

CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 21, 2024 ~ 3:00 PM

AGENDA

MISSION: The Children's Board invests in partnerships and quality programs to support the success of all children and families in Hillsborough County.

CALL TO ORDER

Attendance Verification	K. Essrig
Quorum Verification	K. Essrig
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance	G. Myers

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Children's Board of Hillsborough County welcomes comments from the public. Those who wish to address the Board may do so at this time. Those to address the Board should state their full name and affiliation for the official record. In the interest of time, we ask that one person be designated to speak on behalf of a constituency and that all comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

K. Essrig

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DISCLOSURE

R. Bacon

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FY 2024 Audit Update – Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI)	J. White/ J. Brielmaier
---	-------------------------

ACTION ITEMS

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Approval; October 24, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes | K. Essrig |
| 2. Approval; Pro 2025-02 Mentoring Program for Children with Varying Abilities | M. Negron |
| 3. Approval; Release for 2025 Uniting Grants | M. Negron |
| 4. Approval; General Contractor for new Brandon Family Resource Center Buildout | P. Scott |
| 5. Approval; Release Payment for Brandon Roof Repair & Replacement | P. Scott |

PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS

St. Joseph's Supporting Motherhood and More	M. Negron
---	-----------

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Executive Director Reports | R. Bacon |
| A. Activities – October 25, 2024 – November 21, 2024 | |
| B. Live Local Act Exemption | |
| 2. Programs Reports | M. Negron |

3. Human Resources Report
 - Kat Rose, AP Coordinator
 - Kimberly Romeo, Digital Media Specialist

J. Furr

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

ATTACHMENTS

1. Contract Signature Logs (ASO, Programs, Vendors)
2. ASO FY 2025 Report
3. ASO/BOCC Social Services Funding FY 2024 Year End Report
4. ASO/BOCC Domestic Violence Funding FY2024 Year End Report
5. Good News
6. Outreach Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

December - NO MEETINGS

January

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting	January 09, 2025	12:00 PM
Board Workshop	January 23, 2025	1:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting	January 23, 2025	4:00 PM

February

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting	February 13, 2025	12:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting	February 27, 2025	3:00 PM

March

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting	March 13, 2025	12:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting	March 27, 2025	3:00 PM

April

Executive/Finance Committee Meeting	April 10, 2025	12:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting	April 24, 2025	3:00 PM

Children's Board of Hillsborough County

Year ending September 30, 2024

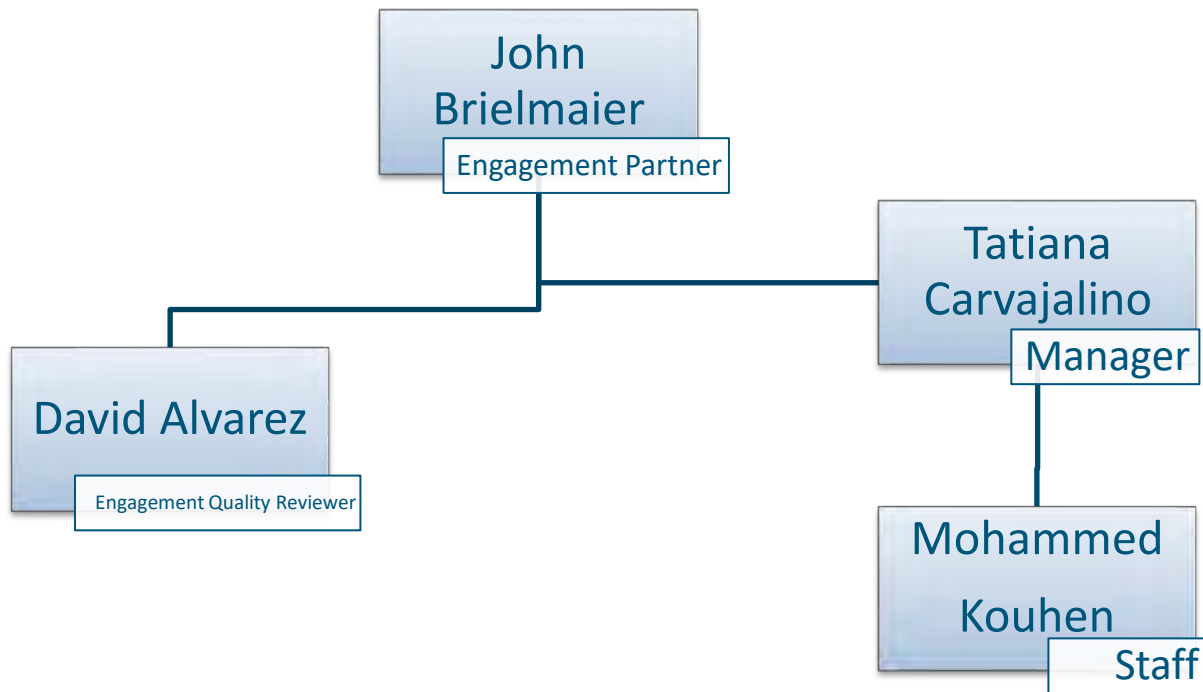
November 21, 2024

Communication with Governance



CRI CARR
RIGGS &
INGRAM
CPAs and Advisors

Engagement Team



Auditors' Responsibility

- Express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles
- Opinion units consist of governmental activities and the major fund
- We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), historical pension information and budgetary comparison information

Planned Scope

- An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements
- Our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested
- Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.
- We will communicate our significant findings at the conclusion of the audit.
- We will communicate any internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under professional standards

Timing of the Audit

- Interim: October 14, 2024
- Year-end Fieldwork: January 6, 2025
- Draft Financial Statements due: March 3, 2025
- Expected Issuance Date: March 7, 2025

Interim Update

- Procedures performed:
 - Audit planning
 - Walkthrough of significant audit areas
 - Cash Disbursements
 - Cash Receipts
 - Payroll
 - Capital Assets
 - Journal Entries
 - Compliance examination over FS 218.415 – Investment of Public Funds
 - Audit procedures over Florida Retirement Services
- **No findings noted**

Inquiry to those charge with governance

- Do you have knowledge of any
 - Possible or actual noncompliance or abuses of broad programs and controls occurring during the period being audited or the subsequent period?
 - laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements?
 - actual, suspected, or alleged fraud affecting the entity or its federal awards programs?
- Are you aware of any
 - significant unusual transactions?
 - significant related-party relationships and transactions
- Do you have any areas you would consider higher risk that you would like us to perform procedures over?

Questions



CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

BOARD MEETING

October 24, 2024 ~ 3:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Subject	Regular Board Meeting	Date	October 24, 2024
Facilitator	Robin DeLaVergne, Chair	Meeting Time	3:00 PM
Location	1002 East Palm Ave. Tampa, FL 33605	Actual Meeting Time	3:08 PM – 4:23 PM
		Adjourned	4:23 PM
Board Member Attendance	Robin DeLaVergne, Chair Katherine Essrig, Vice-Chair Andy Mayts, Secretary/Treasurer - absent	Megan Proulx Dempsey Gwen Myers Lynn Gray Sarah Naumowich	Van Ayres Ed Narain - absent Beth Pasek
Other Attendees	Rebecca Bacon, Executive Director David Adams, CBHC Board Attorney Kristina Austin, Recorder Kelly Hickman, CBHC Staff	Paula Scott, CBHC Staff Maria Negron, CBHC Staff James White, CBHC Staff John Furr, CBHC Staff	Jamie Robe, CBHC Staff - absent Genet Stewart, CBHC Staff Dexter Lewis, CBHC Staff Shabel Santiago, CBHC Staff

SUMMARY

No.	Topic	Highlights
I.	CALL TO ORDER	R. DeLaVergne called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> R. DeLaVergne called for Board attendance verification. K. Essrig led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Invocation.
	PUBLIC COMMENT	R. DeLaVergne asked for Public Comment; there was none.
	BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS	R. DeLaVergne recognized V. Ayers, L. Gray, and G. Myers for their coordination of efforts during the hurricane. V. Ayers expressed his appreciation for the many School Board employees that assisted in the pre and post hurricane efforts, the County's support, and TECO's hard work in restoring power to the schools. G. Myers advised the recovery efforts for the County will be ongoing.
II.	ACTION ITEMS	
	1. 9-3-2024 Preliminary TRIM Meeting Minutes Motion (1)	R. DeLaVergne requested approval of the September 3, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Meeting Minutes. <i>Motion by Megan Proulx Dempsey to approve the September 3, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Meeting Minutes; second by Beth Pasek; motion carried (8-0).</i>
	2. 9-16-2024 Preliminary TRIM Continuation Meeting Minutes Motion (2)	R. DeLaVergne requested approval of the September 16, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Continuation Meeting Minutes. <i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 16, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Continuation Meeting Minutes; second by Lynn Gray; motion carried (8-0).</i>

SUMMARY CONT.

No.	Topic	Highlights
	3. 9-16-24 Regular Board Meeting Minutes Motion (3)	<p>R. DeLaVergne requested approval of the September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes.</p> <p><i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; second by Megan Proulx Dempsey; motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	4. 9-25-24 Final TRIM Meeting Minutes Motion (4)	<p>R. DeLaVergne requested approval of the September 25, 2024 Final TRIM Meeting Minutes.</p> <p><i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 25, 2024 Final TRIM Meeting Minutes; second by Lynn Gray; motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	5. Contract Amendment for the Spring of Tampa Bay Motion (5)	<p>M. Negron requested approval of the contract amendment for the Spring of Tampa Bay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment will fund two salaries and fringe benefits for the Spring of Tampa Bay/ Family Safety from Domestic Violence Program; Salaries and benefits for the two positions will not exceed \$88,000 for FY2024-FY2025; Total amended contract amount of \$472,348 is allotted for FY 2024-2025; Amended contract will be effective October 1, 2024. <p><i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the contract amendment extension for the Spring of Tampa Bay; second by Beth Pasek; motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	6. Obligate Emergency Funding for Children’s Board Programs or Projects Motion (6)	<p>M. Negron requested approval to obligate emergency funding for Children’s Board Programs or Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The one-time funding will be time limited; Monies will be used for community recovery efforts due to recent hurricane impacts; Amount of obligated funding will not exceed \$1,000,000; Contract range for obligated funding will run from October 25, 2024 to September 30, 2025. <p><i>Motion by Megan Proulx Dempsey to approve the increased emergency funding for Children’s Board Programs or Projects; second by Katherine Essrig; Motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	Board Member Comments and Additional Motion Motion 6 (a)	<p>G. Myers requested the application be simple in nature and the process easy to navigate for funding approval.</p> <p>M. Negron advised the Board the application form will be approximately 1-2 pages in length and completed through an interview process. The only attachments to be requested are necessary for the contract.</p> <p>R. DeLaVergne inquired whether the funding would need to come back to the Board for approval.</p> <p>R. Bacon advised the Board the current emergency funding procedure requires the standard Board approval of any expenditures over \$75,000.</p> <p><i>B. Pasek requested the Board support an exemption to allow the Executive Director to contact the Board Chair to seek temporary approval of emergency funding requests that exceed the \$75,000 current limit to allow for expedited processing. Temporary approvals would be disclosed and ratified at the next Board meeting; second by Megan Proulx Dempsey; Motion carried (8-0).</i></p>

SUMMARY CONT.

No.	Topic	Highlights
	7. Obligate Emergency Funding for ASO Increased Allocation Motion (7)	<p>M. Negron requested approval to obligate emergency funding to increase the ASO FY 2025 Allocation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monies will be used to respond to immediate family needs; Amount of additional emergency ASO funding will not exceed \$500,000; Obligated emergency ASO funding will be available from October 25, 2024 to September 30, 2025; ASO funding with the increased amount raises the total FY2025 allocation to \$4,100,000. <p><i>Motion by Lynn Gray to approve the increased emergency funding for ASO Allocation; second by Gwen Myers. Motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	8. Re-Release of Holiday Out of School Time Grant Motion (8)	<p>M. Negron requested approval to re-release a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the 2025 Holiday Out of School Time Grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-release in October 2024 to potentially fund two new Holiday Out of School Time camps; Camps would support children with varying abilities Total allocation for camps not to exceed \$200,000; Anticipated contract term of March 1, 2025 to August 8, 2025. <p><i>Motion by Katherine Essrig to approve the Re-Release of an RFP for 2025 Holiday Out of School Time Grants; second by Gwen Myers. Motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
	9. Architectural Service Order Motion (9)	<p>P. Scott requested approval to allow the Executive Director to execute an Architectural Service Order for the future Brandon Family Resource Center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval requested to allow the Executive Director to execute a service order up to \$149,250; Service order would allow the Design Styles Architecture firm to provide all construction phase services needed to complete the build-out of the referenced Family Resource Center. <p><i>Motion by Lynn Gray to allow the Executive Director to Execute an Architectural Service Order for the future Brandon Family Resource Center; second by Beth Pasek. Motion carried (8-0).</i></p>
III.	PROVIDER PRESENTATIONS	
	Non-Profit Leadership Center/ Non-Profit Capacity Building	<p>M. Negron introduced Meriel Martinez, from the Non-Profit Leadership Center (NLC) concerning their Non-Profit Capacity Building Program.</p> <p>M. Martinez provided the following information about the Non-Profit Capacity Building Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Non-Profit Leadership Center was founded by the Children’s Board, Conn Memorial Foundation & United Way Suncoast; The Center serves Hillsborough, Hernando, Pinellas, Pasco, and Polk Counties; The NLC’s mission is to develop and connect non-profit leaders to strengthen organizations and our communities; Classes are provided on a variety of topics through the Center and focus on leadership and management, Board governance, fund development, grant writing, financial management, communications, marketing and more.

SUMMARY CONT.

No.	Topic	Highlights
III.	PROVIDER PRESENTATION CONT.	<p>A look at the 2023 Impact Report for the Non-Profit Leadership Center provided the following statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 98% of non-profit professionals say their knowledge increased after attending an NLC training class; • 9 in 10 nonprofit professionals reported they applied concepts learned at NLC events to achieve a desired outcome; • 93% of participants felt more confident in their leadership skills after attending an NLC training class; • Nearly 9 in 10 nonprofit professionals agree their participation in NLC events have helped them be more effective in their job.
IV.	REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS	
	1. Executive Director Report	<p>R. Bacon reported attending (44) significant meetings between September 17, 2024–October 24, 2024.</p> <p>Highlights for the referenced time-period include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings correlating to either core work or emergency response; • Check ins with provider agencies and system partners; • Coordinated with the County to disburse the CBHC funded Pack and Plays where needed. <p>R. Bacon thanked the staff and the Family Resource Center teams for their re-opening efforts. The facilities team worked with Lutheran Family Services to house their hurricane supplies in the Robertson Brandon building storage unit.</p> <p>CBHC staff volunteered at events including but not limited to a Hurricane Relief effort sponsored by Rebuilding Together Tampa Bay where hurricane response supply kits were given to families in need.</p>
	2. Programs Report	<p>M. Negron reviewed the following Programs related documents with the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FY 2024 Summer Services Report • The FY 2024 Summer Passports Report
	3. Public Relations Report	<p>D. Lewis reviewed the following items with the Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared the updated CBHC Video; • Reviewed the results of the Family Focus Campaign with ABC Action News and the Safe Sleep Interview, which aired September 25, 2024 during the preparations of Hurricane Helene; • The campaign reminded parents with infants to practice safe sleep if they evacuate. • Showed the Homepage Takeover on September 23, 2024 where the Prevent Needless Death Campaign took over the ABC Action News page; • Covered the YouTube Ad Network Overview, which ran a 30 second PSA to families and caregivers of children 5 and younger in Hillsborough County with a 34% Completion rate. <p>D. Lewis provided the varied ways the Children’s Board communicated with the Community during Hurricanes Helene and Milton.</p>

SUMMARY CONT.

No.	Topic	Highlights
	4. ASO Report	K. Hickman provided an update on the status of several ASO items including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With inclusion of the anticipated \$300,000 in BOCC Social Services funds, it is anticipated the FY25 budget for ASO will be \$4.5 million; The ASO was allocated \$4.2 million in FY 24 and ended the year with a little under \$150,000 unused.
	5. Human Resources Report	J. Furr provided the following HR related updates to the Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced the newest member of the CBHC staff, Raina Mamore, Fiscal Analyst; Discussed the Language Incentive Roll-out; Performance Management Process Improvement.
	ADJOURNMENT	The meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM.

MOTIONS

1.	<i>Motion by Megan Proulx Dempsey to approve the September 3, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Meeting Minutes; second by Beth Pasek; motion carried (8-0).</i>
2.	<i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 16, 2024 Preliminary TRIM Continuation Meeting Minutes; second by Lynn Gray; motion carried (8-0).</i>
3.	<i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 16, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes; second by Megan Proulx Dempsey; motion carried (8-0).</i>
4.	<i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the September 25, 2024 Final TRIM Meeting Minutes; second by Lynn Gray; motion carried (8-0).</i>
5.	<i>Motion by Gwen Myers to approve the contract amendment extension for the Spring of Tampa Bay; second by Beth Pasek; motion carried (8-0).</i>
6.	<i>Motion by Megan Proulx Dempsey to approve the increased emergency funding for Children's Board Programs or Projects; second by Katherine Essrig; Motion carried (8-0).</i>
6 (a).	<i>B. Pasek requested the Board support an exemption to allow the Executive Director to contact the Board Chair to seek temporary approval of emergency funding requests that exceed the \$75,000 current limit to allow for expedited processing. Temporary approvals would be disclosed and ratified at the next Board meeting; second by Megan Proulx Dempsey; Motion carried (8-0).</i>
7.	<i>Motion by Lynn Gray to approve the increased emergency funding for ASO Allocation; second by Gwen Myers. Motion carried (8-0).</i>
8.	<i>Motion by Katherine Essrig to approve the Re-Release of an RFP for 2025 Holiday Out of School Time Grants; second by Gwen Myers. Motion carried (8-0).</i>
9.	<i>Motion by Lynn Gray to allow the Executive Director to Execute an Architectural Service Order for the future Brandon Family Resource Center; second by Beth Pasek. Motion carried (8-0).</i>

READ AND APPROVED BY:

 KATHERINE ESSRIG
 BOARD VICE- CHAIR



ACTION ITEM NO. 2

Approval of PRO 2025-02 Mentoring Program for Children with Varying Abilities

Initiator: María Negrón, Director of Programs

Action: Approval of Pro 2025-02 Mentoring Program for Children with Varying Abilities

Date: Regular Board Meeting: November 21, 2024

Recommended Action

Recommend approval of a contract with one organization from January 27, 2025, through September 30, 2025 for a total request up to \$271,755 which may be annualized up to \$426,875 in Year 2 to support programming in the focus areas of Children are Ready to Learn and Succeed and Family Support.

Background

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released on August 29, 2024, to fund an agency with content expertise to offer a direct service, high-quality mentoring program that addresses prevention and early intervention with an allocation of \$300,000.

A total of two proposals were received and one proceeded to the Community Review Team.

On October 24, 2024, Shabel Santiago facilitated the Community Review Team meeting. Community Review Team members included: Vanessa Mishkit (Community Member), Sheila Zendequi (Retired Educator), Heather Cazzola, (Hillsborough County Children’s Services), and Gwen Parsons, (Hillsborough Community College).

Summary of Uniting Grant Reviewed

Summary	Score	FY 2025 Request	FY 2026 Request
<p>Children’s Home Inc. d/b/a Children’s Home Network <i>GUIDING STARS Mentoring Program</i></p> <p>GUIDING STARS mentoring program for K-8 children with varying abilities and their families will provide personalized support that fosters academic, social, and emotional development. Mentors will work with families in providing guidance, resources, and advocacy for children through inclusion, building confidence, and family engagement to promote growth and success.</p> <p>Location: Countywide</p>	83.67	\$271,755	\$426,875
Total:		\$271,755	\$426,875

Approval of Release for 2025 Uniting Grants

Initiator: Maria Negrón, Director of Programs

Action: Approval of Release for 2025 Uniting Grants

Date: Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2024

Recommended Actions

Recommend release in December of 2024 of a Request for Proposals for Uniting Grants to fund new programs which address Children are Ready to Learn and Succeed and Children are Healthy and Safe focus areas with a total allocation up to \$2,500,000 and an anticipated contract term between April 7, 2025 and September 30, 2025.

Background

- The intent is to fund multiple grants.
- Last month the Board approved to move funds from New Program Funding, leaving a balance of \$2,412,000 for the Uniting Grant Release. However, at least \$95,000 was available from New Funding due to release addendums, therefore \$88,000 was added to increase the total release amount to \$2,500,000 for Uniting Grants.
- The year two annualized amounts will be determined upon release.
- Uniting Grant cycles run through September 2027, and this is an opportunity to address current need areas:
 - Early learning (Kindergarten Readiness),
 - School readiness (Elementary or Middle School),
 - Supports surrounding Riverview, Florida region, and/or
 - Safety services.

Release RFQ for General Contractor Services – Brandon, FL

Initiator: Paula Scott, Director of Operations

Action: Approval to release a Request for Proposal for General Contractor Services for the future Brandon Children’s Board Family Resource Center located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

Date: Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2024

Background

During the Regular Board Meeting on August 24, 2023, the Board approved permission for the staff to explore the potential purchase of a commercial property in Brandon, including architectural assessments, appraisals, and additional due diligence to determine the feasibility for the property to serve as a future Brandon Family Resource Center located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

During the Regular Board Meeting on November 16, 2023, the Board approved permission for the Executive Director and Board Attorney to negotiate and enter into a Real Estate contract to purchase the property.

During an Emergency Board Meeting on February 12, 2024, the Board approved the request to proceed to closing.

On February 24, 2024, the Children’s Board closed on the property. The closing agreement allowed the previous owner to lease back the property for up to 90 days to complete the close out of his business activities.

Design Styles Architecture has been secured to provide Architectural and Engineering Services for the build out of the property and has been working with staff to complete the schematic design phase, to serve as a future Brandon Family Resource Center, and develop the construction drawings necessary for a General Contractor to complete the build out.

Recommended Action

Requesting Board approval authorizing staff to release a Request for Proposal for General Contractor Services for the build out of the property located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

Release Payment for Roof Repair and Replacement – Brandon, FL

Initiator: Paula Scott, Director of Operations

Action: Approval to release payment to BluSky Restoration for emergency roof repairs, roof replacement and installation of skylights of up to \$113,319.00 for the future Brandon Children’s Board Family Resource Center located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

Date: Regular Board Meeting, Thursday, November 21, 2024

Background

On February 24, 2024, the Children’s Board closed on the property located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

On Thursday, October 31, 2024, the Children’s Board staff became aware of significant damage to the roof as a direct result of Hurricane Milton. An insurance claim was immediately filed and remediation services to temporarily repair the roof were completed on Tuesday, November 5th.

The Children’s Board staff has been working directly with BluSky Restoration, a preferred vendor of our insurance carrier to assess the total damage, and provide an estimate, for permanent repairs.

The Children’s Board deductible for damage due to a named storm is 5% of the total insured value of the property, which amounts to \$64,695.00.

The upcoming full build out of the property as designed by Design Styles Architecture (DSA) includes the installation of skylights. With the pending restoration of the roof, DSA has agreed that adding skylights, at this time, would be prudent from both a project management and cost perspective.

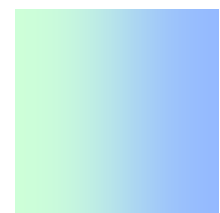
The Children’s Board staff is working with the architects to determine the exact specifications of the skylights. Due to required Board approval, the restoration company BluSky has put together an up to amount for the labor and materials to install the skylights of \$48,624.00. It is anticipated that this number will decrease when exact specifications are provided.

Recommended Action

Requesting Board approval for staff to release payment of up to \$113,319.00 to BluSky Restoration for emergency roof repairs, replacement, and skylight installation for the property located at 308 W. Robertson St., Brandon, FL 33511.

Supporting Motherhood & More

St. Joseph's Women's Hospital



Ammara Harrison, MSW

Brandi Askin, LMFT



Introduction

Who we are

Approximately 15% of all women will experience postpartum depression following the birth of a child. Up to 10% will experience depression or anxiety during pregnancy. When the mental health of the mother is compromised, it affects the entire family.

Supporting Motherhood & More has been serving our local community for almost 15 years! With the generous expansion in 2018 funded by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County, Supporting Motherhood and More has been able to offer individual and group therapy free of charge for Hillsborough County residents experiencing perinatal mood disorders.



What we offer

Telephonic Support & Screening

- Utilizing standardized assessments such as the Edinburgh Perinatal Depression Scale for pre and post service screening
- Initial phone contact and individualized telephonic follow-up at various intervals based on our client's need
- Provide psychoeducation and support during antepartum and postpartum period
- Connections with other women & community resources



Counseling



Our licensed master-level therapists are specialized in Perinatal Mental Health and evidenced based treatment modalities including CBT, Accelerated Resolution Therapy and Solution-Focused Therapy.

- What we offer:
 - Virtual Counseling
 - In – Person Counseling
 - Monitoring well-child visits & resources
- Who do we service?
 - Hillsborough County residents
 - Individuals 18+ years of age
- For how long?
 - Up to 16 sessions

Support Groups

Supporting Motherhood & More.

*Monday, November 4th @ 6 pm (Virtual) – Supporting Motherhood & More

Friday, November 8th @ 10:30 am (In Person) – Life After Childbirth
3030 W Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Tampa, FL – Classroom 1

Monday, November 11th @ 6 pm (Virtual) – First Time Mom*

Sunday, November 17th @ 4 pm (Virtual) – Moms of Multiples (M.O.M)
Under 5

Wednesday, November 20th @ 12 pm (Virtual) – Gratitude Journaling*

Thursday, November 21st @ 12 pm (Virtual) – Supporting Motherhood & More

Monday, November 25th @ 12 pm (In Person) – Supporting
Motherhood & More

3030 W Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Tampa, FL – Classroom 1

Monday, November 25th @ 6:00 pm (Virtual) – Gratitude Journaling
(2nd Session)*

We offer multiple groups based on interests and needs. Groups are both virtual and in person.



*** indicates specialty groups

Referral Sources & Process

Over the years, we have forged relationships with obstetrical providers in Hillsborough County and instituted global prenatal screening at many OB/GYN offices.

All women who deliver at BayCare are screened for PPD at 24 hours post delivery utilizing the EDPS.

Close collaboration with psychiatry and community providers for linkage and handoff if referrals are out-of-scope



Perinatal Depression Support Services Program – Referral Form

Referral Date: 7/20/23 Referral Source: Thea, SW

Demographics:
Patient Name: Jane Doe Date of Birth: 1/1/88
Pregnant: Postpartum: EPDS Score: 12
Phone Number: 123-456-7890 Email: janedoe@gmail.com
Address: 123 Appleseed Dr. Tampa, FL 33624

Reason for Referral:
MOB hx of anxiety/depression, experiencing increased anxiety since delivering baby. MOB has 2 y/o at home, supported by family. Requested services.

----- Perinatal Depression Program Updates -----

Date: VM Phone Email Support Group

Summary: _____

Data & Metrics

- **Expected Outcome 1:** At least 80% of a minimum of 60 parents/caregivers exhibit fewer symptoms of depression at the completion of therapy program.
- **Results Outcome 1:** 96% of 52 parents/caregivers exhibited fewer depression symptoms at the completion of the therapy program, as measured by reductions in Edinburgh Perinatal Depression Risk Assessment.
- **Expected Outcome 2:** At least 85% of a minimum of 100 parents/caregivers have increased knowledge of appropriate health and safety practices.
- **Results Outcome 2:** 100% of 77 participants participating in support groups maintained or improved their understanding of health and safety knowledge, as measured by health and safety pre/post tests.
- **Expected Outcome 3:** At least 85% of a minimum of 60 children at reduced risk of unintentional injury.
- **Results Outcome 3:** 92% of 51 children whose parents/caregivers participated in therapy program demonstrated reduced risk of unintentional injury, as measured by maintained or increased Life Skills Progression scores.
- **Expected Outcome 4:** At least 90% of a minimum of 60 children attend well-baby/well-child visits as prescribed by physician.
- **Results Outcome 4:** 100% of 51 children whose parents/caregivers participated in therapy program attended an adequate number of well-baby/well-child physician-prescribed visits.

Empowered
Women
Empower
Women

Noteworthy Mentions

Contact Us: 813-872-3925

perinatal-supportservices@baycare.org

“The therapist was truly a Godsend and helped me through one of the toughest periods in my life.”

“Kristina and her co-workers. They were so great about staying on top of my needs during a time when I couldn't do it for myself. It took me a long time to get the help I needed and they held me hand through all of it, encouraging me through every twist and turn. Had it not been for them, I would have not made my mental health a priority and my family would have paid a terrible price.”



“I wanted to reach out here and let you know that all is going very well and that Brandi has been wonderful. I'm very appreciative of this program and think it's helped me significantly so far.”

“My counselor Brandice was amazing. She is kind and non-judgmental. She really cares and really listens.”

“Brandi was extremely compassionate and easy to talk to.”

“Thank you so so so much! I am very grateful...I wish I reached out sooner, but better late than never.”

Children’s Board of Hillsborough County

Executive Director Report

October 25, 2024 – November 21, 2024

34 Meetings

Thrive By Five – Family Friendly Business Awards
Meaza Morrison – Junior League of Tampa
The Spring Gift of Peace Luncheon
Safe and Sound Leadership Council Meeting
Junior League of Tampa Community Advisory Board Meeting
Paulett Davis & Debra Siegbert – Hillsborough County Healthcare Services
Gene Earley Virtual Retirement Celebration
Boys and Girls Club Meet & Greet
Michele Watson – Florida Association of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT)
Florida Association of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT) Weekly Meeting
United Way Recovery Partner Meeting
Antoinette Hayes – Triplett Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative
Rosa Hill – Tampa Housing Authority
Jada Mcmillon – Positive Spin
Audrey Ziegler – Hillsborough County Social Services
Safe Sleep Taskforce
Heather Cazzola – Hillsborough County Children’s Services
Christienne Adrick & Stasey Whichel – Evergreen Solutions
Monica Narain and Owen Young – Hillsborough County Public Schools
Hillsborough Education Funder Conversation
Stefania Sweet – Orlando Health Foundation – West FL
Early Childhood System of Care meeting
Florida Association of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT) Weekly Meeting
Tim Marks and Christine Long – Metropolitan Ministries
Community Alliance Meeting
Child Abuse Death Review (CADR) Meeting
CBHC Provider Forum
Nicole Wilson – Spark Initiative
Robin Ingles – Seniors in Service
Florida Association of Children’s Councils and Trusts (FACCT) Weekly Meeting
Chip Diehl and Ben Eason
Community Alliance Advisory Committee
Terri Balliet – Children’s Network of Hillsborough County
Raintree Annual Meeting

Contract Signature Log
ASO ONLY
FY 2025

Entity/Agency	Contract Type	Brief Description	Contract Period	Contract Amount	Board Approved	Signed By	Date Signed
Isaac Anderson	ASO Provider	Tutoring	10/17/2024-ongoing	varies	No	Rebecca Bacon	10/17/2024
Teresa Jennings dba Douglas for Life LLC	ASO Provider	Douglas	10/29/24 - ongoing	Varies	No	Rebecca Bacon	10/29/2024

**Contract Signature Log
Programs ONLY
FY 2025**

Entity/Agency	Contract Type	Brief Description	Contract Period	Contract Amount	Board Approved	Signed By	Date Signed
CHILDREN'S HOME, INC., THE DBA CHILDREN'S HOME NETWORK	Uniting	Kinship Hillsborough	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$659,525.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/21/2024
EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, INC.	Investment	Community Developmental Screening	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,039,836.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/21/2024
THE SKILLS CENTER, INC.	Investment	Middle School Youth Opportunity (YO)	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$967,493.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/21/2024
UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC.	Uniting	Get Moving! Mind, Body, Soul	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$330,701.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/21/2024
TAMPA METROPOLITAN AREA YMCA, INC.	Uniting	Sulphur Springs YMCA Out of School Time Program	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$477,261.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/21/2024
METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES, INC.	Uniting	Children's Recreation, Education, Arts & Therapeutic Experience (C.R.E.A.T.E.)	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$712,857.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/22/2024
SUCCESS 4 KIDS AND FAMILIES, INC.	Uniting	Successful Families	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$723,342.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/22/2024
MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY	Leading	MOSI in Motion at Children's Board Family Resource Center in Plant City	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$125,000.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/25/2024
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL, INC. D/B/A ST. JOSEPH'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL	Investment	Mobile Health and Safety Education	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,270,438.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/25/2024
UNITED FOOD BANK & SERVICES OF PLANT CITY, INC.	Uniting	Food, Education, and Empowerment for Development (F.E.E.D.)	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$223,849.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	10/25/2024
HISPANIC SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.	Investment	La Red de Padres Activos / The Network of Active Parents	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,955,709.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/2/2024
MORE HEALTH, INC.	Leading	Healthy and Safe Kids	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$139,989.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/4/2024
THE FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER, INC.	Investment	Autism is Real	10/28/2024 -09/30/2025	\$1,279,402.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
THE FAMILY ENRICHMENT CENTER, INC.	Uniting	Motivated Minds	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$595,337.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
FAMILY HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION, INC.	Uniting	Connecting Kids to Care	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$521,533.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024

**Contract Signature Log
Programs ONLY
FY 2025**

Entity/Agency	Contract Type	Brief Description	Contract Period	Contract Amount	Board Approved	Signed By	Date Signed
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN, INC.	Uniting	Baby Bungalow	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$301,134.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN, INC.	Uniting	Layla's House	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$506,725.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN, INC.	Investment	Parents as Teachers	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$2,051,979.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.	Leading	Girl Scout Troop Program	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$174,345.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/5/2024
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN, INC.	Uniting	Family Focus	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$517,315.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
REDEFINERS WORLD LANGUAGES, INC.	Investment	Multilingual Citizens Program	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,235,925.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
HEALTHY START COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, INC.	Investment	HealthySteps Hillsborough	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,672,373.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
HEALTHY START COALITION OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, INC.	Investment	Safe Baby Plus	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,748,571.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
UNIVERSITY AREA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, INC.	Uniting	STEPS for the University Area	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$478,926.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
OASIS NETWORK OF NEW TAMPA. INC. D/B/A OASIS OPPORTUNITIES	Emergency Award	EF-Student Disaster Recovery Assistance	11/08/2024 - 04/30/2025	\$24,794.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
CHILDREN'S HOME, INC., THE DBA CHILDREN'S HOME NETWORK	Investment	Supporting and Empowering Educational and Developmental Services (SEEDS)	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$2,825,299.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
CHILDREN'S HOME, INC., THE DBA CHILDREN'S HOME NETWORK	Investment	Caregiver Support Services	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,178,068.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
REBUILDING TOGETHER TAMPA BAY	Uniting	Safe & Healthy Homes for Families with Children	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$357,000.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES, INC.	Investment	Pathways to Hope	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$1,141,552.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024
NONPROFIT LEADERSHIP CENTER OF TAMPA BAY, INC.	Leading	Capacity Building	10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025	\$176,400.00	YES	REBECCA BACON	11/8/2024

Contract Signature Log
Vendors ONLY
FY 2025

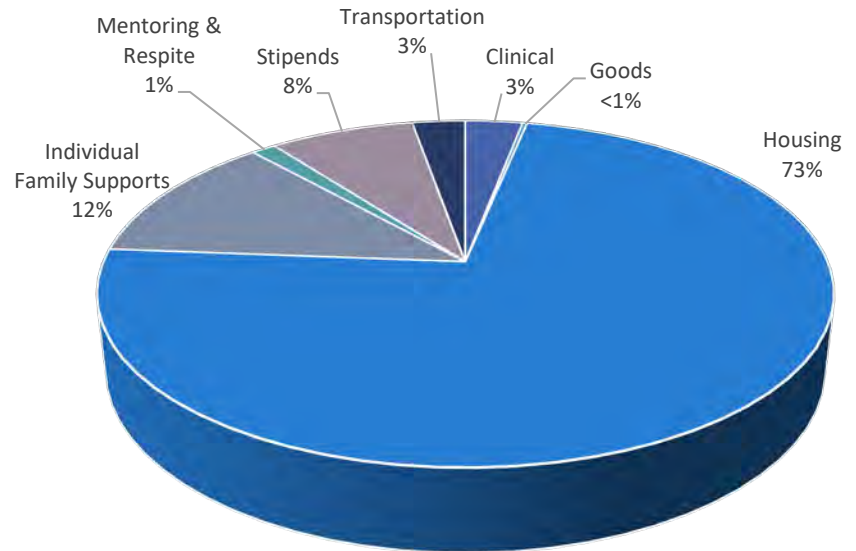
Entity/Agency	Contract Type	Brief Description	Contract Period	Contract Amount	Board Approved	Signed By	Date Signed
Trimen Lawn and Landscape	Vendor	Raintree Landscaping Agreement	10/1/24 - 9/30/25	\$4,980.00	No	Rebecca Bacon	10/23/2024
Design Styles Architecture	Vendor	Architectural Services for 308 W. Robertson St. in Brandon	10/24/24 - 9/30/25	\$149,250.00	Yes	Rebecca Bacon	10/25/2024
Sun Point SDC, LLC	Vendor	Rental Agreement for the Ruskin FRC	12/1/24 to 11/30/27	\$62,712.00	Yes	Rebecca Bacon	11/1/2024
Raintree Professional Owners Association, Inc.	Vendor	FY 2025 Membership Dues	10/1/24 - 9/30/25	\$26,504.00	No	Rebecca Bacon	11/6/2024
Bennett, Jacobs, & Adams	Vendor	FY 2025 Contract for legal services	10/1/24 - 9/30/25	\$55,000.00	No	Rebecca Bacon	11/8/2024
Valerin Group, Inc.	Vendor	Graphics & Translation Services	11/6/24 - 9/30/25	\$8,920.00	No	Rebecca Bacon	11/8/2024

Children's Board ASO - Fiscal Year 2025 Update as of 11-12-2024

	Funds Available	Funding Reserves	Allocated to Programs	Budgeted	Program Reserves	Expenses Paid	Percent Budgeted
Children's Board	\$4,100,000	\$1,549,000	\$2,551,000	\$564,299	\$1,986,701	\$354,786	14%
BOCC DV	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$21,789	\$78,211	\$17,356	22%
BOCC Social Services	\$300,000	\$165,000	\$135,000	\$46,591	\$88,409	\$35,450	16%
	\$4,500,000	\$1,714,000	\$2,786,000	\$632,679	\$2,153,321	\$407,591	

Top Ten Services - All Funding Sources		
Service	# of Budgets	Funds Budgeted
Tutor	209	\$66,150
Rental Assistance	153	\$231,598
Electric	144	\$57,444
Baby Items	78	\$19,905
Emergency Shelter	73	\$56,625
Food Stipend	68	\$18,918
Public Transportation	65	\$3,770
Security Deposit	32	\$64,797
Housing Specialist	26	\$5,100
Clothing Stipend	25	\$7,135

Top Ten Services - Children's Board Funds Only		
Service	# of Budgets	Funds Budgeted
Tutor	209	\$66,150
Electric	142	\$56,604
Rental Assistance	130	\$201,725
Baby Items	78	\$19,905
Emergency Shelter	73	\$56,625
Food Stipend	68	\$18,918
Public Transportation	46	\$2,698
Clothing Stipend	25	\$7,135
Housing Specialist	21	\$4,225
Security Deposit	20	\$39,392



Funds Budgeted by Category - All Funds

	FY25 YTD
Programs	54
Case Managers	330
Providers Utilized	241
Providers Added	44
Families	774
Budgets	1,066
Payments	662

11-12-24 is day number 43 (of 365) of FY25 (12%).



Administrative Services Organization

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Social Services Funding
Year End Report – 2024

“ASO boosts case management efficiency by reducing administrative tasks and expanding access to resources, ultimately benefiting both the clients and the case management team.”

- ASO CASE MANAGER

CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

November 12, 2024

Authored by: Kelly Hickman, Director of the ASO

Administrative Services Organization

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Social Services Funding

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION (ASO) OVERVIEW

The Administrative Services Organization (ASO) is a program created and operated by the Children's Board of Hillsborough County to manage a dedicated pool of flexible funds. Implemented in 2003 to support family directed care, the ASO promotes a wraparound approach in which families identify their strengths, needs, goals and service providers through a family support plan. As a payment of last resort, flexible funds managed by the ASO can be used to provide supports and services with qualified community providers. In Fiscal Year 2024, ASO flexible funds assisted a variety of target populations including but not limited to pregnant women, young children, children at risk of social-emotional delays, victims of domestic violence, and families facing homelessness.

Trained case managers from participating agencies work with families to develop individualized family support plans and select from a wide range of services and supports for the children and their families. Families can prioritize the most critical services and select a provider of their choosing. Currently, 85 different service types are available from a fully credentialed provider network that includes a wide variety of agencies, vendors, individuals, local businesses, and faith-based organizations.

The Children's Board ASO offers funds management, accounts payable services, detailed financial reporting including reports to enrolled families, provider credentialing and network management, and quality assurance. All processes are managed through a custom web-application which increases efficiency and accountability and offers real-time data to participating programs and funders.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDS

In November 2017, the Hillsborough County BOCC approved an allocation of \$300,000 to fund housing supports to be administered by the Children's Board ASO through an interlocal agreement. After a successful first year, a new agreement was established to provide \$300,000 for Fiscal Year 2019 and since then it has been renewed annually. In January 2023, the agreement was modified to include up to an additional \$200,000. For Fiscal Year 2024 Hillsborough County BOCC allocated \$500,000 to the Children's Board. The Children's Board entered into agreements with select ASO partner agencies to provide access to these funds. The goal of the funding is to enhance services to vulnerable families throughout Hillsborough County who are committed to becoming self-sufficient. The funds support the wraparound process and development of family support plans in existing case management programs.

Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds were made available for the following ASO services only: rental assistance for families in crisis, first month's rent, and security deposit. An inspection by Code Enforcement was required for all rental properties and the Children's Board coordinated the inspection process through Social Services.

CASE MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds were made available to sixteen case management programs that were also accessing Children’s Board funds through the ASO. All case managers participated in required trainings in the ASO model prior to being allowed system access, as well as training specific to this funding source. Programs were awarded initial allocations and funds were distributed from the reserve to address needs at the program level throughout the year. The programs and their utilization of ASO funds are detailed below.

Program	Allocation	Budgeted	Actuals
A Path to Prevention [Dawning Family Services, Inc.]	\$61,734	\$61,734	\$61,734
EACH One Initiative [Positive Spin, Inc.]	\$29,802	\$29,802	\$29,802
Family Safety from Domestic Violence [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	\$61,644	\$61,644	\$61,644
First Hug [Metropolitan Ministries]	\$11,444	\$11,444	\$11,444
Hand Up Assistance Program [Family Promise of Hillsborough County, Inc.]	\$22,876	\$22,876	\$22,876
Healthy Families [Champions for Children]	\$8,517	\$8,517	\$8,517
Healthy Families [The Children's Home D/B/A Children's Home Network]	\$12,941	\$12,941	\$12,941
Healthy Start [Success 4 Kids & Families]	\$34,609	\$34,609	\$34,609
Kinship Care [Family Enrichment Center]	\$11,913	\$11,913	\$11,913
Kinship Care [The Children's Home D/B/A Children's Home Network]	\$8,495	\$8,495	\$8,495
La Red de Padres Activos/The Network of Active Parents [Hispanic Services Council]	\$75,377	\$75,377	\$75,377
Pathways to Hope [Metropolitan Ministries]	\$16,974	\$16,974	\$16,974
School Social Work [Hillsborough County Public Schools]	\$60,561	\$60,561	\$60,561
Sin-Cera, Inc. Support Services [Sin-Cera, Inc.]	\$75,652	\$75,652	\$75,652
Steps for Success [University Area CDC]	\$3,368	\$3,368	\$3,368
Woven Empowerment (WE Program) [Just Initiative]	\$3,870	\$3,870	\$3,870
	\$499,776	\$499,776	\$499,776

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

There were 255 participants enrolled in the ASO by case managers to access Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds. Demographic highlights for enrolled participants, as reported by case managers, are as follows:

- **GENDER** → 52% were female and 48% male.
- **RACE** → 58% were Black or African American, 35% were White, 3% were Two or More Races and the remainder were Asian, Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or Not Available.
- **ETHNICITY** → 60% were Not Hispanic or Latino, 38% were Hispanic or Latino, and the remainder were Not Available.
- **MEDICAID ENROLLED** → 53% were reported to be enrolled in Medicaid, 4% not enrolled in Medicaid, and 43% unknown.

Note that most participants enrolled in the ASO represent a child in the family, so the demographics are that of the child.

The breakdown of enrollment by program is shown in the table below. Utilization of ASO funds by program varies based on the population served by that program, the needs presented during the family support planning process, and other resources available to meet those needs.

Program	Families Served
A Path to Prevention [Dawning Family Services, Inc.]	20
EACH One Initiative [Positive Spin, Inc.]	11
Family Safety from Domestic Violence [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	43
First Hug [Metropolitan Ministries]	10
Hand Up Assistance Program [Family Promise of Hillsborough County, Inc.]	8
Healthy Families [Champions for Children]	5
Healthy Families [The Children's Home D/B/A Children's Home Network]	8
Healthy Start [Success 4 Kids & Families]	20
Kinship Care [Family Enrichment Center]	7
Kinship Care [The Children's Home D/B/A Children's Home Network]	5
La Red de Padres Activos/The Network of Active Parents [Hispanic Services Council]	44
Pathways to Hope [Metropolitan Ministries]	12
School Social Work [Hillsborough County Public Schools]	26
Sin-Cera, Inc. Support Services [Sin-Cera, Inc.]	33
Steps for Success [University Area CDC]	2
Woven Empowerment (WE Program) [Just Initiative]	1
	255

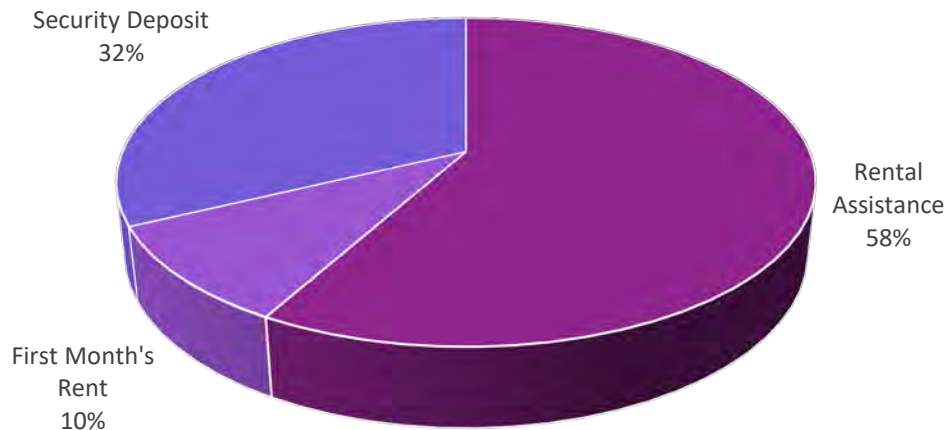
SERVICES PURCHASED

The table below summarizes the number of payments by service type, as well as the total dollar amount by service, for this funding source.

Utilization by Service		
Service Type	Funds Budgeted	Total Budgets
Rental Assistance	\$290,407	178
Rental Assistance – First Month	\$48,605	42
Security Deposit	\$160,764	84
	\$499,776	304

The chart below illustrates the distribution of payments by service type using Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds.

ASO Expenditures by Service Type



PROVIDERS

As needs are identified and the eligibility to use ASO funds is determined, providers are selected by families with the assistance of their case manager. The ASO offers a large, diverse provider network from which families may choose, as well as the flexibility to add new providers based on the needs of the children and families enrolled. The ASO database includes more than 5,100 active providers, of which 1,364 are credentialed. Note that while Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds pay for three ASO services related to housing supports, participating programs use their primary funding source to pay for other needed services.

The ASO issued 305 payments to 198 unduplicated providers with Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds. Note that there was one budget with two payments.

The number of providers paid by service type were as follows. Note that some providers were paid for more than one service.

Providers Utilized	
Service Type	# of Providers Paid
Rental Assistance	142
Rental Assistance – First Month	38
Security Deposit	69

MONITORING

The Children’s Board conducts ASO monitoring visits of all programs that access Children’s Board and Hillsborough County BOCC funds. The ASO monitoring visit includes an overall assessment of adherence to ASO guidelines as well as a random sample record review of ASO participants. The client record review is conducted to ensure that services purchased by the ASO directly relate to goals that are documented in the family support plans, and that there is evidence the participants received the services.

Most programs utilizing County BOCC Social Services funds performed very well in the monitoring process. Twelve programs received a 100% score for the number of services found on family support plans, and all achieved a score of 85% or higher. Of the 16 programs reviewed, County Social Services budgets were selected and reviewed for 14 of the programs due to random selection. Of the 51 County Social Services-funded budgets reviewed, 50 services were found in family support plans, for a funding source-specific score of 98%. All County Social Services funded budgets were fully substantiated by proper back-up documentation. The table below summarizes the monitoring results of participating programs.

Program Name	Agency	ASO Monitoring Completed	Services in FSP?
A Path to Prevention	Dawning Family Services, Inc.	4/19/2024	100%
EACH One Initiative	Positive Spin, Inc.	5/20/2024	93%
Family Safety from Domestic Violence	The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.	4/25/2024	100%
First Hug	Metropolitan Ministries	5/15/2024	100%
Hand Up Assistance Program	Family Promise of Hillsborough County	9/30/2024	100%
Healthy Families	Champions for Children	6/25/2024	92%
Healthy Families	The Children's Home	6/25/2024	85%
Healthy Start	Success 4 Kids & Families	7/24/2024	100%
Kinship Care	Family Enrichment Center	3/26/2024	100%
Kinship Care	The Children's Home	4/2/2024	100%
La Red de Padres Activos/The Network of Active Parents	Hispanic Services Council	5/1/2024	100%
Pathways to Hope	Metropolitan Ministries	6/5/2024	100%
School Social Work	Hillsborough County Public Schools	9/20/2024	100%
Sin-Cera, Inc. Support Services	Sin-Cera, Inc.	7/16/2024	100%
Steps for Success	University Area CDC	10/29/2024	100%
Woven Empowerment (WE Program)	Just Initiative	5/2/2024	85%

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Family feedback was obtained through a web-based survey in September for participating programs. The Spring of Tampa Bay administered surveys directly to their participants through their case managers. Forty-one participants served by the County BOCC Social Services funds responded to the family survey. Based on the number of participants utilizing BOCC Social Services funding (255), surveys were received from 16% of the population served.

The summary of responses for ASO participants who returned surveys is as follows:

- 98% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that the ASO has helped their family meet their goals.
- 80% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that they have been given choices about which services their family gets.
- 80% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that they have been given choices about who provides services for their families.
- 90% of participants reported that they received the service that they needed the most.
- 85% of participants reported that they received the service in a timely manner.

When asked what they liked best about the ASO and services provided, participants responded with positive feedback about their case manager, the ability to have their needs met, and the timeliness of the assistance. A few of their comments are as follows:

- *“The team of people who helped me and my family were kind and attentive at all times, giving us the precise help we needed.”*
- *“It was fast and helped me out when I definitely needed it the most.”*
- *“The process was smooth. Everyone was friendly and helpful.”*
- *“Very nice people that worked really hard to get the job done. Made me feel wanted and special.”*
- *“Follow-up, availability, and professionalism.”*

Web-based surveys were also administered to ASO case managers in September. Of the 129 case managers accessing Hillsborough County BOCC Social Services funds, 55 responded to the survey, for a 43% response rate. Highlights from their responses are as follows:

- 95% were almost always or often satisfied with the ease of obtaining ASO services.
- 80% were almost always or often satisfied with the process for requesting new providers.
- 93% were almost always or often satisfied with the timeliness of ASO payments.
- 95% were almost always or often satisfied with the customer service received from the ASO.
- 100% agreed that they were more confident in their ability to meet families’ needs.

When asked what impact the ASO has on families, the following responses were provided:

- *“Stable housing is the main impact of the ASO on families. With limited resources in the community to address financial assistance, mainly rental assistance, having the ASO allows us to address housing issues.”*
- *“ASO reduces the stress and burdens our families face in hard economic times.”*
- *“The ASO has a tremendous impact on families by providing crucial financial support when other resources are unavailable. It has helped families stay in their homes with rental and bill assistance. This immediate, flexible support has been a lifeline for many families in crisis.”*
- *“Everything that is of value to helping families: knowledge, stability, and supports.”*
- *“Families often feel hopeless and alone, but the ASO brings them renewed hope and happiness.”*

When asked what difference the ASO makes in their work as a case manager, the following comments were made:

- *“The ASO plays a vital role in streamlining tasks that help me manage duties like coordinating resources for families. It simplifies payment processing, freeing me to focus more on directly assisting clients.”*
- *“ASO gives me the security of being able to help families meet their objectives and goals.”*
- *“My work feels complete when I have the ability to assist families through the ASO. It simplifies the process and allows me to accomplish things I wouldn't be able to achieve on my own.”*
- *“Having the support of ASO helps us to provide quality services and supports to all of our Hispanic families.”*
- *“ASO has given me an alternative option when other programs are not able to help clients out.”*

SUMMARY

The following success indicators were included in the agreement between Hillsborough County Social Services and the Children’s Board:

1. During the reporting period, at least 90% of participating families developed a family support plan, as evidenced by a random sample of case files reviewed by the organization during monitoring visits.
2. During reporting period, at least 60% of participating families reported the ASO and partner agencies helped their family meet their family support plan goals.
3. During the reporting period, at least 80% of participating families report they received the services needed to promote self-sufficiency.

All three (3) success indicators were met or exceeded, based on monitoring visits and quality management survey responses:

1. **All families served are required to have a family support plan in which ASO services are documented. Monitoring visits revealed that 98% of the County-funded ASO budgets reviewed included the service in the family support plan.**
2. **98% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that the ASO has helped their family meet their goals.**
3. **90% of participants reported that they received the service that they needed the most.**

The partnership between Hillsborough County Social Services and the Children’s Board ASO continues to enhance services to vulnerable families throughout Hillsborough County who are committed to becoming self-sufficient. 255 families received services to promote stability and self-sufficiency. All but \$224 of the \$500,000 was utilized in Fiscal Year 2024.

The number of families experiencing financial instability and housing insecurity continues to grow. At the time of report-writing, the ASO has utilized 16% of the Fiscal Year 2025 allocation of \$300,000. It is anticipated that the assigned allocation will be fully utilized well before fiscal year end.



Administrative Services Organization

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Funding for Domestic Violence
Year End Report – 2024

“In my experience, ASO impacts our families in a very strong way. They financially support our families to maintain stable housing and other needs when life's obstacles get in the way.”

- ASO CASE MANAGER

CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

November 13, 2024

Authored by: Kelly Hickman, Director of the ASO

Administrative Services Organization

Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners
Funding for Domestic Violence

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES ORGANIZATION (ASO) OVERVIEW

The Administrative Services Organization (ASO) is a program created and operated by the Children’s Board of Hillsborough County to manage a dedicated pool of flexible funds. Implemented in 2003 to support family directed care, the ASO promotes a wraparound approach in which families identify their strengths, needs, goals and service providers through a family support plan. As a payment of last resort, flexible funds managed by the ASO can be used to provide supports and services with qualified community providers. In Fiscal Year 2024, ASO flexible funds assisted a variety of target populations including but not limited to pregnant women, young children, children at risk of social-emotional delays, victims of domestic violence, and families facing homelessness.

Trained case managers from participating agencies work with families to develop individualized family support plans and select from a wide range of services and supports for the children and their families. Families can prioritize the most critical services and select a provider of their choosing. Currently, 85 different service types are available from a fully credentialed provider network that includes a wide variety of agencies, vendors, individuals, local businesses, and faith-based organizations.

The Children’s Board ASO offers funds management, accounts payable services, detailed financial reporting including reports to enrolled families, provider credentialing and network management, and quality assurance. All processes are managed through a custom web-application which increases efficiency and accountability and offers real-time data to participating programs and funders.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOCC) FUNDS

In December 2013, the Hillsborough County BOCC approved an allocation of \$100,000 to the ASO to fund supports and services for victims of domestic violence (DV). Based on community feedback from the agencies serving victims of domestic violence and the primary service needs of families, ASO funds were allocated to key case management programs serving this population in Fiscal Year 2014. Since that time, Hillsborough County BOCC has renewed the agreement with the Children’s Board annually.

CASE MANAGEMENT PARTNERS

In Fiscal Year 2024, Hillsborough County BOCC DV ASO funds were accessed by two case management programs that serve victims of domestic violence. Fourteen case managers from these programs were trained and authorized to access ASO funds at year end.

The programs are as follows:

- Emergency Shelter [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.] - Their 128-bed residential facility is in a secure location and provides temporary shelter for individuals and families who may be in danger due to domestic violence. While in shelter, participants are assigned an advocate who helps them create a service plan based on their individual needs and connects them to the appropriate community services.
- Family Safety from Domestic Violence (Outreach) [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.] - Advocates assist with safety planning, information, referrals, advocacy, link to shelter, supportive counseling, and other resources on the survivor’s behalf in the community. Outreach also offers multiple support groups and proactively reaches out to underserved populations.

The allocation and utilization of Hillsborough County BOCC DV ASO funds by program is detailed below. Family Safety from Domestic Violence (Outreach) [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.] also utilized additional ASO funds for housing supports through the partnership with Hillsborough County Social Services.

Program	Allocation Amount	Unbudgeted	Budgeted	Actuals
Emergency Shelter [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	\$46,911	\$1,961	\$44,950	\$44,950
Family Safety from Domestic Violence [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	\$53,089	\$2,151	\$50,938	\$50,938
	\$100,000	\$4,112	\$95,888	\$95,888

PARTICIPANTS SERVED

There were 173 participants enrolled in the ASO by case managers to access Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds. The breakdown of enrollment by program is shown below.

Program	Participants Enrolled
Emergency Shelter [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	95
Family Safety from Domestic Violence [The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.]	78
	173

Demographic highlights for enrolled participants as reported by case managers are as follows:

- **GENDER** → 89% were Female and 11% Male.*
- **RACE** → 55% were Black or African American, 33% were White, 4% were Two or More Races, and the remainder were Asian or Not Available.
- **ETHNICITY** → 74% were Not Hispanic or Latino, 19% were Hispanic or Latino, and the remainder were Not Available.
- **MEDICAID ENROLLED** → 34% were reported to be enrolled in Medicaid, 16% not enrolled in Medicaid, and 50% unknown.

**Note that some participants enrolled in ASO represent a child in the family and some represent the adult victim.*

SERVICES PURCHASED

The services and supports purchased by the ASO assist families in a variety of ways and must be directly related to a goal in the family’s support plan. Once other resources are exhausted and the decision is made to utilize ASO funds, the intent is to provide what families need in an individualized and timely manner, from a provider of their choosing.

Eighty-five different services and supports are available for purchase through the ASO in the categories of clinical services, housing, goods, respite, mentoring, individual family supports, stipends, and transportation. Of the available services, 24 service codes were utilized for participants and 262 individual payments were issued through this funding source. The most utilized ASO services for Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds were public transportation, rental assistance/security deposits, vehicle fuel, electric, housing inspections for relocation, identification documents, travel expenses, vehicle repair, and moving/storage.

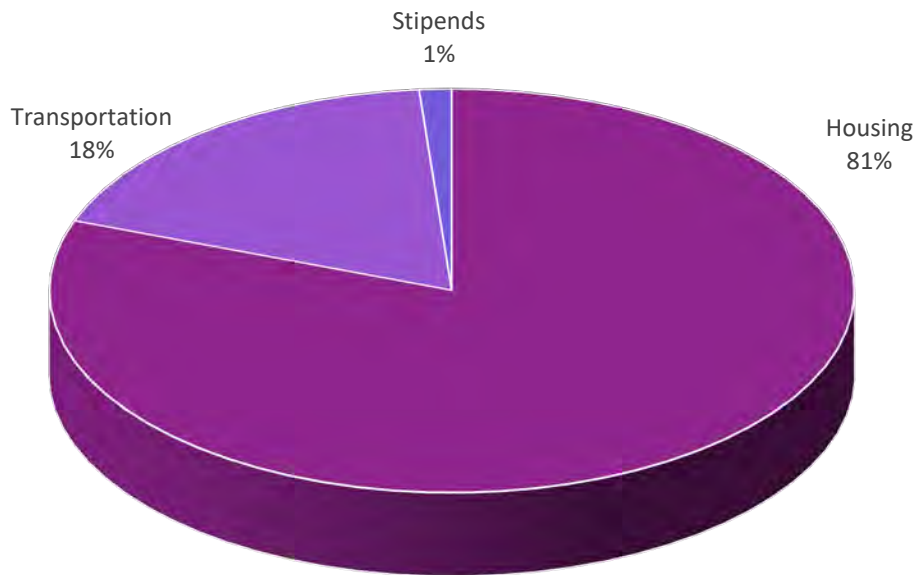
The table below summarizes the number of payments by service type, as well as the total dollar amount by service, for this funding source. There was an increase in the utilization of funds for electric, rental assistance, and security deposits. There was a decrease in furniture, baby items, and clothing stipends for this funding source.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 173 families received assistance with 262 concrete supports in the areas of housing supports, transportation, and stipends. Some families received assistance with more than one support. Fewer participants were served again this year; however, the funding was almost fully utilized. This is due to changes in the type of services purchased as well as an increase in the cost of services, especially for housing supports.

Service	# of Families	# of Payments	Total Payments
Adult Education Course	1	1	\$480
Baby Items	1	1	\$60
Clothing Stipend	2	2	\$148
Electric	23	25	\$8,992
Food Stipend	1	1	\$29
Furniture	1	1	\$476
Gas	1	1	\$151
Housing Specialist	21	21	\$3,675
Housing: OTHER	2	3	\$325
Identification Documents	8	9	\$527
Moving/Storage	4	5	\$614
Phone	3	4	\$534
Public Transportation	68	72	\$4,763
Rental Assistance	32	37	\$35,831
Rental Assistance - First Month	11	11	\$9,605

Service	# of Families	# of Payments	Total Payments
Security Deposit	15	15	\$16,850
Transportation Fees	2	2	\$102
Transportation: OTHER	2	2	\$480
Travel Expenses	9	9	\$3,498
Vehicle Fuel	23	25	\$1,377
Vehicle Insurance	4	4	\$1,214
Vehicle Payment Assistance	1	1	\$415
Vehicle Repair	7	9	\$5,501
Water	1	1	\$241
		262	\$95,888

The chart below illustrates the distribution of payments by service category using Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds. There were no expenditures in the categories of clinical, goods, individual family supports, mentoring, or respite.



Expenditures by Category

PROVIDERS AND VENDORS

As needs are identified and the decision to use ASO funds is made, providers and vendors are selected by families with the assistance of their case manager. The ASO offers a large, diverse provider network from which families can choose, as well as the flexibility to add new providers and vendors based on the needs of the children and families enrolled. The ASO database includes more than 5,100 active vendors, of which 1,364 are credentialed service providers.

The ASO issued payments to 62 unduplicated providers and vendors with Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds, and 52 of the providers were in the category of housing supports. These providers included various apartment complexes and landlords. Requests for first month's rent and security deposits required a housing inspection prior to payment.

MONITORING

The Children's Board conducts monitoring visits of all programs that access Children's Board and Hillsborough County BOCC DV ASO funds. The ASO monitoring visit includes an overall assessment of adherence to ASO guidelines as well as a random-sample record review of ASO participants. The client record review is conducted to ensure that services purchased by the ASO directly relate to goals that are documented in the family support plans, and that there is evidence that the participants received the services.

Of the two programs utilizing Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds, Emergency Shelter received a score of 67% for the percentage of time that ASO services were found in the family support plan, and Family Safety from Domestic Violence scored 100%. Emergency Shelter has experienced staffing challenges over the past year and will receive additional training when new staff are in place. All service budgets except one were fully substantiated by proper back-up documentation and receipts. One budget from Emergency Shelter resulted in \$30.02 in funds returned due to a balance remaining on a prepaid gas card. Hillsborough County residency and domestic violence status were verified for all clients reviewed during the monitoring visits.

Program Name	Agency	ASO Monitoring Date	% of Time Services in Plan	Funds Returned
Emergency Shelter	The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.	7/8/2024	67%	\$30.02
Family Safety from Domestic Violence	The Spring of Tampa Bay, Inc.	4/25/2024	100%	None

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

As in previous years, family surveys were administered directly to participants by the case managers during the year. Fourteen participants served by the Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds responded to the survey. Programs did not report how many surveys were handed out by case managers; therefore, the exact response rate is unknown. Based on the number of participants served by this funding (173), surveys were received from 8%.

The summary of responses for ASO participants who returned surveys is as follows:

- 100% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that the ASO has helped their family meet their goals.
- 86% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that they have been given choices about which services their family gets.
- 93% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that they have been given choices about who provides services for their families.
- 86% of participants reported that they received the service that they needed the most.
- 93% of participants reported that they received the service in a timely manner.

Participants were asked which services they needed the most and most responses were related to housing supports and financial assistance. Responses included:

- *"I need a place where I can afford my rent at a reasonable price."*
- *"Relocation"*
- *"Health care, mental health recovery, affordable housing, job search, disability, special needs childcare, and resuming education"*
- *"Housing assistance"*
- *"Furniture"*

When asked what they liked best about the ASO and services provided, participants responded with the following comments:

- *"The urgency was much appreciated."*
- *"They were very helpful and resourceful."*
- *"They helped give me a sense of relief and I didn't know they would help this much."*
- *"Everything is offered above and beyond."*

Web-based surveys were also administered to ASO case managers. Six of the 14 case managers accessing Hillsborough County BOCC DV funds responded to the survey, for a 43% response rate.

Highlights from their responses are as follows:

- 100% were almost always or often satisfied with the ease of obtaining ASO services.
- 83% were almost always or often satisfied with the process for requesting new providers.
- 100% were almost always or often satisfied with the timeliness of ASO payments.
- 100% were almost always or often satisfied with the customer service received from the ASO.
- 100% agreed that they were more confident in their ability to meet families' needs.

When asked what impact the ASO has on families, the following responses were provided:

- *"It can drastically impact a participant's life and allow them a chance to move forward and grow."*
- *"It makes a huge impact on helping participants with safe and stable housing."*
- *"Helping maintain safe housing and preventing disconnection of basic services like electricity and water."*
- *"Makes a big difference for the family, specifically single-parent families."*

When asked what difference the ASO makes in their work as a case manager, the following comments were made:

- *“It provides us with the resources and support we need to help our participants.”*
- *“All the difference in the world. They help make our families lives easier.”*

SUMMARY

Hillsborough County BOCC’s allocation of \$100,000 to the ASO is a vital contribution to the local service system for victims of domestic violence. Case managers working with this population report that ASO funds are often the only way to meet needs in a timely manner.

In Fiscal Year 2024, 173 participants and their families were assisted with the services and supports they needed. The following success indicators were included in the agreement between the County and the Children’s Board:

1. At least 150 families (Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children) each fiscal year will receive concrete supports to facilitate stability, safety, and other family/program goals.
2. 100% of these 150 clients will receive a concrete support that contributes to the achievement of at least one of their Family Plan goals to facilitate their stability and safety consistent with their Family Plan.
3. 85% of case managers submitting payment requests on behalf of individuals/families will report that they are satisfied with the timeliness of ASO payments.
4. At least 80% of participants report that the ASO has helped their family meet their goals.

Four out of four success indicators were met or exceeded based on service data, monitoring, and quality management survey responses:

1. **173 families (Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children) received concrete supports to facilitate stability, safety, and other family/program goals.**
2. **100% of 173 clients received at least one concrete support that contributed to the achievement of at least one of their Family Plan goals to facilitate their stability and safety consistent with their Family Plan. A random sample of ASO requests was monitored to ensure that the services paid for were documented in the Family Support Plan.**
3. **100% of case managers were almost always or often satisfied with the timeliness of ASO payments.**
4. **100% of participants agreed or somewhat agreed that the ASO has helped their family meet their goals.**

Hillsborough County renewed the agreement with the Children’s Board ASO for Fiscal Year 2025. Two case management programs continue to access this funding source.

This funding provides critical supports for Hillsborough County residents affected by domestic violence and participating case management agencies rely on this partnership to swiftly implement safety plans. At the time of report-writing, 19% of the Fiscal Year 2025 allocation has been utilized and it is likely that the funds will be exhausted well before year-end.

Good News

from our funded partners

**Regular Board Meeting
November 1 2024**



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA

Sulphur Springs YMCA Out of School Time Program



In the wake of two major hurricanes in recent weeks, we've never been prouder of the work being done in Sulphur Springs. Our dedicated team, both in Sulphur Springs and across the Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, came together to support the community by serving hot spaghetti meals to over 200 residents impacted by Hurricane Milton. This gathering was more than just a meal—it was an opportunity to connect with students and families, share essential resources, and extend a helping hand.

With crockpots generously donated by Tampa Y staff members, we cooked an impressive 900 meatballs! Our community partners also played a critical role: United Way Suncoast provided snacks to-go, and the Children's Board sent two volunteers to distribute resource guides, bags, and assist in serving families. One parent, uncertain about how they would provide dinner for their family that night, expressed deep gratitude for this support from the YMCA.

Together, we demonstrated the true spirit of community, resilience, and compassion in challenging times.

We continued our commitment to families by hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event, inviting all Sulphur Springs K-8 Community School families to enjoy games, activities, and plenty of candy in the safe, welcoming environment of the school campus—a fun alternative to neighborhood trick-or-treating.

But our support extended beyond costumes and games. Recognizing the valuable school days lost to the recent hurricanes, our dedicated staff worked tirelessly to create a curriculum that helps students catch up and re-engage with learning. Through both celebration and focused support, we're here to help our students and families thrive.



Children's Board Family Resource Centers

Plant City

Testimonial

I am writing to express my gratitude and share how the Children's Board Family Resource Center (CBFRC) in Plant City has positively impacted my family's life. In a time when families face numerous challenges, I am incredibly thankful for the support and resources the CBFRCs provides to our community.

When my family was going through a difficult period, we were unsure where to turn for help. Balancing work, childcare, and ensuring our children had the support they needed at home felt overwhelming. The CBFRC in Plant City became a lifeline. From parenting classes and therapy resources to food and financial assistance programs, they offered a range of services that made an immediate difference in our lives.

One of the most valuable aspects of the Children's Board Family Resource Center is that they provide not only resources but also genuine, personalized support. The staff took the time to listen to our concerns and guided us through the programs and services available. Instead of offering one-size-fits-all solutions, they helped us create a plan tailored to our family's specific needs.

I'd like to acknowledge the outstanding staff who made this possible: Mayra Castellanos, Intake & Referral Specialist, who has worked with families like ours for over 10 years; Carson Brett, our Support Specialist, who made our children feel right at home as soon as they walked through the doors; Darrie Soares, Family Specialist, who connected us with valuable organizations; Joai Broughton, Center Manager, whose leadership has transformed the center's atmosphere, bringing balance and unique experiences that had been missing for the last 15 years; and Tyheshia Scott, Director, who is an incredible support in our community initiatives.

For example, we participated in parenting workshops that equipped us with the tools and confidence to manage challenging situations at home. The center's food assistance program helped keep our family nourished during a tough financial period. Additionally, the playgroups for young children allowed my kids to socialize and develop essential early learning skills in a safe, nurturing environment.

Thanks to the support we've received from CBFRC, we are now on more solid ground. Our children are thriving, and my family has a renewed sense of hope and stability. I am deeply grateful to the Children's Board Family Resource Center for their ongoing commitment to strengthening families in our community. I encourage any family in need of assistance to reach out to them. They truly make a difference, and our family is living proof of that.

Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Girl Scout Troop Program

This month, the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's Children's Board of Hillsborough County-supported troops learned about democracy and explored ways they can participate in it. We found many fun ways to engage with this important topic. The girls learned about the three branches of government and their roles and responsibilities. We even held our own election to decide whether cake or ice cream was better and brainstormed rules or laws we would make if we had our own country, city, or school.

The girls also discussed presidential elections and created their own campaign posters to campaign for Girl Scout meeting duties. They will soon hold a mock election, where they will present their reasons to the group for why they should be chosen for their preferred duty.

To wrap up the month, we explored voting with a Girl Scout cookie tasting, allowing the girls to vote on their favorite cookies. Adventurefuls and Thin Mints won as the top favorites!



Seniors in Service

Foster Grandparent Program with Readers in Motion

A new school year brings new beginnings and familiar faces! As students and families settle into the rhythm of school life, teachers are getting to know their students, and our Foster Grandparent Program, alongside Readers in Motion Education Advocates, is eagerly awaiting the chance to greet each bright little face that walks through the door.

Our Foster Grandparent Program with Readers in Motion has been preparing for one of the most exciting times of the year: the big backpack delivery! We've been visiting classrooms to meet new friends and warmly welcome back familiar faces. Each registered student received a vibrant, colorful backpack filled with educational goodies! These supplies aren't just fun—they're essential for supporting homework, replacing worn-out materials, and enhancing classroom learning.

This is such a heartwarming time of year, knowing these backpacks will ease the burden for more than 300 families. Thanks to the generosity of the Children's Board, students and families can focus on what matters most: learning, growing, and thriving. With the love, support, and dedication of our amazing Education Advocates, we're beyond excited to kick off a school year filled with fun, learning, and plenty of smiles!



Family Healthcare Foundation

Connecting Kids to Care

Karla Navas, a Healthcare Navigation Specialist with Connecting Kids to Care, recently helped a mother whose nine-year-old son had been diagnosed with leukemia. The child was on full-pay Florida KidCare health insurance, with the mother paying a monthly premium of \$259. Karla assisted them in updating their Florida KidCare application, and the family was approved for subsidized coverage—bringing their premium down to just \$10 per month!

Karla then applied for the Family Healthcare Foundation's Premium Assistance Fund on their behalf, securing a full year of paid premiums for the child's health insurance. Thanks to Karla's expertise, the family was able to navigate their healthcare options with ease, lifting a financial burden during a challenging medical time for their son.



Champions for Children

Family Focus

Testimonial

Comments from the Family Focus Needs Survey:

- "I appreciate how they're helping me have a healthy pregnancy and providing baby essentials."
- "I love how kind and respectful my case worker has been. She's the best I've had in any program. Her patience with my children is incredible, and my kids love her."
- "I learned about baby development with Lotoya. Everything has been perfect."
- "The connections are positive, welcoming, and supportive. They help you achieve your goals in an empowering way."



Children's Board
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

www.ChildrensBoard.org

Healthy Start Coalition of Hillsborough County

Healthy Families Hillsborough

University of South Florida Circle K International students and Tampa Kiwanians joined forces to assemble 280 Birthday Cake Kits for children enrolled in the Healthy Families Hillsborough program. Each kit contains everything a parent needs to celebrate their child's birthday: cake mix, icing, a cake pan, balloons, a birthday card, and a can of Sprite to replace oil or eggs. These kits were made possible through the generous support of volunteers and funding from the Florida Kiwanis Foundation and Tampa Kiwanis Foundation.



Preserve Vision Florida

Children's Vision Health and Safety Services



Preserve Vision Florida (PVF) provides vision screening services multiple times a week at the Children's Board Family Resource Centers. Working closely with BayCare Kids, we offer vision screenings and follow-up care for children who may need a medical eye exam and, potentially, glasses. PVF also extends these services to parents and caregivers, ensuring they can support their children's learning with the confidence of good vision.

One family we have helped is Marina and her two children, Hilda and Jose. Marina, who had previously received an eye exam and glasses through our program, returned for her children's screenings, creating a full-circle moment for our team.

Marina faces a unique challenge—she cannot read or write, making access to services more difficult. Our vision health associates supported her every step of the way, ensuring that she and her children received the necessary services. This included vision screenings, scheduling a medical eye exam, and receiving glasses. We also provide all participants with information on vision health and safety, along with sunglasses to protect their eyes from UV rays.

Being a trusted resource for families in need, and welcoming them back with their loved ones, makes us proud of our work. We are dedicated to continuing this life-changing service, helping many more families access the vision care they deserve.

For more information on our vision screening services at the Children's Board Family Resource Center, please visit www.pvfla.org to view our calendar of scheduled services.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay

1-to-1 Mentoring (Middle)



Cole and Damien have been matched for over two and a half years and will celebrate three years together in February 2025. When they first met, Little Brother Damien was shy but excited to get to know Big Brother Cole. Since then, they've created a bucket list of activities and have steadily been checking items off, with Damien enthusiastically keeping track of their adventures. Together, they've visited the manatee viewing center and attended a BBBS screening of *Garfield*, among many other memorable outings.

Damien's mom, Jasmine, says that Big Brother Cole has helped Damien "come out of his shell." After learning some cooking skills from Cole, Damien started volunteering to help in the kitchen, even assisting his mom with Thanksgiving dishes over the past couple of years.

Life changed for everyone in 2022—Cole and his wife welcomed their first child, Damien became a teenager, and his mom began nursing school. Even though they can't meet in person every month, they stay connected with calls, texts, and FaceTime chats every few weeks. When asked what he appreciates about Damien, Cole speaks highly of him. Damien shared that his Big Brother Cole is "always fun!" and "always there for me!"

Cole has been a strong supporter of Damien and his goals, noting how Damien has matured and learned to work well with others. Over the years, Cole has shared how their bond has grown closer, saying they can "be ourselves around each other and trust each other." Overall, Little Brother Damien has become more confident and open, growing into a thoughtful and kind young person. We all look forward to seeing Damien continue to flourish.

Success 4 Kids and Families

Successful Families

Testimonial

Working with Erin has been a transformative experience for both my son and me. From the very beginning, Erin's support and compassion allowed us to open up in ways we hadn't anticipated. We've gained invaluable tools for managing our emotions and overcoming challenges, and I've learned how to better support both my son and myself through these processes.

Our therapy sessions have not only strengthened our communication but have also deepened our bond. I've seen a noticeable boost in his confidence and overall well-being, and I feel more prepared to navigate the ups and downs of parenting. Erin's genuine care and thoughtful approach in each session have truly made a profound difference in our lives. We are incredibly grateful for the guidance and support we've received and feel more hopeful about the future. Therapy has been a gift for our family, helping us grow stronger together.

I cannot recommend Erin highly enough! From our very first session, it was clear that she brings an exceptional level of empathy, professionalism, and expertise to this process. Erin creates a safe, welcoming space where I felt comfortable exploring my thoughts and emotions. Thanks to her guidance, my stress and anxiety have significantly decreased, and I now experience a greater sense of calm and well-being.

Erin tailors each session to address my unique needs, providing insightful guidance and practical strategies that have truly made a difference in my life. The progress we've made under her care has been remarkable. Erin is not only a skilled therapist but also a genuinely caring individual who is deeply invested in our well-being.

Sincerely,
Valerie E.



Outreach Calendar of Events

The Children's Board will have a presence at the following community events. Contact Timothy Bennett, Community Relations Manager, at bennetta@childrensboard.org for more information about a particular event.

December

- 12.03.24 **Children's Board Free Tuesday**
Glazer's Children Museum
110 West Gasparilla Plaza, Tampa
9:00 am-5:00 pm

- 12.07.24 **Walk for Aubrey Community Event**
Perry Harvey Sr. Park
1201 North Orange Street, Tampa
9:00 am-2:00 pm