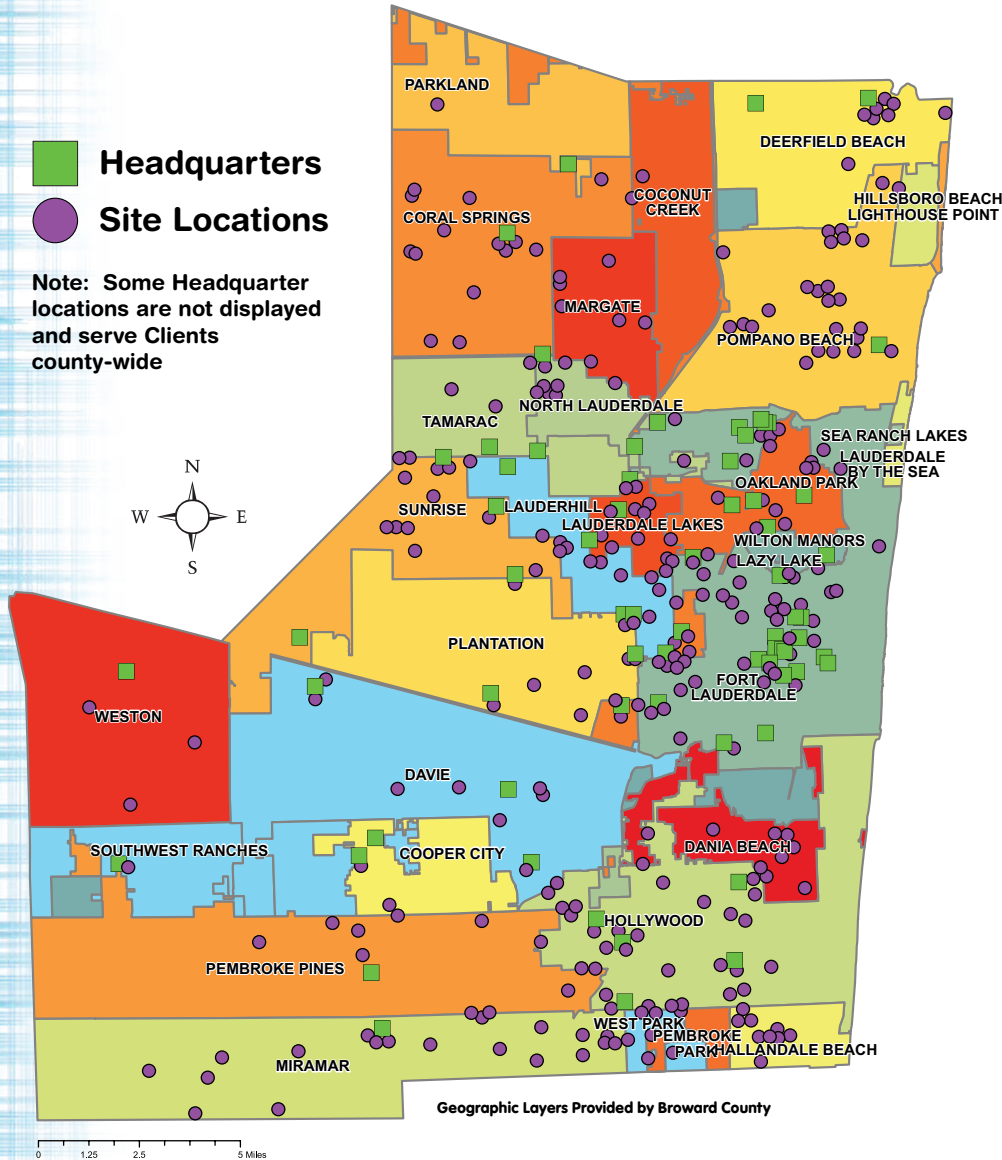
In FY 2014-15, Broward AWARE was launched in January in conjunction with a "Stop the Traffick" Walk against human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Led by a group of High School students, the event supported the work of the Broward Human Trafficking Coalition. In March Broward AWARE supported the "Me and My Dad Challenge" by including the Water Smart Broward Campaign launch for drowning prevention. Other supported events included the Healthy Families graduation, the Denim Day campaign against sexual violence and the Family Fun and Resource Fair.

As part of the year's activities, the committee also honored Somy Ali, a local advocate against domestic violence and founder of No More Tears, with the 5th annual Alan and Marsha Levy Champion of Child Abuse Prevention Award.

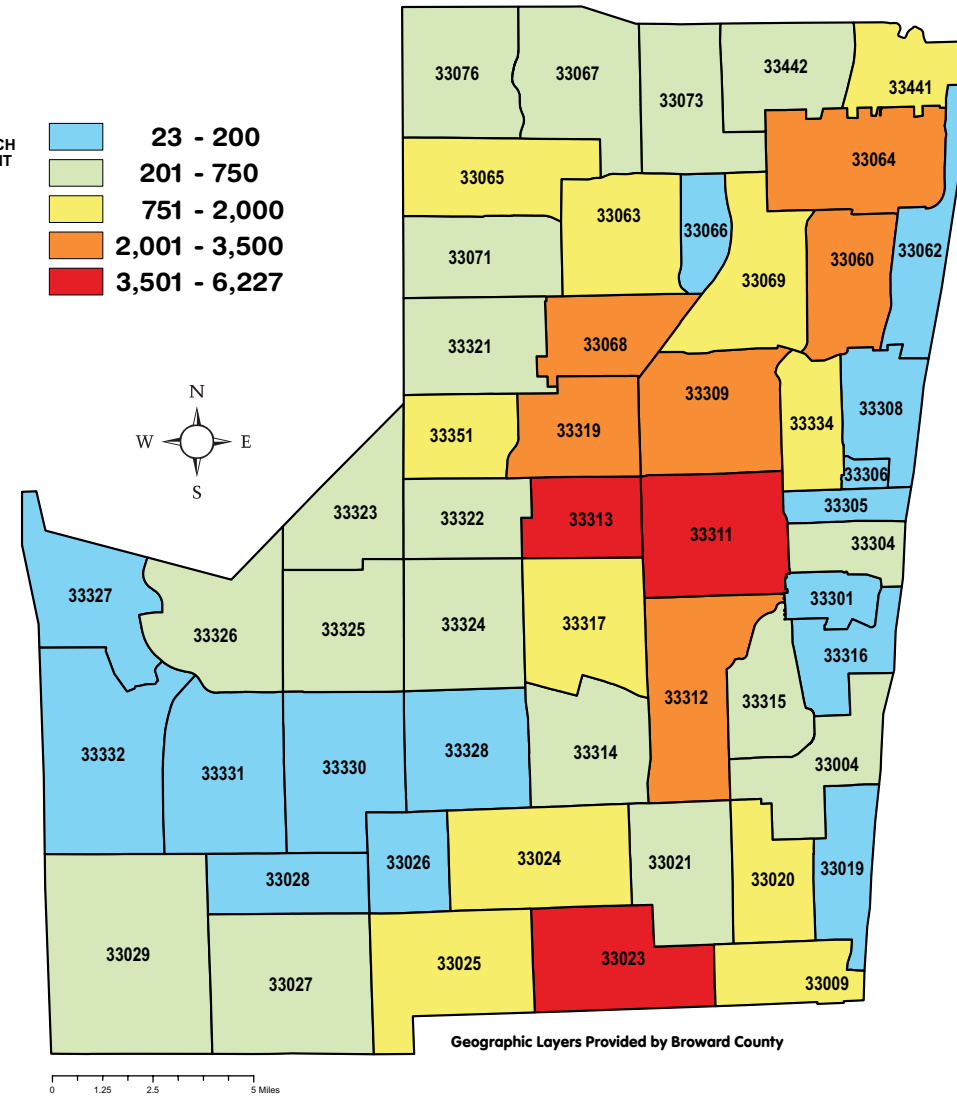


Program Locations and Families Served

CSC Funded Programs Headquarters & Service Locations



Children & Families Served by CSC by Zip Code



Financial Report

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES:

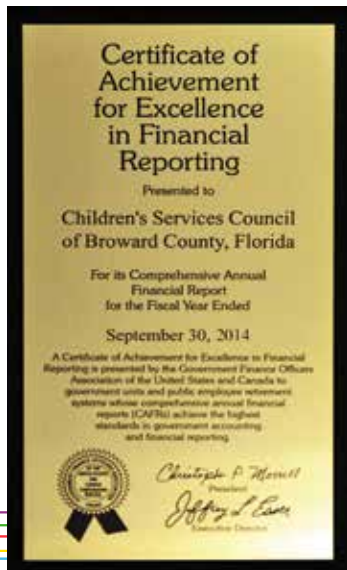
	FY 2014/15 Actual	FY 2013/14 Actual
Property Taxes	\$65,140,776	\$61,362,297
Interest		
Federal Grant Income	181,858	391,872
Miscellaneous	950,012	986,147
TOTAL REVENUES	\$66,272,646	\$62,740,316

EXPENDITURES:

Program Services/Support	\$61,992,857	\$58,972,402
General Administration	2,246,168	2,231,368
Capital Outlay	178,683	215,279
Non-Operating Expenditures	2,043,044	1,856,081
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$66,460,753	\$63,275,130



Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting



Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget for Program Services By Goal



 Family Strengthening	18%
 Delinquency Prevention & Diversion	19%
 Independent Living	3%
 Early Education	12%
 Out of School Time	19%
 Physical Health & Child Safety	4%
 Maternal & Child Health	4%
 Physical & Behavioral Needs	17%
 Agency Capacity & Training	1%
 Seamless System of Care	1%
 Public Awareness & Advocacy	1%

Funded Agencies and the

211-Broward

General Hotline, Special Needs & Behavioral Health hotline

Achievement & Rehabilitation Center (ARC)

Maximizing Out-of-School Time Special Needs, Supported Training and Employment Program, Family Strengthening

After School Programs, Inc.

Youth FORCE, Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs

Ann Storck Center, Inc.

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs

ASPIRA

Youth FORCE

BECON TV

Public Awareness

Boys & Girls Club

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Broward Children's Center, Inc.

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs

Broward County Healthy Start Coalition

Fetal Infant Mortality Report, Substance Exposed Newborn Health

Broward County

Drowning Prevention, After School @ Your Library, Hunger Relief

Broward Regional Health Planning Council

Healthy Families

Broward Sheriff's Office

New DAY, Juvenile Assessment Center, Youth FORCE

Camelot Community Centers

New DAY, Future Prep, Family Strengthening

CareerSource Broward

Summer Youth Employment Program

Center for Hearing & Communication

Supported Training and Employment Program, Family Strengthening, Youth FORCE, Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs

Children's Home Society

Family Strengthening

Children's Harbor

Family Strengthening

Community After School

Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Margate CRA

Community Based Connections

Family Strengthening

Community Foundation of Broward

Capacity Building, Community Leadership Mentoring

Community Reconstruction Housing, Inc. (CRHI)

Youth FORCE

Cross Country Staffing

School Health

Davie CRA

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Early Learning Coalition of BC

Subsidized Childcare

Family Central

Pre-K, Family Strengthening, Positive Behavior Support

Father Flanagan's Boys Town of So FL

Family Strengthening

Firewall Centers T.H.I.N.K.

Youth FORCE

First Baptist Church Piney Grove

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Florida's Children First

Youth Government

Florida Dept. Of Health - Broward County

Drowning Prevention, KidCare Outreach

Forever Family (Gialogic Productions)

Adoption Promotion

Gulf Coast Community Care

Family Strengthening, Future Prep

Hallandale Beach-CRA

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

HandsOn Broward

Volunteer Management, Community Gardens

HANDY

Future Prep, Youth FORCE

Harmony Development Center, Inc.

New DAY, Youth FORCE, Kinship Relative Care Support

Harvest Drive

Hunger Relief

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition

Mothers Overcoming Maternal Stress, Family Strengthening, FIMR, CRIBS, Responsible Fatherhood

Programs They Provide

Heart Gallery of Broward

Adoption Promotion

Henderson Behavioral Health

New DAY, Family Strengthening, Future Prep

Hispanic Unity

Youth FORCE, Earned Income Tax Credit, Hunger Relief, LEAP High, 21st Century

Hollywood Art / Cultural CTR for Hollywood, City of

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Hollywood Beach CRA

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Jewish Adoption and Foster Care Options, Inc.

Family Strengthening, SN Case Management

Juliana Gerena & Associates

Family Strengthening, New DAY

KidVision/WPBT (Community TV Foundation)

Early Childhood Education

Kids in Distress, Inc.

Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Kinship Support, Family Strengthening, Future Prep

Lauderdale Lakes, City of

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Legal Aid Services of BC, Inc.

Kinship, LAW

Memorial Healthcare System

BREAK, New DAY, Family Strengthening, Mothers Overcoming Maternal Stress, Youth FORCE, Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Future Prep

Miramar, City of

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

National Council/Jewish Women (NCJW)

Hunger Relief

National Youth Advocate Program

Kinship Support

Neighbors for Neighbors

Public Awareness

New Hope World Outreach

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

Nova Southeastern University

A Day for Children

Opportunities Ind. Ctr. (OIC) of S. Florida

Youth FORCE

PACE Center for Girls

New DAY

Pembroke Pines, City of

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs

Russell Life Skills

Early Literacy

Sierra Lifecare, Inc.

School Health

Smith Community Mental Health

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs, BREAK, Youth FORCE

Smith Community Associates

Family Strengthening

Soref Jewish Community Center

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

South Cluster Children Services

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

South Florida Hunger Coalition

Hunger Relief, Summer Breakspot

Sun Sentinel Children's Fund

Capacity Building Grants

Sunshine Social dba SunServe

Youth Services, Open Heart, Open Mind

Sunshine Afterschool Child Care, Inc.

Maximizing Out-of-School Time,

United Cerebral Palsy of Broward County, Inc.

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs, Supported Training and Employment Program

United Way of Broward County

Youth Development, Choose Peace Stop Violence

Urban League of Broward County, Inc.

New DAY, Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Youth FORCE, LEAP High

West Park, City of

Youth FORCE

YMCA of Broward County

LEAP High, 21st Century, Youth FORCE, Supported Training and Employment Program, Maximizing Out-of-School Time & Maximizing Out-of-School Time - Special Needs, Deerfield CRA, Youth Government, Spark Fidelity





Children's Services Council of Broward County

Our Focus is Our Children.



MISSION

To provide the leadership, advocacy and resources necessary to enhance children's lives and empower them to become responsible, productive adults through collaborative planning and funding of a continuum of quality care.

VISION

The children of Broward County shall have the opportunity to realize their full potential, their hopes and their dreams, supported by a nurturing family and community.

Call Us: 954-377-1000 • Email: info@cscbroward.org

Facebook: [facebook.com/CSCBroward](https://www.facebook.com/CSCBroward) • Twitter: [@CSCBroward](https://twitter.com/CSCBroward) • YouTube: [CSCBroward](https://www.youtube.com/CSCBroward)

Web: CSCBroward.org • Online Learning Center: olc.CSCBroward.org • Training: training.CSCBroward.org

6600 West Commercial Boulevard • Lauderhill, Florida 33319