



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



# **BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES**

**15 Years**



**INTERACTIVE EDITION**

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**2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

# Letter from the Council Chair, Emilio Benitez



It is hard to believe that 15 years have passed since the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) began operations in 2001. Thanks to the foresight of the voters of Broward County who in 2000 approved its creation via referendum, the CSC has become the backbone of the child and family serving community as a leader, a convener and a funder.

As Chair of the CSC, I must also pay tribute to that very first cadre of Council members who, with not much of a roadmap, imprinted on the organization a steadfast culture of transparency, accountability and unshakable understanding that everything this organization does is solely for the purpose of putting children first. Upon their shoulders and those of the successive generations of Council members, we have built an organization that is trusted as an honest broker and convener and that Broward County voters reauthorized by an overwhelming margin in 2014.

Needless to say, the CSC does not do it alone. Much like a band of superheroes whose mission is to tap into resources, think and act creatively, bend established norms, galvanize disparate players and fight the forces of inertia... thousands of stakeholders work in concert every day to improve the lives of children and families in Broward by "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges".

My fellow Council members, the management and staff of the CSC are certainly among these superheroes. Under the leadership of President & CEO Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, who has been at the helm since the very beginning, we forged ahead to the point where the CSC has become noticed as a best practice model of government locally, statewide and nationally.

As I mentioned above, we owe much to past colleagues on the Council. Sadly, earlier this year we lost one of them: [Mariza Cobb](#). Mariza was a true superhero, focusing much of her energy during her tenure on ensuring children with special needs are afforded dignity, respect and opportunities on par with all their peers. She was also a dedicated mentor who understood the challenges many young women face when they have limited access to positive role models. We miss her, as do all of those who knew and worked alongside her on behalf of children.

I am privileged to be Chair of the CSC, but I am also President/CEO of ChildNet, where our mission is to protect abused, abandoned and neglected children. As such, it occurs to me how many of the iconic superheroes we know have an origin story that ties their success to caring adults. Think of Superman, exiled as an infant and raised by the Kent Family in Kansas. Or Uncle Ben and Aunt May who raised Peter Parker to become Spiderman in New York. Even Wonder Woman was raised in a nontraditional setting, by her single mother and aunt... It was unsung superheroes who helped the blossoming children and youth of these stories become the heroes we know. This is as true in the fantasy world of comics as it is in the very real lives of thousands of children who look to us to be their guides, mentors and family as they journey to becoming superheroes in their own right.

**Emilio Benitez**

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Broward County  
Health Department



**Ana M. Valladares,**  
Governor Appointee



# Letter from Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO



The Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC) has just completed 15 years of funding and serving the children and families of our community. Looking back, I am in awe by the number of superheroes who have been involved in the transformative work that has been accomplished. It began with the band of superheroes who were brave enough to advocate for the first referendum establishing the CSC and the voters who cared enough to vote "Yes". Then original Council members set a strong foundation of policies committed to government done right – with accountability, transparency, good fiscal stewardship and always keeping children in the forefront of our decision-making – which has been sustained by all subsequent Council Members.

The first Council members also established our 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.* While it is a long mission statement, every word has guided me and the band of superhero staff who have built the organization and the providers who have delivered the services over the years.

Celebrating the 15th Anniversary of funding at the CSC is very personal to me. I was honored to be given my "cape" and empowered to lead this organization as it began. I am so grateful to the CSC staff and all of the community partners who have donned their capes and embraced the challenge of working collaboratively because they know it is what is best. I am also grateful to all of the people of Broward County who reaffirmed their commitment to our children when they voted to reauthorize the CSC in 2014. It is with enormous pride that I review the journey we have all taken toward "Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges" in an effort to support our children and families and to tackle some of the toughest issues facing them and our community.

Throughout this report you will see evidence of the barriers that have been broken and the bridges that have been built for all children. Over the next few pages, for example, you will read about the CSC being one of only nine national awardees for the first federal Performance Partnership Pilot designed to break down federal bureaucratic barriers that get in the way of effective service delivery.

You will also read of bridges being built to improve outcomes for our children of color by joining with Broward County Human Services Department and Ft. Lauderdale Police Department in sponsoring a series of Undoing Racism® workshops and ongoing work engaging all sectors in identifying and addressing institutional racism.

We are also building bridges to the National Campaign for Grade Level Reading by establishing a local campaign known as Broward Reads: The Campaign for Grade Level Reading. Superheroes from the School Board, the Early Learning Coalition, Broward County Government at all levels, the business community, and local municipalities are all taking action to promote school readiness, school attendance, preventing summer slide and engaging parents in support of this campaign.

You will also read of the ways CSC's investments in our children have grown and evolved. We strive to be responsive to the community by constantly reviewing community data trends, listening to children, families and the Children's Strategic Plan committees, analyzing the outcomes from our funded programs and scouring the latest research on best practices. The newly created Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT) and Youth FORCE programs are two such examples.

Every superhero needs a catchphrase. Ours has been "We don't succeed unless our providers succeed and our providers don't succeed unless our children and families succeed." Here's to another 15 years and more of success!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cindy Arenberg Seltzer".

Cindy Arenberg Seltzer | President/CEO

## CSC Management Team



Front row, l-r: Monti Larsen, COO; Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, President/CEO; Sandra Bernard-Bastien, CCO; Sue Gallagher, CIO  
Second row, l-r: Marlando Christie, Director MIS; Michelle Hamilton, Director HR; Laura Ganci, Director RAP; Nancy Cohn, Director PS; Kathleen Campbell, Comptroller; Maria Juarez-Stouffer, CPO.

# Innovative Approaches, Solid Bridges to the Future

## CSC Takes the Lead on Dialogues about Racial Equity, Implicit Bias and Gender Identity

Following the racially charged events around the country and the passage of legislation like North Carolina's H2 Bill (the so-called bathroom law), race, class and gender identity issues have been placed front and center of the national discourse. Locally, the CSC and other community partners have taken a leading role in addressing them.

The work of eliminating implicit bias by identifying the historical and current causes of racism can be uncomfortable and even painful. The CSC began addressing this issue in partnership with the [Broward County Human Services Department and the Fort Lauderdale Police Department among others by bringing a series of Undoing Racism®](#) workshops by the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond to Broward. Those workshops have been attended by dozens of human and social services professionals, who worked under the premise that, "The fabric of racism® is inextricably woven and constructed into the founding principles of the United States. Racism was done and it can be undone through effective anti-racist organizing with, and in accountability to the communities most impacted by racism." This is the CSC's commitment as we work to ensure all barriers to raising children to become responsible productive adults are eliminated.

Another issue that captured the nation's attention has been that of gender identity and equality. That is why the CSC has approved funding for programs that specifically address challenges faced by LGBTQ youth.

Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT) programs, previously known as "Future Prep", serve dependent youth in protective supervision and out of home foster care, focusing on providing life coaches and other services that help propel youth into successful, independent and responsible adulthood. Last year, with the new awards, the CSC incorporated dependent, delinquent, crossover and LGBTQ youth into the programs.

## Breaking Silos with BOSS

In FY 2015-16, the CSC continued leading efforts to break barriers through the new federal Performance Partnership Pilot, or P3, opportunity. Until recently, federal and state funding available to help disadvantaged youth navigate high school graduation and transition to higher education or employment was structured in ways that prevented many of them from taking advantage of all available benefits. [The CSC's P3 proposal](#), known as Best Opportunities to Shine and Succeed program, or BOSS, breaks down silos and provides waivers from some of the federal rules in a way that we hope will make a huge difference in the lives of many youth.

Selected as one of only nine proposals nationwide, BOSS was rated the top scoring proposal. The long-term vision of the band of superheroes that helped steer this proposal through challenging federal, state and local waters, includes ensuring youth are helped through high school graduation supported during that most difficult of academic years: the first year of college or vocational school. We look forward to reporting on the successes and challenges of BOSS over the next few years of implementation.





## Reading at Grade Level by 3rd Grade

Superheroes from the CSC, the County Commission, the School District and the Early Learning Coalition are leading the community collaborative known as **Broward Reads**: The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading. With dozens of active members from the business, nonprofit, philanthropic and government sectors, Broward Reads has benefited from the Children's Strategic Plan infrastructure and the CSC as its backbone. There are active sub-committees on all four pillars of the campaign: School Readiness, Preventing Summer Slide, Attendance and Parental Engagement. As part of these efforts, in FY 2015-16, the CSC once again purchased most of the books used in the JumpStart® Reads for the Record Campaign. Close to 1,000 volunteers read the book *Not Norman* to over 40,000 Broward preschoolers and kindergartners, who then got to take the book home. At a more personal level, CSC staff joined the Innovations for Learning's TutorMate program, adopting a 1st grade class at Broward Estates Elementary. The program is the nation's preeminent online volunteer tutoring program, helping tens of thousands of first grade students in low income communities learn to read. Other supported approaches, whether through funding or community involvement, include Afterschool @ Your Library (AS@YL), Reading Pals and the Early Learning Coalition's Road to Child Outcomes, Attendance Works! and Parent Leadership Training Institute.



**96%** of children involved in AS@YL improved reading skills and **100%** of children improved social interactions.



**100%** of children who participated in the Swim Central program have not drowned 3 years after program completion and **71%** of participants completing between 3 and 6 classes demonstrated an improvement of one or more levels on the revised Water Safety Skills Checklist.



## Keeping Children Safe from Drowning

Over the years, drowning was identified as the number one cause of accidental death of children under five in Broward County. FY 2015-16 was a pivotal year in the Water Smart Broward campaign. In addition to the continued funding of the Drowning Prevention Taskforce Coordinator position at the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and close to \$650,000 to Swim Central to ensure preschool and school-aged children learn lifesaving skills at community based pools every year, for the first time the CSC provided \$100,000 in coupons to teach drowning prevention skills to children 6-months to 4-years-old. Valued at \$40, the coupons either fully covered or provided a substantial discount to parents and caregivers who enrolled their children in the 6-8 weekly sessions curriculum. Redeemable through the Water Smart Broward website, by the end of the FY, 3,041 coupons had been redeemed, by far surpassing the 2,500 that had been anticipated by CSC funding, showing that a well-orchestrated public awareness campaign and partnership with pool operators can truly make a difference in saving the lives of children.

# Building Bridges for Strong and Healthy Families

## School Health

Kids can't dodge all health issues that come their way. CSC supported 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. These services give children action plans enabling them to defeat health issues that arise while at school and often allow children to stay in school so learning is not interrupted. 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.

The CSC's collaboration with the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and the School Board of Broward County continued in FY 2015-16 with the use 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;
- 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.

**128,938** duplicated students received **First Aid, Emergency Services, and services for prevention, acute and chronic health care needs**; **83%** of students were sent back to class after receiving **School Health Services** per semester.

## KidCare

The **CSC funded KidCare Outreach Program run by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County**

uses a multi-pronged approach to provide access to and reduce barriers to health insurance coverage. KidCare Outreach staff, superheroes in their own right who often work after hours and on weekends or whenever it is easiest to reach eligible families, are the primary source for applications and outreach materials for programs and agencies like schools, childcare centers, afterschool programs and social service providers.

During its 2016 session, the Florida Legislature removed the 5-year waiting period for eligibility for lawfully residing immigrant children. The new law became effective July 1, 2016. In order to ensure Broward families were able to take full advantage of this opportunity, the Council added funding in April for three additional bilingual staff. By September 30, 131 applications representing 315 newly eligible immigrant children were already approved for enrollment in health and dental care services through KidCare.



**Broward County KidCare and Medicaid enrollment averaged 226,560** in FY 15/16 and **staff conducted 128 community outreach** and public education events.



## Partners Building Bridges to Fight Hunger

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 expanded from 7 to 27 sites and in 2016 from 27 to 75 sites throughout the county. In addition to feeding children by capitalizing on the Broward Meals on Wheels distribution system, it expanded services to include drowning prevention, child safety, literacy, fitness and culturally enriching activities that benefited 8,940 children. As it has over the past several years, the CSC also continued funding the Summer Food Boxes, Reduce Hunger, Community Café and Harvest Drive programs.



**Summer 2016**

**150,809** meals served to

**8,940** children at **75** sites.

## Breaking Barriers to Finding Permanent Homes for Children in Foster Care

One of the first superheroes to partner with the CSC was **Forever Family Founder and CEO Gia Tutalo-Mote**. **Since 2002**, her television program Forever Family has used the power of broadcast media to feature hundreds of children in the foster care system eligible for adoption. Working closely with ChildNet, Forever Family focuses mostly on the harder to adopt children: those who are older, with special needs, sibling groups or of color.



Every successful adoption is an even harder barrier to break and worthy of celebration. In FY 2015-16, Forever Family also produced the twice Emmy® nominated documentary “Finding a Way Home”, featuring children in the system waiting for adoptive families and partners in the child dependency system working every day to ensure the best outcomes for these children.

The other major local partner promoting adoption is the Heart Gallery of Broward. Funded by the CSC since 2013, the Heart Gallery uses photographic exhibits and kiosks at malls, faith-based centers and other facilities. Always looking at ways to think out of the box to enhance the lives of the children it features, in FY 2015-16, taking advantage of changes in adoption laws, the agency began focusing on engaging potential adoptive parents in the LGBTQ community, and on working with partners such as SunServe to ensure the needs of children and youth who identified as LGBTQ could find homes with families sensitive to their needs.

Both Forever Family and Heart Gallery of Broward promote and support activities related to National Adoption Day. In November 2015, close to 50 children were adopted at the Broward County Courthouse.

# Building Bridges to Healthy Bonding and Relationships

## MOMS

Since 2005, the **Mothers Overcoming Maternal Stress (MOMS) programs** have been supporting mothers to become superheroes for their children 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. Importantly, MOMS programs also engage the mother's supports, such as fathers, relatives and others who may be present and helping to raise the children. 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.



*“They are kind and understanding. It’s nice to have a listening ear especially when you are stressed and have little to no support. Thank you for all you do!! It makes a difference.”*

**MOMS Program Participant**

**95% of mothers in the MOMS programs reported fewer symptoms of depression and/or anxiety and 92% of mothers demonstrated improvement or acceptable levels of attachment and bonding with their infant.**

## Healthy Families

It takes courage to recognize, as a family, that one's current living or personal conditions may create a vulnerable environment in which to raise children. And then it takes real commitment to seek help and participate in a voluntary program that can take anywhere between 3-5 years to complete, to ensure children can grow in a healthy, nurturing, safe environment. The CSC is a funder of Healthy Families Broward, managed by the Broward Regional Health Planning Council, with programs delivered by Memorial Healthcare System, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition and Healthy Start. As the leading child abuse prevention program supporting new mothers assessed at high-risk for child abuse, Healthy Families uses uniform screening and serves families living in 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 family needs.

**100% of families completing the program had no findings of verified child maltreatment within 12 months and 74% of families that completed the program improved and/or maintained self-sufficiency.**

## Fatherhood Mentorship Program

The presence of a responsible father or father figure can be one of the bedrocks of a safe and nurtured childhood. A father need not wear a cape to be a superhero in his child's eyes. Understanding this pivotal role, since 2010 the CSC and other community partners have supported the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition's **Fatherhood Mentorship Program** (FMP). It includes a 12-week group program, a 12-24 week individualized curriculum, peer and professional support, participation in the Me & My Dad Challenge and the opportunity, for graduates, to mentor someone in future classes.

**In FY 2015-16, FMP held three graduations, for a total of 77 graduates and expanded its programs to the City of Hallandale.**

*“Not only has it made me be a better person, but it helped me be a better, reliable father and good representative for my children. It helped me grow in areas I was weak in and I'm glad they reached out to me”*

**Participant in Fatherhood Mentorship Program at Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies**



## Providing Families the Tools for Success

Superhero sagas often have an “origin story” that sets the stage for a character’s life and adventures. That story usually involves a critical, even cataclysmic event. The CSC was born in large part because a cadre of “origin story” superheroes saw a major crisis unfolding where children were entering the dependency system and becoming part of a clogged system that left them languishing with no resolution to their cases for months and years. To address the crisis at the “front end”, the very first Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the CSC was a Family Strengthening one, to help families at risk of entering the child welfare system access resources, tools and expertise so children would not have to be removed for their safety in the first place. Fifteen years later, Family Strengthening programs remain among the largest investments the CSC makes each year. Working with the Department of Children and Families, ChildNet and BSO’s Child Protective Investigations, relevant and effective services are customized for each family in need. Evidenced based and best practice interventions are designed to bring stability to families in crisis and reduce the need for child removal.



*“Ever since I have been in this program I have learned a lot about finance and family. My grandkids get to interact with other kids who understand their situation.”*

**Kinship program participant**

**98%** of children in the **Kinship** programs did not require foster or institutional care 12 months post program completion and **100%** of caregivers reported satisfaction with services.

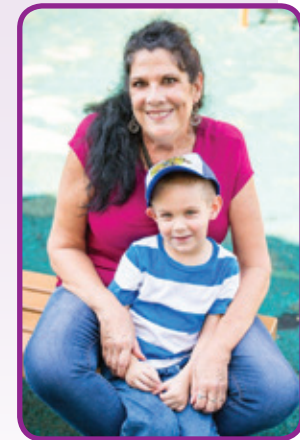
**85%** of families participated in all Family Strengthening program requirements and **93%** of families had no verified abuse findings 12 months post program completion.

*“The Parent as Teacher educator is really outstanding for my son. She goes above and beyond with me. She tries to include us in extra activities outside of home with my kids.”*

**Parent of child at ARC Broward**

## Breaking Barriers for Kinship Families

In 2005, a very special superhero, the late Broward County School Board and CSC Member Carole Andrews, brought attention to the fact that thousands of grandparents, relatives and close family members in Broward County were solely responsible for raising children not their own because their biological parents could not. These “kinship” providers were often involved informally and had no support or understanding of how their circumstances might affect their legal rights and obligations. Since then, the CSC has funded Kinship Initiatives for Supportive Services (KISS) programs that help maintain stable homes for families where children are raised by relative or non-relative care givers. In FY 2014-15, The Jim Moran Foundation partnered with the CSC to expand kinship services. Through a series of coordinated, comprehensive services delivered in-home or at convenient community locations, these programs help keep children in caring, familiar environments. Services include linkages to mental health counseling, respite care, assistance navigating the school system, information on public benefits.



# Building Bridges to High-Quality Early Childhood

## Making the MOST of Afterschool

The bridges built by the CSC funded Maximizing Out-of-School Time (MOST) programs with the School District, allow participants to have a great time in a fun, safe and supportive environment. 22 agencies at close to 90 locations bolster academic achievement, support social and physical development and provide educational field trips and cultural arts opportunities for all children including those with special needs. Flexible and individualized staff to child ratios promote effective interactions with children who have special needs.

Services are provided afterschool, on non-school days, early release days and during the summer with sliding fees assessed on the family's ability to pay. Academic support is provided daily by certified teachers. Another main focus is social emotional learning. This helps with character development, bullying prevention, and builds the problem-solving abilities and other life skills required for positive relationships. Rigorous performance measures, effective technical assistance and programmatic and fiscal monitoring ensure that high-quality services are provided. Additionally, an extensive array of trainings is provided to program staff. In FY 2015-16, over 200 staff members were trained in curriculum delivery, the importance of reading aloud to children and behavior management.

The Summer Literacy Initiative, which supports Broward Reads, provided 5,000+ books to low-income children to take home to build their personal libraries. High quality out-of-school time summer programs can address summer learning loss which low income children suffer at a much higher rate than their middle income peers. Children and youth in CSC's programs are fed a snack and supper during the school year, and lunch and snack during the summer, through a partnership with federal food programs.

*"We are very pleased with the program. The staff treat my children as if they were family. Everyone is caring with all the children."*

**Parent of MOST Special Needs program participant**

*"I love that I get to make new friends here. I do not want to change anything."*

**Child participating in MOST general population program**



**86%** of children in **MOST** programs improved their **math skills**, while **93%** improved their **reading skills**.

## Broward Early Childhood Education & Care

Since 2003, the CSC has been committed to supporting quality early learning experiences for Broward's youngest children. CSC has partnered with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) to build on state funding to provide vouchers for working poor parents in need of childcare. Due to the long waitlist for care, the CSC has created a special pool of funding for extremely vulnerable children to help avoid involvement in the foster care system. In addition, the CSC has provided Early Learning Centers with training on Positive Behavior Support (PBS) for teachers and parents. This training has provided teachers with the tools they need to deal with challenging behaviors rather than expelling children from their preschool setting.



## Youth FORCE STEAM-rolling Forward to Success

In 2008, the CSC turned its attention to middle school youth with the introduction of **Youth FORCE (Friends, Opportunities, Resources, Counseling & Education)**.

Since then the FORCE has been with thousands of young people as they are encouraged to explore fun, enriching activities, many involving themes focused on literacy in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). In FY 2015-16, Youth FORCE helped middle school students maximize their potential through fun and enriching activities such as robotics, drama and dance that were provided after school and during the summer at 22 school and 4 community sites spanning the county. Additionally, homework assistance and tutoring by certified teachers aided students in squashing challenges and succeeding in school. Weekly Teen Outreach Program (TOP) prevention education classes assisted youth in exploring their values, building communication skills, and feeling empowered through community service learning projects. USDA snacks and supper were offered to ensure all youth had nourishing, wholesome food each day, and nutrition and exercise classes promoted an overall healthy lifestyle. In August 2016, the CSC expanded the Youth FORCE program to a total of 13 providers at 26 sites serving specific underserved areas and youth who are LGBTQ or may have involvement in the delinquency system.



**97%** of centers increased in verbal and non-verbal interaction of teachers with children, and children with children, and **94%** of centers decreased agency red flags such as teachers harshly reprimanding children rather than guiding them to find positive ways to resolve conflicts.

**82%** of youth in Youth FORCE programs improved school grades or attendance and **98%** did not obtain new law violations during program participation.

*“When we do life skills or TOP it helps me to understand and improve anything I need to change and the tutoring really helps my academics.”*

**HANDY Participant**

*“The program helped me to follow rules. They help me understand better.”*

**Smith Participant**

# BREAKING BARRIERS

# 15y



September 2000 – Broward County residents approve the creation of a Children's Services Council by referendum.



2001 – The first Council Members are appointed and the CSC issues its first Request for Proposals for \$3 million for evidence-based family strengthening programs.

2002 – CSC launches an awareness campaign on the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Fifteen years later, over \$550 million returned to Broward County families can be attributed to these efforts.

2003 – CSC launches Kinship initiative to support grandparents and other relatives raising children not their own.

2003 – New Diversion Alternatives for Youth (New DAY) launched to divert children from Juvenile Justice System.

2004 – Future Prep, an independent living skills training program is launched to support the needs of young people who are leaving the foster care system and find themselves ill prepared to handle the challenges of living on their own.

2004 – Partners with the Health Foundation of South Florida and the Quantum Foundation of Palm Beach to create Schools of Wellness to battle childhood obesity. Efforts garner a \$5.5 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.



2004 – Funds a new Summer Youth Employment initiative providing 550 teens the opportunity to get job experience.

2006 – CSC launches Supported Training Employment Program providing summer employment experience for youth with special needs.

2005 – KidCare outreach is funded to ensure that all children eligible to receive free or subsidized health care in Broward County are aware of the available services.



2008 – Partners with Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies to launch first Call to Action to Reduce Black infant mortality.

2007 – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, CSC, Broward County and the School Board take a leadership role in improving Cultural Competency of service delivery system.

2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008



# & BUILDING BRIDGES

## Years

2009 – In partnership with the School District, the CSC receives its second grant from the Florida Department of Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers to fund afterschool programs at low-performing high schools.



2009 – New CSC headquarters serves as community meeting and training venue with over 280 events hosted annually.



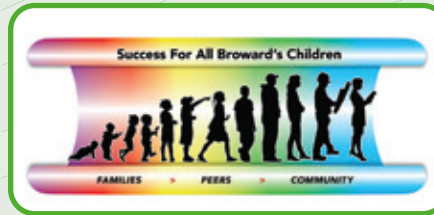
2010 – In partnership with AD Henderson Foundation, establishes Positive Behavior Support project. This first year, 159 teachers and 162 parents trained at 15 childcare centers in Positive Behavior Support (PBS).



2010 – Launches Transitioning to Life Resource Fair and Workshop Series for youth with disabilities and their families.



2011 – Launched Online Learning Center to give provider staff flexibility in how and where to participate in trainings



2012 – Convenes the third Broward County Youth Summit; introduced Results Based Accountability and "Turn the Curve" approach to addressing community needs.

2014 – Partners with Florida Impact, South Florida Meals on Wheels, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, Broward Housing Authority, Community Foundation of Broward and others to launch the Mobile Summer BreakSpot to provide nutritious meals to children and youth at 7 locations. Touted as a national best practice, in the summer of 2016 it served 150,809 meals to 8,940 children at 75 sites.



2014 – Almost 80% of Broward County voters reauthorize the CSC to continue funding programs that positively impact over 150,000 children in Broward every year.



2015 – Issues funding for 1,250 vouchers for children 6 months to 4 years old for swim lessons through Swim Central. The program's success prompted the Council to double the number of coupons made available. Through the summer of 2016, 3,040 coupons were redeemed.

2009

2010

2011

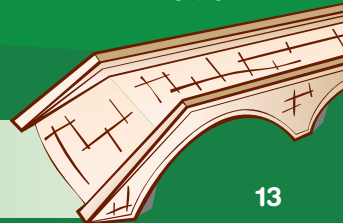
2012

2013

2014

2015

2016



# Breaking Barriers and Building Bridges to the Future

## LEAP High and 21st Century Programs

Since FY 2009-10, the CSC's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and LEAP High (Literacy, Enrichment and Academic Pursuits) programs have helped high school students improve academic performance and graduate on time. In partnership with the YMCA and Hispanic Unity, the CSC has used 21st Century grants awarded by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) to provide high quality academic remediation, homework assistance and enrichment activities to at-risk students attending 11 Broward County high schools.



As the FDOE grant funds "sunset", CSC funding sustains 21st CCLC programs and the programs are then known as LEAP High. Students benefit from project based learning activities that reinforce core academic subjects and personal enrichment activities to improve social skills and keep high school students engaged with their school and 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. The CSC partners with the School Board to provide students with daily snacks, lunch and supper, bus transportation and 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 high school students in greatest need. In FY 2015-16, the CSC received federal funds to create the BOSS (Best Opportunities to Shine and Succeed) program, that enhances the 21st CCLC/LEAP programs by adding tiered case management to help youth graduate high school and successfully transition to college or the workforce.

**100%** of youth decreased external suspensions or had zero external suspensions, **82%** of youth improved reading grades, **78%** of youth improved math grades and **77%** of youth improved science grades.

## New DAY for Youth in Crisis

One crisis facing Broward County youth at the time the CSC was created, was the high number of children on probation and the dramatic over-representation of black youth in the Juvenile Justice System. That is why, since FY 2002-03, Broward superheroes have been diverting youth with low risk offenses from entering the formal criminal justice system. Youth may be referred by the State Attorney's Office, The Broward County Office of Civil Citation and/or law enforcement. Nine organizations band together to reduce incidences of repeat contact with the criminal justice system by providing highly-structured interventions that lower the likelihood of re-offending through supervision, counseling, community service, restorative justice conferencing, parent support and case management. During FY 2015-16, partnering law enforcement agencies issued 930 Civil Citations instead of detention, thereby allowing youth to move forward in life and maintain a clean slate.

**83%** of youth in New DAY programs successfully completed diversion and **90%** had no re-offenses 12 months post program completion.



*"When I dealt with the supervisor due to concerns I had, she addressed it by acknowledging my concerns and encouraged me to continue with the services. She was understanding, yet firm."*

**Camelot program participant**



## Preparing the Ground for a Successful Future

Back in 2004, the community came together to help children aging out of foster and relative care build bridges to adulthood. In 2008, the CSC and The Jim Moran Foundation, joined forces to provide these young people with life coaches committed to ensuring that their origin stories had happy endings. The CSC research and program staff knit together the component pieces of mentoring, vocational, exploration and training, case management, life-skills, and other support services into a program that has been nationally recognized for its effectiveness. A total of 452 youth benefited from [Future Prep](#) in FY 2015-16. Recognizing other youth populations could also benefit from this mix of services, the CSC issued a Request for Proposals for Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT). The CSC and The Jim Moran Foundation nearly doubled the funding in this area and expanded the populations to be served to include youth with juvenile justice or foster care involvement and LGBTQ youth. These services will begin in FY 2016-17.



**85%** of youth in **Future PREP** programs demonstrated proficiency in employability skills and **88%** made progress in school or maintained employment.

## Legal Advocacy and LAW Line

The CSC funded Legal Advocacy Works (LAW) program serves low-income youth, up to 18-years-old, who are dually involved in the dependency and delinquency systems or those who are in either the dependency or delinquency systems and at risk of dual involvement. Superheroic and dedicated attorneys from Legal Aid of Broward County work tirelessly to provide advocacy, legal representation, case management and supportive services to youth referred by the Juvenile Division of the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office or other community, child welfare or children's services agency. This program is unique to Broward County and has been proven highly effective.

LAW-Line, 954-318-4531, was created in 2015 with CSC funding and is a legal helpline for youth and their families who have concerns related to youth involvement with the delinquency and/or dependency systems. Maintained in the offices of Legal Aid, conversations are protected under attorney-client privilege so they can be frank and secure.

**86%** of youth in the **LAW** program improved housing stability and reduced delinquency risk. **87%** did not obtain new law violations 12 months post program completion.

*"I love how I always get the most out of them and when I really need information or anything they are always there to help and support me."*

**Legal Aid client**

# Providing Youth with the Opportunity to Become

## Providing Youth with Summertime Employment Opportunities

What can be more magical and fulfilling for a youth than to earn that very first real paycheck? For many **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** participants that is exactly what has been happening through this program since the summer of 2005. Economically disadvantaged youth ages 16-18 gain employability skills and earn minimum wage through an extraordinary 6-week paid work experience. Pre-orientation job readiness workshops and case management support promotes the youths' success in what is most often the first real exposure to employment. Working in partnership with CareerSource Broward, the CSC funded placement of over 600 teens at 160 work sites across the county during the summer of 2016. Demand in the community for this program remains high, with approximately 4,000 youth applying each year.

Program satisfaction also remains high, with 98% of the participating employers and 99% of the youth reporting a positive experience with the program. Youth job retention is strong with 92% of youth completing the program. In 2016, CareerSource Broward employed over 141 additional youth at SYEP worksites through leveraged funding from Ft. Lauderdale, Davie, Pembroke Pines and Broward County. CareerSource also began a private sector job campaign where employers agreed to pay 50% of participants' wages during the summer.



**98%** of employers reported satisfaction with the program while **92%** of youth completed the program.

*“The Summer Youth Employment Program was amazing. The best thing about my job working in a clerical position was assisting anyone that needed help. Mostly I had fun with the kids and sometimes participated in daily events. This program helped me to have a better future and prepared me for any other workplace.”*

**SYEP program participant**



## Breaking Down Barriers for Youth with Special Needs

The Supported Training Employment Program (STEP), offers year-round transitional youth development and employment opportunities for youth ages 16-22 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. In FY 2015-16, in partnership with Broward County Government and ServiceSource, a leading resource for people with disabilities, the program added the Youth Work Incentive Counseling (Y-WIC) component.

Y-WIC breaks down barriers for youth with special needs seeking to understand how employment might impact their Social Security and other benefits. As the youth become more self-supporting, it also helps them and their families formulate achievable and maintainable goals.

In addition, the CSC is the main sponsor of the [Transitioning to Adult Life annual summit](#). An informative day for youth with special needs who are interested in college, vocational education, employment and other options after high school, the day also includes workshops for parents and family members supporting youth to adulthood and a fun after-party. In 2016, the CSC partnered with the Broward Behavioral Health Coalition to include a track for youth with behavioral health needs and their families.



**92%** of youth in **STEP** acquired measurable skills in **Work Required Behavior** and **93%** acquired measurable skills in **Daily Living Activities**.

*“It helped me keep my grades up, make the right choices and it also helped me communicate with people who were different from me.”*

**Center for Hearing and Communication program participant**

*“I feel safe in the program and don’t have to worry about getting picked on or teased.”*

**YMCA of South Florida STEP program participant**

*“I can’t begin to tell you how important having these YMCA programs on-site at Broward Schools has been over the years, especially for my daughter Dani. Not only has it provided a safe, familiar environment for her to build social skills and self-esteem, but these programs have made it possible for me as a parent to maintain full-time employment and grow in my chosen career. The Y special needs programs have also provided the smaller ratio essential for ESE students. For that, I would like to thank each school and Principal that has at one time – or continues to – host these programs on site at their respective schools.”*

**Mother of STEP Program Participant**

# Breaking Barriers to Help Access Information and Resources



2-1-1 Broward is the live, 24-hour comprehensive helpline, providing callers with a crisis, health and human services support and connections to resources in our community. Highly trained telephone counselors employ their super heroic skills, in almost every language, to assess the callers' needs and guide them as necessary. Whether the call is in reference to housing, food, financial assistance, relief from abuse, family issues, depression, childcare, suicide prevention, etc., 2-1-1 helps callers navigate the maze of city, state and non-profit agencies that can help. In FY 2015-16, 2-1-1 had 107,428 calls and 104,783 web hits for the general hotline. The CSC is the primary funder of the 2-1-1 special needs and behavioral health hotline which includes in person case management and flex funds to address immediate needs.

Since 2015, the CSC also sponsors the [Collective Impact for Youth Award](#) as part of the 2-1-1 Broward Non-Profit Awards.

2-1-1 Broward fielded **1,539** special needs and **1,038** behavioral health hotline calls and **9,192** special needs and **11,731** behavioral health web hits.

*“I am so grateful for this information, you have answered my questions and more. You have really helped me because I didn't know anything about these programs.”*

**2-1-1 Broward hotline caller**

*“Thank you so much for taking time to listen to me, for caring and acknowledging that I am trying my best to get on my feet. You've been very helpful and understanding.”*

**2-1-1 Broward hotline caller**

## Training

[The Broward Training Collaborative \(BTC\)](#) powered by the CSC and designed to build the superpowers of the staff of agencies working with children and families, is a mobile device friendly website that allows for an optimal registration experience. Ease of access to training information is important as proven by the fact that 4,139 participants representing 246 agencies attended CSC funded trainings in FY 2015-16, with a satisfaction rate of 97%. Similarly, the Online Learning Center, located on the training website, had over 2,024 participants representing 240 agencies that took advantage of online courses with a satisfaction rate of 98%.



The CSC offers a broad array of classroom trainings covering a multitude of subjects that strengthen the skills of child service professionals. The Trainer Cadre is currently delivering 100 innovative topics enhancing the competencies of our child serving community. In 2015, over 50 consultants were selected through a Request for Applications (RFA) process managed by the CSC's Public Affairs and Organizational Development (PAOD) department.



# Building Bridges of Safety and Security

## Earned Income Tax Credit

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal anti-poverty program that provides financial assistance for working families.

Since 2002, the Children's Services Council has funded a public awareness campaign on EITC and the management of [Volunteer Income Tax Assistance \(VITA\)](#) sites that have resulted in an additional \$546 million being returned to Broward residents to date. In FY 2015-16, Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF), since 2014 the agency managing the EITC/VITA campaign, transmitted a record breaking total of **5,816** federal tax returns and brought back **\$6.3 million** to residents of Broward County. Served by 35 staff members and over 100 dedicated IRS certified volunteer tax preparers, clients served by the program saved a total of **\$1.4 million** in tax preparation fees by accessing the free service at 15 countywide locations.

HUF partnered once again with Community Access Center, HandsOn Broward and 2-1-1 Broward, as well as Epilepsy Foundation, a navigator agency for the Affordable Care Act (ACA), to ensure as many eligible filers as possible were reached, received services and understood the process.



## Broward AWARE!

Children deserve to live in communities where they can grow safe, healthy and nurtured. It takes a special kind of superhero to work every day to keep vulnerable children safe from abuse and neglect. The Broward AWARE! Protecting OUR Children campaign, modeled on the statewide Ounce of Prevention's Pinwheels for Prevention campaign, supports the efforts of dozens of organization whose mission is to keep children safe or help them heal if they have been victimized.

Broward AWARE! grew out of public awareness activities related to "April, Child Abuse Prevention Month," in 2009. In 2012, working closely with the Nancy J. Cotterman Center, Broward County Parks & Recreation, Department of Children and families, ChildNet, Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, 2-1-1 Broward, KidSafe Foundation, and many other organizations, the CSC provided additional support for the creation of a four month public awareness campaign launched in January and culminating in April.

In FY 2015-16, Broward AWARE! was launched in conjunction with the [Mt. Bethel Human Service Corporation led "33311 Walk and Family Festival."](#) Over 100 participants walked through the Sistrunk Ft. Lauderdale neighborhood to call attention to issues related to youth in the dependency system and [human trafficking](#)

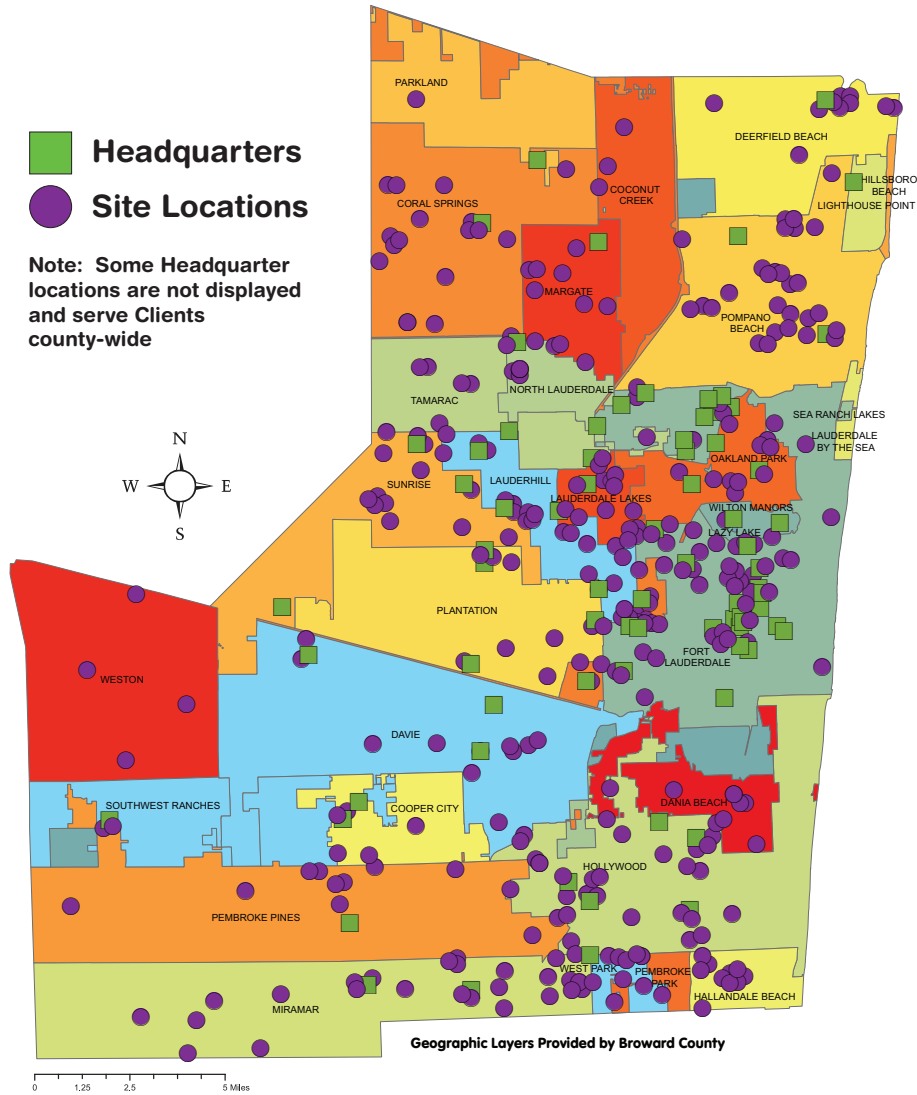
In March Broward AWARE supported the "Me and My Dad Challenge" by including the Water Smart Broward Campaign launch for drowning prevention. Other supported events included the Healthy Families graduation, the Denim Day campaign against sexual violence and the [Family Fun and Resource Fair.](#)

As part of the year's activities, the committee also honored Marsha Christie, a recently retired Broward Sheriff's Office Child Protective Services officer who spent over 40 years of her life ensuring children could remain safe from abuse and neglect, with the annual Alan and Marsha Levy Champion of Child Abuse Prevention award.

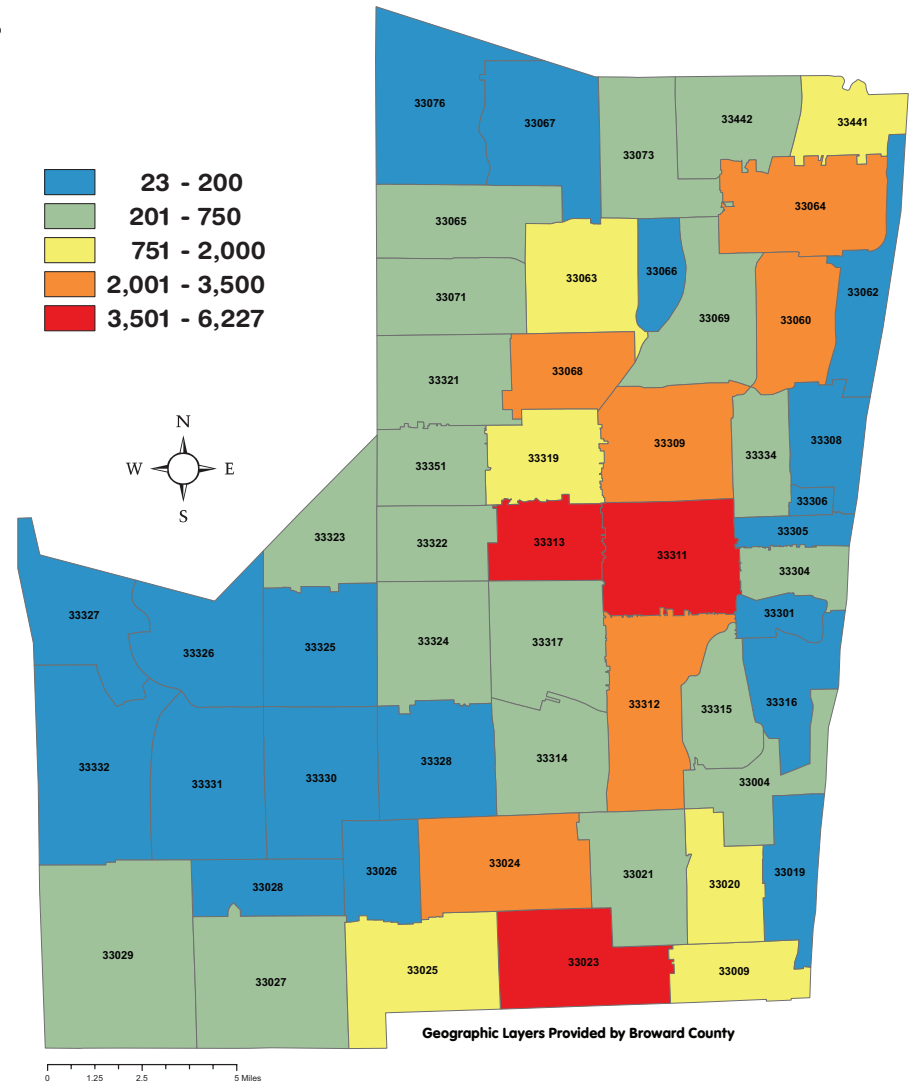


# Program Locations and Families Served

## CSC Funded Programs Headquarters & Service Locations

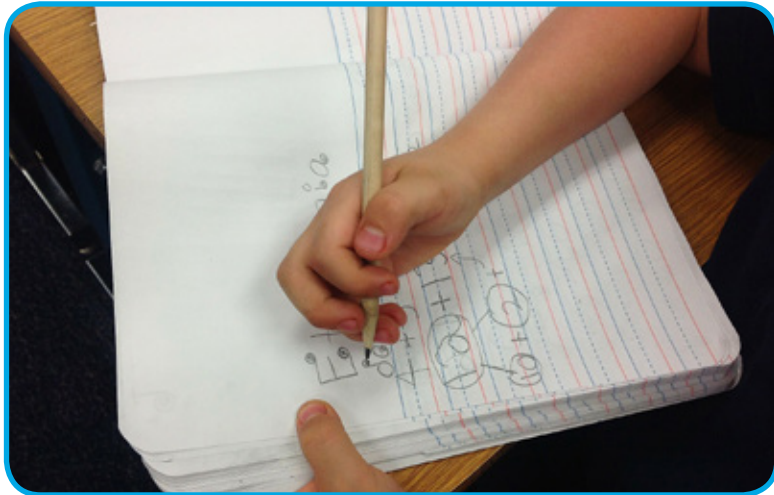


## Children & Families Served by CSC by Zip Code





# Financial Report



## GENERAL FUND

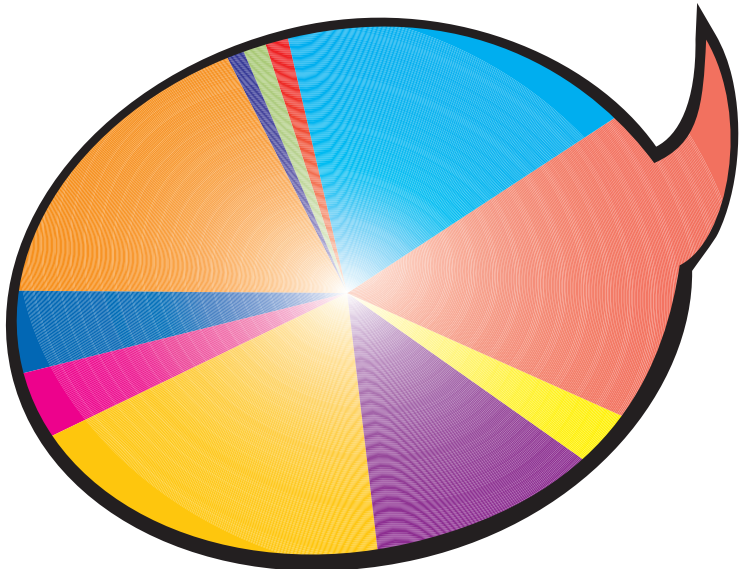
### REVENUES:

|                                     | FY 2015/16 Actual   | FY 2014/15 Actual   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Property Taxes                      | \$70,246,887        | \$65,140,776        |
| Federal Grant Income                | 261,131             | 181,858             |
| Local Foundations/<br>Miscellaneous | 007,919             | 950,012             |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>               | <b>\$71,515,937</b> | <b>\$66,272,646</b> |

### EXPENDITURES:

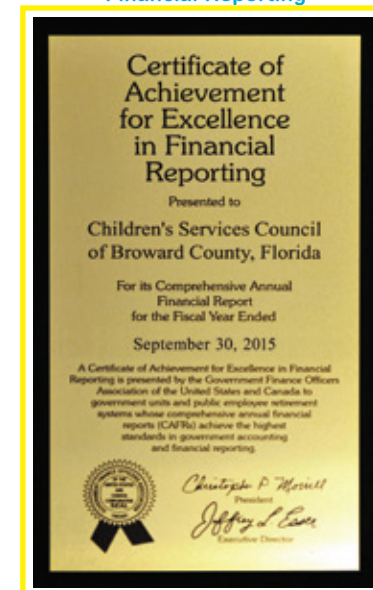
|                            |                     |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Program Services/Support   | \$65,669,800        | \$61,992,857        |
| General Administration     | 2,366,509           | 2,246,168           |
| Capital Outlay             | 123,753             | 178,684             |
| Non-Operating Expenditures | 2,393,301           | 2,043,045           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>  | <b>\$70,553,363</b> | <b>\$66,460,753</b> |

## FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 Budget for Program Services By Goal



|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Family Strengthening               | 18% |
| Delinquency Prevention & Diversion | 19% |
| Independent Living                 | 3%  |
| Early Education                    | 11% |
| Out of School Time                 | 19% |
| Physical Health & Child Safety     | 4%  |
| Maternal & Child Health            | 5%  |
| Special Needs                      | 17% |
| Agency Capacity Training           | 1%  |
| Seamless System of Care            | 1%  |
| Public Awareness and Advocacy      | 1%  |

### Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting



## **2-1-1-Broward**

General Hotline,  
Special Needs & Behavioral Health Hotline

## **Abilities**

STEP

## **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,  
Family Strengthening

## **Broward Children's Center, Inc.**

Maximizing Out-of-School Time-Special Needs,  
Family Strengthening

## **Broward County Healthy Start Coalition**

Fetal Infant Mortality Report Project

## **Broward County**

Drowning Prevention, After School @ Your Library,  
Hunger Relief

## **Broward Regional Health Planning Council**

Healthy Families, Subsidized Childcare

## **Broward Sheriff's Office**

New DAY, Juvenile Assessment Center

## **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 Access Center Inc.**

Youth FORCE

## **Community After School**

Maximizing Out-of-School Time, Margate CRA

## **Community Based Connections**

Family Strengthening, New DAY

## **Community Foundation of Broward**

Capacity Building,  
Community Leadership Mentoring

## **Community Reconstruction Housing, Inc. (CRHI)**

Youth FORCE

## **Coordinating Council of Broward (CCB)**

Common Eligibility

## **Crockett Foundation**

Youth FORCE

## **Cross Country Staffing**

School Health, Coral Springs CRA

## **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

## **FLITE - Fort Lauderdale Independence Training & Education Center**

Future Prep

## **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



# Programs They Provide

## **Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition**

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

## **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, Family Strengthening

## **Hollywood Art / Cultural CTR for Hollywood, City of**

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

## **Hollywood Beach CRA**

Maximizing Out-of-School Time

## **H.O.M.E.S. - Housing Opportunities, Mortgage Assistance, and Effective Neighborhood Solutions, Inc.**

Future Prep

## **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

## **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

## **Sierra Lifecare, Inc.**

School Health

## **Smith Community Mental Health**

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

## **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

## **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

## **West Park, City of**

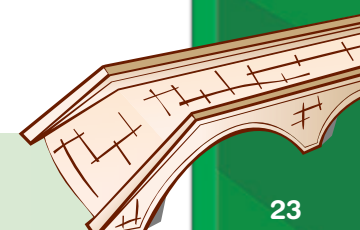
Youth FORCE

## **Wyman Center**

Youth FORCE Training

## **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, Spark Fidelity, Colors of the Caribbean, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act





# 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](mailto: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](https://www.CSCBroward.org)

Online Learning Center and Training:  
[training.CSCBroward.org](https://training.CSCBroward.org)

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