

2024 – 2025

ANNUAL REPORT

To the Board of County Commissioners
of Miami-Dade County



DECEMBER 2025

Mission:

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



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Introduction & Budget

The Children's Trust proudly submits its Annual Report for fiscal year 2024-2025 to the Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County in accordance with Section 2-1525(e) of the Miami-Dade County Code. This report highlights the organization's goals and objectives, along with related performance measures and standards, as required by HB 7013. The Children's Trust's goals are to plan, advocate for, and fund its priority investment areas specified in The Trust's Strategic Framework (available for download at TheChildrensTrust.org/StrategicPlanning). Each priority investment area goal is pursued through objectives to implement specified initiatives that forward the goal. Performance measures and standards include the quantity, quality, outcome/impact measures, and results, which are detailed throughout this report.

These programs and activities of The Children's Trust are aligned with the goals established by Section 125.901 of the Florida Statutes to:

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

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

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

Record Budget and Fiscal Stewardship

The Children's Trust remains steadfast in its dedication to improving the well-being and success of all children and families in Miami-Dade County. The past year has been marked by robust program execution, dynamic community engagement, and a continued commitment to innovation and strategic planning.

Guided by the vision of its board of directors, The Children's Trust adopted a \$260.1 million budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026, representing the largest programmatic investment in the organization's history, coupled with a rolled-back millage rate of 0.4638, ensuring no property tax increases for residents. Management expenses were kept at a low 5.58 percent, reflecting a strong commitment to fiscal responsibility and maximizing resources for direct services.

With continued guidance from its board in the 2024-2025 fiscal year, The Children's Trust demonstrated its ongoing commitment to serving children and families by partnering with 303 agencies to execute 437 contracts and numerous service agreements (see funded service provider list and map). These collaborations enabled the delivery of high-quality, accessible services tailored to address critical areas such as health, education, safety, and family support.

The Children's Trust has more than a decade-long tradition of financial excellence consistent with its quality and sound financial practices. For the thirteenth consecutive year, The Trust's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) as of September 30, 2024, was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.



Strategic Investments and Program Expansion

10th Year of Summer Youth Internship Program

The Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP) celebrated its tenth year, providing an all-time high of 3,661 high school students across Miami-Dade County with meaningful paid internships in summer 2025. These students hailed from 92 high schools and contributed more than half a million work hours at nearly 1,000 companies and organizations, including expanded participation from charter schools. This five-week work-based learning experience, jointly funded by The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County, CareerSource South Florida, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Educational Federal Credit Union, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Foundation (formerly known as the Foundation for New Education Initiatives), offered students practical exposure in community settings. Over the past decade, more than 18,500 unique students have participated, with 36 percent participating for multiple summers.





HealthConnect in Our Schools Expansion

The Trust significantly expanded its HealthConnect in Our Schools initiative for the 2025–2026 school year, doubling the number of participating schools and strengthening its commitment to student wellness across Miami-Dade County. Six school health contracts were awarded, expanding services in partnership with the Florida Department of Health, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and charter school operators. The school health partnership now reaches all public schools and select charter schools, offering mobile health units, telehealth access, and/or tiered on-site support based on school size and needs. This growth was made possible in part by funding from The Health Foundation of South Florida and United Way Miami, which support the operations of the pediatric mobile health units. In August 2025, the annual, multi-day school health conference brought together hundreds of nurses, social workers, and mental health professionals. Together, they explored evolving student health needs, strengthened best practices, and reinforced a unified approach to supporting the physical and emotional well-being of children across the district.

Early Childhood and Literacy Initiatives

The Children's Trust Book Club continued to reach new heights, with more than 63,000 children from birth to age 5 receiving at least one free monthly book and accompanying family reading guides and activities in fiscal year 2024–2025. More than 554,000 books were distributed, and as of September 2025, there were more than 48,000 active members. The Trust expanded its impact in early literacy by competitively awarding Book Club contracts to enhance book buying, content development, fulfillment, and community and digital programming in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Community engagement efforts included literacy workshops, family incentive distributions, and partnerships with South Florida PBS, the Books & Books Foundation, and the Miami Book Fair.

The ElevatEd initiative, developed in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, provided a streamlined, online professional development platform for early learning professionals, while the Thrive by 5 Advisory Committee shaped future priorities in early childhood education.

In March 2025, the READy, Set, Go Miami! Literacy Blitz brought early literacy to the forefront across Miami-Dade County through a powerful, community-driven effort. More than 50 workshops were held throughout the month, around 700 books were distributed, and more than 350

incentive bags filled with resources for families were shared. Additionally, more than 70 preschool teachers were trained and awarded Continuing Education Units (CEU's) in early literacy strategies - equipping educators to lead workshops in their neighborhoods and extending the impact well beyond the blitz.

Youth Development and Family Support

The Trust's largest investment is in Youth Development programs for school-age children and youth to have enriching experiences that are accessible, affordable, and inclusive. More than 47,000 children and youth attended after-school, summer camp, and youth programs at hundreds of locations across the county. These programs serve as a vital lifeline for working parents, providing peace of mind that their children are in safe, enriching settings when not in school. The 7th annual Battle of the Books competition engaged more than 1,000 K–5 participants from 11 Trust-funded summer camps, building literacy skills and excitement around reading.



The Children's Trust Parent Club workshops in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole fostered parental engagement, learning, and support, with more than 20,000 parents attending 1,765 workshops. The new Parent Club Pass rewards program incentivized participation, offering family passes to local attractions.

The Trust's Helping Hand campaign expanded access to family stabilization and care coordination resources through education and communications to spread the word to families who need support. Furthermore, expanded food security measures ensured children continued to receive essential nutritional supports during challenging times.

Innovation, Technology, and Operational Excellence

Leveraging Technology

The Children's Trust continued to refine its processes and embrace technological advancements, maintaining a model of transparency and accountability. Staff training in artificial intelligence (AI) enhanced work efficiency across departments. AI tools supported strategic planning, data processing, survey development, and visual creation, integrating seamlessly into daily workflows to boost productivity, learning, and data-informed decision-making.

In 2024-2025, the organization successfully executed all program contracts ahead of schedule thanks to Trust staff's meticulous planning, coordination, and streamlining of contract processes. This ensured that services could be delivered without delay, benefiting thousands of children and families.



Comprehensive Performance Reviews

As a data-driven learning organization, The Trust regularly assesses contract performance to ensure the success of funded agencies. Comprehensive Performance Reviews (CPRs) were completed for key initiatives, such as Youth Development, Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Benefits Enrollment, Thrive by 5, and Trust Academy. In total, eight contract-level CPRs were held, representing more than 45 hours of contract performance data reviews and action planning discussions last year for hundreds of contracts. These reviews informed action plans, technical assistance, and strategic adjustments, strengthening alignment with initiative goals. In addition, initiative-level strategic planning evaluates how well investments are achieving the intended impact. Last year, 21 cross-departmental strategic planning meetings were held with Trust leadership, totaling more than 30 hours of data-informed sharing, discussion, and input. The annual planning agenda ensures all contracts and initiatives receive thorough contract performance and strategic initiative reviews, supported by new data access tools and dashboards.



Research and Strategic Learning

A comprehensive provider survey achieved a 100 percent response rate from more than 200 Youth Development, Parenting, School Health, and Family and Neighborhood Support Partnership providers, informing strategic planning and provider supports. The Trust deployed and/or updated dashboards, data grids, and reports for Youth Development, Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Benefits Enrollment, Trust Academy, Book Club, Parent Club, and Parenting metrics, enabling real-time data access and meaningful program conversations. System updates improved reporting efficiency and accuracy, supporting ongoing learning and improvement efforts.

Community Engagement and Collaborative Partnerships

The Trust's impact is amplified through partnerships and active engagement in neighborhoods. The Champions for Children Awards Ceremony celebrated its 19th year, where nearly 900 child and family advocates gathered to uplift those who have gone above and beyond in their services to children. The Family Expo drew more than 5,200 participants, providing access to resources, health screenings, and community services. The Young Talent Big Dreams competition showcased The Trust's role in fostering youth talent in the performing arts.



Zero Drownings Miami-Dade expanded dramatically, delivering nearly 16,000 swim lessons building water safety skills for more than 2,200 young children. This partnership with Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade County, the American Red Cross, The Miami Foundation, United Way Miami, and several other funders and swim providers offers ten 30-minute swim lessons for young children in schools and child care centers, as a series of coordinated field trips during the day. A new website was also launched, ZeroDrowningsMiamiDade.org offering extensive water safety information to the public.

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) further strengthened community ties and helped mold future changemakers, as it has since 2006. The YAC focuses on leadership, advocacy, and service, especially in support of children and families. During the 2024-2025 school year,

the YAC had 220 active members from more than 52 high schools who met regularly at six sites across the county. Students dedicated thousands of community service hours in collaboration with a multitude of community partners focused on themes ranging from the environment to education. Twenty YAC members participated in the annual legislative and college tour in Tallahassee, which included meetings with Florida legislators, tours of the House of Representatives, and visits to higher education institutions.



Sharing Lessons and Recognitions

Trust teams participated in several national, state, and local thought leadership opportunities, sharing best practices and insights at conferences, panels, and forums. These engagements highlighted The Trust's commitment to continuous learning, literacy, health, early childhood, and collaborative funding models.

The Children's Trust received multiple honors, including the Outstanding Grantmaker Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals, a National Association of Counties Achievement Award for Zero Drownings Miami-Dade, and recognition as a Distinguished Donor at The Education Fund's charity auction. Staff members were honored for excellence in literacy advocacy, financial stewardship, health care, and public policy, reflecting the organization's leadership and impact.

Budget and Millage Rate

Looking ahead, The Children's Trust remains committed to deepening its impact and expanding access to critical services. Guidance from the board of directors led to the adoption of a historic \$260.1 million budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, reflecting a continued focus on addressing the needs of children and families in Miami-Dade County. The rolled-back millage rate of 0.4638, ensures no Children's Trust property tax increase for residents. The property tax

for a residential property having a median taxable value with a \$50,000 homestead exemption for the 2025-2026 tax year is \$83.03, the same amount as the previous fiscal year. The budget includes low management expenses at 5.58 percent, maximizing resources for direct services.

This annual report celebrates the achievements of fiscal year 2024-2025 and highlights The Children's Trust's commitment to innovation, fiscal accountability, collaboration, and excellence in service to Miami-Dade's children and families. The achievements of the past year reflect the dedication of the board, staff, providers, and partners, setting the stage for continued progress and impact in the years ahead. The Children's Trust 2024-2025 Management Letter and Audited Financial Report will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners upon completion by April 15, 2026.

BUDGET BY PRIORITY INVESTMENT AREA

DESCRIPTION	2024-25 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	2025-26 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	PERCENTAGE DIFFERENCE
SUSTAIN & EXPAND DIRECT SERVICES			
Parenting	30,809,460	31,009,460	0.65%
Thrive by 5 (early childhood development)	59,128,357	58,585,357	-0.92%
Youth development	83,303,115	83,303,115	0.00%
Health & wellness	30,891,778	32,341,778	4.69%
Family & neighborhood supports	16,164,176	16,662,450	3.08%
TOTAL SUSTAIN & EXPAND DIRECT SERVICES	\$220,296,886	\$221,902,160	0.73%
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS & ADVOCACY			
Promote public policy & legislative agendas	215,300	215,300	0.00%
Public awareness & program promotion	3,085,000	2,965,000	-3.89%
Promote citizen engagement & leadership	1,315,000	1,435,000	9.13%
Cross-funder collaboration	1,735,000	1,735,000	0.00%
TOTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, AWARENESS & ADVOCACY	\$6,350,300	\$6,350,300	0.00%
LEARNING & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT			
Supports for quality program implementation	3,650,000	3,650,000	0.00%
Information technology	2,050,000	2,050,000	0.00%
Program evaluation & community research	570,000	570,000	0.00%
Innovation fund	1,619,000	1,619,000	0.00%
TOTAL LEARNING & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT	\$7,889,000	\$7,889,000	0.00%
ADMINISTRATION & NON-OPERATING EXPENDITURES			
Management of The Children's Trust	14,237,534	14,522,534	2.00%
Non-operating expenditures	7,500,000	9,500,000	26.67%
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION & NON-OPERATING	\$21,737,534	\$24,022,534	10.51%
TOTAL	\$256,273,720	\$260,163,994	1.52%



Thrive By 5: Early Childhood Development

When Madiline Garland noticed signs that gave her concern while her then 4-year-old son Lionel was in Voluntary Pre-K last year, she acted quickly. After Lionel was diagnosed with ADHD, and with kindergarten fast approaching, Madiline knew she needed a program that would not only support his learning but also understand his emotions and behavior.

Her search led her to the Summer Treatment Program—PreK at the Thena Crowder Early Childhood Diagnostic and Special Education Center, operated by FIU's Center for Children and Families and fully funded by The Children's Trust. The program helps preschoolers with behavioral, attention, and emotional difficulties build problem-solving and social skills, and develop self-control and self-esteem.

The program provided a nurturing environment where Lionel's behavioral issues were appropriately addressed. "Dropping Lionel off in the morning felt uplifting - everyone lined up like a pep rally, cheering the kids on as they entered class. It set the tone for the day." Parent involvement is central to the program, with weekly workshops that Madiline and her husband attended. "It taught us how to reinforce positive behavior, reward the good, and not just hone in on the negative."

Lionel thrived. "He really engaged well with the staff. Every day he came home happy," Madiline shared. "This experience taught me so much about ADHD and gave me hope. We're grateful for the support and the community we found here."

For more information, visit ccf.fiu.edu/summer-programs/.



A child's readiness for elementary school is shaped long before their first day of kindergarten. School readiness requires the collective efforts of families, early learning environments, schools, and communities. It relates to children's development across health, physical, cognitive and social-emotional domains, along with approaches to learning. Families must be ready to support their children's learning, and communities must be ready to meet the needs of all children. Unfortunately, in Miami-Dade County, 60 percent of public school kindergarteners in 2024 – close to 12,000 children – lacked the readiness skills needed to succeed.¹

While no one entity can solve this challenge, The Children's Trust is working with partners to help close the school readiness gap. The Trust invests more than \$77.2 million in a continuum of supports for early childhood development and school readiness called Thrive by 5. The urgency and importance of early brain development and its impact on later life success are the catalysts for this investment. Trust investments serve as models for the state and the nation, as evidenced through presentations about The Trust's work to local, state and national experts and audiences. In May 2025, Trust staff presented "Empowering Early Learning Educators through Accessible Workforce Opportunities" to share the new ElevatEd professional development system at the 2025 Smart State Conference.



90%
of a child's brain
is formed by 5
years of age.²

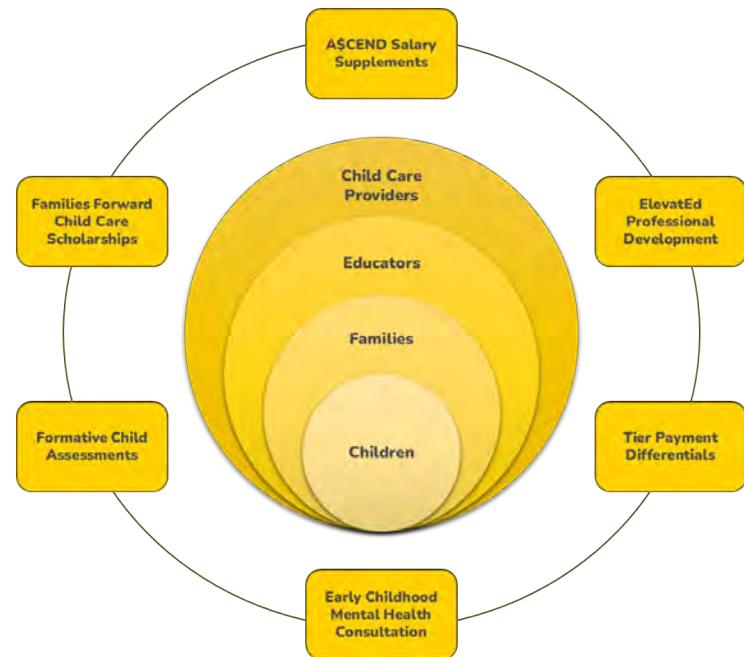
Thrive by 5 strategies focus on improving the quality of early childhood education programs; increasing access to these programs for families with the greatest needs; and encouraging developmental screening, assessment, and when needed, early intervention. Some additional investments described in other sections of this report (like parenting, home visiting, early literacy supports, and early childhood health services) are also considered part of Thrive by 5's continuum of services. Ninety percent of a child's brain is formed by 5 years of age.² According to national research, for every dollar invested in quality early childhood education, there is a \$7 to \$17 return on investment.³





Early Child Care Quality Improvement System (QIS)

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



QIS providers must meet all the following criteria:

1. 25 percent or more of children under age 6 who are served receive child care subsidies.
2. Located in or adjacent to a high-poverty census tract.
3. Serve infants/toddlers.



361
programs participated,
serving an estimated
32,376 children.



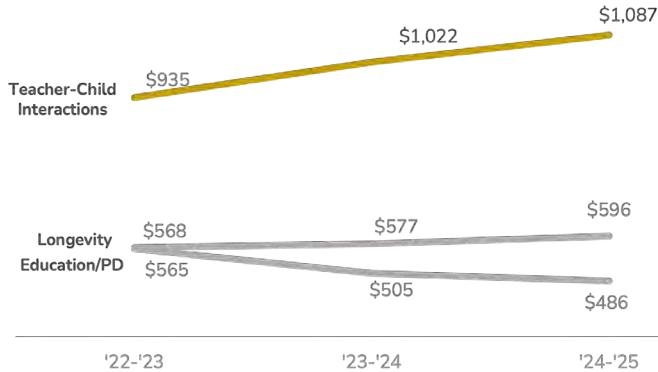


Salary Supplements

The salary supplement component of the QIS is crucial to supporting the early learning workforce, which has among the lowest hourly wages of any workforce in the county. QIS teachers' median hourly wage of \$15 per hour is \$6.26/hour below the hourly living wage for Miami-Dade County of \$21.26.⁴ To approach professional growth holistically, A\$CEND monetarily awards teachers' knowledge base, including formal educational progress, participation in professional development, quality teacher-child interactions (as measured by the Classroom Assessment Scoring System or CLASS®), and longevity in the field as demonstrated pathways of competency. These salary supplements are fully managed through a mobile app and require educators earning \$17.50 or less per hour to work in a QIS program with children ages birth to 5 years at least 20 hours per week.

Now in its third year, A\$CEND has reached many educators across Miami-Dade County as Thrive by 5 welcomed new child care programs. In 2024-2025, 1,427 educators were paid, with a median award of \$1,950. For educators working 40 hours per week over a year, this represents a \$0.94 increase to their hourly wage, serving to narrow the gap slightly towards a livable wage. Since A\$CEND payments are made after teachers remain in position every six months, this salary supplement program also serves to support staff retention and continuity of care for young children. This is a strength when national average annual turnover rates for early child care staff are almost 15 percent.⁵

The average portion of A\$CEND payments that increased the most in the last three years is based upon improvements in teacher-child interactions as measured by the CLASS®.



Professional Development Portal

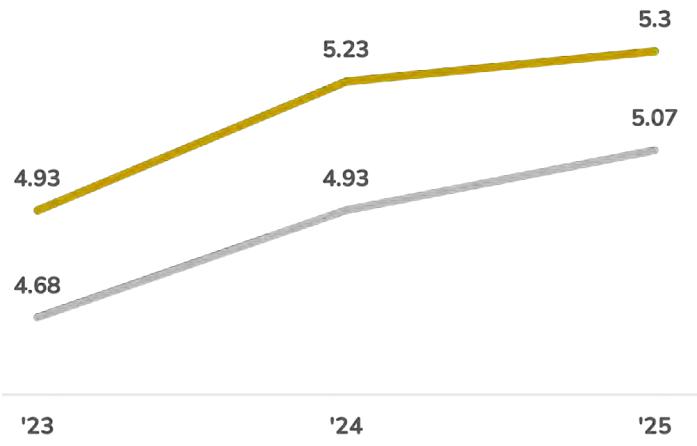
On October 1, 2024, The Trust and the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe jointly launched ElevatEd to replace several legacy systems and empower early learning educators across all local public and private early education systems. This new and innovative online learning platform and professional workforce registry provides child care directors and teaching staff with a comprehensive and streamlined experience where they can access professional development trainings, formal educational scholarships, and document translation and evaluation. More than 6,800 users have created ElevatEd accounts, and in fiscal year 2024-2025, 2,546 educators accessed professional development opportunities, including 264 courses hosted within ElevatEd. A wide range of bilingual learning opportunities are available, including college credit-earning courses and continuing education unit (CEU) trainings. A total of 2,611 CEUs were provided, representing an average of 1.5 CEUs per educator, and 126 educators with foreign degrees have successfully received document translation and evaluation through ElevatEd. More information about the early child care workforce in ElevatEd can be found in The Trust's Workforce Study at TheChildrensTrust.org/ThriveBy5.

High-Quality Tiered Payment Differentials

With tight budgets and most early learning centers operating as small businesses, many programs need more support to invest in program quality improvements. Thrive by 5 QIS adds financial incentives for high-quality early learning. The CLASS® measures teacher-child interactions and categorizes programs into quality tiers, from two to five (lowest to highest quality). Programs at tiers three and above receive high-quality payment differentials for all children ages birth to 5 years attending their program (not only those receiving school readiness subsidies). Tiered payments range from five to 15 percent to incentivize programs to reach and sustain higher levels of quality. In 2024-2025, the proportion of the highest quality tier 4 and 5 QIS programs increased from 71 percent to 80 percent. In addition, since 2023, Thrive by 5 QIS programs have performed better on average composite CLASS® scores than other programs, with increasing scores overall.



Since 2023, average composite CLASS scores have increased for early childhood programs. **Thrive by 5 programs** have consistently received higher scores than non-Thrive by 5 programs in Miami-Dade County.



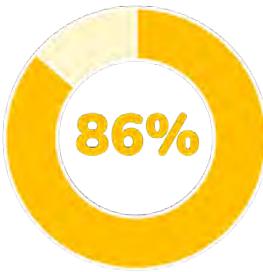
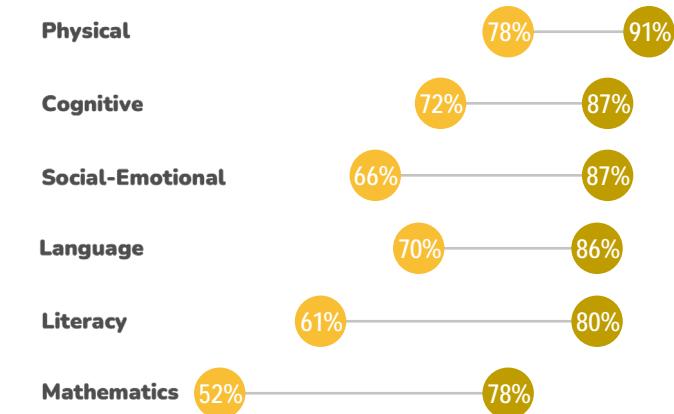
Formative Child Assessments

Teaching Strategies GOLD® (TSG) support is critical to ensure the appropriate use of formative child assessments to individualize learning environments, a key element of high-quality early learning. Technical assistance for educators and administrators connects standards with curriculum to facilitate and document children's learning. Participants learn to collect, analyze, and use the industry-standard TSG assessment system to evaluate child knowledge, skills, and dispositions through coaching, mentoring, and communities of practice. Child care staff communicate with families through a feedback loop to demonstrate child developmental progress and kindergarten readiness.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, 84 programs received TSG supports, including 832 educators and administrators serving 7,303 children. Based on mastery of the progression requirements and overall dedication to meaningful child assessment, 22 programs graduated from TSG in 2024-2025. This graduation to independence in formative child assessment makes more resources available for technical assistance supports for additional sites.

According to TSG results, young children demonstrated growth across developmental domains from fall 2024 to spring 2025.

The proportion of 4-year-olds in Thrive by 5 early learning programs who met or exceeded developmental expectations grew across all domains from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025.



of children who completed the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment (DECA) demonstrated **meaningful improvement** in the Jump Start program.

Early Child Care Access To Those In Need

In addition to improving child care quality, there is a great need in Miami-Dade to increase the number of available and affordable high-quality early learning opportunities for families. To support this goal, Thrive by 5 QIS offers Families Forward Child Care Scholarships for working families who exceed federal school readiness subsidy eligibility but still cannot afford the high cost of quality child care. In July 2025, school readiness subsidy eligibility changed from a maximum of 150 percent of federal poverty levels to a maximum of 55 percent of state median income for family size. With this change, Families Forward eligibility shifted from 150 to 300 percent of federal poverty levels to a maximum of 110 percent of state median income. Scholarships must be utilized at high-quality, tier four or five QIS programs. In turn, these programs benefit from increased enrollment and are encouraged to sustain their high levels of quality.

The need for these supports far outweighs the existing resources, so The Trust has developed strong partnerships to leverage additional funds. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation contributed \$500,000 for Families Forward scholarships. Due to support from external foundations and continued funding, the wait list for Families Forward scholarships was eliminated in 2024-2025. A total of 6,598 children received scholarships since its inception in October 2018, with 2,288 children served in fiscal year 2024-2025.

The Children's Trust also matches funding through community partners for the federal Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP) and Florida's School Readiness Program. In 2024-2025, the Trust allocated an additional \$400,000 to the EHS-CCP to support children across the county. These child care program slots are filled by children living within or near the federal poverty level, children with disabilities, children of farmworkers, and children at risk of neglect and abuse. Programs support labor force participation among parents. Financial security among families improves childhood experiences at home and promotes school readiness. In addition, The Trust has partnered with the U.S. Department of Defense's Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood Plus program since 2022 to support military families who cannot access military-operated child care programs by connecting them with high-quality QIS child care providers.



2,288 Thrive by 5

families forward
Child care scholarships for working families

 **\$4 million**
from The Children's Trust leverages
 **\$38 million**
in federal funding for
3,316 added high-quality child care slots for economically disadvantaged infants and toddlers.



Developmental Screening, Assessment & Early Intervention

Early detection and intervention are critical to put young children on their best developmental trajectory to reach their full potential. The National Survey of Children's Health estimates nearly 21 percent of children under age 5 in Miami-Dade County, or about 31,000 children, have special health care needs.⁶ Thus, The Trust's additional investments in early screening, assessment, and intervention are critical.



Universal Screening

All Trust-funded early childhood, parenting, and home visitation programs with young children provide developmental screening and referral. During fiscal year 2024-2025, all programs involved in universal screening, including Healthy Steps, Teaching Strategies GOLD® formative child assessments, early intervention programs, and others, performed 47,488 developmental screenings with 20,367 children, and 18 percent of screenings identified a concern leading to referral for follow-up services.

Autism Assessment

Diagnostic evaluations are conducted by specialized clinicians for children who present complex behaviors suggestive of an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) within the Early Steps or Miami-Dade County Public Schools pre-K diagnostic or FDLRS evaluation processes. Results support timely school placement, interventions, and/or specialized learning environments. In fiscal year 2024-2025, 94 percent of the 87 children assessed were diagnosed with ASD.

Early Discovery

This program provides care coordination and early intervention services for children with mild developmental delays who do not meet state-defined criteria to receive early intervention services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), part B or C (i.e., FDLRS, Early Steps). During fiscal year 2024-2025, 587 children were served with an average of 11 sessions, with 83 to 90 percent demonstrating improvement, depending on the developmental domain. In addition, two-thirds of surveyed parents with children who later enrolled in public schools reported that their children did not require special education placement.

Children with mild delays receiving early intervention from Early Discovery exhibited significant improvements across developmental domains.



90% of children improved speech and language skills.



85% of children improved social emotional development.



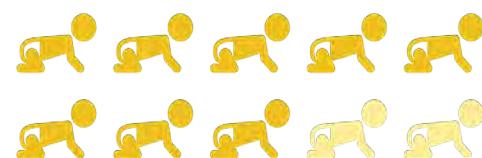
85% of children improved overall development.



83% of children improved gross and fine motor skills.

Early Intervention Summer Camps

Many young children who qualify for intensive early intervention programming through IDEA are only provided with school-year services. Young children are especially at risk of losing school-year gains during the summer. Therapeutic health and early intervention summer camps use evidence-based methods to develop motor, cognitive, language, literacy, social, emotional, physical, and self-care skills. The aim is for children to maintain or improve their developmental skills, achieve school readiness, and develop their full potential. In Summer 2025, eight programs served 677 children, for an average of 27 summer camp sessions per child, and 98 percent of children maintained or improved their development progress.



80% of early intervention summer camp sessions available were utilized.



Community Research Partnerships

Community-based organizations and researchers partner to implement and evaluate evidence-based and promising early childhood interventions for high-need children and their families. The results contribute to the field of learning about what works within the diverse Miami-Dade community, as well as inform other funders about successful services that warrant continuation or scaling. The Children's Trust funded six projects in 2024-2025 that evaluated early child care social-emotional learning supports for teachers and children; maternal and infant health; early literacy and school readiness supports in Pre-K classrooms; early childhood inclusion care for children with visual impairments; and therapeutic parent-child interventions for families experiencing homelessness. The partnerships served 2,589 children, 402 teachers, and 364 staff, and screened 208 parents across 44 sites.



Each early childhood project has been intentional in their dissemination efforts. Research results across projects have been shared through national professional conferences, peer-reviewed publications, and book chapters. The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, alongside their research partners at the University of Miami, presented on the relationship between children's peer play and executive functioning skills to the Society for Research in Child Development at their biennial meeting. The Black Mothers Care Plan, a research project led by Florida International University, has produced research to close the gap experienced by black expectant women in the health care system, including a book chapter, "The Black Mothers Care Plan: Lessons for Black Feminist Health Research and Community-Based Praxis," featured in *Feminist Responses to Crises and Dehumanization: Transnational Scholar-Activist Perspectives* (2025).

Youth Development



Twelve-year-old Brycen Bradshaw has found more than just rhythm in his second year with Young Musicians Unite (YMU) at Dr. Henry W. Mack/West Little River K-8 Center. He's also found confidence, community, and purpose. A dedicated member of the after-school ensemble, Brycen plays both trombone and baritone in high-energy rehearsals and performances led by YMU's passionate teaching artists. "I joined because of some of my friends," he says. "Before, I'd just go home and be bored."

Now, Brycen is thriving. The honor roll student has transformed from a quiet observer into a confident performer and communicator. "I'm a lot more confident. I used to be shy, but now I talk a lot more," he shares. His mother, Latoya Hall, has seen the change firsthand. "The discipline it has taught them is awesome for me," she says. "He knows that if you want a great outcome, you have to work for it." Even after the ensemble's dynamic sessions, Brycen continues to practice in his backyard. With YMU's guidance, he's learning not just how to play music, but how to express himself and be part of something bigger. As a Trust-funded provider under the Youth Development initiative, YMU's mission is clear: every student deserves access to music education, regardless of background. The organization serves thousands of students through free, high-quality instruction, and mentorship. For Brycen, that mission is personal, and life changing.

For more information, ymu.org/afterschoolprograms.



The Children's Trust makes its largest investment, more than \$83 million annually, in Youth Development programs for school-age children and youth to have enriching experiences that are accessible, affordable and inclusive. High-quality youth programs may increase school attendance, improve academic performance, decrease risky behaviors, prevent summer learning loss, and support working families.⁷ Children and youth who participate in after-school programs demonstrate more confidence and school pride, appropriately handle anger, have better school attendance and academic performance, and develop more positive social identities.^{8, 9} Programs for older youth can support mental health and decrease risky behaviors.¹⁰ Teens who are supervised when not in school are less likely to take risks that might get them into trouble. The hours youth are not supervised or engaged in structured activities are times of risk and lost opportunities to develop competencies and skills to succeed in school and life.

K-12 After-School Programs & Summer Camps

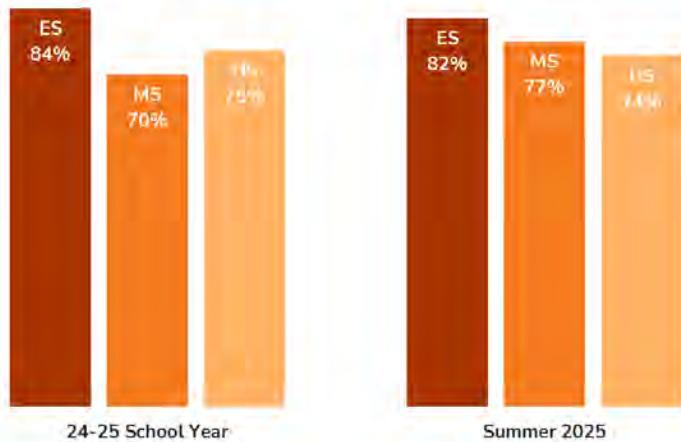
Trust-funded programs include literacy activities, physical activity, homework completion, and supportive social-emotional environments. Programs also incorporate a variety of enrichment activities that help participants build knowledge, explore interests, and develop skills. From the arts, to robotics, to sports, to entrepreneurship and beyond, programs offer opportunities that children and youth, particularly those whose families have limited economic resources, are not likely to get elsewhere. The Trust's Youth Development investment aims to ensure that all children and youth have access to safe and engaging supervision and care when not in school, addressing the needs of working parents. According to a parent/caregiver survey of more than 11,000 after-school participants, all parents agreed or strongly agreed that the programs supervised their children and kept them safe. In addition, nearly all parents (99%) reported that after-school programs offered needed child care that allowed parents to go to work or school.



During the 2024-25 contract year, there were 386 program sites, and nearly 30,000 children and youth were served across the after-school and summer timeframes. The greatest need for these programs is among elementary school-aged children, who comprise three quarters of participants, as noted in the chart.

K-12 PROGRAMS	24-25 SCHOOL YEAR	SUMMER 2025	ANNUAL TOTAL*
Programs	118	124	137
Sites	308	262	386
Children/Youth	21,058	19,688	32,959

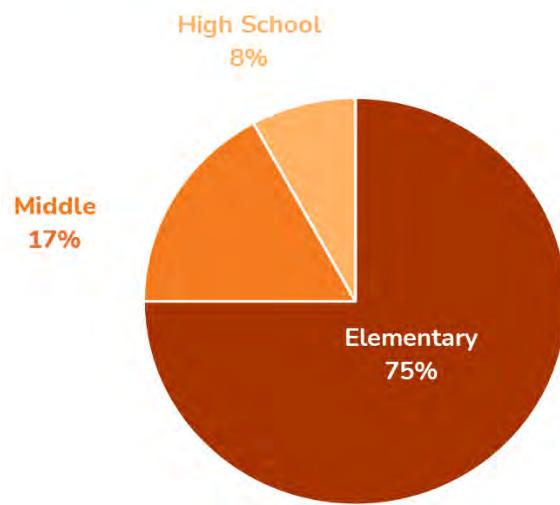
Annual totals represent unduplicated counts across timeframes. Some programs, sites, and children are in one or both timeframes, so the numbers cannot be added.



The Children's Trust measures service utilization as the average percentage of contracted program openings filled daily. In 2024-2025, program service utilization was highest among elementary-aged participants, likely because younger children need supervised care when not in school. In addition, about three-quarters of middle and high school program openings were utilized in the school year and summer, as noted in the chart above.



Three quarters of after-school and summer program participants are elementary school-aged.



Program Inclusion

Trust-funded Youth Development programs must ensure that at least 15 percent of participants are children and youth living with disabilities. In 2024-2025, about one quarter of after-school and summer program participants reported living with disabilities. In participant surveys of children and youth with disabilities, 97 percent of after-school participants and 99 percent of summer campers agreed or strongly agreed that program staff helped them to take part in all the program activities. Furthermore, observations of 118 after-school programs and 120 summer camps in 2025, using the Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment (SEL-PQA), revealed that all programs met or exceeded quality standards on "Showing Active Inclusion" items within the "Creating Safe Spaces" domain.



97% of parents of children living with disabilities agreed or strongly agreed that their child could fully participate in after-school activities with support when needed.

Supporting K-5 Struggling Readers

Miami-Dade fourth graders outperform their peers in other large, urban school districts on the 2024 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP); but nonetheless, only 35 percent scored proficient or above in Reading.¹¹ Furthermore, racial disparities persist, with 21 percent of Black students, 36 percent of Hispanic students, and 56 percent of White students reaching proficiency.¹¹ Because of these challenges, elementary school students reading below grade level in Trust after-school and summer programs receive small group differentiated literacy instruction (DLI) delivered by qualified and trained teachers in reading instruction. This may include certified educators or bachelor's level professionals with relevant experience, retired teachers, or early childhood teachers with associate degrees. Individualized instruction occurs through small group sessions for a minimum of 30 minutes at least three times a week in the school year and four times a week during the summer. Activities promote active reading, comprehension and vocabulary-building using evidence-based strategies.

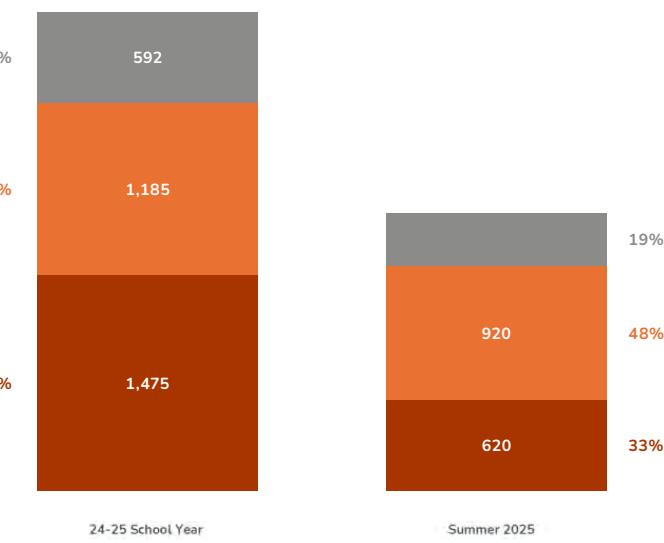
Programs utilize two quick, easy-to-use assessment tools to measure literacy outcomes: the iSTEEP Oral Reading Fluency (ORF) for K-3rd graders and the iSTEEP Reading Maze for 4th and 5th graders. Trainings are available for learning how to administer and how to use the literacy assessment results. Programs test participants three times during the school year (pre-, mid-, and post-tests) and twice in the summer (pre- and post-tests). Performance results are classified as frustrational, instructional, or mastery levels. DLI is to be delivered when participants score within the frustrational level on a pre- or mid-test.

Contractual expectations for the percentage of frustrational readers expected to make meaningful improvement to the instructional or mastery levels vary from 30 to 50 percent, depending on the measure/grade level and program timeframe. The expectations are set based on standard benchmarks and typical growth rates for frustrational readers. The charts below show that 46 percent crossed that threshold in the school year, while 33 percent did in the summer. When considering improvements within the frustrational level, more than 80 percent of frustrational readers made improvements during the school year and summer.



In the school year, **nearly 1,500** frustrational readers (46%) improved from the frustrational level to instructional or mastery; and **nearly 1,200** more (36%) improved within the frustrational level.

There were fewer frustrational readers served in the summer, where **more than 600** (33%) improved from frustrational to instructional or mastery; and **more than 900** (48%) improved within the frustrational level.



*The lightest color at the top of the columns indicate frustrational readers who did not show improvement.



98% of parents of children receiving DLI agreed or strongly agreed that their after-school program **helped their child to read better**.

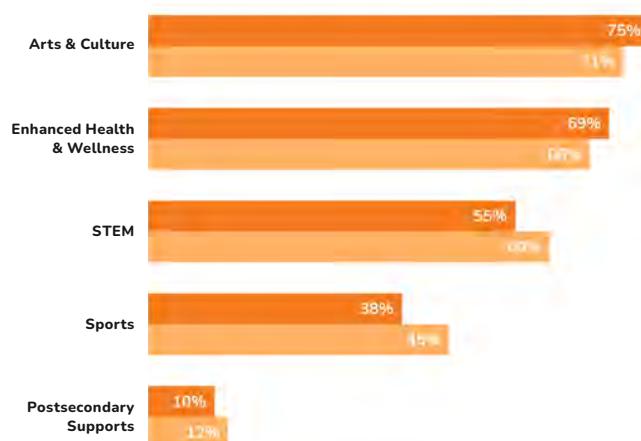


Enrichment Experiences

As noted earlier, Youth Development programs aim to engage children and youth in creative, intellectual, social, or physical experiences that promote curiosity, critical thinking and personal growth. In 2024-2025, Trust-funded programs offered arts and culture experiences such as music, visual arts and dance; programming in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM); sports, including soccer and football; enhanced health and wellness activities related to life skills, financial literacy, physical health, nutrition, and social and emotional learning; and postsecondary supports that involved career exploration and skill-building, entrepreneurship, college readiness, and job training and coaching. According to a parent/caregiver survey, 99 percent of parents of after-school participants and all parents of summer camp participants agreed or strongly agreed that programs offered their children opportunities to do new enriching activities.



More than two thirds of participants in **after-school programs** and **summer camps** that offered Arts & Culture and Enhanced Health and Wellness activities.



Quality & Impact

In 2025, external observation ratings of 190 after-school program sites and 151 summer camp sites using the Social and Emotional Learning Program Quality Assessment (SEL-PQA) indicated that nearly three-quarters of program sites exceeded quality standards related to the “Creating Safe Spaces” domain (72% in after-school; 73% in summer), with almost a quarter of programs meeting the standards (23% for both timeframes). For example, staff provided safe and welcoming environments through fostering a positive emotional climate, conveying warmth and respect, providing support for safe space, demonstrating positive group management style and mutual accountability, and showing active inclusion.

When children, youth, and their parents/caregivers attending 2024-2025 after-school programs and 2025 summer camps were surveyed about their program experiences, there were high rates of overall program satisfaction, as well as endorsement of multiple areas of program impact. Children and youth rated their satisfaction through the level of agreement on items related to culture and language, caring staff, safety and supervision, voice and choice, enriching activities, enjoyment, and whether they would recommend the program to others. Parents rated similar items, and they also rated affordability and communication. Program impact survey items rated participant and parent agreement with whether the program and staff helped them with academics, homework, reading, physical activity, social skills, inclusion, and providing child care to allow parents to work. According to more than 11,000 parents of after-school participants, 98 percent were satisfied with Trust-funded programs, and 97 percent reported program impact. And surveys from more than 14,000 after-school participants indicated 97 percent were satisfied with Trust-funded programs, and 93 percent of after-school participants reported program impact.



99% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their after-school program kept their child physically active.



System-Involved Youth

One aim of the new funding cycle that started in August 2023, was to increase engagement and support of youth with complex needs, including youth involved in the dependency and/or delinquency systems, 16- to 21-year-olds disconnected from school and/or work, and those experiencing housing instability. Several programs were funded to support underserved youth and families through holistic, community-based approaches. Each program provides comprehensive support services tailored to meet the specific needs of its service population, including educational assistance, social-emotional learning, and life skills development. They prioritize collaboration with local schools and mental health professionals to ensure youth receive the necessary resources for academic success and personal well-being.

During the 2024-2025 school year, four programs served 282 youth, and in the summer of 2025, five programs served 190 participants. After continued observation and analysis, it became clear last year that these programs do not fit easily within the Youth Development after-school and summer programming model, given the unique needs and challenges of the populations served. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, there is a pilot project to more fully capture the wraparound activities and impact of these programs within the Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships care coordination and referral reporting system.

Reading Explorers

The 2024-2025 contract year started a new funding cycle for the Reading Explorers program with expanded services based on need. With 1-in-5 individuals affected by dyslexia, early screening, diagnosis, and intervention by equipped staff are key to a child's success. In partnership with The Lucy Project, direct services for K-5 dyslexia screening and individualized and small-group intensive literacy intervention were added year-round. Reading Explorers screened 249 participants at four sites for this new service, and 85 percent of those with characteristics of dyslexia were engaged in a structured literacy intervention. On average, participants received 26 sessions. Notably, 59 percent of participants showing characteristics of dyslexia and reading challenges improved their reading scores significantly after intervention.

Direct services supporting K-2 frustrated readers during the summer continued, and in 2025 the program screened 2,148 children at the start of the summer across 70 sites. They identified 1,737 readers in need of small-group differentiated literacy intervention, and over the summer these children received an average of 20 sessions. Children demonstrated literacy growth, with 76 percent of those post-tested demonstrating meaningful improvement (i.e., four or more-point improvement). Family engagement workshops with parents were also provided in summer 2025. Based on surveys of participating children's parents, 99 percent would recommend the program to others, and 99 percent reported that the program helped their child to read better.

Finally, Reading Explorers continues to engage in training and coaching supports for Trust-funded after-school and summer program staff on the proper measurement and delivery of differentiated literacy instruction. In the new cycle, training was expanded to include culturally-responsive workshops on understanding early literacy development and reading, including the science of reading instruction, for parents and professionals. For example, an intensive 30-hour certification training in identifying and addressing dyslexia and literacy challenges was conducted for 33 professional reading educators, addressing the shortage of trained professionals who can meet the instructional needs of children with dyslexia.



Battle of the Books

In its seventh year, this annual literary challenge, designed and supported by the Miami-Dade Grade Level Reading Campaign, included six weeks of reading, coaching, and hands-on book activities culminating in a countywide book battle competition in a quest to name the next “Book Battle Warriors.” About 1,000 participants across 11 Trust-funded summer camps received a book and 6 weeks of book engagement before participating in the final competition. To celebrate their hard work and further their summer learning, the winning teams participated in a culminating field trip through a partnership between The Children’s Trust, the Wynwood Walls Foundation, and History Miami Museum.

The Summer Battle of the Books winners toured the Wynwood Walls Museum, participated in spray paint design activities, and enjoyed quality time with the Miami Heat mascot Burnie.



Collaborative Youth Development Initiatives

Summer Youth Internship Program (SYIP)

Summer of 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of SYIP. This five-week work-based learning experience is jointly funded by The Children’s Trust, Miami-Dade County, CareerSource South Florida, Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, EdFed, and Miami-Dade County Public Schools Foundation. Managed since its inception by the Department of Career and Technical Education at Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), SYIP provides meaningful paid summer internships (150 hours and academic credit) for high school students entering grades 10-12 that offer real-life experience in practical settings with employers in the community.

In the summer of 2025, an all-time high of 3,661 students from 92 high schools successfully worked 575,831 hours through internships at 924 companies and organizations. This included continued SYIP expansion, with 29 charter high schools choosing to participate, which led to 267 charter school students completing the program.



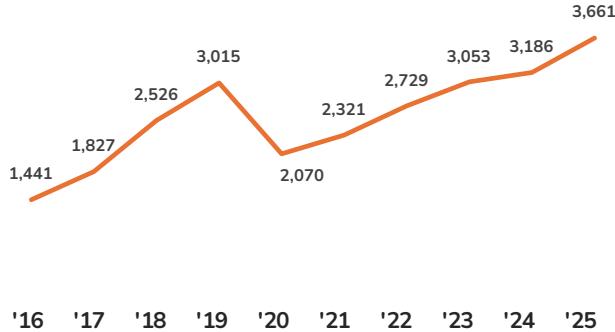
**3,661 teens
completed the SYIP in 2025.**

Students apply, interview, and are placed in professional environments across the county and supported by certified teachers who monitor their progress through visits and assignments. All interns open an EdFed savings account where they are paid by direct deposit. Those who complete the internship receive a high school honors credit, and 572 students also earned dual-enrollment college credit in summer 2025. Student interns (99%), internship employers (98%), and teachers (86%) surveyed were satisfied with SYIP.

SYIP is committed to engaging high-need youth, as evidenced by 60 percent of participants qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch and 10 percent identified as youth living with disabilities. The program collaborated with the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Department (JSD), providing additional training and support to establish a direct link to the program for JSD-involved youth. This intentional focus on inclusivity and diversity is a key aspect of SYIP.

Over the past decade, more than 18,500 unique students have participated in SYIP, with 36 percent working more than one summer, a testament to the program's engagement and sustained value for Miami-Dade students.

The number of youth participating in SYIP each summer over the last decade grew by more than 150 percent.



Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs

A partnership that began in 2006 to increase access to the arts, The Children's Trust annually invests \$1.5 million in this partnership with the cultural affairs office, which in fiscal year 2024-2025 leveraged more than \$5 million in match funding from the funded grantee nonprofit organizations and more than half a million dollars in Miami-Dade County funding. Programs include 62 grants and 13 funded projects for youth arts enrichment, summer arts and science camps, and All Kids Included Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids, which promotes arts and cultural programs so that children of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts. In total, 32,284 children and youth were engaged, with nearly 2,200 of those attending intensive summer camps or registration-based community arts programs. For those attending the more intensive programming, 91 to 99 percent of youth improved art skills, science skills, and positive peer relations on the Youth ARTS Assessment.

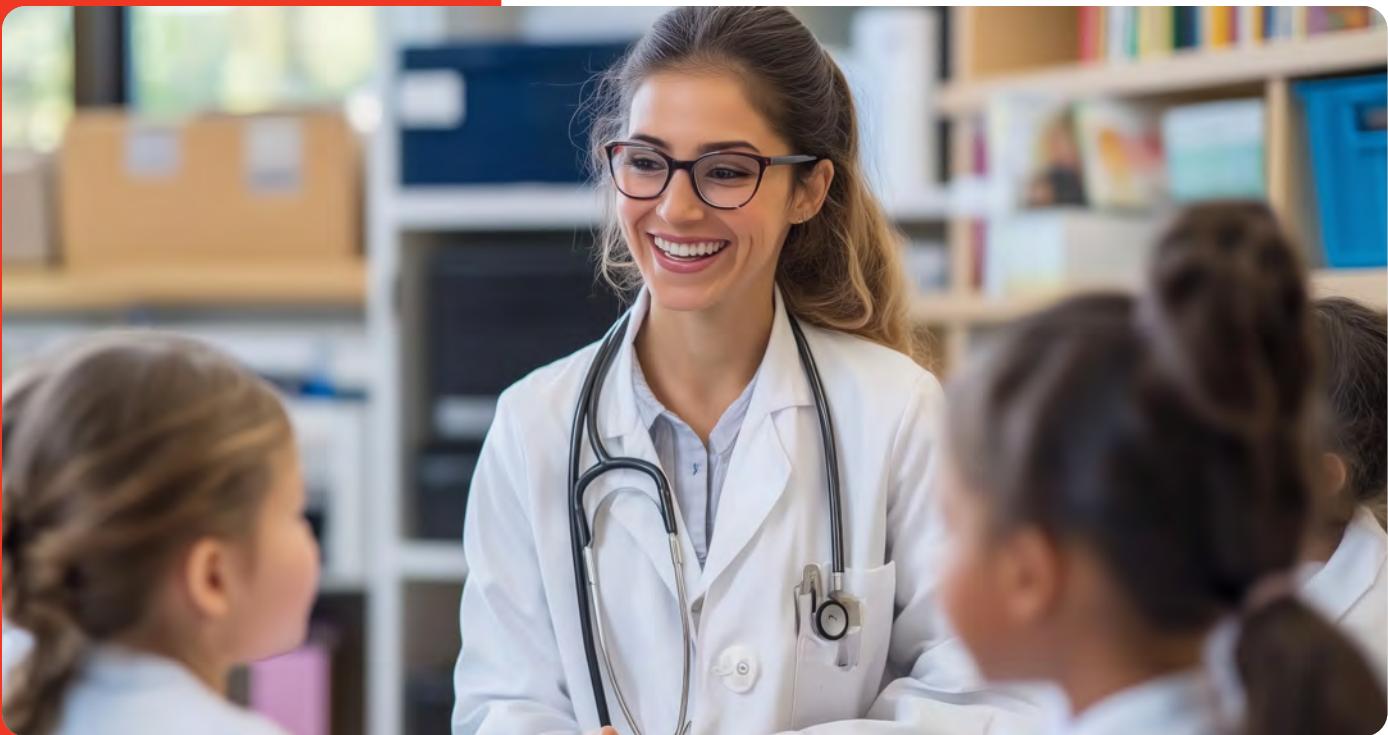


Health & Wellness



For Jessica Palomo, swim lessons as part of the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade (ZDMD) initiative weren't just a fun daily school field trip, they were a breakthrough. Her 6-year-old son Isaiah, who has ADHD and struggles with anxiety, had never been comfortable in the water. "He wasn't the bravest in the pool," Jessica said. "Even with floaties, he was nervous. But the structure and instruction gave him confidence." Isaiah participated in swimming lessons as part of ZDMD, traveling with his class from Blue Lakes Elementary to a nearby participating swim provider for ten free swim lessons. "It was his first real introduction to swimming," Jessica said. "They supported his progress to the point where, although he wasn't fully swimming on his own yet, he had advanced enough that he could dive into the deep end of the pool." Buoyed by ZDMD, Jessica says Isaiah's transformation also involved out-of-the-water growth. "He's different now - more willing to try, more confident," she said. The outcome of the experience was overwhelmingly positive. "He came home excited every day. It was a big deal for us. We never had the chance to give him this kind of experience."

For water safety tips, to locate a swim provider near you, and to learn more about ZDMD, visit www.ZeroDrowningsMiamiDade.org.



The Children's Trust's health and wellness investments for the 2025-2026 fiscal year have continued to grow to \$32.3 million that supports multiple strategies: school-based health, vision follow-up services, oral health training and preventive services, food and nutrition services, public benefits enrollment, and injury and drowning prevention education. A child's health and wellness significantly impact learning, behavior, and overall quality of life. The Trust's strategies take into consideration the powerful influence of social determinants and the interdependent nature of health, well-being, and education. Those with higher levels of education generally have better health outcomes across their lifespan, and access to health care and resources can improve school attendance, learning, and educational attainment.



In Our Schools

School-based health centers are among the most effective ways to deliver preventive services to school-age children and youth.¹² Through this initiative, The Children's Trust aims to equalize access to care for children. Families who lack health insurance or are underinsured, are socioeconomically disadvantaged, or have children with special needs can especially benefit from school-based health centers.

During the 2024-2025 school year, extensive strategic planning efforts to expand school-based health services concluded with the issuance of a request for proposals to implement a tiered services model that would reach all M-DCPS and some charter schools through in-person, telehealth, and/or mobile health units, starting in 2025-2026. The expansion began in July 2025 through the ongoing collaborative partnership between The Children's Trust, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County (FLDOH-MD). Together with the six providers awarded funding in the new cycle, the partnership will reach 267 M-DCPS schools and 15 charter schools. In addition, the Health Foundation of South Florida and United Way Miami each contributed \$150,000 per year, with a five-year commitment in support of the deployment of mobile health units within HealthConnect.



Overall, the goal of HealthConnect in Our Schools is to increase access to preventive health screenings and services, provide robust health education, effectively manage chronic disease, and connect students with essential community care and resources. Services promote a healthy school environment that identifies, prevents, and remedies student health problems. In the 2024-2025 school year, the final year of the prior funding cycle, six health care agencies provided nursing, social work, and mental health services in about half of all public elementary, K-8, middle, and senior high schools (144 sites) serving more than 110,000 students.

The Trust continues to maximize its investments by leveraging local, state, and federal funding to expand the reach and impact of school health services. School health providers must contribute at least a 10 percent match to The Children's Trust funding. Furthermore in 2024-2025, Trust funds for two of Miami-Dade's Federally Qualified Health Centers, which are community-based health care providers funded to provide primary care services in underserved areas, were utilized to leverage more than \$4.4 million from the state and federal Agency for Healthcare Administration's Low-Income Pool (LIP) program for the provision of health care services for uninsured and underinsured populations in Miami-Dade. Additionally, the City of Miami Beach and neighboring municipalities committed \$132,923 for the 2024-2025 school year to ensure behavioral health enhancements remain in place in four Miami Beach public schools.

Service	Visits	Prep/ Follow-up	Students Served*	# Staff Funded
Nursing	154,412	17,201	50,536	200
Mental Health & Social Work	13,685	13,314	4,592	57
BMI, Vision & Dental Screenings	63,098	10,588	36,647	Nursing staff conducts screenings.
Annual Total	231,195	41,103	66,871	257

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

In the 2024-2025 school year, 66,871 students were served with 231,195 (13% more than the previous year) health visits, including nursing, social work, and mental health encounters. More than 63,000 screenings were conducted for vision, oral health, and body mass index (BMI). Additionally, staff dedicate efforts in preparation for and follow-up on student services, which include calls with students, parents, teachers or other providers, as well as review and preparation of documentation. Follow-ups are critical to ensure students receive necessary care. Nursing visits and follow-up include early detection, disease prevention and health promotion.

More than 8,000 students with chronic health conditions were served in Trust-funded school health clinics. Of the 56 different conditions tracked, the most common were severe and not severe allergies (more than half), asthma (about a third), and ADD/ADHD (more than a fifth). Nurses and health professionals working for Trust-funded agencies also conducted 2,111 educational sessions for 44,063 students and 3,992 faculty members. The most frequent educational session topics included mental health, hygiene, bullying prevention, and general and dental health.

Equally important to physical health, behavioral health services are critical to ensure social and emotional well-being and to support student attendance and academic achievement. School-based behavioral health staff are often a primary source of mental health support for students. The Trust funds 17 social workers and 40 mental health professionals, who are deployed across the district in coordination with M-DCPS's teams of 77 social workers and 140 mental health professionals. Behavioral health services are delivered within a multi-tier model of services that includes schoolwide and small-group interventions, as well as more intensive, individualized interventions when indicated. Services include screening, assessment, prevention programming, individual, family and group counseling, and crisis intervention. In 2024-2025, behavioral health staff at agencies funded by The Children's Trust conducted 2,274 group psychosocial education sessions on topics such as academic issues, anxiety, attendance, and adjustment issues (i.e., difficulties coping with stressful life events).



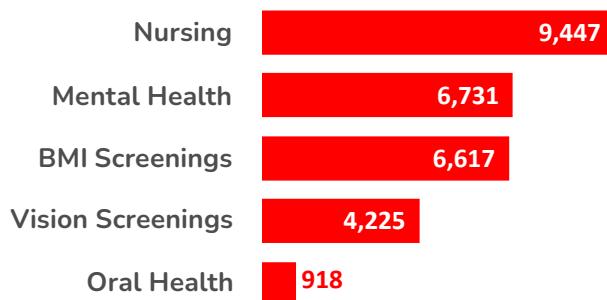


of school health visits resulted in students returning to class.



In 2024-2025, nurses screened 36,647 students with 63,098 health screenings. Multiple routine screenings are indicators of child well-being and positive long-term development. Results provide the opportunity for school health staff to identify students in need of follow-up services or interventions. As such, 27,938 referrals were made, with more than a third for follow-up on an issue identified in a nursing visit, and almost one in four for mental health follow-up.

More than 27,000 school health referrals were made for community follow-up services related to:



Vision Follow-Up Services

Vision impacts a child's physical, cognitive, and social development, and good vision is a predictor of academic achievement for school-age children.¹³ Early detection of vision problems is critical to a child's health and school outcomes. School-based health programming includes regular vision screenings for students in grades K, 1, 3, and 6, conducted in alignment with the FLDOH requirements, to identify potential vision deficits.

15% of 27,195 students screened for vision needed follow-up services.

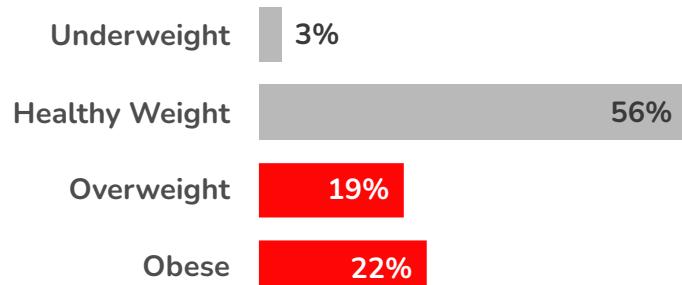
The Miami Lighthouse for the Blind administers the Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program. This mobile and voucher-based comprehensive vision follow-up program offers free eye examinations and prescription eyeglasses for preschool and school-age children who are financially disadvantaged. The primary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



6,390
comprehensive eye exams, with
3,834
eyeglasses for students who
lack vision care.

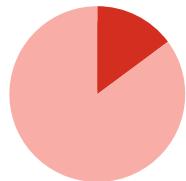
BMI is an indicator of cardiovascular disease risk. As such, the FLDOH requires BMI growth screenings for students in grades 1, 3, and 6. School health sites funded by The Children's Trust conduct additional BMI screenings in grade 9, based on its importance. Of the 30,514 students who received a BMI growth screening, one in four required follow-up services related to underweight or obese status.

More than 40% of students screened were overweight or obese.



Oral Health Training & Preventive Services

Tooth decay remains one of the most common chronic diseases of childhood, and its consequences extend far beyond dental discomfort.¹⁴ When left untreated, it can lead to severe infection and complex treatments with negative implications for routine behaviors like eating, speaking, and school performance. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) 2024 Oral Health Surveillance report, about half of children age 6 to 9 years had one or more decayed, filled or missing primary or permanent teeth.¹⁵ One study published by the American Dental Association journal states that children with poor oral health face numerous barriers to academic success—including missed school days, lower test performance, and difficulty paying attention.¹⁶ Recognizing this critical connection, school-based health programming prioritizes regular oral health screenings to identify risk factors for oral disease, even though such screenings are not required by the FLDOH. In the 2024-2025 school year, 97 school nurses received training and 53 received coaching to conduct oral health screening, prevention, and referrals, resulting in nearly 5,400 students being screened.



17% of 5,392 students screened for oral health needed follow-up services.

Oral health education and preventive services are also offered in the community through mobile services for uninsured or underinsured preschool and elementary children attending Trust-affiliated early child care and Trust-funded after-school and summer programs. Services include oral health education and counseling, screening for oral diseases, fluoride varnish application, dental sealants, and referrals for connection to a primary dental care provider for comprehensive continuity of care and any restorative services needed. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Trust-funded community oral health providers exceeded their annual contractual goals and provided dental services to 4,756 children. With the recent removal of fluoridation from Miami-Dade public water supply, a change that has been associated with increased dental caries in other regions where this has happened, this initiative offers the opportunity for parental choice to access fluoride varnish for dental caries prevention.



4,756 children received oral health services, including fluoride varnish and **892** sealants for **423** children.



The Children's Trust invested **\$1.4 million** in mobile community health units serving **16,777** children and youth.



The Children's Trust has long-standing commitment to bringing care directly to where children live and learn through the deployment of various mobile community health units, partnering with the University of Miami Department of Pediatrics, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind, Community Health of South Florida, FLDOH-MD, Jessie Trice Community Health System, and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Miami. This modality increases access to health, vision, dental, and injury prevention services for high-need children and youth.

Food & Nutrition Services

Healthy foods and nutrition are especially important for growth and development during childhood and adolescence. All Trust-funded after-school and summer Youth Development programs provide nutritious snacks, meals, and beverages that meet U.S. Department of Agriculture requirements. The focus is to improve children's health by offering healthy and satisfying snacks and meals that are nutrient-dense and low in fat, utilizing the federal Afterschool Meals Program. In the 2024-2025 school year, The Trust's food and nutrition provider, FLIPANY, served more than 4,000 participants across 74 community sites where the M-DCPS school-based district food program was not available.

Food and nutrition-related supports for youth programs include monitoring, food acquisition, distribution, meal planning, and facilitation of applications to the FLDOH for the federally subsidized program. Providing nutritious sustenance in structured after-school settings is critical to learning and engagement, and for some children, this may also be their best opportunity for a hot meal in the evening. Selected programs serving qualifying populations offer hot and cold suppers for children, in addition to snacks and beverages. Lunches are served on program full-days, such as teacher workdays.

Afterschool Meals Program return on investment was

\$1.4 million
for a Trust amount of
\$600,000
that provided
645,309 snacks and suppers.





Public Benefits Enrollment

Based upon the critical impact of social determinants on a child's health and well-being, The Children's Trust funds supports to reduce barriers and enhance access to public benefits. With the high cost of living in Miami-Dade, where many families have incomes below the federal poverty threshold, these benefits are essential. No single strategy can increase enrollment in public benefit programs. Helping families navigate the system requires strong community partnerships, focused outreach, and personalized support. Services aim to improve the economic well-being of families, which will ultimately contribute to the broader local economy and child well-being. Good nutrition is crucial for children's growth and development, and it also plays a significant role in preventing serious health issues, dental problems, and even mental health challenges.¹⁷

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

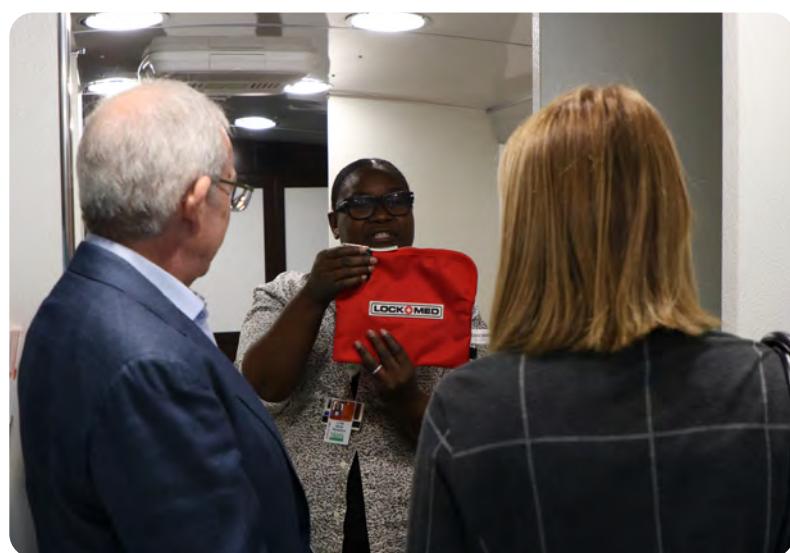
Through expanded outreach, strong partnerships, and the integration of data-driven practices, in 2024-2025, the initiative connected more families and individuals to critical benefits than ever before. The Trust launched a Benefits Enrollment dashboard, offering providers real-time access to performance data and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. These advancements reflect the ongoing dedication to strengthening systems that support family well-being and promote equitable access to resources across the community. In 2024-2025, 5,032 families were served, with 82 percent successfully connected to at least one benefit program. The total number of individual participants reached 9,093, and a total of 8,942 benefits were approved.

Injury Prevention Education

Unintentional injuries are a leading cause of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, and death among children in the United States.¹⁸ In Miami-Dade County, there were 47,779 emergency room visits by children and youth, ages 0-19 years, due to unintentional injuries in 2024.¹⁹ In that same year, there were 645 hospitalizations and 49 deaths of children due to unintentional injuries.²⁰

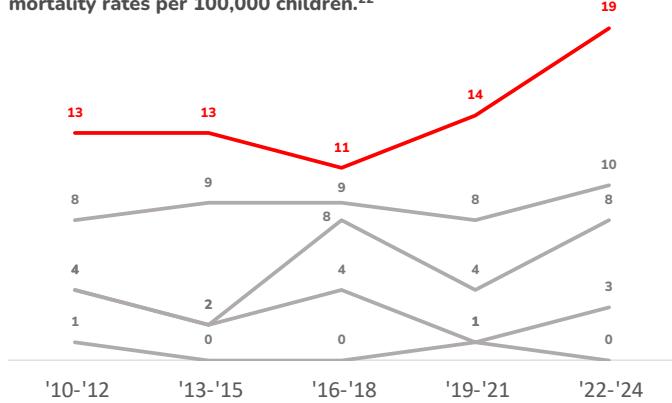
Injuries can lead to physical, cognitive, and emotional trauma, school absences, performance impairment, and family and financial stress.²¹ While they vary by age, the primary causes of fatal child injuries for ages 0 to 19 years are traffic accidents, drownings, suffocations, poisonings and firearms.²²

Trust funding supports Miami's Injury Free Coalition for Kids, which provides multilingual, interactive education for parents, caregivers, and youth focused specifically on home safety, child passenger safety, and teen driving safety. The coalition certifies national Child Passenger Safety technicians in key community organizations. They promote community awareness of injury prevention topics through media campaigns and articles on their website and social media, as well as by attending community health and resource fairs across the county. They offered in-person trainings using a mobile unit, while also providing virtual trainings to meet participant interests during fiscal year 2024-2025. In total, 1,913 people attended 399 trainings, and nearly all were satisfied with the services and demonstrated knowledge gain on the topics.



Zero Drownings Miami-Dade

Drowning has increased in recent years and is consistently the top cause of fatal injury for children aged 1 to 9 in Miami-Dade County, based on mortality rates per 100,000 children.²²



In 2022, the most recent full year of validated data, Florida had the highest unintentional drowning death rate among children from birth to 9 years of age in the nation.²³ According to pediatric studies, participation in formal swimming lessons is associated with a reduction in the risk of drowning in children.²⁴ Despite the presence of bodies of water throughout Miami-Dade, from backyard swimming pools to neighborhood canals, there had not been a comprehensive, community-wide drowning prevention program for children until the launch of Zero Drownings Miami-Dade in 2024.

The Children's Trust has led the efforts, in partnership with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Miami Foundation, American Red Cross, United Way Miami, Edu Foundation, and Templeton Family Foundation, and various private funders to design and launch the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade prevention program. The program provides swimming lessons with a focus on drowning prevention, at no cost to young children.

Participants receive ten 30-minute swimming lessons as a daily field trip from school. Using an American Red Cross-certified curriculum, lessons are provided to groups of 12

 **2,265** children received
15,926 Zero Drownings
Miami-Dade swim lessons.

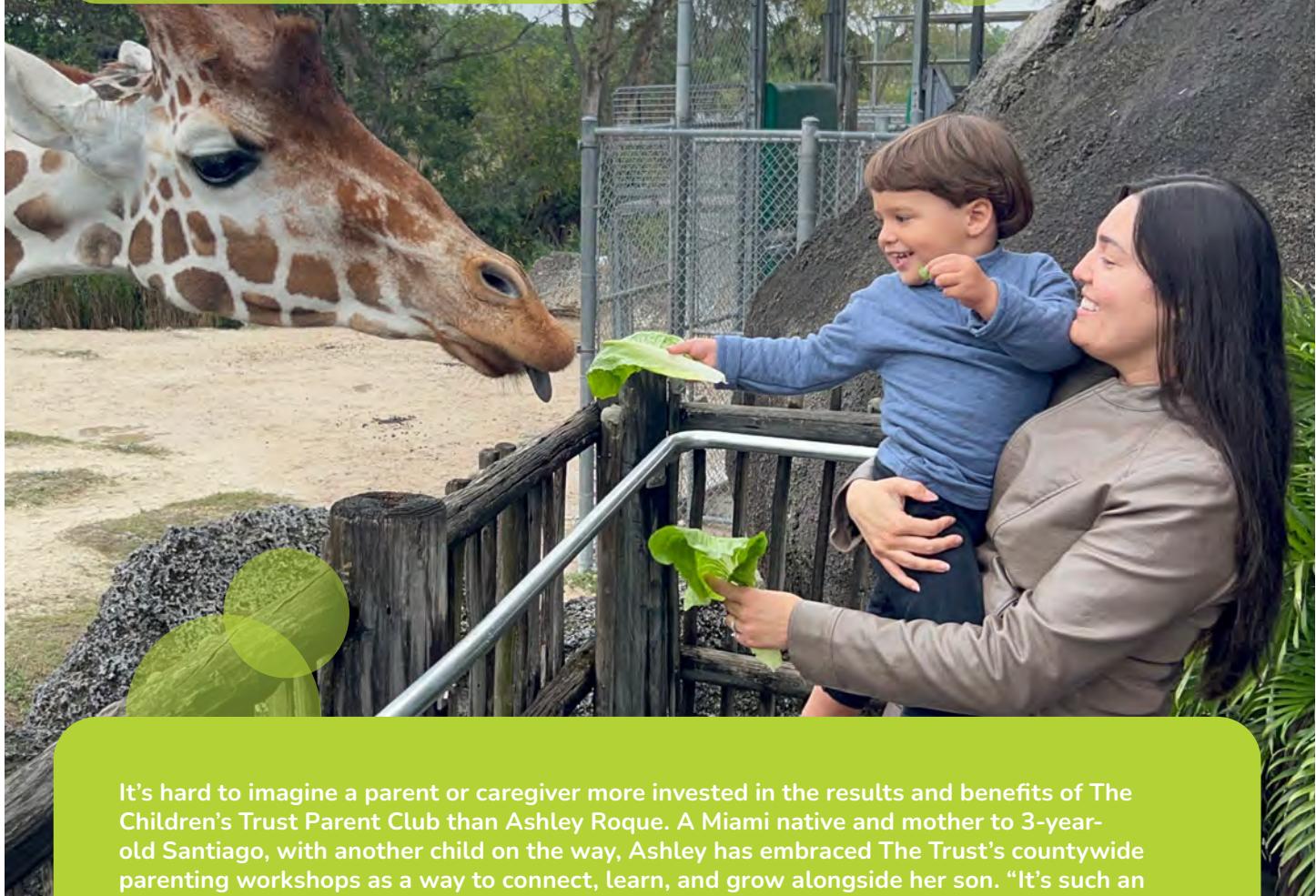
to 24 children with a 1:6 staffing ratio. Lessons are led by certified swim instructors and offered at pool facilities owned and operated by the county, municipal, and private entities. Participating children included those who enrolled in a Head Start program, kindergarten at a M-DCPS school, or a Trust-funded Thrive By 5 Program.

Parents and caregivers are also provided with a free, voluntary online water safety course offered by the American Red Cross to expand the water safety net. Through this partnership, the American Red Cross is now offering this water safety course in Haitian Creole nationwide for the first time, as well as in English and Spanish.

Zero Drownings Miami-Dade demonstrated remarkable growth in fiscal year 2024–2025, expanding from its pilot phase to reach more than 2,200 students. Nearly 16,000 lessons were delivered, and students collectively mastered more than 14,000 water safety skills- both exceeding the prior-year totals by more than fivefold. Notably, 1,485 students successfully passed rigorous post-tests, reflecting a strong improvement in swimming proficiency and water safety knowledge. The program won the National Association of Counties Achievement Award as “Best in Category” for Children and Youth, recognized for being an outstanding county government program.



Parenting



It's hard to imagine a parent or caregiver more invested in the results and benefits of The Children's Trust Parent Club than Ashley Roque. A Miami native and mother to 3-year-old Santiago, with another child on the way, Ashley has embraced The Trust's countywide parenting workshops as a way to connect, learn, and grow alongside her son. "It's such an essential part of our week," she says. "We get to navigate all these firsts together - how to handle conflict, discipline, milestones."

This summer, the launch of the Parent Club Pass added a new layer of excitement. The rewards program celebrates parents who participate in workshops by offering exclusive perks, from raffle entries to tickets for local attractions. Ashley has already redeemed passes for Zoo Miami, The Berry Farm harvest festival, and the Miami-Dade County Youth Fair. "We fed giraffes, saw his favorite animals up close, and invited his grandparents and great-grandma. It was a full family experience," she shared. For Ashley, the program has helped her son blossom into a confident, expressive child who sings, dances, and loves books. "It's not just about parenting tips," she says. "The Parent Club Pass is something to expand his exploration of the world. He gets hands-on sensory experiences, and we are able to take him to enjoy it with family and friends. It means a lot to be able to go out and have community experiences."

For more information and to sign up for Parent Club workshops, visit TheChildrensTrust.org/ParentClub.



Effective, consistent, and supportive parenting prepares children for a lifetime of success. Specifically, nurturing and involved parenting and family supports strengthen positive child outcomes related to emotional, behavioral, social, and cognitive competence, and physical health and safety. This stability typically results in an increase in academic success, a decrease in youth violence and disruptive behavior, and positive mental health outcomes for both children and parents.^{25, 26}

By investing more than \$31 million in various evidence-based parenting programs and strategies (EBPs), The Children's Trust provides Miami-Dade's culturally diverse families with a continuum of choices to suit their needs and preferences. This includes a range of programming intensity and in-person, virtual, and hybrid modalities. The services aim to support parents, caregivers, and children of all ages, from the prenatal period through the transition to adulthood, and to improve the overall well-being of families.

Parenting can be a challenging role. All parents and caregivers have questions and concerns about their children, and trusted sources for answers and support are critical. High-quality information can make a difference for all caregivers, while some families benefit from more intensive supports.²⁷ At the most intensive, this may involve clinical services from licensed professionals. Some families experience challenges related to health, lack of economic opportunity, and other stressors, such as job loss and unmet child care needs. Anxiety and difficulty resulting from such adversity challenges may contribute to an increased risk of children entering the dependency or juvenile justice system.

CONTINUUM OF CARE²⁸

UNIVERSAL

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

SELECTIVE

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

INDICATED

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

Universal Services

Parenting Our Children Newsletter

Parenting
Our
Children



The Parenting Our Children newsletter is a free informative resource for parents and caregivers, produced in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, to address timely and engaging parenting topics. It is distributed digitally and in print, and topics include current parenting trends and challenges, as well as new perspectives on traditional caregiving issues. The articles also include information on The Children's Trust initiatives and resources to help parents and caregivers. Anyone can subscribe to the digital version by visiting TheChildrensTrust.org/Subscribe.

51,751 digital subscribers.

4,160 copies printed per month.



Parent Club

The Children's Trust Parent Club is operated by local parenting experts from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Florida International University Center for Children and Families, and Be Strong International, with support from Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Miami-Dade Public Library System. It provides workshops in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole to enhance awareness and knowledge for thousands of parents and caregivers annually. Sessions aim to strengthen social supports by connecting parents with one another and linking families to additional resources when needed. With more than 65 different workshop topics offered throughout the county in person and online, caregivers are encouraged to attend multiple sessions.

In 2024-2025, 20,044 parents (a nearly 50 percent increase from the prior year) attended 1,765 workshops. Nearly two thirds of the workshops were held in person, with less than one-third facilitated virtually. After an initial pilot in 2023-2024, providers launched the new Parent Club Pass rewards incentive component in 2024-2025, which recognizes parents who participate in workshops regularly. More than 150 Parent Club Passes were distributed to parents who attended three or more workshops. Rewards include high-interest local family experiences like movie tickets, Jumpin' Jamboree passes, Zoo Miami admissions, and Miami Marlins baseball games. These rewards continued to support parent engagement and helped families access enriching activities throughout the community.



99%
of Parent Club
participants gained
skills they intend to put
into practice.

IN 2024-2025
**6 UNIVERSAL
CONTRACTS**

Book Club

The Children's Trust Book Club serves young children and their families from birth until their fifth birthday, providing a free monthly book by mail to bring early literacy materials directly into the homes of Miami-Dade's children. Children enroll and graduate from the Book Club throughout the fiscal year, so the active membership is dynamic. As of September 2025, there were 48,135 active members. However, 63,140 children received at least one book from the Book Club between October 2024 and September 2025. Children receive books in their choice of English or Spanish, and a total of 554,150 books were distributed in 2024-2025, along with guides and activities to support parent interactions with children around sharing books.



Though available to all Miami-Dade children under 5, there is a focus on enrollment in areas with higher rates of child poverty and lower levels of language development, school readiness, and third-grade reading scores. The Book Club continues to engage families in community outreach events, such as interaction with local authors through the Storytime Jamboree series in partnership with the Books & Books Literary Foundation, and other outreach events such as the Miami Book Fair, the Breastfeeding Awareness Family Day, and the Little Haiti Book Festival.

745,496 books distributed through Book Club,
Reach Out & Read, Books for Free, Reading Explorers,
and the Summer Battle of the Books.

63,140 Book Club members received at least one
book during the year.

20,044 participants attended 1,765 Parent Club
workshops.

To further increase visibility and engagement, Book Club Brand Ambassadors also represented the program at 29 community events across Miami-Dade County and canvassed 173 community locations ranging from child care centers to hospitals and faith-based organizations. Seven social media influencers were engaged to expand enrollment and family engagement, resulting in 4,000 new registrations. Together, these efforts have strengthened community relationships, advanced early literacy awareness, and reaffirmed The Children's Trust's commitment to supporting every family's reading journey.



Throughout the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Book Club continued efforts in the Haitian American sectors of the community, increasing book offerings in Haitian Creole and bilingual books, developing new educational materials in Haitian Creole, and engaging more families through outreach, communications, and community engagement campaigns. In fiscal year 2024-2025, 543 Haitian Creole books were mailed upon request.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, strategic planning efforts to expand Book Club components included 19 focus groups with more than 100 parents to gather input about how parents use the reading and activity guides, as well as exploring interests in digital content and community events tied to the Book Club. Planning efforts concluded with the issuance of a competitive solicitation to fund book buying and content development in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, book delivery, digital content curation, and community events. Starting in October 2025, the expanded Book Club will connect parents in both digital and physical formats, with interactive digital content and engaging community events to better support their children's early education.

Books For Free

The Children's Trust Books for Free program utilizes community collection bins and book drives to collect new and gently used children's books that are then placed on 112 bookshelves at select community sites for children aged birth to 8 years to take home and keep at no cost. Distribution sites include public places where parents and children frequent, such as Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices, barbershops, laundromats, and other community organizations in under-resourced neighborhoods throughout the county. Additional outreach and engagement activities included cultural storytelling events, book festivals, and back-to-school events throughout the county. In 2024-2025, the program collected 60,968 books at 29 book donation bins and drives. They also distributed 107,301 books in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. Operated by Miami Dade College, the program provided more than 40 percent in-kind match to the program, leveraging an additional \$303,500 value to the program.



Giving books to young children increases shared reading opportunities. Children who begin reading routines early develop more advanced language and literacy skills.²⁹

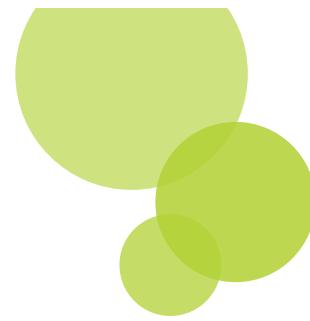
Reach Out & Read

This national model, which is endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, champions the positive effects of reading daily and engaging in language-rich activities with young children within the context of positive parent-child interactions. The program trains medical providers on the importance of early relationships as the foundation for healthy brain development leading to the emergence of early language, literacy, and social-emotional skills. Funding provides families with children from birth to 5 years of age with developmentally appropriate books in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole at well-child checkups. Services are available in 67 pediatric clinics across the county where at least half of the patients are uninsured or publicly insured. In 2024-2025, there were 76,334 books distributed.





Selective Services



Group Education

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

Individual Supports

Some parents benefit more from individual parenting education services, and some settings can more easily reach individual parents than groups. With similar content to group curriculums, these supports can be more tailored to family interests and concerns.

Home Visiting

Home visiting programs serve families who face parenting challenges and would like support throughout their child's early development. Multi-year programs offer education and skill-building for parents of children ages birth to 5 years. Providers offer EBPs mainly in homes, with some sessions in other therapeutic settings. Programs focus on child health, development, and school readiness by encouraging nurturing parent-child relationships. Home safety education is a required component of all home visiting programs.



IN 2024-2025
26 SELECTIVE
EBP Curriculums

Delivered by 37 Contracts

Example EBPs

- *Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP)*
- *The Incredible Years*
- *Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)*

6,338 families of 10,456 children.

34% of families caring for a child living with a disability.

10 group sessions attended per family, on average, over 5 to 14-month timeframe.

9 home visits/individual sessions received per family, on average, with weekly to monthly visits based on need.



Indicated Services

Family Behavioral Health

Clinical interventions are implemented individually in homes and other therapeutic and virtual settings with families and their children aged 2 to 18 years. Services include psychoeducation, parenting consultation, behavioral health, and family therapy, with the goals of improving the parent-child relationship while reducing parent stress and child/youth disruptive behavior.



IN 2024-2025

12 INDICATED EBP Curriculums

Delivered by 17 Contracts

Example EBPs

- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
- Culturally Informed and Flexible Family-Based Treatment for Adolescents (CIFFTA)

1,729 families of **3,256** children.

44% of families caring for a child living with a disability.

7 individual sessions attended per family, on average, ranging from 1 to 44 sessions.

15 home visits received per family, on average, with weekly to monthly visits based on need.



Selective & Indicated Quality & Impact

Fiscal year 2024-2025 was the second year of a new five-year funding cycle for selective and indicated group and individual parenting programs. Some goals for the new cycle were to expand parenting services during the prenatal and postpartum period and to engage more fathers in programs.

Empowering Expecting & New Families

Prenatal services address the needs of expectant families during pregnancy and postpartum, focusing on promoting healthy pregnancies, addressing key challenges, and supporting families in preparing for parenthood. In 2024-2025, prenatal and early childhood programs focused on the first year of life supported more than 1,600 families, or 21 percent of all families served by the parenting initiative.

Early and periodic screenings for prenatal and postpartum depressive and anxious symptoms in mothers and fathers, followed by necessary referrals and resources, provide critical support before and after the arrival of a newborn baby. Addressing the mental health of new parents lays the foundation for positive parenting practices and long-term child development. During fiscal year 2024-2025, there were 11,061 prenatal and postpartum depression screenings conducted with 6,573 parents during parenting home visits and individual sessions. This screening is required for all individual service programs serving families from pregnancy to one year postpartum. Of those screened, 14 percent were identified as needing follow-up care.

Early childhood developmental screenings are also a required component of individual parenting programs serving families with children birth to age 6. These checks help parents understand important milestones and connect with resources and further assessment when needed. Universal screening results are described in more detail in the Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Development section of this report.



1,684 expecting and new families served during pregnancy through the first year of life.



11,061 prenatal and postpartum depression screenings conducted with **6,573** new parents.

Supporting Fatherhood

Through evidence-based programs such as Nurturing Fathers Parenting Program, fathers of children from birth to 18 years acquire skills and strategies to support their children's development and build positive relationships within their families. In fiscal year 2024-2025, parenting programs served 942 fathers and impacted 1,749 children across Miami-Dade County.



Program Quality Observations

All 35 parenting programs formally observed by The Trust's Parenting Content Area Team in 2024-2025 were rated to demonstrate good to excellent session quality. The ratings are specific to curriculum content coverage, parent engagement, and facilitator skills. For individual and home visiting sessions, facilitators' skills to promote child engagement and parent-child interaction were also rated as good to excellent across programs.

Parent Satisfaction

Participant survey results from more than 3,800 parents showed that parents and caregivers had high satisfaction and positive feedback about parenting programs. Nearly all parents expressed that they would recommend the programs to others.

Participant Outcomes

Parent surveys also asked program participants about the impact of the services. Parents reported that they learned skills to better support their children and received helpful activities to practice at home.

Parenting programs also measure specific participant outcomes using pre- and post-tests to track positive changes toward stronger families. Assessment tools vary by EBP and include measures of family functioning, parenting skills, child behavior, parenting stress, and parent-child interactions. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, 82 percent of 13,706 parenting outcomes overall met contracted expectations across these five domains.



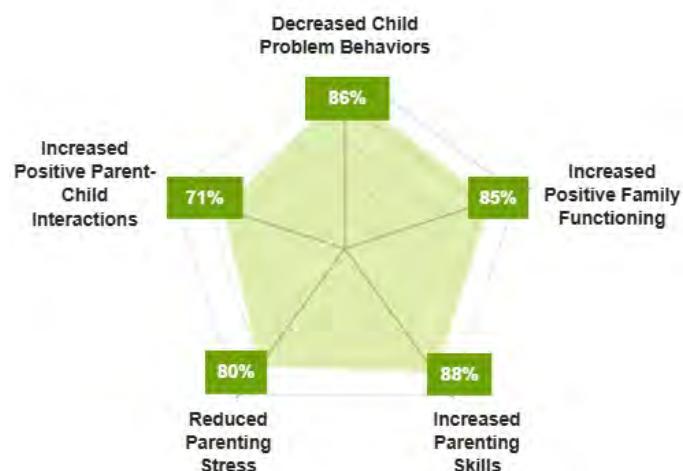
942 fathers of 1,749 children participated in parenting services.



of parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed program staff were well-prepared, knowledgeable, and respectful of their family's needs.



of parents surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that programs had positive impacts on their parenting practices.



Family & Neighborhood Supports



In Opa-locka, a mother is finding strength and stability through the support of Ten North Group, a funded provider of The Children's Trust dedicated to expanding access to affordable housing and economic opportunities. After losing her own mother last year, Letisha Trigo, 49, found herself navigating life alone with her four children, 11, 20, 21, and 33. "My mom was my rock. She helped me with everything," Letisha shared. "When she passed, I was out here on my own."

Letisha was struggling to keep up with rent and expenses, including a skyrocketing water bill. That's when her 11-year-old daughter discovered Ten North Group through 211 Miami. After meeting with success coach Cheryl McDonald, Letisha received assistance registering for benefits services and immediately began working with her to prevent her water from being shut off. "We avoided the shutoff by just one day," Cheryl recalled. "She is a great mom and welcomes resources as they are provided." Since then, Letisha and her family have participated in community events, including a Halloween celebration where she dressed up as a banana and handed out candy with her daughter. "It lifted my spirits," she said. "I've been down, but this gave me something to look forward to." Letisha continues to work with Cheryl and is considering accessing therapy.

For more information on Ten North Group visit TenNorthGroup.com, or TheChildrensTrust.org/HelpingHand.



Children and youth growing up in neighborhoods with fewer economic opportunities are less likely to have access to quality schools, other public services, and safe places to live and play that can help them thrive.³⁰ A range of positive childhood experiences and supports can promote good mental health, resilience, and success as adults.³¹



Work in this area follows the Center for the Study of Social Policy's (CSSP) Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework, which aims to increase family strengths, enhance child development, and reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. It is based on engaging families, programs, and communities in building five key protective factors.³²

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

The Children's Trust invests more than \$16.6 million in Family and Neighborhood Supports to create a system of comprehensive community-based partnerships. This includes 22 providers under a unified care coordination service model, a countywide 211 Helpline and web-based community services directory, and a countywide truancy prevention program collaborating with Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The overarching goal is to empower and connect families and youth with community resources that build on their strengths, address life challenges, and offer individualized support for families in need.



Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships

Fiscal year 2024-2025 was the third year of the Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships (FNSP) funding cycle. Twenty-two FNSPs offer comprehensive and individualized services for children, youth, and their families experiencing challenges that may limit them from realizing their full health, social, educational, and economic potential. Supports aim to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the effects of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) such as child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community trauma and violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, and extreme poverty. The Trust's FNSP model was highlighted by Director of Programs Bevone Ritchie at the UCONN School of Social Work National Training Institute in July 2025.

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

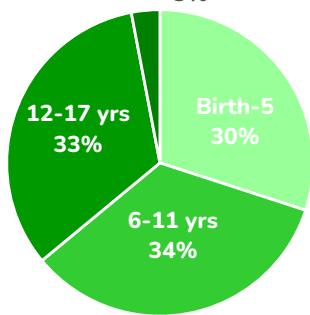
The foundational assumption for making this investment is that if The Trust promotes positive childhood experiences, builds family and youth strengths and relationships, and supports basic needs, children, youth, and families will achieve better outcomes.

FNSPs serve youth of all ages, and about a third of participants report living with a disability. The populations served are listed below.

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



FNSPs participants serve youth participants of all ages.



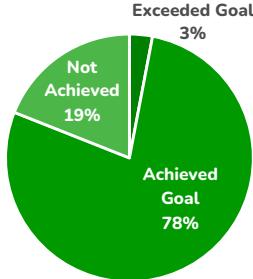
In 2024-2025, service delivery continued the increasing trend from prior years of the cycle. FNSPs conducted 99,283 care coordination hours with families, a 36 percent increase from the year before, serving 4,126 families with 6,073 children. Because each family may need different frequency, intensity and duration of supports, contracts are based upon the number of direct service contact hours to be delivered, which is determined by the number of direct service staff members funded. All direct services are documented through a care coordination and referral system (CCRS). Three required services are designed to stabilize child and family environments.

1) Screening and assessment use standard and population-specific tools to determine family and youth eligibility, assess strengths, risks, and needs to guide success plans and the level of care coordination required. Based on eligibility findings, some families are provided information and referrals, while others are offered in-depth care coordination. Certified success coaches and natural helpers at FNSPs support families using the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) functional assessment, a standardized tool used nationally in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and early intervention systems to support decision-making, care planning, quality improvement, and measurement of service outcomes. Of all families served in 2024-2025, 76 percent were eligible for ongoing care coordination services guided by the CANS assessment.

2) Care coordination includes tailored levels of wraparound supports from a team of success coaches and natural helpers, guided by jointly developed success plan goals that are supported by community service referrals, follow-up, and resource connections. A dynamic, need-based care coordination approach allows providers to meet families where they are, by accommodating strength-building and goal achievement, as well as adjusting service levels if there are setbacks or destabilizing factors. More than 90 percent of care coordination time in 2024-2025 was invested in families that were eligible for care coordination, as serving higher need families is this investment's priority.

Families receiving care coordination in 2024-2025 worked on 13,697 individualized success plan goals during their service episode, an increase of more than 50 percent from the prior year, showing that providers and families are following the service model with greater fidelity. The most common goals in completed service episodes were related to housing, school achievement, and caregiver social resources. To help families achieve their goals, FNSPs made 14,303 service referrals, and about 6 out of 10 (6,234) were completed, meaning that the participant was successfully enrolled in services, or the referral had a favorable outcome. About 30 percent of all referrals were made to help address basic needs, which was the most common referral purpose, followed by housing and mental health services. More than 80 percent of success plan goals worked on in fiscal year 2024-2025 were achieved by the end of the service episode.

Almost 4 of every 5 success plan goals worked on were achieved or exceeded by the end of the service episode.



3) Family stabilization funding of \$500,000 annually across partnerships was available in 2024-2025 for enrolled families to reduce barriers to services and address family and youth emergencies, such as food insecurity, job loss, the threat of eviction, termination of utilities, and child endangerment related to family stressors and lack of basic needs. The fund was spent in its entirety before the end of the fiscal year.

Some programs offer additional services to meet participant needs, such as behavioral/mental health and educational supports, in both individual and group settings. In 2024-2025, 9,680 hours of individual additional services and 3,598 hours of group additional services were delivered. One contract also includes \$500,000 annually to fund youth program inclusion and in-home respite supports for children with significant disabilities and accommodation needs, which are described in more detail in the Special Populations section of this report.

The Trust continued its community outreach strategy in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole to promote the FNSP and Public Benefits Enrollment services (described earlier in the Health & Wellness section of this report), helping Miami-Dade families access these essential support programs. The campaign centered around the theme "Need a helping hand?" includes clear, actionable messaging encouraging families to seek assistance with child care, health insurance, and other vital services. Materials were distributed at community events and meetings, Miami-Dade County public housing complexes, community development and human services resource centers, library locations, and through the outreach mechanisms of the public school system and other partners.





211 Helpline

The 211 Helpline is a centralized point of coordination for information and referral for health and human services in Miami-Dade County, implemented by Jewish Community Services of South Florida. The service aims to provide up-to-date information for children and families to get the right services, at the right time and place. Telephone and text messaging assistance are offered in English, Spanish, or Haitian Creole, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including crisis counseling.

During fiscal year 2024-2025, the 211 Helpline assisted 49,326 callers with 70,928 needs. Enhanced advocacy services are provided to callers with chronic needs who are unable to address their needs on their own due to various impeding factors. More than 1,800 enhanced advocacy calls were completed, with almost 1,730 calls for care coordination.

Trained Helpline counselors use an online, publicly available resource directory containing 3,340 service resources provided by 1,117 agencies. It contains details on programs, service sites, eligibility criteria, and other specifications covering a wide range of information and referral areas. More than 62,000 individuals made approximately 360,000 online searches for services on the resource directory during fiscal year 2024-2025.

Caller satisfaction ratings for the 211 Helpline have remained consistently high. In fiscal year 2024-2025, out of 1,239 callers who completed a satisfaction survey immediately following their call, 89 percent would recommend the 211 Helpline. Out of 600 calls as part of an independent secret shopper evaluation, more than 96 percent of callers were satisfied with the agent's handling of the call, courtesy, and professionalism; and 95 percent were satisfied with the completeness of the information provided.

To make it easier for families to find low or no-cost summer camps and after-school programs, The Children's Trust partnered for the third year with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and Jewish Community Services of South Florida on the More Choices initiative. Families can conveniently call the 211 Helpline or visit 211miami.org for a centralized source to explore hundreds of summer camps and after-school offerings from these major systems.



49,326 callers were assisted
with **70,928** needs.

Top 5 Needs of 211 Callers

Housing	21,211
Mental Health & Substance Abuse	9,824
Information Services	7,793
Food/Meals	7,554
Health Care	6,817



of callers were satisfied with the completeness of the information provided.



of callers would recommend the 211 Helpline.

Family & Neighborhood Collaborations

The Children's Trust partners with various community collaborations that support children and families, with a focus on those with increased needs, including:

Breastfeed Miami, Coconut Grove Ministerial Alliance, Community Based Care Alliance, Early Childhood Policy Committee, Florida Juvenile Justice Association, Florida KidCare Coalition, Goulds Community Action Advisory Committee, Goulds Ministerial Alliance, Helping Our Miami Youth Housing Committee, Miami-Dade County Community Relations Board, Miami-Dade County Human Trafficking Task Force, Miami-Dade County KidCare Coalition, Miami-Dade County Youth Crime Task Force, Northeast Corridor Early Childhood Committee, Richmond Heights Ministerial Alliance, South Dade Cares Coalition, and Healthy West Kendall Advisory Board (Baptist Hospital) among others.

The HERO (Here Everyday Ready and On-time) Truancy Prevention Program is an initiative funded by The Children's Trust, in partnership with Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools, to aid in the prevention of youth violence. Recognizing that inconsistent school attendance early in a child's academic career has negative effects and may be a symptom of more severe life challenges for the child's family, the HERO Program, with a presence in 40 schools, identifies elementary and K-8 students most at risk and provides them with the necessary prevention and intervention services to increase school attendance.

During the 2024-2025 school year, HERO attendance interventionists provided services to more than 9,000 students. For students under age 6, or those with fewer than five unexcused absences, staff conducted 316 attendance success meetings in person and virtually. For students at risk of chronic absenteeism, the program conducted 2,627 parent conferences, 1,707 student conferences, 170 family conferences, and 22,318 phone conferences. In addition, staff held 1,106 formal truancy intervention meetings for students with five or more unexcused absences, completed 2,461 home visits, and provided 2,181 referrals connecting families to essential services and resources. Based on student and family needs, referrals were made to community-based, faith-based, and school-based organizations for additional support. These include various FNSP agencies funded by The Children's Trust. Among participating students, 79 percent earned passing grades in mathematics, 79 percent in reading, 83 percent in language arts, 89 percent in science, and 89 percent in social studies.



Special Populations



When Laura Gutierrez first enrolled her son Troy in the City of Miami Beach's North Shore Summer Program, she hoped it would offer him a safe and engaging space. What she didn't expect was how transformative it would become. Now a fifth grader on the autism spectrum, Troy has attended the camp for several years, but this past summer stood out. "We didn't even go on vacation," Laura said. "Troy didn't want to miss camp. That's how much it meant to him."

Troy, once nonverbal in public and struggling to engage, is now fully verbal and thriving. Laura credits the camp's inclusive environment and compassionate counselors for this transformation. "This year, he participated in everything. He even performed a dance routine for the first time in six years. We cried watching him. I can't explain the joy," she said. The camp's structure, patience, and understanding helped Troy develop social skills and confidence. "They gave him space when he needed it and encouraged him to try again instead of giving up," Laura said. "He's learning patience and how to navigate challenges, skills he'll carry for life." Laura's journey began years ago at The Children's Trust Family Expo, where she discovered resources like Parent to Parent and the 211 Miami Helpline. "We didn't have insurance for therapies. 211 connected us to a therapist who came to our home." "These programs are hard to come by. They teach our kids things we can't teach alone. They take a huge load off families like mine."

For more information, email recreation@miamibeachfl.gov. You can also visit TheChildrensTrust.org/ChildrenWithDisabilities.

Across all priority investment areas, The Children's Trust maintains a commitment to supporting special populations with greater need for resources. These populations include children and youth with disabilities, as well as those involved in the child dependency and/or delinquency systems. This may also include children and families residing in neighborhoods affected by poverty, crime, unemployment, community violence, and trauma. It is critical to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the negative impacts of such circumstances for an improved Miami-Dade for all. All Trust-funded programs are expected to be fully inclusive and competent at serving these special populations, and numerous resources are available to assist providers in accomplishing this goal.

Children with Disabilities

Children and youth with disabilities require intentional efforts to ensure they are welcomed into all funded programs and served effectively with reasonable accommodations. This is a contractual obligation for Trust-funded services, and The Trust provides monetary and capacity-building resources to ensure that program direct service and management staff can meet this expectation. To better understand program participants and identify those who may require additional support, The Trust collects information about child and youth communication methods, current therapies, number of conditions, and areas where extra assistance is needed, offering a clearer picture of each participant's overall level of need.

\$52.4 million
invested across service areas in support of children and youth with disabilities.

Depending on the type and severity of childhood disability experienced, families frequently face high levels of stress and financial strain due to reduced work hours, leaving the workforce, and the costs associated with specialized child care, health care, and other intervention programs. Parents shared that child care challenges often lead to career setbacks and sacrifices that have



a ripple effect on other areas of family life, since cutting back work hours or leaving the workforce lowers family income, but the ongoing costs of care remain a significant burden.³³ For example, accounting for the direct and indirect costs of special services and lost wages, autism costs families an estimated \$60,000 a year throughout childhood.³⁴

In fiscal year 2024-2025, The Children's Trust invested \$500,000 to directly fund youth program inclusion and in-home respite care supports for children with significant disabilities and accommodation needs.

To increase participation in Trust-funded Youth Development and other programs serving children and families, about half of this funding supported 18 individual children's after-school and summer programming needs. Inclusion benefits not only individual children, but also their peers. Children who engage in inclusive settings are more likely to display positive social behaviors and create strong, supportive relationships. Moreover, participating in inclusive environments helps both children with and without disabilities feel valued and included, boosting their self-esteem and confidence.³⁵ The most common program inclusion supports provided in 2024-2025 were for behavioral health therapy.

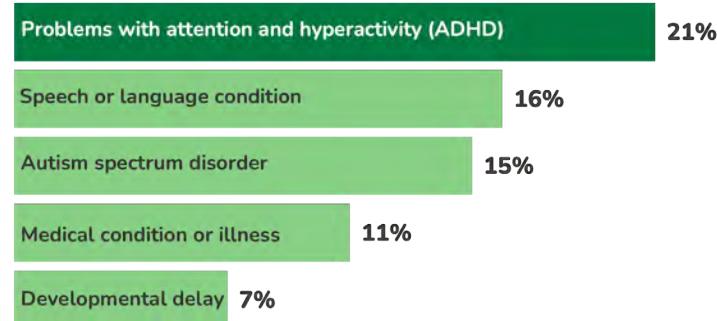


Another half of the Trust investment in this area funded 8,350 hours of respite, in-home supports tailored to each family's needs for 36 children and youth with significant and multiple challenges, such as those related to daily living activities (e.g., using the bathroom, eating, or

moving); verbal or nonverbal communication; medication administration or assistance related to medical conditions; and/or aggressive or self-injurious behaviors. These in-home supports provide critical relief to often overburdened parents, support family stability, and reduce the risk of abuse and neglect.

Attention and hyperactivity challenges continue to be the most frequently reported conditions expected to last for a year or more, followed by speech or language conditions, autism spectrum disorder, medical conditions, and developmental delays as the top five reported conditions. Additional disability types reported include learning disabilities, depression or anxiety, problems with aggression or temper, visual impairment, and intellectual development.

Problems with attention and hyperactivity are the most common challenge of the top reported.



Nearly one in five children served across initiatives—over 38,000—reported living with a disability.

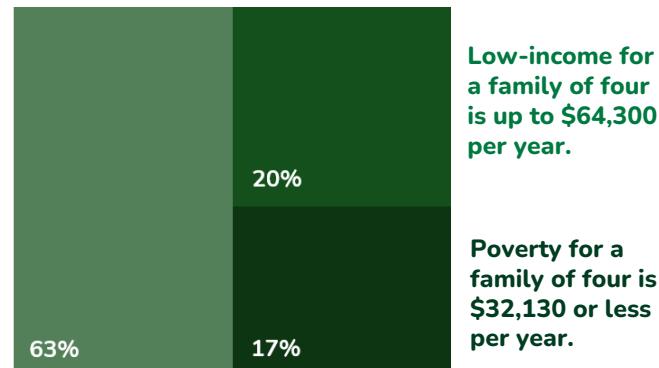
Initiative	Total Participants	Participants w/ Disabilities	% Reporting Disability
Early Intervention Summer Programs	677	677	100%
Early Discovery	587	587	100%
Family Inclusion Supports	54	54	100%
Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships	6,073	2,149	35%
Cultural Affairs	23,535	6,802	29%
Parenting Programs	5,450	1,545	28%
K-12 Youth Development Programs	32,959	7,611	23%
School Health	110,195	16,989	15%
Oral Health Education and Prevention Services	4,750	735	15%
Summer Youth Internship Program	3,663	357	10%
Benefits Enrollment	8,655	423	5%
Total Direct Children/Youth Served	196,598	37,929	19%

Children Impacted by Poverty

Children growing up experiencing the impacts of high-poverty households and neighborhoods are more likely to exhibit challenges related to physical and mental health, cognitive delays, and behavioral and emotional problems.³⁶ There is significant poverty among children and families in Miami-Dade County, as noted below. Trust-funded programs are available countywide, but in general there is a higher concentration of programming available and of children served in locations where more children and families are experiencing poverty.

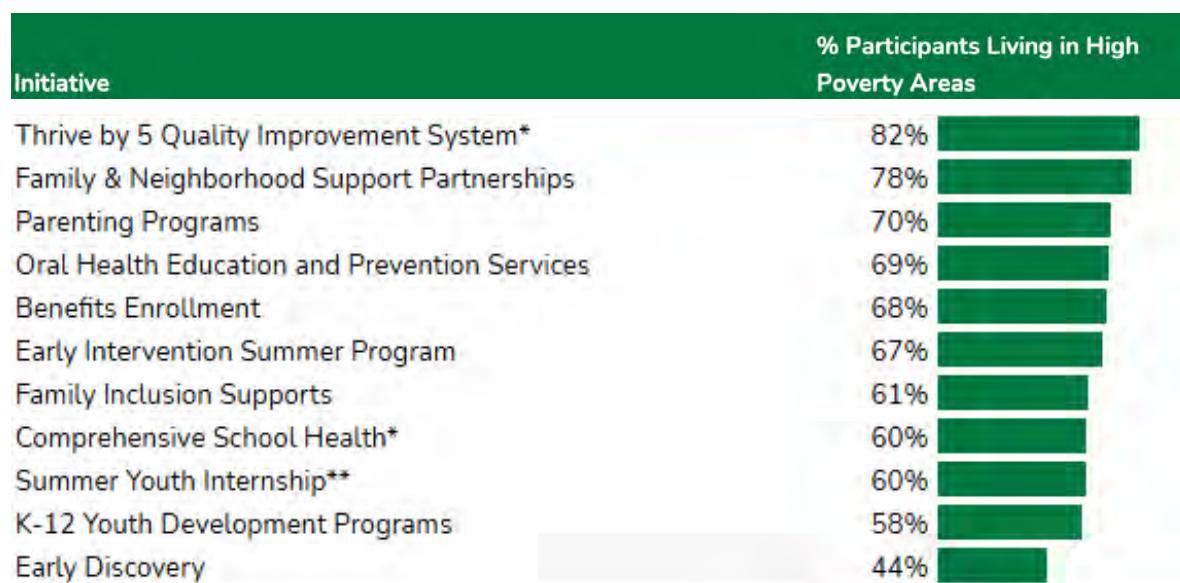


More than one in three children live in low-income or impoverished households.³⁷



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

Across Trust initiatives, programs reach nearly 140,000 children and families living in high-poverty areas.





Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy

What began as a small summer camp in a Liberty City church has blossomed into a vibrant movement. The Well Community Initiative, an outgrowth of Miami Youth Garden, founded by church pastor Joaquin Willis in 2012, now reaches hundreds of children and families through gardening, leadership development, and holistic community support. With partial funding from The Children's Trust, the initiative launched four community hubs located at Bethel Apostolic Temple, Christian Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, Faith Community Baptist Church, and Greater New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church all in or near Liberty City. These hubs host programming designed to meet the full spectrum of family needs, from housing and health to education and economic mobility.

The after-school and summer programs offered at the hubs is enriched by the "Seed to Harvest" urban gardening curriculum. Students in grades K-5 learn about soil, seeds, and sustainability, often for the first time. Many live in food deserts, and through gardening, they discover a taste for fresh fruits and vegetables. "They pickle cucumbers and onions, and take small plants home to grow," Beatty said. "We're not just running camps. We're building a culture of thriving families, one garden bed at a time."

For more information, visit MiamiYouthGardenInc.org.



Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supports & Coalition Building

Community engagement is vital to empowering residents to identify and address their own challenges. The Children's Trust understands that funding alone is not enough; lasting impact requires stakeholders and organizations to take the lead through collaboration and shared decision-making. Meaningful involvement of community members in The Trust's strategic planning and processes is essential. Across the county, Trust Community Engagement team members actively listen, connect, and speak with communities, fostering participatory decision-making and helping to identify and mobilize local assets, strengths, and resources. Through these efforts, The Trust works to close service gaps and better align priorities and funded programs with community organizations, anchor institutions, and other stakeholders to ensure the most effective use of available resources.

Trust-building, community empowerment, and collaboration are inherently challenging to quantify. That said, The Children's Trust continued making significant inroads in these endeavors. Staff participated in regularly scheduled meetings of 85 community collaboratives, boards, task forces, and associations. These entities focus on essential issues for families, including social services, legislative advocacy, prevention and intervention, increased safety for children, community economic development, health initiatives, juvenile justice, and literacy.

In addition, staff members presented and participated in a broad range of public panels, conferences, and partner events throughout the year. At the Children's Funding Project national Annual Institute, Chief Public Policy & Engagement Officer Natalia Zea spoke on two panels about the unique structure and governance model of The Children's Trust and its successful and widespread communications and outreach efforts. Director of Programs Rachel Spector shared her expertise at the Florida Chamber Foundation's South Florida Early Learning Employer Roundtable – co-hosted with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of Miami-Dade/Monroe – brought together business and early learning leaders to discuss childcare solutions in the workplace. The Trust also co-sponsored

the Miami-Dade County League of Cities Annual Best Practices Conference, which featured a keynote from Ken Griffin and a panel on Shaping Florida's Future Workforce, moderated by The Children's Trust President & CEO James R. Haj.

Trust leaders and partners further engaged in the ELC's Literacy Week panel, From Cradle to Career: Why Literacy Matters, where Associate Director of Community Engagement served on the panel alongside the Florida Chamber of Commerce and other experts. Staff also contributed to Philanthropy Miami's Ignite Conference, including Director of Communications Ximena Nunez providing tangible ideas and strategies for organizations to better tell their stories through timely anniversaries; the Literacy Leadership Forum; The Lucy Project's Unlocking Literacy Conference on Science of Reading and multilingual strategies; and a Global Ties Miami roundtable, where Associate Director of Public Policy Amanda Gorski presented on the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative – a partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Griffin Catalyst, and led a session with international delegates on supporting underserved youth.

Additional team engagement included events hosted by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; Miami-Dade County Public Schools' Student Services Advisory Committee; Amplify Community Resources' Back-to-School Symposium; the Miami Herald's Silver Knight Awards Ceremony and Leadership Local Economic Impact Summit; National Adoption Day; the United Way Community Impact Committee; School Board Member Community Town Halls; the Fulbright Association's 48th national Annual Conference; and the Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign.

The Children's Trust Community Engagement team continues to lead the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade initiative alongside Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Miami-Dade County, the American Red Cross, The Miami Foundation, United Way Miami, and other funders and partners. Through the Office of Drowning Prevention within the Miami-Dade County Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Department, offering ten 30-minute swim lessons for young children in public schools, Head Start, and Thrive by 5 centers. In its first full year in 2023-2024, the program served 2,268 children across 63 schools and preschools throughout Miami-Dade County. In addition, the program expanded to include both public and private swim providers such as the City of Miami, City of Miami Springs, City of Miami Gardens, City of North Miami Beach, City of Doral, and Ocaquatics Swim School. This work continues through engagement with neighborhood-focused collaboratives and anchor partners to explore solutions for expanded drowning prevention opportunities through water safety instruction for children.

Considering the need for widespread water safety education in the community, The Trust also partnered with Progressive Firefighters Association (PFA) and Professionals Sharing with A Purpose (PSWAP) to provide swim and water safety programming during the summer months. Through collaboration with PFA and PSWAP, two parks, and six different summer camps located within the City of Miami and City of Opa-locka participated, engaging 1,475 school-age children. The programs provide up to 8 weeks of daily swimming instruction and water safety education. In addition, families were offered certification in CPR first aid training and automated external defibrillator (AED) skills.

The Children's Trust continues to collaborate with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Miami-Dade County, Griffin Catalyst, and others, in the Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative. In 2024-2025 this collaboration also grew to include the Miami 2026 World Cup Host Committee, with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust serving as legacy partners ahead of the global event. This exciting project continues to work to identify locations to install soccer mini-pitches in under-resourced communities throughout the county and provide Just Ball League soccer programming for children and youth. The goal is to have 50 new pitches constructed before the 2026 FIFA World Cup and to positively influence the physical, social and emotional wellness of more than 36,000 children by 2030. The Trust is a key partner and funder in this initiative, helping to guide locations and fund programming at the soccer pitches.

This year The Children's Trust engaged in a new collaborative project, the "Well Community Initiative" facilitated by Miami Youth Garden, Inc. (MyG) to transform neighborhoods by providing multi-faceted supports and resources to empower every aspect of the lives of children and families. This collaborative initiative established hubs at several Liberty City area churches to address essential needs of neighborhood families, including affordable housing, access to organic fruits and vegetables, urban food gardening education, health and safety resources, employment and education support, and after-school and summer programming for children and youth in the neighborhood.

Staff continues to support ways to improve and expand services for youth who are disengaged and/or involved in the justice and dependency systems. Together with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and the Miami-Dade County Juvenile Services Portfolio, under the newly created Department of Community Services, The Trust continues to work to align referrals for relevant Trust-funded services that can assist families with parenting support, care coordination, wraparound care, benefits enrollment, and more.

The Community Engagement Team proudly coordinated and represented The Children's Trust at a variety of impactful



community events throughout the year. The Trust supported and spoke at National Adoption Day at the Miami Children's Museum, celebrating "Roar-ever" families and highlighting the importance of permanency for children. The team also participated in the 34th Annual FIU Children's Holiday Celebration, spreading joy to elementary school children from local public schools. In honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., The Trust was a proud sponsor of several key MLK events, including the 5000 Role Models of Excellence Scholarship Breakfast, the West Perrine Community Development Breakfast and Battle of the Bands in South Dade, and the MLK Parade & Festivities in Liberty City. Additionally, The Trust also joined partners from The Children's Movement of Florida, Breakthrough Miami, and United Way in 10 Days of Connection, fostering dialogue and collaboration across the community.

The Children's Trust's community engagement and outreach grants build upon existing community assets, encourage collaboration, and support the sustainability of grassroots and innovative programs and projects. In 2024-2025, The Children's Trust provided small grants to 127 local organizations serving children and families. Seventy-three organizations were supported through direct service program enhancement grants, 22 organizations were awarded community outreach grants, and an additional 32 organizations were awarded promotion of citizen engagement, advocacy, and leadership grants.

Public Policy Priorities, Advocacy, & Youth Civic Engagement

The Children's Trust works closely with other children's services councils across the state through the Florida Alliance of Children's Councils and Trusts (FACCT) to develop comprehensive policy priorities in support of children and families. In addition to continued education and engagement of elected officials and other leaders and stakeholders, The Trust's weekly Capitol Connection newsletter keeps the wider community informed about legislative progress and actions that may be taken on behalf of children during the state legislative session. In 2025, 29 editions of Capitol Connection were published.

These leadership efforts are realized in partnership with several statewide organizations and coalitions, in addition to FACCT, including: The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, The Florida Chamber Foundation, Florida Early Learning Childhood Consortium, Florida Grade-Level Reading Campaign, Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, Florida Juvenile Justice Association (FJJA), Florida KidCare Coalition of Miami-Dade County, The Association of Early Learning Coalitions, The Children's Forum, The Children's Movement of Florida, and United Way of Florida.



In 2024-2025, The Trust continued the promotion of strategic statewide two-generational approaches to ensure socioeconomically disadvantaged families' financial stability and security and children's positive development. This included collaboration with legislative bill sponsors and stakeholders for policies that improve the quality and

accountability of the state's early learning programs. Staff also conducted successful advocacy to increase access for early childhood education and K-12, including increased funding for teacher salaries, healthy development, children with disabilities, child protection, and juvenile justice.

The Children's Trust engages in local intergovernmental relations with Miami-Dade County, municipalities, and other governing bodies, including The Homeless Trust. Trust staff participates in the Food and Nutrition for All of Miami-Dade collaborative and in Mayor Daniella Levine Cava's Children's Commission, collaborating with county staff and community partners in implementing the Mayor's Roadmap for Child Success and aligning efforts to support the county's youngest children.

In addition, The Trust continues to lead the Miami-Dade County Fiscal Cliff Collaborative, a coalition of community leaders and stakeholders dedicated to developing economic and funding solutions, shaping policy, and strengthening local and statewide initiatives that support families, build a strong workforce pipeline, and sustain economic growth. Throughout 2024-2025, the Collaborative hosted several community discussions featuring guest speakers from leading industries and employers in Miami-Dade, as well as data presentations from the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The Children's Trust hosts the Miami-Dade County Grade-Level Reading (MDGLR) Campaign, which regularly engages more than 30 community partners to elevate literacy. In 2024-2025, the campaign held five summits, including collaboration to implement the fifth annual READy, Set, Go Miami! early literacy initiative and the seventh annual Summer Battle of the Books. In an exciting effort to mitigate summer learning loss, the Summer Battle of the Books included the development of six weeks of activities, the distribution of 1,000 books, and participation from nearly 1,012 children throughout 11 Trust-funded sites. To raise awareness around literacy resources for families with children with disabilities, MDGLR hosted the third annual Inclusive Literacy Resource Fair in partnership with the Miami-Dade County ADA Office. More than 1,400 participants attended, where they could interact with 170 agencies and attend 22 educational sessions. Trust Associate Director of Community Engagement Danielle Barreras leads MDGLR and was honored with the Dyslexia Advocacy Key Award by The Lucy Project, alongside Senator Alexis Calatayud and Florida Chancellor of Early Childhood Cari Miller, for her advocacy and leadership in literacy, including support for those with disabilities.



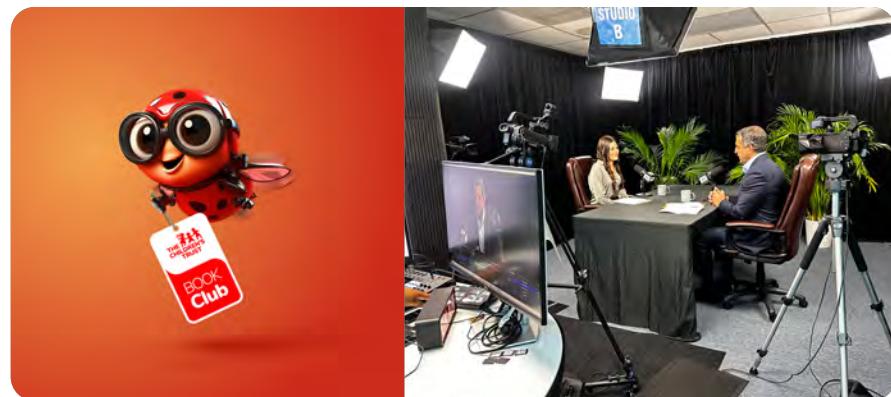
The Trust also supports youth civic engagement through its Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), which has served as its youth voice since 2006. The leadership development program focuses on leadership, advocacy, and service, especially in support of children and families. During the 2024-2025 school year, the YAC had 220 active members from more than 52 high schools who met regularly at six sites across the county. The groups utilized six Instagram accounts to raise awareness about youth civic engagement and to create opportunities for youth participation. Students dedicated thousands of community service hours in collaboration with a multitude of community partners. They also developed and executed six community initiatives and participated in three local travel experiences. The YAC partnered with FIU to host the countywide Environmental Resiliency Youth Summit, partnered with the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida Camp Mahachee to focus on leadership, and spent the day at Shake-A-Leg to learn about making activities inclusive of all abilities. YAC participants developed and executed six community initiatives. Several themes arose in the student-driven projects, ranging from the environment to education.

Twenty YAC members participated in the 2025 Legislative and College Tour in Tallahassee, which included meetings with Florida legislators, tours of the House of Representatives, and visits to Florida Agriculture and Mechanical University (FAMU) and Florida State University (FSU).

Public Awareness, Outreach & Program Promotion

Effective and strategic communication and community outreach efforts during the 2024-2025 fiscal year aimed to increase awareness of The Children's Trust and Trust-funded programs throughout Miami-Dade County. These efforts led to increased engagement with families and children both online and in person.

The Children's Trust, in collaboration with Miami's Community Newspapers, launched "In Conversation With," a six-part web series that highlights Trust initiatives. The series launched in Summer 2025 and garnered over 50,000 impressions across YouTube and other social media channels. The Children's Trust CEO James R. Haj and various Trust staff members hosted each episode, covering community-related issues such as the importance of affordable quality child care, childhood drownings in Miami-Dade County, and how to encourage civic engagement in our youth.



As a part of its faith-based grassroots outreach efforts, The Trust distributed Trust-branded literature racks that are refilled and maintained monthly at approximately 45 churches across Miami-Dade County and attended 70 community events aligned with faith centers at approximately 200 locations.

To directly inform a variety of audiences, staff produced and distributed 51 Weekly Provider Bulletin digital newsletters, reaching more than 17,000 subscribers by the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

The Trust also produced 10 Parenting Our Children newsletters in digital and print formats and in three languages - English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. In total, the newsletter featured 50 original content pieces and reached more than 51,000 digital subscribers monthly, with an additional 4,160 printed copies distributed each month. Subscribers can sign up for the newsletters at TheChildrensTrust.org/Subscribe.



The Trust continued its “Trust Tuesday” social media campaign, highlighting 51 Trust-funded providers’ milestones and accomplishments. The campaign runs on all Trust social media platforms while also being featured in the Weekly Provider Bulletin.

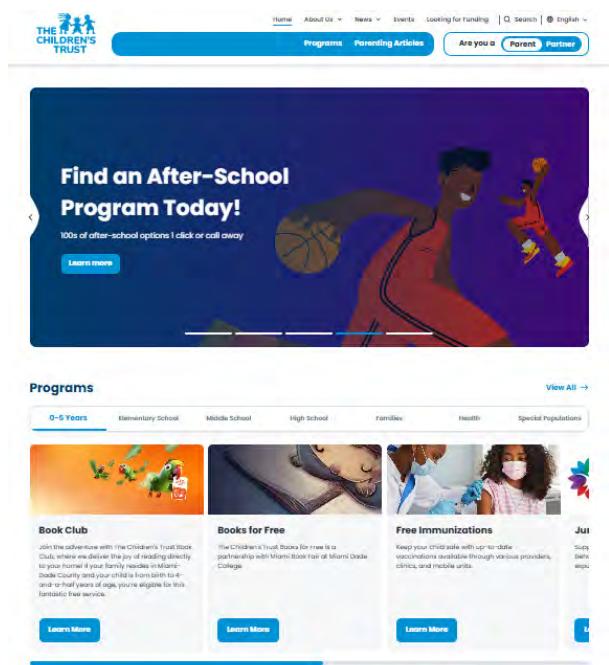
In honor of Water Safety Month and Childhood Drowning Prevention Month in May, The Children’s Trust, local officials, and partners held a news conference to brief Miami-Dade families on the progress of the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade initiative in the community. In August 2025, President & CEO James. R. Haj and Chief Public Policy & Engagement Officer Natalia Zea joined Miami’s Community News Breakfast to highlight The Trust’s mission and shared updates on the Zero Drownings Miami-Dade initiative, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in preventing childhood drownings.

In the fall of 2025, the program announced the launch of its new website, serving as a central resource hub for water safety tips, a search tool for after-school and summer swim lessons offered by partner swim providers, and support services for families and caregivers and will launch a community-wide water safety awareness campaign. Visit www.ZeroDrowningsMiamiDade.org.

The 2025 Family Expo returned to The Miami-Dade County Fairgrounds & Exposition. The Expo welcomed over 5,000 attendees to a single location, creating a vibrant atmosphere where families could inquire about Trust-funded programs, find essential back-to-school resources, and spend quality time together. The Trust also distributed over 6,600 backpacks to families during Family Expo and Family Expo pop-up events. Nearly 2,000 families were engaged at the Family Expo pop-up events in partnership with Healthy Mind Heart and Body Inc., held at Charles Hadley Park in Liberty City, and with the Cities of Miami Springs and Hialeah, Town of Medley, and Village of Virginia Gardens at the 2025 River Cities Back to School Backpack & Resource Fair. For the third consecutive year, The Trust partnered with Uber, and more than 100 riders utilized ride vouchers to and from The Family Expo. For more details and a recap video, visit www.TheChildrensTrust.org/FamilyExpo.

The Trust also partnered with local radio station La Poderosa 990 am to bring the excitement of The Family Expo live to thousands of families listening and watching “Buenos Dias Hialeah Con Mandy Llanes. The digital collaboration further increased awareness of essential resources and programs throughout Miami-Dade County, in three languages.

The 2025 Champions for Children Awards Ceremony brought together nearly 900 guests to honor exceptional individuals and programs dedicated to improving the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. The prestigious David Lawrence Jr. Champion for Children Award was presented to Constance Collins, president & executive director of Lotus House Women’s Shelter and the National Women’s Shelter Network,





in recognition of her lifelong commitment to ending homelessness and empowering women and children. Linda Hudson, senior classroom assistant at the University of Miami's Linda Ray Intervention Center, received the Excellence in Direct Service to Children and Families Award for decades of compassionate care for vulnerable children. The Excellence in Youth Leadership Award honored Maurits Acosta, then a senior at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School and founder of Virtutem Populo, Inc., a nonprofit promoting civic education among Florida youth. Jorge A. Plasencia, chairman & CEO of Republica Havas and co-founder of Amigos for Kids, was celebrated with the Excellence in Advocacy Award for his decades of work preventing child abuse and uplifting communities. The Program of the Year Award was presented to three Trust-funded initiatives: the Summer Youth Internship Program, Lotus House Children Services Parenting Program, and Ten North Group's Keeping Our Promise Program. For more details and a recap video, visit www.TheChildrensTrust.org/Champions.

2025 marked the 15th anniversary of the Young Talent Big Dreams competition, the largest free youth talent competition in Miami-Dade County, sponsored by The Children's Trust. Over 200 talented students, aged 8 through 18, participated in this year's competition, with 21 students competing at the finale held at the Miracle Theatre in Coral Gables. The category winners were: Tamerlan Guliyev, grand prize and individual dance; Antonella Laferriere, individual vocal Broadway; Caitlynn & Camilah Diaz, group dance; Soleil Nation, original composition; Nina Marie, individual vocal pop; Nyshelle Burns, spoken word, Benjamin Baralt; individual instrument; Sah Conservatory of Dramatic Arts, group vocals; Dancing Twins, group dance; and Sunset Elementary Band, group musical instrument. This annual competition has become an integral part of Miami-Dade County's cultural identity, proudly celebrating local talented young artists.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, The Children's Trust website received more than 390,000 page views during the fiscal year. The Trust's digital outreach remains strong, with more than 46,000 email subscribers and a growing social media community of more than 91,800 followers across Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.

Funder Collaboration Initiatives

Collaborating with other funders on shared goals, strategies, and resources involves multiple entities working as one to align purposes and interests, pool resources and knowledge, and fund organizations to address complex issues. For example, The Children's Trust worked with several other funders of community programs in partnership with Philanthropy Miami to gauge how state and federal funding cuts were directly impacting the non-profit sector in Miami-Dade. This kind of thought partnership and collaboration pave the way for community-wide solutions to large-scale issues.

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



In fiscal year 2024-2025, 16 funder collaborations reached 71,077 people in Miami-Dade County. Funder collaborations are detailed in the table below, and several are described throughout this report.

\$59.1 million in funder collaboration was leveraged with a **\$10.5 million** Trust investment, a **\$5.61** return on each Trust dollar.





PARTNERSHIP DESCRIPTION & FUNDERS	TRUST \$	MATCH \$	ROI	People Served
Catalyst Miami: Future Bound Miami This collaboration offers a universal Children's Savings Account to all kindergarten students attending Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) elementary schools or K-8 centers for their post-secondary education. Through this initiative, students gain access to a free savings account, including an initial seed deposit of \$25 or up to \$50 for those who qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch. This Initiative is a partnership with the City of Miami, Educational Federal Credit Union, Health Foundation of South Florida, Miami-Dade County, United Way Miami, The Miami Foundation, Junior Achievement, M-DCPS, and Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center.	285,000	1,971,000	\$6.92	4,169 Children
Community-Based Care (CBC) Alliance This funding supports the Community-Based Care (CBC) Alliance infrastructure, including a CEO position for the state-mandated collective that oversees the provision of Miami-Dade's child welfare services. The alliance includes funding support from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Magic Waste Foundation, Voices for Children Foundation, and United Way Miami.	64,000	32,340	\$0.51	Infrastructure Supports
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe: Early Head Start (EHS) This match initiative funds the Early Head Start (EHS) Child Care Partnership, offering high-quality early learning slots in Miami-Dade County for infants and toddlers. It also provides comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition, and family self-sufficiency services in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.	650,000	12,039,388	\$18.52	750 Child Care Slots
Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe: School Readiness Match Program This matching initiative funds child care subsidies for low-to-moderate wage working parents in Miami-Dade County earning slightly higher than 55% of Florida's state median income (SMI). It is funded in partnership with the Florida Department of Early Learning.	1,230,000	1,230,000	\$1.00	450 Child Care Slots
Key Biscayne Community Foundation: Fab Lab Fab Lab Miami operates a network of youth-focused digital fabrication and STEAM makerspaces, including sites at the Belafonte TACOLCY Center in Liberty City, the Phichol Williams Community Center in Homestead, and the Overtown Youth Center. With support from The Children's Trust, the Liberty City and South Dade locations offer high-quality STEM education and hands-on learning in design and engineering. Through this collaboration, youth from under-resourced communities gain meaningful opportunities to build technical skills and receive college preparation support. Fab Lab Miami also extends programming through partnerships with after-school and summer programs. Funders, along with the Key Biscayne Community Foundation, include the Himan Brown Charitable Trust, the Kirk Foundation, and the Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation.	200,000	445,000	\$2.23	364 Students
Miami Homes for All: Service Linkage, Advocacy, and Engagement Miami Homes for All (MHFA) serves as the backbone agency for the Helping Our Miami-Dade Youth Collective (HOMY Collective), a multi-sector effort to develop a locally designed, comprehensive system of care aimed at preventing and addressing youth homelessness in Miami-Dade County. MHFA manages a housing inventory database and provides staff to assist homeless services organizations in engaging landlords, property owners, and managers to support individuals and families in their housing searches. The initiative's goal is to increase successful outplacements, reduce the duration of homelessness for households, and foster a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness.	325,000	3,867,690	\$11.90	187 Children, 172 Families, 79 Service Providers
Miami Youth Garden, Inc. Miami Youth Garden, Inc. (MyG) facilitates the "Well Community Initiative" (WCI), a collaborative effort with local partners to transform Miami-Dade's most economically challenged neighborhoods through neighborhood hubs that provide families with affordable housing support, access to organic foods and urban gardens, health and nutrition services, safety resources, employment and education opportunities, and after-school and summer programs for children and youth. Through four community hubs hosted in churches in ZIP codes with some of the county's highest poverty levels, WCI addresses the critical challenges families face in the midst of Miami-Dade's housing affordability crisis, creating integrated pathways to stability, opportunity, and healthier futures.	150,000	225,000	\$1.50	190 Children, 360 Adults, 600 Families
Miami-Dade County Community Action & Human Services Dept: EHS This matching initiative funds the Early Head Start (EHS) Child Care Partnership, offering high-quality early learning slots for infants and toddlers. It also provides comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition, and family self-sufficiency services in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.	850,000	13,271,724	\$15.61	792 Child Care Slots
Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs This initiative supports numerous nonprofit arts organizations to enhance cultural arts programs, benefiting thousands of children and youth, including those with disabilities. Programs include youth arts enrichment, summer arts and science camps, and All Kids Included Accessible Arts Experiences for Kids, which promotes arts and cultural programs so that children of all abilities and their families can participate fully in the arts.	1,500,000	5,574,922	\$3.72	32,284 Children



PARTNERSHIP DESCRIPTION & FUNDERS	TRUST \$	MATCH \$	ROI	People Served
Miami-Dade County Here Everyday Ready On Time (HERO) Truancy Prevention The HERO Truancy Prevention Program is a comprehensive, countywide effort designed to reduce youth violence by addressing chronic absenteeism. The program focuses on identifying the most vulnerable children and providing tailored prevention and intervention services to improve school attendance. Truancy often stems from deeper challenges, and the program works to address these underlying issues. Through this initiative, services are provided to K-8 students struggling with persistent unexcused absences across numerous Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS). Miami Dade County and M-DCPS collaborate as implementation partners in this initiative.	880,000	1,224,051	\$1.39	9,920 Children
Miami-Dade County Public Library System: Technobus and Homework Help The Technobus delivers instruction and digital services directly to high-need communities, offering access to high-tech programming, tools, and projects in a nurturing environment. This initiative also expands access to homework assistance and academic tutoring for children and youth through local libraries and virtual platforms. Certified teachers provide free, small-group sessions in person and one-on-one virtual sessions for K-12 students, focusing on language arts, mathematics, and science to support their academic success.	225,000	1,712,215	\$7.61	1,716 Children & 51,859 Tutoring Sessions
Miami-Dade County Summer Youth Internship Program This collaboration facilitates a five-week paid internship for public and charter high school students at hundreds of companies and organizations throughout Miami-Dade in various career fields. Certified teachers support student progress, and students earn high school credit and can participate in dual enrollment to earn college credit. This collaboration includes Miami-Dade County, CareerSource South Florida, Educational Federal Credit Union, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Foundation (formerly known as the Foundation for New Education Initiatives).	2,500,000	5,428,946	\$2.17	3,661 Youth
Redlands Christian Migrant Association This match initiative funds child care subsidies for federally designated "working poor" farmworker families in partnership with the Florida Department of Early Learning.	102,000	1,632,000	\$16.00	600 Child Care Slots
U.S. Soccer Foundation: Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative This longstanding partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and The Children's Trust aims to establish a legacy of soccer in the community by providing safe places to play and effective, relevant programming for youth in under-resourced and under-served communities. The Miami-Dade Soccer Initiative will install 50 mini-soccer pitches, launch the Just Ball Neighborhood league to activate the mini-pitches, and establish a Soccer for Success Innovation Hub to build capacity for delivering this evidence-based soccer programming. The initiative is established in partnership with Adidas, the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and Griffin Catalyst.	300,000	247,251	\$0.82	11,995 Children
United Way Miami: Early Head Start (EHS) This match initiative funds the Early Head Start (EHS) Child Care Partnership, offering high-quality early learning slots for infants and toddlers. It also provides comprehensive health, mental health, nutrition, and family self-sufficiency services in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.	770,000	9,891,139	\$12.85	520 Child Care Slots
Zero Drownings Miami-Dade This countywide water safety initiative provides free swim lessons during the school year as a 10-day, daily field trip for 4- and 5-year-olds in select Miami-Dade County Public Schools and child care centers. In partnership with Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, The Miami Foundation, American Red Cross, United Way Miami, and other funders, the program aims to provide a safety net for children through widespread certified drowning prevention curriculum. By integrating essential learn-to-swim instruction into the school day, the initiative ensures that water safety education becomes a sustained part of every child's development.	500,000	318,398	\$0.64	2,268 Children



Learning & Quality Improvement



Thanks to an Innovation Fund grant from The Children's Trust, the Adrienne Arsht Center launched a groundbreaking initiative to elevate high school theater education in Miami-Dade: The Arsht High School Musical Theater Awards Program, affectionately known as The Arshties. Miami-Dade has never before had a regional awards program to send nominees to the Jimmy Awards, the National High School Musical Theatre Awards in New York. Joining more than 50 programs nationwide, local students now have a direct pipeline to compete on Broadway's biggest student stage, where artistry in vocal, dance, and acting performance is celebrated at a national level. "The Innovation Grant allowed us to dream big," said Jairo Ontiveros, the Adrienne Arsht Center's Executive Producer and Dorothea Green Chair of Education and Community Engagement. "We traveled to study other regional awards programs and came back inspired to create something uniquely Miami."

The Arshties are open to all high schools in the county, with 15–20 schools participating in the inaugural season. Each school's musical production is evaluated by local theater professionals, with students receiving constructive feedback to grow their craft. The program culminates in a showcase at the John S. and James L. Knight Concert Hall, where two standout performers will be selected to represent Miami-Dade at the Jimmy Awards. "It's not just about talent," said Ontiveros. "We look at empathy, grades, and teacher recommendations. We're building well-rounded artists." Beyond performance, students and educators gain access to Broadway master classes, free tickets to touring shows, and workshops in vocal, dance, and technical theater.

For more information, visit ArshtCenter.org/Arshties.



The Children's Trust was founded as a data-driven, learning organization focused on ensuring the success of funded agencies across the community to deliver high-quality services that improve the lives of children and families. To this end, nearly \$8 million, or about three percent of The Trust's programmatic budget, is invested in learning and quality improvement resources. These include Trust Academy supports for quality programming, small community-based organization (CBO) capacity building, program evaluation and community research, technology design solutions, and an innovation fund. These investments aim to ensure operational excellence and effective, efficient organizations through:

- Prepared & Adequate Staffing
- Clear & Sustainable Policies & Procedures
- Effective Tools & Technology Systems
- Collaborative Planning
- Data-Informed Decisions

Contract Performance Review

The Children's Trust programs team, in collaboration across Trust departments, leads the efforts to assess the extent to which funded programs are meeting contractual performance expectations. Recognizing that The Trust's success depends on the success of its funded providers, and to ensure Trust investments are being utilized to their maximum potential, contract performance is regularly assessed by providers, Trust staff and leadership using standard metrics to inform action plans that address needed improvements and encourage growth. When challenges are identified, Trust Academy and other resources are deployed to enhance contract performance and overall program implementation, followed by regular review of the impact of the supports in place to improve contract performance. Programs and research and evaluation staff maintain and regularly offer training on several guides for providers that detail contract activity and data reporting requirements for specific initiatives.

Data-informed discussions drive contract renewal and expansion decisions. In 2024-2025, The Trust launched an annual planning agenda and timeline to ensure all

contracts receive a comprehensive performance review (CPR) with the executive team one or more times every year. As a result, eight contract-level CPRs were held, totaling more than 45 hours of contract performance data reviews and action planning discussions last year.



Supports For Quality Programming



The Trust hosts regular in-person and virtual provider meetings throughout the year to share updates and resources and to ensure ongoing feedback and input from funded providers.

These include monthly or quarterly gatherings specific to certain initiatives, open labs to support hands-on learning about specific reporting processes, and general annual provider meetings that are typically attended by hundreds of management leaders from funded organizations. For example, on October 30, 2024, Trust staff held a virtual provider meeting attended by more than 730 people to learn about current requirements and initiatives, explore ways to enhance collaboration, and ensure providers are well-equipped to offer high-quality services.

In fiscal year 2024-2025, 10 Trust Academy partners assisted direct service and management staff members from Trust-funded provider agencies in meeting contract performance expectations. Supports offered include online courses, live trainings, coaching, content consultation, peer learning, and access to resources that aid in learning and quality improvement. Trust Academy partners work across five content areas.

- Parenting and Family & Neighborhood Support Services
- Youth Development
- School-based Health
- Inclusion Supports for Serving Children and Youth with Disabilities
- Supporting Positive Organizational Health and Leadership

Supports	Events	Total Attending (Duplicated)	Participants* (Unduplicated)	Programs* Represented
Courses	365	3,885	931	128
Trainings	276	2,672	1,646	237
Coaching	1,255	1,865	492	103
Peer Learning	127	862	290	125
Annual Total	2,023	9,284	2,273	239

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



The Trust Academy's learning management system (LMS) provides an easily accessible platform to post live training, house online courses, and display discussion boards and resources for its current 10,299 registered users.

- Online courses are available to learners 24/7 virtually in the LMS. Of the course completions in 2024-2025, 44 percent were from the 88 courses that have been created by Trust Academy partners to meet Trust-specific initiative and topic needs.
- Of the 276 live training events in 2024-2025, almost two-thirds were delivered virtually, making participation easier for busy provider staff members. Nearly all training participants (99%) gained knowledge or met the training objectives and were satisfied with the trainings.
- Staff benefit from individualized coaching that builds skills based on identified strengths and needs. Supports include real-time observation, feedback, and practice, methods shown to improve implementation, and increase job satisfaction.³⁸

Just under half of coaching sessions in 2024-2025 were in-person (42%). Notably, 68 percent of staff attended three or more coaching sessions, and 94 percent met their goals.

- Nearly 300 staff members participated in 127 peer learning sessions, with participants attending an average of three sessions each. Groups met to share learning about program inclusion, Youth Development, parenting, family and neighborhood support partnerships initiatives, and organizational leadership.

Strategic planning in 2024-2025 focused on how to best leverage Trust Academy supports for improvements among providers with the greatest contracting needs and challenges. Trust Academy resources are being organized along a comprehensive continuum from universal to selective and indicated supports, with the goal of offering all providers key information and learning opportunities, while reserving the most intensive supports like individual coaching for programs struggling the most. In the coming year, this will be realized through more formal Trust Academy referral and communication processes, as well as enhanced navigation guidance and learning paths to help providers identify, access, and progress through relevant learning opportunities.

Family Services

The University of Miami's Team COACH (Children Optimally Achieving Comprehensive Health) supports Trust-funded parenting programs with hands-on, evidence-based, skill-building instruction. Sessions focused on caregiver mental health, skills for launching and sustaining programs, and measure-specific trainings to help providers administer and interpret assessments effectively, supporting data-driven decision-making. Supportive communities of practice gather to collaborate, share learnings, and problem-solve practical solutions to common challenges with recruitment, outreach, and stressors faced by parents and providers. Satisfaction levels are high, with 99 percent of training participants and 100 percent of peer learning participants rating the supports positively.

Training and Implementation Associates (TIA) supports the parenting and family and neighborhood support partnerships (FNSP) initiatives. This has included ongoing training on essential care coordination and natural helper topics related to the FNSP model. During fiscal year 2024-2025, TIA developed and deployed a care



coordination fidelity rating tool including self-rater (for supervisors and success coaches) and independent rater components. The tool includes a focus on needs and strengths assessment, goal setting, culture, motivational interviewing (MI), and youth and family engagement practices. In addition, TIA created course content related to trauma and delivered evidence based treatment training, including CIFFTA, TF CBT, MI, and assessment, equipping staff with high-level clinical skills and assessment proficiency.

Youth Development

Project RISE (Research, Inspiration, Support, and Evaluation) supports after-school and summer providers serving elementary school age children. In 2024-2025, RISE launched a Differentiated Literacy Instruction (DLI) Basics online course with essential information on how to use literacy assessments to identify struggling readers and develop reading intervention plans for small group literacy. DLI Guidelines, FAQs, and a brief video of where to find information, resources, and training are also available. They further developed A Deeper Dive into DLI training that offers experienced and new instructors the opportunity to learn and share new intervention strategies. Through peer learning, participants shared best practices on how to integrate strategies such as scaffolding learning, fostering teamwork, and promoting responsibility and leadership in their daily literacy, fitness, and enrichment activities.

SkillBuild Powered by Breakthrough Miami supports middle and high school youth program providers with a focus on building a strong teacher/leader presence, delivering high-quality youth development lessons and projects, and handling challenging behavior. SkillBuild's trainings blended research, practice, and inspiration across dynamic themes: Youth Engagement, Leader Presence, Classroom Management, Lesson Design, Student Voice, Active Learning, and Continuous Reflection. In 2024-2025, SkillBuild expanded access through more in-person and virtual sessions, alongside thriving peer learning communities that turned professional development into a shared journey and empowered youth development professionals to lead with confidence, empathy, and innovation to improve student engagement and outcomes.

School Health

In August 2025, The Trust hosted its annual HealthConnect in Our Schools Professional Development conference with the theme of Laying the Groundwork for Healthy Futures. More than 365 nursing staff and mental health practitioners attended the two- and half-day conference, with the half-day offered virtually, learning from top experts in Miami-Dade County.

Oral Health Florida trained 97 school health staff for the 2024-2025 school year, including nurses, APRNs, and Health Aides/ Medical Assistants. Of the staff trained, 91 percent demonstrated knowledge gain and 99 percent were satisfied with the training. As follow-up support, 53 coaching sessions were completed, which reinforced the skills learned to ensure that oral health screenings and preventive education are implemented effectively across HealthConnect in Our Schools.

Inclusion Supports

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Advocacy Network on Disabilities helped Trust providers to connect children with disabilities to essential services, resources, and inclusion supports through engaging training sessions that reached 142 programs and 448 staff members. Two popular new trainings included ABCs of Managing Behavior in Children with Disabilities and Trauma and Resilience in Children with Disabilities. Training feedback has highlighted how it has helped to create welcoming environments, and 99 percent of participants reported achieving their goals and gaining valuable insights.

Supporting Positive Organizational Health and Leadership

In 2024-2025, Ripple Effect partners, coordinated through the YWCA, focused on delivering 116 events, comprised of live trainings and communities of practice, reaching 917 Trust-funded staff members, and the launch of two new online courses attended 87 times. Participant feedback indicated 95 percent would use the skills learned in their work and were satisfied with the training. Participants said they would apply their learning in areas like strategic planning, communication, advocacy, and creating inclusive environments. Additionally, provider survey data from the last two years shows significant positive shifts in the number of providers who feel their organization consistently supports emotional wellness and inclusive practices and values.



In January 2025, The Pontis Group launched a fourth cohort of the Leadership Academy, a nine-month leadership development program for supervisors in Trust-funded programs that included multiple workshops, group exercises, peer learning sessions led by professional coaches, and personal and professional leadership growth plans and assignments. This year, 16 participants graduated, and results indicated that peer learning and coaching proved especially impactful, fostering reflection, collaboration, and confidence among nonprofit leaders.



Participating organizations completed timely pre- and post-capacity building assessments and fully participated in primary and technical coaching. Each organization fulfilled the financial audit-readiness expectation by establishing strong financial management systems, reviewing accounts, and organizing key documentation. The organizations collectively secured more than \$6.8 million in new funding as they built their capacity over this two-year initiative. Program satisfaction remained exceptionally high, averaging 97 to 100 percent across training, peer learning, and coaching supports. Participants appreciated practical and experiential learning related to SMART goal setting, time-management, fundraising, communication, HR fundamentals, and data-driven decision-making. The tailored, high-quality offerings and community collaborations (e.g., Board Connect event) supported providers with building community networks, ultimately amplifying their capacity to serve children and families across Miami-Dade County.

Program Evaluation & Community Research

The primary function of the research and evaluation team at The Children's Trust is to conduct analyses of program implementation and impact using best practices to make meaning of data at the contract, initiative, and community levels. The goal is to create and maintain compelling learning products (e.g., visualizations, dashboards, reports) that tell the story in engaging ways for various audiences and purposes for data-informed decisions and actions. Planning and conducting annual board retreats are part of this effort.

AI tools have been leveraged for a diverse array of tasks, including strategic planning, data processing, cleaning, and quality checks, as well as analysis, survey development, and creating visuals. AI supported learning new tools and technical languages and was instrumental in tasks like formatting, summarizing meeting notes, and locating documents. These varied applications demonstrate how AI has become integrated into daily workflows to enhance productivity, learning, and decision-making across the organization.

Small Community-Based Organization (CBO) Capacity Building

In 2024-2025, 14 organizations completed the second year of this two-year initiative administered by The Pontis Group, which focuses on smaller organizations not funded by The Trust through its direct service competitive solicitations, to assist them in building their capacity.



Initiative Strategic Planning

To complement and extend the learning and improvement efforts at the contract level described above, The Children's Trust research and evaluation team, with collaboration across Trust departments, leads initiative-level strategic planning efforts. This involves analysis across multiple contracts that deliver similar services to determine if the initiatives are achieving what was intended and addressing the evolving needs of children and families in Miami-Dade County. Initiative program evaluation results help The Trust understand and strengthen the performance and impact of funded programs through making strategic adjustments to program design and requirements during the current funding cycle, as well as possible longer-term changes to initiatives in subsequent cycles. The Trust also informs its program investments with lessons from the field to incorporate best practices. As a steward of public dollars, it is critical that The Trust reflects, learns, and shares insights from investments through its routine evaluation practices.

In 2024-2025, The Trust launched an annual planning agenda and timeline to ensure all initiatives receive a strategic planning discussion of the program design and performance with the executive team one or more times every year. As a result, 21 cross-departmental initiative-specific strategic planning meetings were held with Trust leadership, totaling more than 30 hours of data-informed sharing, discussion, and input last year. In support of these planning efforts and more broadly of ongoing data access and use, the team focused efforts in 2024-2025 on leading discussions about data management, access, and visualization, which was supported by the Technology Design and Solutions team, as described in a later section.

Community Needs & Impact

The Children's Trust collects key data and information to inform policy and practice decisions in support of children and families in Miami-Dade County. Community research focuses on identifying the needs and strengths of children and families, developing headline community results indicators, and tracking available community resources. This information contributes context and understanding of factors related to children's well-being across the county's diverse neighborhoods.

The Miami-Dade IDEAS (Integrating Data for Effectiveness Across Systems) Consortium for Children includes several leading systems that impact early

learning outcomes, including The Children's Trust, the Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade/Monroe, the Miami-Dade County Community Services Department's Head Start/Early Head Start Program, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS), and the University of Miami (UM). Collectively, partners provide early childhood services to more than 80 percent of young children in the county before kindergarten. This integrated data system aims to improve coordinated early childhood research, practice, and policy, and to support school readiness and early school success for all young children, especially those most vulnerable to negative neighborhood and social determinants.

Through The Trust's Early Childhood Community Research initiative, the IDEAS to Action project advanced efforts to establish a countywide measure of early childhood development and map it at the neighborhood level alongside key indicators of need, including a vulnerability index. This year, the project successfully collected the teacher-report Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Healthy and Ready to Learn (HRL) parent survey, achieving 50 percent county reach (304/707 census tracts for HRL and 305/707 for EDI). This data provided valuable neighborhood-level insights to community-based organizations, IDEAS Consortium partners, M-DCPS to better understand patterns of child development and school readiness.

In August 2025, a Trust provider survey was conducted to inform and strengthen Trust supports and resources, incorporate provider input and ensure they are equipped to successfully meet contract expectations. The survey gathered feedback from 205 contracts across school-based health, family and neighborhood supports, parenting, and Youth Development initiatives to capture timely, initiative-specific insights that will help guide future initiative strategic planning and decision making. One survey per contract was completed by the primary programmatic contact person, for a 100 percent response rate. Results from the survey highlighted both valued strengths and opportunities to enhance The Trust's systems, supports, and communication.

Designing Competitive Solicitations

Initiative strategic planning, program evaluation, community needs assessment, and best practices from the field are all used to design evidence-informed program investments and solutions for the greatest impact. The competitive procurement process takes eight to 15 months per release, depending on the size of each initiative.



Sometimes The Trust collects relevant input from participants and providers. This leads to the development of application and funding requirements. The community engagement and communications teams ensure outreach efforts inform the community of the funding opportunity. Applicants are provided supports through the bidders' conference, application training, and question/answer functionality in the online grants module. The programs team oversees the review process, including use of volunteer reviewers and applicant interviews.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, The Children's Trust released several competitive funding solicitations. Two related to major direct service initiatives—HealthConnect in Our Schools and The Children's Trust Book Club—and nine non-service solicitations for community engagement, communications services, investment advisory services, and program evaluation planning. The Book Club pre-planning efforts included collection of 19 focus groups with more than 100 parents. Promotion and outreach resulted in 492 complete applications for funding. Trained community volunteer reviewers assisted Trust staff in completing 1,476 ratings (at least three independent reviewers separately rate each application), and Trust staff conducted 15 interviews with applicants. In total, 214 contracts were awarded more than \$32.4 million.

These dashboards serve as powerful tools that expand access to timely and actionable program, contract, and fiscal performance data. They provide real-time insights and allow providers and Trust staff to track progress and outcomes with greater accuracy and efficiency. With visual charts that can be filtered by site and program timeframe, Youth Development providers and Trust program managers can assess key indicators such as enrollment, attendance, inclusion of children with disabilities, literacy assessments, differentiated instruction, and parent and child satisfaction survey results. These tools support informed decision making and reinforce accountability across funded programs.

TDS also collaborated with the finance and programs teams to build an internal invoicing dashboard that improves visibility of uncollected and eligible invoices within Trust Central. The dashboard simplified workflow processes, reduced rejected and late invoice submissions, and strengthened the organization's ability to track amendments and reimbursements. This enhancement improved the overall management of fiscal operations and supported timely and accurate payment processing.

To support the smooth adoption of new tools, The Children's Trust cross-departmental staff provided comprehensive assistance that included detailed training for Trust staff and providers, a dashboard guide accompanied by instructional videos, and open lab sessions to help users with access and navigation. These efforts underscore the organization's commitment to empowering providers and strengthening service delivery through high-quality data tools.

A new Parent Club data reporting system was developed and launched within Trust Central this year, making reporting more user-friendly and efficient. After the system's initial launch, the Parent Club Pass was also incorporated into the system to manage and track the attendance rewards earned by parents for repeat workshop attendance. Parent Club and Trust Academy dashboards continue to be maintained by research and evaluation staff and shared regularly as static reports to providers. The Parenting Metrics were deployed in Trust Central in January 2025, supported by ongoing staff and provider training. The metrics grids allowed teams to access real-time data, sparking meaningful conversations on program performance and future planning.

This year, The Children's Trust launched Microsoft Copilot 365 for all staff. This AI-driven resource enhances productivity, streamlines workflows, and supports cross-functional collaboration. Staff members now use Copilot to draft communications, summarize complex documents, analyze data, and manage project planning with greater

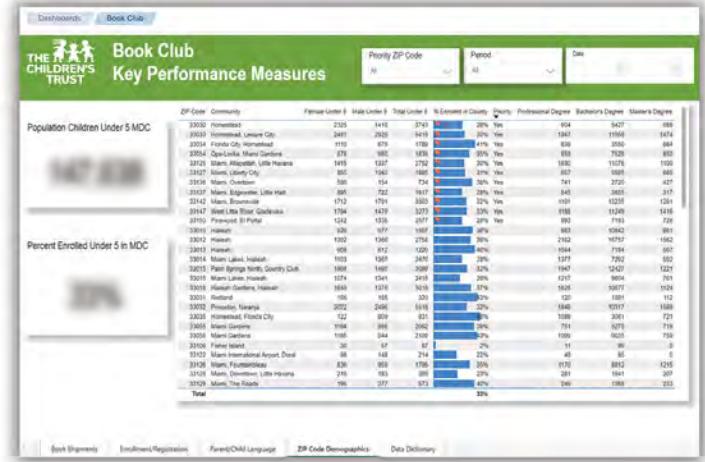
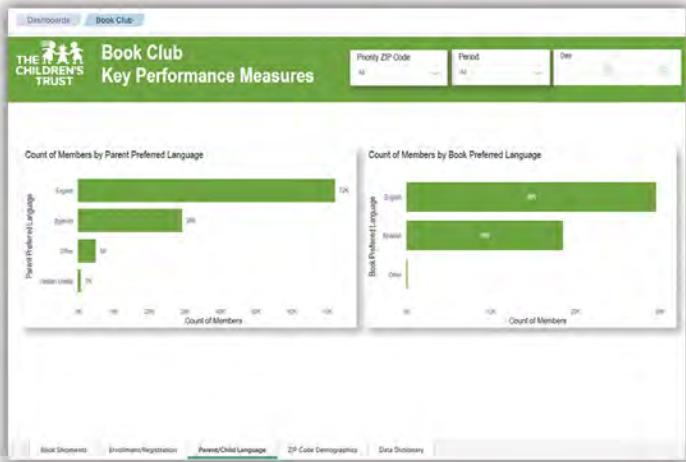
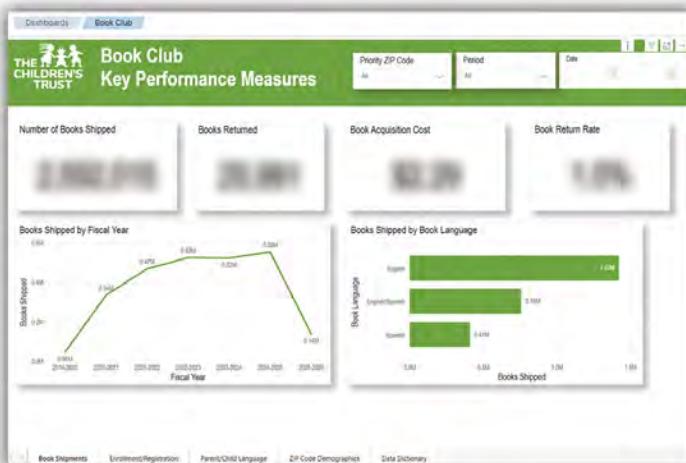
Technology Design & Solutions

In fiscal year 2024-2025, the Technology Design and Solutions (TDS) team advanced its mission to deliver user-centered tools that improve access to critical resources for parents and providers across Miami-Dade County. TDS supports programmatic and operational business processes in collaboration with all departments at The Children's Trust by developing and maintaining data collection and transformation systems that strengthen the organization's capacity to access, interpret, and use data effectively.

This year, together with Trust programs and research staff, the TDS team deployed and continued helpdesk support of the second iteration of the Youth Development dashboards to providers; launched the Youth Development Trust-view array of dashboards for internal staff to more easily review aggregate results; and released several new provider-facing dashboards, including for Family and Neighborhood Support Partnerships, Benefits Enrollment, Book Club, and fiscal dashboards.

speed and accuracy. To ensure all employees can take full advantage of this new tool, TDS delivered ongoing trainings that included live demonstrations, targeted workshops, and guided practice sessions grounded in real Trust use cases. These efforts continue to build staff confidence, support organization-wide adoption, and improve efficiency across teams.

Looking ahead, The Children's Trust remains committed to expanding innovation and digital transformation. TDS will continue to develop and refine tech-enabled solutions that ensure families and providers can access the support they need through reliable, easy-to-use systems.



Innovation Fund

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

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

In October 2024, a new 12-month innovation cycle began, including 21 contracts awarded for \$1,619,000. Some examples of funded projects are noted below.

University of Miami - Department of Psychology, Early Science Initiative (ESI): The ESI team created three bilingual, culturally relevant science board books designed specifically for infants and toddlers in Miami-Dade's high-poverty communities, using a human-centered design approach and expert early science learning frameworks. Focus groups identified three themes that resonated with families: the park, animals and pets, and mealtimes, which guided the creation of A Day in the Park, Animals, and Breakfast. The books were distributed at four Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership sites, reaching 163 families. Families loved the real-life photographs of families who participated in the focus groups and expressed appreciation for the introductory pages that explain the scientific practices and learning concepts, such as cause and effect, structure-function, and stability and change.

NABU Global Inc.: NABU enhanced its Haitian Creole and English storybooks with audio narration and playback features to expand multisensory literacy access for Miami-Dade's Haitian Diaspora community. The team strengthened bilingual learning opportunities by integrating high-quality audio into its digital library, and in partnership with Family Action Network Movement (FANM), measured the impact of these bilingual resources on children's literacy development, demonstrating promising results for culturally rooted, multilingual learning.



Hosanna Community Foundation, Inc.: Hosanna launched Fueling Young People with Purpose, a program designed to equip Liberty City teens with life skills, job readiness, and trade training through a network of trained mentors. Although originally contracted to serve 20 youth, the program reached 12 to 24 young people daily, providing consistent support and expanded opportunities. Hosanna partnered with The Urban Construction Craft Academy, AMIKids, and Community Tradesman to provide youth with the foundational knowledge to acquire certifications in carpentry, plumbing, and more.



Additional Information





Funded Service Providers

Agencies may be funded to provide multiple programs and may also fund additional agencies as subcontractors.

1 World Learning Center	Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami	City Year
300 Letters	Big Ideas Educational Services	CMB Visions Unlimited
7 Heaven Learning Center	Blossom Group Florida	Community Coalition
93rd St Community Development Corporation	Blue Angel Learning Center	Community Health of South Florida
A Gift From Heaven Child Care	Borinquen Health Care Center	Community Learning Coalition
A Magical Learning Center	Bossin' Up Enterprise	Community Outreach Center
A Worthy Cause	Boys & Girls Club of Miami-Dade	Concerned African Women
A Youth Awareness Community Corporation	Branches	ConnectFamilias
ABC Daycare and Preschool	Breakthrough Miami	Country Club Children's Education Center
Above & Beyond Learning Daycare	Bricks Early Learning Center	Countryside Learning Center
Above And Beyond Learning	Bright Futures Preschool and Learning Center	Create Kids
Abrahams Large Family Child Care Home	Bright Star Academy Day Care	Creative Kids Academy
Abundant Living Citi Church	Brighter Days Foundation International	Cuban American National Council
Academy for Kids Preschool	Brilliant Beginning Learning Center	Curious Children Learning Center
Achieve Miami	Brilliant Kids Academy	Dave and Mary Alper JCC
Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts	Building Tools Learning Center	Decroly Learning Child Care Center
Adults Mankind Organization	Bumble Bee Day Care & Learning Center	Demerville Family Day Care Home
Advocate Program	C.H.A.N.G.E. Charity	Diamond Learning Center
Affirming Youth Foundation	Cadence Academy Preschool	Discovery Years Child Care Centers
Agape 4 Orphans International	Campbell Academy	Do Good 41
Aguilar Large Family Child Care Home	Campbell Academy South	Dream in Green
Aladdins Paradise Academy	Candyland Learning Center	E.D.B.B
Alfalit International	Cannonball Youth Club	EAguilera
All Florida Youth Orchestra	CAPS International	Early Learning Coalition of Miami-Dade
Always Children Day Care	Carlmar	Early Start
Always Children Learning Center	Carousel Of Angels	Easter Seals South Florida
Amari's Micro Miracle Project	Carreno Large Family Child Care Home	Eatwell Exchange
Amazing Learning Academy	Casa Valentina	Educate Tomorrow
America's Little Leaders Christian Academy	Castellanos Large Family Child Care Home	Educational World Learning Center
Amigos Together for Kids	Catalyst Miami	Eduplay Schools
Amplify Community Resources	Catholic Charities	Eduvillage2
Anave Large Family Day Care Home	Cato Family Day Care Home	Empowering Early Learning Educators
Anderson Large Family Child Care Home	Cayuga Centers	Empowering Youth
Angels Love & Care	Celebrity Kids Club Of Miami Gardens	EnFamilia
Angelz on Deck	Center for Family & Child Enrichment	Epilepsy Florida
Anolan D Arias Large Family Child Care Home	Center for Virtual and Community Advancement	Esther Johnson (Y.E.S. Academy)
Arc Project Thrive #4	Centro Campesino Farmworker Center	Excel Kids Academy
Area Performance Gallery	Centro Mater	Excelsior Prep Academy Preschool
Arelys Orozco Family Day Care Home	Centro Mater East Child Care Center	Exchange for Change
Arias Family Day Care Home	Chapman Partnership	Fairway Future Golf
Armour Dance Theatre	Charming Kids Preschool	Family & Children Faith Coalition
Arts for Learning	Children Kingdom Enrichment Center	Family Action Network Movement (FANM)
Association of Exchange and Development of Activities and Partnership	Children of Destiny Learning Academy	Family Central
Autism Speaks	Children of Inmates	Family Christian Association of America
Ava's Path	Children of the Sun Academy	Family Resource Center of South Florida
Avenues of Excellence	Children's Bereavement Center	Fantasy World Learning Center
Ayuda	Children's Home Society	Fantasyland Academy
B & G Preschool	Childrens International Academy Center	Federation of Families, Miami-Dade Chapter
B.L.U.E. Missions Group	Children's Paradise Academy	Fernandez Family Day Care Home
Barbershop Speaks	Children's Paradise Learning Academy	Fernandez Large Family Day Care Home
Barry University	Children's Place Learning Center	First Discovery Links Learning Center
Be Strong International	Children's Village/The Resource Room	First Serve Miami
Beautiful Beginnings Preschool & Daycare	Citrus Health Network	First Step Champions
Behind the Leaf	City of Hialeah	Fit Kids of America
Belafonte TACOLCY	City of Homestead	Five Star Learning Center
Believers of Authority Ministers	City of Miami	FL Academy Corp
Bell Large Family Day Care Home	City of Miami Beach	FLIPANY
Best of the Bess	City of Miami Gardens	Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County
Bethany Academy of Arts	City of North Miami	Florida Film Institute
Beyond the Bars	City of North Miami Beach	Florida Insider Fishing Report
	City of West Miami	

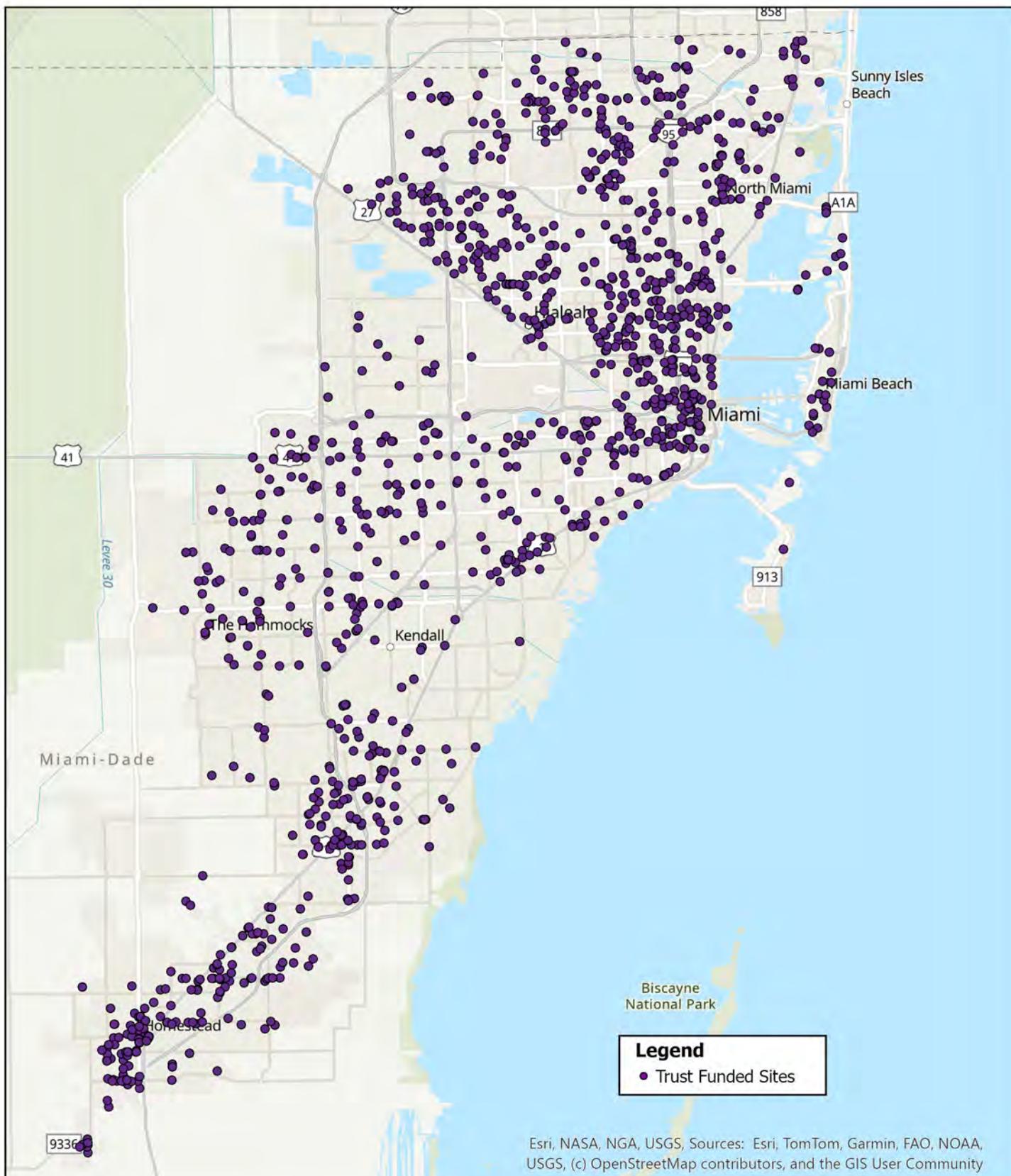
Florida International University	Interamerican Learning Center	Liberty Academy Daycare and Preschool
FLOTA	International Bilingual Preschool	Liberty City Optimist Club
FOCAL (Foundation of Community Assistance & Leadership)	International Children's Academy	Lifeway Programs
Francis Large Family Child Care Home	International Rescue Committee	Li'L Abner Foundation
Friends of South Florida Music	IQ Academy	Lincoln Marti
Friends of The Children-National	Ismary Capote Family Day Care Home Corp	Little Angel Academy
Friends of The North Miami Public Library	It's A Small World Academy	Little Angels Christian School & Daycare
Friendship Circle of Miami Beach and North Dade	It's A Small World Learning Centers	Little Apple Learning Center
Frontline Education	Jay's Learning Center	Little Beginners
Future Leaders Academy	Jean Piaget Academy	Little Big Planet Learning Center
Future Leaders Academy of Kendall	Jefferson Noel & Associates	Little Butterfly Learning Center
Future Leaders of Tomorrow Academy	Jessie Trice Community Health Center	Little Children's Learning Academy
Gamebred Youth and Families	Jewish Community Services of South Florida	Little Genius Learn & Play
Gandara Large Family Child Care Home	Jinny's Learning Center	Little Hands of America
Gang Alternative	Jitta Bug Learning Center	Little House of Mary Learning Center
Garden Of Light Academy	Jordan Family Day Care Home	Little Innovators Early Learning Academy
Genesis Hopeful Haven	Judah Christian Center Ministries	Little Kingdom
Global Speech and Rehab Services	Just Kids Centers	Little Me Learning
Golden Apple Academy	K.K.L.B. Learning Center	Little One's Academy Corp
Gomez Family Day Care Home	Kayleen's Learning Center	Little Red School House of Homestead
Gonzalez Large Family Child Care Home	Kerube's Korner PreK of Coral Gables	Little Star Day Care Homestead
Gonzalez Large Family Day Care Home	Key Biscayne Community Foundation	Little Stars Learning Center Corp
Goulds Coalition of Ministers and Lay People	Khaila Montessori Academy	Little Starz Academy
Greater Love Primary Learning Center	Kiddie Corner Academy	Little Steps Childcare & Preschool
Greater Miami Youth for Christ	Kiddy Academy	Little Tigers Of Miami Gardens
Greater Miami Youth Symphony	Kids 4 Us Corp	Little Village Childcare & Learning Center
Greater Saint Matthews Holiness Church	Kids Adventure Learning Center	Lopez-Acevedo Large Family Day Care Home
Growing Angels	Kid's Choice Learning Center	Los Pinos Nuevos Academy
Growing Treasures	Kid's Club Academy	Love Seed
Growing Treasures Learning Center	Kids Colors Learning Center	Love Thy Kids Academy
Growing With Love Learning Center	Kid's Day Care & Kindergarten	Lovely Stars Child Care
Guardian Watch	Kid's Haven Academy	Macedonia Community Outreach Ministries
Guitars Over Guns	Kids In Action Daycare Kindergarten	Magic Kids Learning Center
Happy Dreams Learning Center	Kids Land Day Care	Maldonado Large Family Child Care Home
Happy Faces Academy	Kids Learning Center of South Dade	Many Happy Hearts
Happy Family Learning Center	Kids Paradise 2	Maranatha Child Development Center
Happy Garden Day Care And Preschool	Kids Paradise Child Care & Learning Center	Margarita's 2 Child Care Home
Happy Garden Learning Day Care Center	Kids Paradise Learning Center	Marina Family Child Care
Happy Hearts Day Care	Kids Planet	Martija Large Family Day Care Home
Happy Hearts Learning Center	Kids Rainbow Learning Center	MCCJ (Mosaic Miami)
Happy Memories Learning Center	Kids Small World Learning Center	Meni-Ninho-Menin-Ninha Preparatory
Happy Place Academy	Kidsville Learning Centers	Mexican American Council
Happy Times Day Care And Learning Center	Kidworks USA	Mi Mundo Feliz Child Care Home
Hard Knocks Foundation	Kidz Rainbow Learning Center	Miami Beach Gay Pride
Healthy Start Coalition of Miami-Dade County	Kinderkids Academy	Miami Children's Museum
Hernandez Family Day Care Home	Kinderkids Daycare And Learning Center	Miami Dade College
Hernandez Large Family Child Care Home	Kinderkids Learning Center & Preschool	Miami Dance Project
His Hands and Feet	Kingdom Academy	Miami Homes For All
His Loving Hands Christian Academy	KLC Academy	Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Holmes Large Family Child Care Home	Knowledge Builders of Florida	Miami Music Festival
Homestead Christian Academy	KP Cares Foundation	Miami Music Project
Honey Bee's Garden Daycare	Kristi House	Miami Strike Force
Honey Shine	LA Academy	Miami Youth Garden
Hope, Heart and Home	La Casita Academy	Miami-Dade County
Hopeful Hair	La Scala L'Enfant Learning Center	Michael-Ann Russell JCC
Hosanna Community Foundation	La Scala Preschool	Mickey Mini Miracles Academy
ICU Baby	La Viña Del Señor	Mini Me Day Care Learning Centers
IKIDS Preschool	Latin GRAMMY Cultural Foundation	Mini Me Learning Center
Imagination Learning Academy	Laurencio Large Family Child Care Home	Miriam Cardoso Family Day Care Home
Imagine Silver Palms Academy	Le Jardin Head Start Program	MLS Academy Corporation
Impact Edition	Leadership Learning Center at St. John Bosco	Molina Large Family Child Care Home
Infinite Ways Network	Learning City Academy	Moonlighter Fablab
Informed Families	Leisure City Modello Optimist Club of Florida	Mourning Family Foundation
Integration Support Network Outreach	Level Up Tutoring Service	Mrs. Alvarez's Family Day Care Home
	Liberty Academy	



Ms. Claudia's Village Academy
Multi-Ethnic Youth Group Association (MEYGA)
Musical
My Happy House Day Care
My Little Angels Day Care Center
My Little School Academy
My Little World
My World Learning Center
NABU Global
Nanas Child Care Learning Center
Naranja Prep Academy Annex
National Black Child Development Institute
Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship
New Aladdin Learning Center
New Angels Day Care
New Hope Development Center
New Horizons Community Mental Health Center
New Horizons Preschool
New Jerusalem Community Development Corporation
New Stars Academy
New Wave Learning Centers
Nicklaus Children's Hospital
NICU Alumni
North Dade Regional Academy
North Miami Beach Learning Center
North Miami Beach Youth Athletic Club
Nova Southeastern University
Oak Learning Academy
Odalis Gonzalez Revol Large Family Childcare Home
O'Farrill Learning Center
OIC of South Florida
Old Cutler Academy Learning Center
On The Horizon Learning Center & Dance Studio
One Hundred Black Men of South Florida
One Royal Effect Foundation
Opa-locka Community Development Corporation
Oral Health Florida
Ortiz Family Day Care Home
Our Chance Enterprise
Our Child Care
Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School
Our Little Hands of Love
Out of Foster Foundation
Overtown Children and Youth Coalition
Overtown Optimist Club
Overtown Youth Center
Paredes Large Family Child Care Home
Paren Teen Moments
Parent to Parent of Miami
Parks & Police 4 Kids
Peace CDC
Pena Large Family Child Care Home
Perez Large Family Day Care Home
Petit Carrousel
PFA Charities
Philanthropy Miami
Pink & Blue Daycare
Play & Learn Child Care Centers
Play ABC Academy
Prado Kids Vision Learning Center
Precious Kids Academy
Precious Little Angels Day Care
Precious Smiles Preschool
Preschool Curly's Kids
Primary Learning Academy
Principitos Learning Child Care Center
Progressive Firefighters Association Inc. of Dade County
Project Peace Latin America
Prosperity Social Community Development Group
PSWAP (Professionals Sharing With A Purpose)
Mentoring and Swim Organization
Public Health Trust
Radical Partners
Rainbow Kids Center
Re Entry One
Reading & Math's Florida Reading Corps
ReCapturing the Vision International
Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA)
Reina Learning Center
RER Consulting Enterprise
Reyes Large Family Child Care Home
Richmond-Perrine Optimist Club
Rise Up 4 Change
Rising Leaders Learning Academy
Rodriguez Large Family Child Care Home
Rosalphanie Child Care 1
RV Little Giant Day Care Center
Safe Schools South Florida
Sanchez Large Family Child Care Home
Sanrau Corp. d.b.a. Lago Mar Pre-School
Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center
SBC Community Development Corporation
SF Learning
Shake-A-Leg Miami
Shakevia's Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation
Shanti Kids Preschool
Shepherd of God Christian Academy
Sheyes of Miami
Sheyes of Miami Learning Center
Shining Light Childcare Development Center
Shining Stars Childcare Center
Silent Victims of Crime
Sisters United Network
Skate Bud Program
Small World Day Care & Preschool
Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs School
Soler Stars Academy
Sons of Little Haiti
South Florida Autism Center
Southern Homestead Soccer Academy
Sparks Day Care and Preschool
Sports Konnect
Springview Academy
St. Alban's Child Enrichment Center
St. Paul AME Church Community Development Corporation
Star Student Success Academy
Stars Learning Day Care Center
Start Off Smart
Step Above Academy
Step By Step Educational Center
Steps for Learning Preschool
Steve's Academy
Strong Girls
Sundari Foundation's Lotus Village
Sunflowers Academy
Sunshine Child Care & Pre-School
Super Kids Christian Day Care Center
Su's Creative Corner Preschool
Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church
Teen Upward Bound
Tender Years Academy and Child Care
The 2nd House Academy
The 2nd House Day Care & Pre-School
The Advent School Academy
The Advocacy Network on Disabilities
The Alliance for LGBTQ Youth
The Arc of South Florida
The Art of Learning PLC
The Bright Days Preschool
The Carter Academy
The Center for Family and Child Enrichment
The Children's Voice Chorus
The Creative Child Day Care
The Education Fund
The Everglades Foundation
The Florida City Foundation
The Florida Family Partnership
The Full Deliverance Ministries
The Garden of Kids
The Giving Tree Christian Learning Center
The Home Team Miami
The Kids Academy Preschool
The King Carter Youth Foundation Incorporated
The Learning Center For Kids
The Learning Corner Academy
The Londonaid Project
The Lucy Project
The Mavuno Project
The Motivational Edge
The Murray Dranoff Foundation
The Optimist Foundation of Greater Goulds Florida
The Pontis Group
The Promised Land Academy for Christian Education
The Pumpkin Share
The Right Fit Educational and Consulting Services
The Rising Start Foundation
The Start Program
The Thinking Child Academy
The Voyager Early Learning Center
Thinking Child Educational Program
Thumbelina Learning Centers
Tiny Kingdom Learning Center
Tiny Steps Day Care Learning Center
Tiny Steps Preschool
Tiny Town Daycare Center
Tiny Town Development Center
Tiny Tykes Learning Center
Tops Christian Academy
Tot "R" Us Christian Preschool
Touching Miami with Love
Town Center Pre-School
Town of Bay Harbor Islands
Town of Cutler Bay
Training & Implementation Associates
Trinity Church
Tropical Audubon Society
Tutor Me Day Care & Learning Corp

U.S. Soccer Foundation
Unique Kids Family Childcare
United Community Options (UCO) of South Florida
United Way Miami
UniverCity Early Learning Center
University of Miami
Urban Health Partnerships
Urban League of Greater Miami
Urgent
Uribe Large Family Child Care Home
U-Turn Youth Consulting
Victoria's Playhouse Day Care & Pre-K
Victory for Youth
Villa Learning Center
Village Learning Center
Villar Family Day Care Home
Visionaries of the Future
Voices for Children/Guardian Ad Litem
Watch Me Grow Learning Centers
WCA Private School
Westchester Academy and Learning Center
Whispering Manes Therapeutic Riding Center
Williams Large Family Day Care Home
Wilner Maxy Community Center
Women of Tomorrow
Women Voice Network
Women's Fund of Miami-Dade
World Literacy Crusade Girl Power Rocks
World To Grow Learning Centers
Wynwood Learning Center
Yin Yang Academy
YMCA of South Florida
Young Children's Learning Center
Young Excellent Scholar Academy
Young Leaders Academy K-8 Corporation
Young Musicians Unite
YWCA South Florida
Zamlus





Program Service Sites 2024-2025

Data Source
- The Children's Trust

Location:
Miami-Dade County,
Florida

Created by
Research and
Evaluation
November 2025

The Children's Trust
3150 SW Third Ave
Miami, FL 33129
www.thechildrenstrust.org



Last updated January 2026

LEGEND	Positive Change	Negative Change	
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Community Results & Indicators

CHILDREN ATTEND QUALITY CHILD CARE

	Miami-Dade Most Recent Value (Year)	Miami-Dade Previous Value (Year)	Change Between Years	State of Florida Most Recent Value	National (US) Most Recent Value
Child care programs participating in Thrive by 5 QIS ¹	361 programs (2025)	327 programs (2024)	▲	not comparable	not comparable
Thrive by 5 QIS child care programs at the highest quality levels (tier 4/5) ¹	80% (2025)	71% (2024)	▲	not comparable	not comparable
Children attending Thrive by 5 QIS child care programs ¹	32,376 (2025)	28,400 (2024)	▲	not comparable	not comparable
Thrive by 5 QIS early care & education staff in ElevatEd with 60 credits/associates or higher degree ¹	698 staff (2025)	not available	—	not comparable	not comparable

CHILDREN ARE SUPPORTED BY NURTURING AND INVOLVED PARENTS

Families with children under 18 years in the labor force ²	74% (2023)	75% (2022)	—	74% (2023)	72% (2023)
Children in food insecure households ³	17% (2023)	18% (2022)	▼	18% (2023)	18% (2023)
Child maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children) ⁴	1.4 (2023)	1.3 (2022)	▲	4.3 (2023)	6.7 (2023)
Rate of unintentional child injuries resulting in hospitalization (per 100,000) ⁵	104 (2024)	96 (2023)	▲	135 (2024)	214 (2023)

CHILDREN ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN

Kindergartners Ready for Kindergarten (Star Early Literacy Assessment) ⁶	43% (Fall 25)	40% (Fall 24)	▲	44% (Fall 25)	not comparable
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STUDENTS ARE SUCCEEDING ACADEMICALLY

Students attending school regularly (< 10% absences annually) ⁷	72% (2023-24)	71% (2022-23)	▲	69% (2023-24)	72% (2022-23)
3rd grade students reading at a satisfactory or higher level (FSA ELA exam) ⁸	60% (2024-25)	56% (2023-24)	▲	57% (2024-25)	not comparable
4th grade students reading at or above the basic level (NAEP Reading exam) ⁹	63% (2024)	71% (2023)	▼	62% (2024)	60% (2024)
8th grade students reading at or above basic level (NAEP Reading exam) ⁹	65% (2024)	72% (2022)	▼	63% (2024)	67% (2024)
8th grade students' math scores at or above basic level (NAEP Math exam) ⁹	54% (2024)	63% (2022)	▼	55% (2024)	61% (2024)

CHILDREN REGULARLY ACCESS MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Children who regularly access medical services ¹⁰	66% (2020)	85% (2018)	▼	72% (2023)	not available
Children who regularly access dental services ¹⁰	65% (2020)	85% (2018)	▼	74% (2023)	not available
Children who needed mental health services in the past year ¹⁰	68% (2022)	72% (2020)	▼	69% (2023)	not available
Children who have health insurance ²	93% (2023)	94% (2022)	▲	95% (2023)	95% (2025)
Students screened at schools who are at a healthy weight ¹⁰	65% (2024)	65% (2022)	▼	65% (2024)	not comparable
Kindergartners with required immunizations ¹¹	91% (2025)	91% (2024)	▲	89% (2025)	not available

YOUTH SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

Connected youth (16–19-year-olds who are in school and/or employed) ²	94% (2023)	94% (2022)	—	95% (2023)	95% (2023)
Students graduating within four years of entering 9th grade ¹²	93% (2024-25)	92% (2023-24)	▲	92% (2024-25)	87% (2021-22)
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 15–19-year-old females) ¹³	8 (2024)	9 (2023)	▼	12 (2024)	13 (2023)
Youth who vape (all middle and high school students) ¹⁴	16% (2024)	20% (2022)	▼	16% (2024)	6% (2024)
Youth arrested for crimes (per 1,000 youth ages 10 to 17 years) ¹⁵	5.3 (2023-24)	4.9 (2022-23)	▼	13.6 (2023-24)	not available
Youth homicides by firearms ¹⁶	9 (2024)	13 (2022)	▼	70 (2024)	not available



Community Results & Indicators

Last updated January 2026

CROSSCUTTING FACTORS (2023 ACS 5-year Estimates)

	Miami-Dade	State of Florida	United States
CHILD POPULATION (BIRTH TO 17 YEARS)	559,631	4,481,783	72,736,534
Annual births ²	29,253	220,659	3,628,934
Under 6 years ²	32%	30%	30%
6-11 years ²	33%	34%	34%
12-17 years ²	35%	36%	36%

DIVERSITY OF CHILDREN BY RACE / ETHNICITY

Hispanic ²	64%	34%	27%
Black ²	16%	18%	13%
White, non-Hispanic ²	15%	38%	46%
All other ²	5%	10%	14%

CHILDREN WHO ARE FOREIGN BORN AND/OR WITH FOREIGN-BORN PARENT(S)

Child is foreign born ²	28%	15%	8%
Child has one or two foreign-born parent ²	68%	36%	26%

PRIMARY HOME LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES*

Population 5 and over that speak only English at home ²	25%	70%	78%
Population 5 and over that speak Spanish at home ²	67%	22%	13%

* 9% speak a primary language at home other than English or Spanish (i.e., 41 other Indo-European, Asian and Pacific Island, and other languages).

FAMILY TYPE

Children in married-couple families ²	62%	66%	70%
Children in female householder families ²	29%	26%	23%
Children in male householder families ²	9%	8%	7%

FAMILY POVERTY STATUS

Children in families with income less than 100% poverty level ²	19%	15%	15%
Children in families with income between 100-199% of poverty level ²	24%	21%	19%
Children in families with income greater than 200% of poverty level ²	57%	64%	66%

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS/ CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Public school students with disabilities ⁸	12%
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