

Maximizing & Accessing Community Resources to Improve Child Outcomes:

CSC Communities

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About Children's Services Councils

- ❖ A CSC is a government entity created by the county commission (local ordinance) or approved by taxpayers (special taxing district) to fund children's services in the county where it exists
- ❖ Chapter 125.901 of Florida Statutes governs the creation and operation of a CSC.
- ❖ Florida is the only state in the nation with a law enabling communities to create a local government with the sole purpose of investing in children's services.

About Children's Services Councils

- ❖ Nearly 60% of Florida's children younger than age 5 live in CSC county.
- ❖ 50% of the state's children 18 and younger live in a CSC county.
- ❖ 2 of the 9 counties with a CSC are among the most populous counties in the nation: Miami-Dade county and Broward county.
- ❖ 49% (9.3 million) of the state's entire population (19.3 million) live in these 9 counties.
- ❖ It is part of the mission of the Council to support efforts in other communities to create local CSCs across the state.

About Children's Services Councils

- ❖ CSCs are either approved by the local electorate or created by elected officials (county commissioners).
- ❖ Subject to the same rules and requirements that apply to city and county governments, CSCs operate with multiple levels of accountability.

About Children's Services Councils

- ❖ CSCs offer a local funding stream by investing public dollars into local children's programs, which helps decrease counties' dependence on limited state and federal funds.
- ❖ CSCs are a proven investment, not only because we leverage local dollars to secure millions in state and federal matching money and private donations, but also by investing local resources in evidence-based services and supports for children, youth and families.

The CSC Landscape in Florida

- ❖ In 8 of the 9 counties, voters have approved a CSC with “independent” taxing authority:
 - Broward, Hillsborough, Martin, Miami-Dade, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Pinellas, and St. Lucie counties.
- ❖ The one remaining CSC operates as a “dependent” district under local ordinance. They rely on funding from the county government, and other sources, to pay for children’s programs and services (Duval County/Jacksonville).

Independent Vs. Dependent CSCs

Independent CSCs:

- ❖ Special taxing districts established by vote of county electors pursuant to Florida law (Chapter 125.901). The governing board is not under the authority of the county commission.
- ❖ Ad valorem taxing authority up to .5 mill. Voters in 2 counties have authorized up to 1 mill for their CSC – Pinellas and Palm Beach.

Independent Vs. Dependent CSCs

Dependent CSCs:

- ❖ Funding comes from the county's property tax revenues and falls under the 10 mill-cap for county services.
- ❖ The governing board of the dependent CSC district is appointed by, and operates under, the authority of the county commission.
- ❖ Dependent CSC - Duval county.

A Shared Mission

Whether independent or dependent,
Florida's CSCs share the same mission...
to invest in primary prevention and
early intervention programs.

Focus of CSCs

Specific funded programs depend on the community.
Common areas include:

- ❖ Programs promoting healthy families and healthy births
- ❖ Programs supporting quality early care and education
- ❖ After school and summer programs

CSC Roles & Functions

- ❖ Provide funding for children’s programs within the county
- ❖ Make data-driven investments in local children’s programs
- ❖ Seek to maximize local revenue and develop resources
- ❖ Ensure accountability of programs – fiscal & programmatic

CSC Roles & Functions

- ❖ Build strategic partnerships and facilitate coordination among local programs – systems of care
- ❖ Advocate on behalf of children’s issues and programs for all children
- ❖ Provide training and awareness for parents, service providers, community leaders and policymakers

CSC Specific Information

Florida CSCs Benefit Children, Families and Communities

St. Lucie County Population: 285,000

- ❖ Total Budget: \$7.8 million (about \$25 per year, per resident)
- ❖ Created more than 20 years ago
- ❖ Children Served: 32,500 across 54 funded programs.
- ❖ Program emphasis: Strengthening Families, Nurse Home Visitation, increased local match for early learning, and after school programs.

Florida CSC's Benefit Children, Families and Communities

Martin County Population: 150,000

- ❖ Total Budget: \$7.7 million
- ❖ Created 25 years ago
- ❖ Children Served: 9,000 across 24 funded programs.
- ❖ Program emphasis: Maternal and Child Health, After School, Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and Child Abuse Prevention.

Florida CSC's Benefit Children, Families and Communities

Miami-Dade County Population: 2.6 million

- ❖ Total Budget: \$87 million
- ❖ Created more than 10 years ago
- ❖ Funded Programs: 213
- ❖ Program emphasis: Strengthening Families, Read to Learn initiative, investments in local Quality Rating Improvement System, and After School programs.

Florida CSC's Benefit Children, Families and Communities

Palm Beach County Population: 1.4 million

- ❖ Total Budget: \$98 million
- ❖ Created more than 27 years ago
- ❖ Funded Programs: 60 funded programs
- ❖ Program emphasis: Maternal and Child Health, Quality Early Childhood Education, and Family Support Services.

Examples of programs funded by CSCs

- ◆ Easter Seals – Early Steps
- ◆ Early Learning Coalitions
- ◆ Healthy Start Coalitions
- ◆ Kids at Hope
- ◆ Home visitation Programs
- ◆ Boys and Girls Clubs
- ◆ Take Stock in Children
- ◆ PACE Center for Girls
- ◆ The ARC
- ◆ Safe Families Project
- ◆ Help Me Grow
- ◆ Health Beginnings
- ◆ Home Safe
- ◆ Sickle Cell Foundation
- ◆ YMCA
- ◆ The Village Youth Services
- ◆ Forever Family
- ◆ Children's Harbor
- ◆ United Cerebral Palsy
- ◆ WorkForce One
- ◆ Hispanic Unity of Florida
- ◆ Children's Hospitals

Florida CSC's Collective Vision:

create a seamless system of care

Working Together

Statewide Association of CSCs:

- Develop and shape statewide policy
- Advocate for children and family issues
- Share best practices – learn from each other
- Help establish other CSC communities

Children's Services Councils

Summary:

Each CSC is a local dedicated funding source committed to research-based programs based on the extent to which programs impact child/family outcomes.

CSCs are created locally and define top priorities based on community needs.

Thank you!



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