

2025



Annual Report

The following report shows activities, donations and finances for Fiscal Year 2025, a period that spans July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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A Letter from our CEO, Carol Deloach

Fiscal year '25 presented both challenges and opportunities for Communities Connected for Kids.

We are navigating a system that is increasingly complex—where children entering care often have higher behavioral and mental health needs, and where funding has not kept pace with the demand for services. These realities require creativity, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to our mission.

Despite these challenges, our team continues to deliver strong results. We have seen fewer children entering foster care, more children achieving permanency, and a growing ability to serve families safely in their homes. These outcomes reflect a strategic shift toward prevention—meeting families earlier and reducing the need for more traumatic interventions.

One of our most significant advancements has been the continued growth of the Early Services Engagement Program (ESEP). This innovative approach allows us to intervene earlier in the investigative process, helping stabilize families and reduce the number of removals. Programs like ESEP demonstrate that when we invest in prevention, we improve outcomes for children while also reducing long-term system costs.

At the same time, we are addressing ongoing financial challenges caused by a funding structure that has not kept pace with the true cost of care. We continue working closely with state leaders and local partners to advocate for sustainable solutions that ensure the long-term stability of our system.

Even in the face of these challenges, I am incredibly proud of our dedicated Board of Directors, staff, caregivers, and community partners. Their commitment, compassion, and innovation make it possible for us to continue building a stronger system of care—one where more children can safely remain with their families and grow to their full potential.

Carol Deloach, CEO



Performance Overview

*Fewer Entries.
Stronger Outcomes.
Changing Needs.*

235

Children Entering
Care in FY25

42%↓

Reduction in Entries
Over Two Years

96%

No Re-entry After
Permanency

Fiscal Year 2025 reflects a child welfare system in transition.

The number of children entering care continues to decline, driven by stronger prevention efforts and earlier intervention. Over the past two years, entries into foster care have decreased by 42 percent, reaching just 235 children in FY25.

At the same time, outcomes for children who do enter care remain strong.

- 52 percent of children achieved permanency within 12 months
- 64 percent of children achieved permanency within 12-23 months
- 96 percent did not reenter care after achieving permanency

Safety and stability indicators also remain high, with consistent performance across in-home services and placement stability.

While overall outcomes remain positive, year-over-year trends reflect an evolving system. Modest changes have emerged in measures such as time to permanency and placement stability, alongside shifts in the characteristics of children entering care.

Children entering care today are more likely to be older youth and to present with complex behavioral and mental health needs. Although fewer children are being served overall, the intensity of services required has increased—underscoring the need for adaptive strategies, innovation, and strong community partnerships.

All children deserve to feel safe

Communities Connected for Kids provides oversight and coordination of the child welfare system in Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties. At any given time, there are more than 500 abused, abandoned, or neglected children under supervision. We are responsible for the safety, well-being, and permanency of each one of them. We meet this responsibility through a mix of direct and contracted services. Through a network of providers, partners, and community stakeholders, CCKids is responsible for ensuring that children are safe, families are supported, and youth achieve permanency and independence.



Mission

Our mission is to enhance the safety, permanency, and well-being of all children in the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee through a community network of family support services.

Vision

We envision a community without abuse, neglect, and abandonment so all children grow to their full potential.

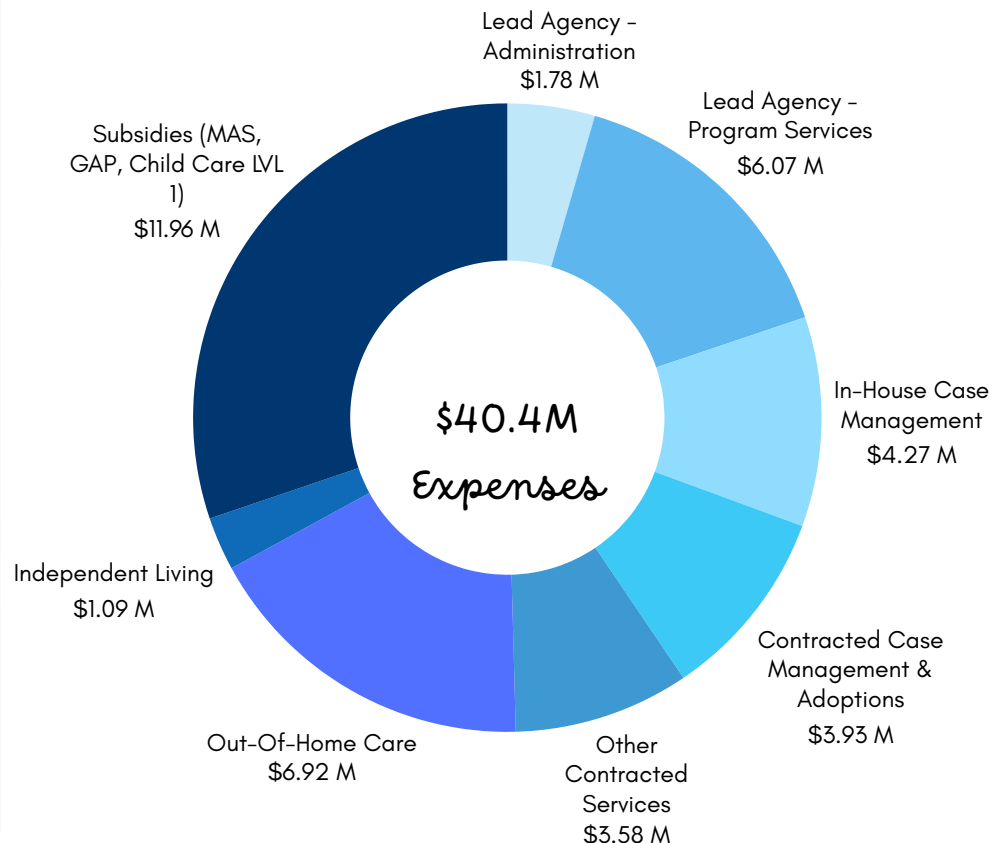
Financial



Communities Connected for Kids continues to face a structural funding deficit driven by a state funding formula that has not provided an increase in base funding for several years. As a result, the agency remains in a deficit position.

To sustain services in FY25, CCKids relied on supplemental funding sources, including emergency allocations from the Florida Department of Children and Families and legislative “back-of-the-bill” funding, totaling approximately \$1.75 million in FY25. CCKids is pursuing additional support to help bridge ongoing gaps.

At the state level, discussions are underway to revise the current funding methodology for all lead agencies. Early proposals indicate a shift to an expenditure-based model, which highlights significant underfunding across the child welfare system. Addressing this issue will remain a key focus of CCKids advocacy efforts.



Summary

DCF INCOME	\$38.1 M
Lead Agency - Administration	\$1.78 M
Lead Agency - Program Services	\$6.07 M
In-House Case Management	\$4.27 M
Contracted Case Management & Adoptions	\$3.93 M
Other Contracted Services	\$3.58 M
Client Support Services	\$806 K
Out-Of-Home Care	\$6.92 M
Independent Living	\$1.09 M
Subsidies (MAS, GAP, Child Care LVL 1)	\$11.96 M
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$40.4 M

Revenue:
\$38.1 M

Expenses:
\$40.4 M

Net Deficit:
\$2.3 M

program spotlight



“ ESEP is proof that prevention works. By investing in families before crisis, we’re reducing trauma & improving outcomes while using resources more effectively.

– Grace Sayre, Program Director ”

Launched in October 2024, the Early Services Engagement and Preservation (ESEP) program represents a shift in how child welfare is delivered—moving from crisis response to early intervention.

Instead of waiting for a situation to reach the point of removal, ESEP connects with families sooner, providing targeted support to stabilize the home and keep children safely with their caregivers. In its first year, the program already showed how early engagement can change outcomes.

In just the last nine months of FY25, ESEP made a measurable difference across Circuit 19. **A total of 147 children were served**, and the vast majority—**90 percent—remained safely at home** rather than entering foster care.

These results are helping drive the broader decrease in children entering care and reflect a system that is becoming more proactive and family-centered.

For many families, ESEP provides support at a critical moment—before challenges escalate into crisis—allowing children to remain connected to their homes, schools, and communities.

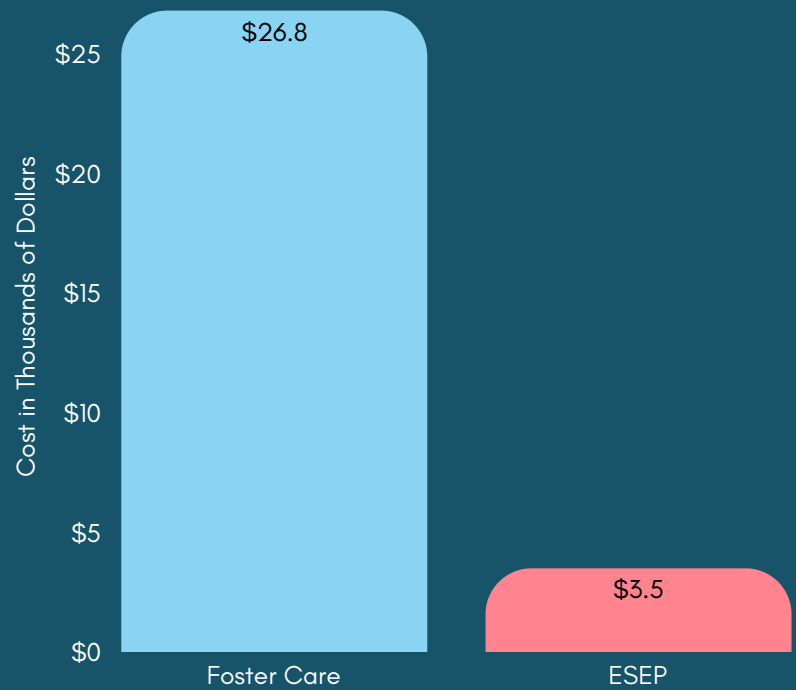
147 served → 133 diverted → 90% safe at home 7

Smarter Investment, Stronger Outcomes

ESEP is not only improving outcomes for children and families—it is also a more efficient use of resources. The cost to serve a child through ESEP is significantly lower than the cost of foster care, reinforcing prevention as a sustainable approach.

In its first year alone, the program generated \$1.56 million in avoided foster care costs and a 3-to-1 return on investment.

Annual Service Cost Per Child



The program's early success has led to continued investment at the state level. Funding for ESEP was secured for a second year through the state budget process, reinforcing confidence in its impact and long-term value.

As ESEP enters Year 2, it is already contributing to continued reductions in entries into care and stronger family stability across the system.

**\$1.56M
SAVED**

**3:1
ROI**

CCKids is now focused on exploring opportunities to bring the ESEP program to additional counties.



Nicole Williams, center, with CCKids Staff & Family

2025 Youth Advocate of the Year

Nicole Williams, a former foster youth, was named Florida's Children First 2025 Youth Advocate of the Year.

Nicole is a sophomore at Florida Atlantic University, maintaining a 3.85 GPA while pursuing a degree in psychology. She works three jobs while remaining deeply committed to advocacy and service.

She serves as a youth leader and advocate for her peers, representing youth voice through the Treasure Coast Alliance and leading the Dream Catchers Chapter of Florida Youth SHINE.

Her journey reflects resilience, mentorship, and purpose. As she shares, "my pain can drive my purpose," highlighting how she has transformed her experiences into advocacy for others.

Nicole's story demonstrates the powerful impact of support systems and investment in youth transitioning out of foster care.

3.85 GPA
Florida Atlantic University

3 Jobs
Working while in school

Youth Leader
Florida Youth SHINE

Advocate
Treasure Coast Alliance

“
My pain can drive my purpose.
”



Highlights

Throughout the year, CCKids brought the community together to raise awareness, support families, and celebrate those who care for children in need.

From the 1K Walk and Story Stroll promoting foster care awareness, to advocating with legislators for stronger protections for children, CCKids remained a visible voice for change. Families and supporters gathered at Sailfish Splash to honor foster parents, while the Manicure Movement highlighted Child Abuse Prevention Month and the importance of community action.

December brought a meaningful tradition—ensuring every child in care received gifts during the holiday season, thanks to the generosity of the community.

Each moment reflects a shared commitment to supporting children and families across Circuit 19.

Every opportunity to connect with the community strengthens the foundation of support for the children and families we serve.

Donors &

Thank you to our FY25 supporters:

Acentia Insurance
Alicia Phillips
Amber Strand
American Legion Auxiliary Post 40
Angela Boling
Berry Fresh Cafe
Brenda Henry Speights
Britney Lee Foundation
Carol Deloach
Clark Advanced Learning Center
Congruity HR
David Wagner
Dr. Tripp & Associates
Elizabeth Rodriguez
Eric Kohrhamer
First Presbyterian Church of PSL

First United Methodist Church of PSL
Florida Highway Patrol
Foster A Dream Foundation
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Hope Health & Wellness
Interstate Express
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Kappa Kappa Iota
Keller Williams
La Buona Vita
Lil' Feet
Mary Jean Navaretta
Melanie Wiles
Midport Church - It's My Very Own Bags



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St. Andrews Lutheran Church
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Suncoast Mental Health
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Treasure Coast Food Bank
United Way of St. Lucie County
Vero Orthopaedics
Voices for Children

Communities Connected for Kids extends its sincere gratitude to all donors, sponsors, and community partners for their support in Fiscal Year 2025. We apologize for any omissions.



\$97,000
In-Kind
Donations

\$19,500
+ Financial
Contributions

\$116,500
Total Value
of Donations

CCKids Volunteers

Board of Directors

Melanie Wiles
Dr. Angie Bailey
Kristy Conway
Vanessa Farnes
Leslie Kroeger
Pat McCoy
Michelle Miller
Gloria Seidule
Mark Young

CCKids Board of Directors serve as some of the organization's most engaged champions, providing both governance and meaningful support throughout the year.

In addition to their role in monthly board meetings, members advocate for children and families at both the state and local levels—working with legislators in Tallahassee and within their home districts to strengthen Florida's child welfare system.

Board members also play an active role in community engagement, supporting key initiatives, participating in resource drives, and representing CCKids across the region. Their leadership and partnership are critical to the success of events, as well as broader outreach efforts that connect the community to the mission.

CCKids Staff

CCKids employees play an active role in supporting events and strengthening community connections throughout the year. From recruitment efforts to appreciation events and outreach, staff involvement helps bring these moments to life.

Through Volunteer Time Off (VTO), employees are provided up to four hours each month of paid time to give back. This allows staff to support CCKids events while also volunteering with local nonprofit organizations—extending the agency's impact across the community.



These efforts reflect a shared commitment to service and the children and families we serve.

Building Brighter Futures

In summary, child welfare continues to evolve, and CCKids remains focused on ensuring children and families have the support they need.

Through strong partnerships with state and local leaders, the organization is working toward sustainable funding while maintaining flexibility to respond to changing demands.

Initiatives like the Early Services Engagement Program are strengthening outcomes—reducing entries into care and allowing greater focus on children with more complex needs.



The youth in our Road to Success program have been busy achieving incredible milestones this year!

**COLLEGE GRADS FROM
FLORIDA STATE,
INDIAN RIVER STATE &
DAYTONA STATE**

**SEVEN NEW HIGH
SCHOOL GRADS NOW
ENROLLED IN COLLEGES
ACROSS FLORIDA**

**A YOUNG LEADER
JOINING THE HIGH
SCHOOL BAND**

**YOUTH STEPPING
INTO CIVIC GROUP
LEADERSHIP ROLES**

Children and youth in care are building brighter futures with the support and stability needed to succeed. From early childhood through young adulthood, they gain skills, confidence, and connection. With the dedicated support and continued investment of CCKids Road to Success staff, these children are not only preparing for the future—they are shaping it. The future is stronger when young people are given the opportunity to lead, succeed, and be heard.

*A stronger system. A stronger community.
A brighter future for every child.*



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