

MANATEE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNUAL REPORT & PLAN

December 2024





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Manatee County Commissioners

HISTORY

Manatee County Children's Services Ordinance

Determining the Needs

In 1989, a group of concerned citizens recognized a need for a stable funding source to help Manatee County agencies meet urgent needs of children at risk. A Dedicated Tax Millage was promoted and the Referendum passed in 1990.

MANATEE SUPPORTS THE CHILDREN'S REFERENDUM

"A wise investment... Tax for children will cut costs later!"
Bradenton Herald

"We urge voters to think of this dedicated millage as a long-term investment in the future."
Sarasota Herald-Tribune

THESE COMMUNITY LEADERS ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR MANATEE'S CHILDREN:

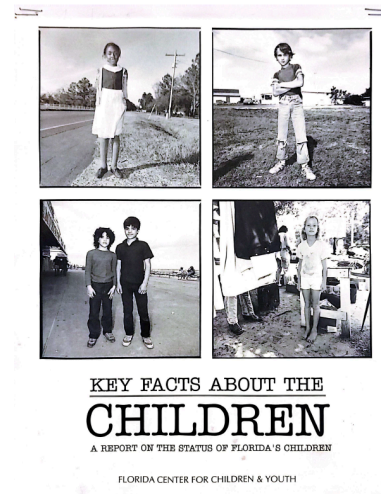
Sherrill Charles Wells Earl Montford, State Attorney Elbert Mearns, Public Defender Patricia M. Glass, Chairman Manatee Board of County Commissioners Kathy Smith, Vice Chairman Manatee Board of County Commissioners Edward W. Chance, Commissioner Manatee Board of County Commissioners Maxine Hogges, Commissioner Manatee Board of County Commissioners Ruby Byrd, Chairman Manatee County School Board Marge Korman Florida Bar Association League of Women Voters Junior League PRIDE Center for Girls Rep. J.L. "Bo" Holland Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services	Manatee Children's Services Manatee River Youth Ranch Consortium for Children and Youth, Sarasota HOPE Family Services United Way Boys Club Pamper Cable Richard Olsen Vincent Lucanto Ed Munick Dr. H. T. Byron David Wilson Darford L. Sawyer, President and Chairman Omni Print Media, Inc. Belleme Ford Judy Sedgman Hilda and Jack Gidd Wendy Hookless Gregory Porges State Priority Bobby Jackson Larry Coleman	Karl Tague Al Miller Marian Meeks Richard Buckle Bobby King Rick Gagliotti Tommy Kellie Jean Van Delft Catherine Rowe-Bear Catherine Bonner Eugene Fogarty Barbara White Byron Shinn June Isbell Mary Evans Jean Shoemaker Dr. Cheddy Brank Dr. Cheddy K. Carter, Ph.D. Dr. Kenneth Mason, Ph.D. Dr. Ray Judy Dr. J. Brian Murphy W. Wade Thompson	Ashley Leonard Dabbe McKay Barry McQueen Betsy Woolley Roberta Tischer Vickie Lynn Diane Saunders Al Waelgren Barbara Taboroff Barbara Brownell Charles Toman, D.D.S. Jerry Zeller Robert J. Schoenleber Rose Carlson Betty Camp Vernon DeCar Marie Delrich Cliff Walters Jim Boyd Carol Hunt W. Wade Thompson	Dr. Steve Korschack Ken Marsh Mac Stevenson Barbara Zarnitsky Dr. & Mrs. Richard Conrad Susan Wenke, M.D. Turner Matthews Pat Neal Dave Delrich Mary Ann Jensen Carol Christensen Linda Cline Steven Tinsworth, D.M.D. Sandy Stevenson Bill and Crystal Herold Virginia Baden Knowles Bank of Bradenton Grover Whitson Inez Zarnitsky, D.D.S.
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Join Us And Vote For The Manatee Children's Referendum Nov. 6

Scope and Purpose

Implement the provisions of Manatee County Resolution R-90-169 and provide for the dedicated millage for children's service.

To establish the general terms and conditions under which Manatee County shall fund, develop and provide for the operation of programs.



These programs shall include the enhancement and expansion of existing programs as well as new and innovative programs for the prevention and treatment of Manatee County's neglected, abused, at-risk or economically disadvantaged children and provide essential and necessary programs to search such children.

To establish the Manatee County Children's Services Advisory Board, to establish the terms and conditions of membership on the advisory board, to establish the scope of authority of the advisory board and other terms and conditions related thereto.

To provide a clear source of lawful authority for the grant of funds derived from a dedicated millage for the development and authorization of continuing programs for the prevention and treatment of Manatee County's neglected, abused, or at-risk children and to fund programs to serve economically disadvantaged children.

ADVISORY BOARD

Fiscal Year 2024-25

The 13 members of the Children's Services Advisory Board (CSAB) are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the county. Members are required to be citizens of Manatee County, with exception of the judge who may serve Manatee County.

One of the primary powers and duties of the advisory board is to make recommendations to the county regarding expenditure of the dedicated millage.

Chair



Child Advocate
Xtavia Bailey

Vice Chair



Child Advocate
Jannon Pierce



Child Advocate
Barbara Byrne



Child Advocate
Carolann Garafola



Child Advocate
Patricia Miner



Criminal Justice
Representative
Connie Shingledecker



Department of
Children & Families
Vacant



Physician
Dr. Constance Logan



Judge
Scott Brownell (Ret.)



Mental Health
Professional
Emily Robertson



NAACP Representative
Rita Smith



School Board Representative
Chad Choate



United Way
Representative
Debbie Tapp

ADVISORY BOARD

A Message From the Chair

Xtavia Bailey, CSAB Chair

As a member of the CSAB for nearly 12 years, I am deeply passionate about prioritizing the needs of youth and addressing the issues that most significantly impact their futures. As a board member, I am committed to supporting nonprofit organizations that are making a tangible difference in the lives of children. I appreciate the trust that county leadership and citizens have placed in us; and I am dedicated to continually challenge our community to improve support for our youth. I hope to see the establishment of a dedicated space where our organizations can continue to provide essential services to our children, with a focus on addressing homelessness, mental health, and the stresses associated with internet use. While the needs of underserved children are ongoing, it is crucial that we prioritize the most pressing issues, ensuring that our resources are utilized effectively. Our newly launched initiatives aimed at preventing child deaths, including our emphasis on drowning prevention and safe sleep community education, mark a significant milestone.



FISCAL YEAR 2024 REVIEW

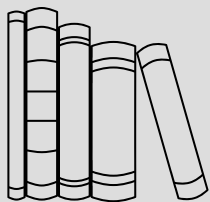
Priorities



Priority A - Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there.



Priority B - Children remain in their homes free of abuse and neglect and do not enter or re-enter foster care.



Priority C - Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills.



Priority D - Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.

How do programs track their success?

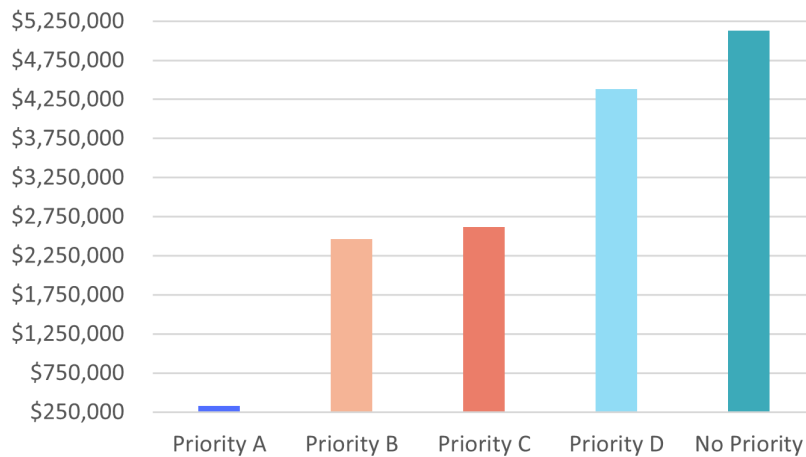
- Programs are required to declare their **Results** and anticipated target. The **Results** show the gain that would not reasonably have happened without the program.
- Programs must observe **Milestone** achievement. These are gains the clients have achieved through program participation. They demonstrate a notable and positive change in the clients.
- **Verifications** are how the program objectively or subjectively track milestone achievements.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 REVIEW

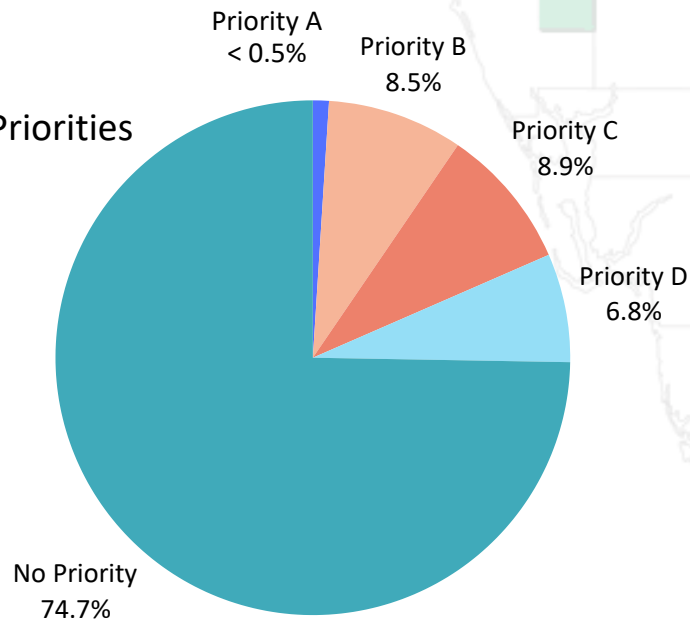
Investment and Results by Priority

Manatee County's Children's Services Millage has disbursed \$14,924,069.14 in fiscal year 2024 to local nonprofit agencies. These agencies are dedicated to serving Manatee County's abused, neglected, at-risk and economically disadvantaged children.

FY24 Financial Utilization



FY24 Priorities



28,544 have been served directly or indirectly on their behalf by providing services to their family.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 REVIEW

Results First Program Success by Priority

Priority A



Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there.

Priority B



Children remain in their homes free from abuse and neglect, and do not enter or re-enter foster care.

Priority C



Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills.

Priority D



Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.

No Priority Selected



These programs are not serving a current priority, however the services fulfill a recognized need in our communities. Exclusion of these service would be detrimental to Manatee County children.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 REVIEW

Sleep Baby Safely Initiative of Manatee County



Infant asleep, Canva 2024

The CSAB and Sleep Baby Safely

The CSAB convened a subcommittee to dedicate time into researching preventable child deaths due to unsafe sleep. The recommendation was to award up to \$175,000 to a nonprofit agency to disseminate the Sleep Baby Safely educational training and materials throughout Manatee County. The purpose of the initiative is to reduce/eliminate the number of preventable infant deaths due to unsafe sleep environments. The goal is to provide a clear and consistent message on safe sleep practices to all who care for infants or are professionally in contact with families who have an infant.

On May 14, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners voted to approve an agreement between Manatee County Government and the Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County to lead this initiative.



Sleep Baby Safely, Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinella County

Sleep Baby Safely - Manatee Numbers

Citizens Reached in 6 months - 226

Safe Sleep Spaces Distributed - 3

Early Learning Coalition Update

Quarter 1 included hiring, training, marketing, and establishing a process to disseminate materials and training throughout Manatee County. Quarters 2 and 3 reached 226 citizens in high need zip codes.

New efforts to reach more of Manatee County include utility inserts, MCAT digital platform and AMI trolleys, Bradenton Area Convention Center marquee, and EMS vehicle wraps.

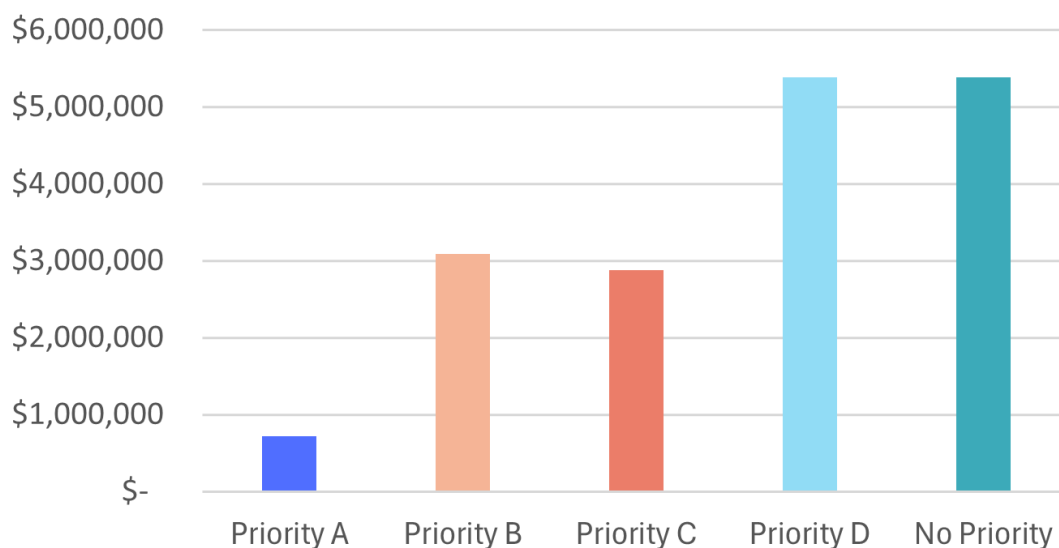
FISCAL YEAR 2025

Program Investments

Fiscal Year 2025

Children's Services Millage Investments

\$17,441,982 was approved for a total of 55 programs receiving investment through the Children's Services Millage. One program declined investment due to requirements related to the contractual agreement and the Children's Services Ordinance.



Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025

- ✓ Children in foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months of entering care and remain there.
- ✓ Children remain in their homes free from abuse and neglect, and do not enter or re-enter foster care.
- ✓ Funders, systems, policies, and practice align to ensure that our children have developmentally appropriate literacy skills.
- ✓ Children demonstrate improved behavioral functioning.

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Program Investments

Manatee County Government utilizes available funds from the Children's Services Millage to ensure a lasting positive impact on the lives of Manatee County's youth. These youth have experienced abuse or neglect, have adverse childhood experiences or risk factors, or come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. These funds provide financial assistance, through investment, to local nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping children and their families achieve necessary improvements and mitigate risk factors.

Early Care and Education

- Early Care & Education Subsidy and Match Program, Early Learning Coalition
- Focus on Literacy, Childrens Home Society
- Head Start & Early Head Start, Step Up Suncoast
- Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, Step Up Suncoast
- Kids Personal Safety, Manatee Children's Services
- Nemours Reading Brightstarts!, Early Learning Coalition
- Parents as Teachers, Step Up Suncoast

Food and Shelter

- Emergency Family Food & Baby Baskets, Meals on Wheels
- Housing-Focused Family Shelter, The Salvation Army
- Residential Program, Manatee Children's Services
- SafePlace2B, Family Resources
- Weekend Meals, Feeding Empty Little Tummies

Physical and Mental Health and Safety

- Baker Act Youth, Centerstone of Florida
- Blue Butterfly Family Grief Center, Tidewell Foundation
- Children's Community Action Team, Centerstone of Florida
- Children's Counseling (Domestic Violence), Hope Family Services
- Collaborative Action Therapy for Children's Health, Step Up Suncoast
- Coordinated Approach to Child Health, Early Learning Coalition



FISCAL YEAR 2025

Program Investments

Physical and Mental Health and Safety (Continued)

- Path to Reunification: Nurturing Family Unity, Prodigal Daughters Journey Home
- Sexual Assault Child Advocacy and Therapy for Children, Centerstone of Florida
- Sexual Offense Abuse Reactive, Insight Counseling

Special Needs

- Adaptive Riding and Equine Assisted Services, Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy
- Children's Therapy, Easter Seals
- Dream Oaks Camp, Foundation for Dreams
- Family Support Services, Easter Seals

*It's not only children who grow. Parents do too.
As much as we watch to see what our children do
with their lives, they are watching us to see what we
do with ours.*

-Joyce Maynard



Happy Family, Canva 2024

Stabilizing Families and Parent Education

- Child Advocacy Center, Manatee Children's Services
- Child Welfare Prevention, Safe Children Coalition
- Chosen Families, Parenting Matters
- Early Childhood Court, The Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Family Preservation and Reunification, Safe Children Coalition
- Healthy Families Manatee, Step Up Suncoast
- Parent Partner Program, Parenting Matters
- Systems Advocate Program, Sarasota County Health Department
- Whole Child Manatee, Step Up Suncoast

FISCAL YEAR 2025

Program Investments

Youth Development and Success

- Alternative Path to Success, Next Generation Academics
- AMIKids Manatee, AMIKids Manatee
- Before and After School, Summer Enrichment Plus, United Community Centers
- Before School, After School, & Camp Myakka, Myakka City Community Center
- Community Effort to Reduce Truancy by Assessing Individualized Needs, Family Resources
- Foundation for Excellence, Palmetto Youth Center
- Future Leaders Academy, UnidosNow
- Girls Alternative Program for Success, Just for Girls
- Great Futures Start Here, Boys & Girls Club of Manatee
- Healthy Teens, Healthy Teens Coalition
- Helping Young People Excel, Palmetto Youth Center
- Iron Sharpening Iron, Educational Consultants Consortium
- Juvenile Justice Ministry, Suncoast Youth for Christ
- Mentoring Matters, Take Stock in Children of Manatee County
- One to One Mentoring, Big Brother's Big Sister's
- Stepping Up to Success, Just for Girls
- Success4Life Training, Replay Outreach
- Summer Blast Camp, Manatee County Government - Sports & Leisure Services
- Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Program, Pace Center for Girls
- Teen Program - The Club, Boys & Girls Club of Manatee
- Youth Intervention Services, Safe Children Coalition



High School Students, Canva 2024

*Children are the living message we send
to a time we will not see.*

-Neil Postman

FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2028

Updated Priorities

The Children's Services Advisory Board's (CSAB) priorities are determined and approved during or after the annual retreat. Priorities are considered based on information presented for discussion during a regular meeting or the annual retreat. During the October 4, 2024 retreat, members discussed priorities. The priorities below were finalized during the October 30, 2024 regular CSAB meeting. They will be in effect FY2026 - FY2028.



Children are safe in their homes, free from abuse or neglect.

- Children remain in their homes free from abuse and neglect, avoiding the need to enter or re-enter foster care.
- Children who enter foster care gain a permanent, stable, and nurturing home within 12 months and remain there.



Children develop literacy skills necessary to be successful in school.

- Children who demonstrate below developmentally appropriate or below grade level literacy skills, reduce their existing gap towards developmentally appropriate or age-appropriate literacy skills.
- Children who attain grade level or developmentally appropriate literacy skills will maintain grade level or developmentally appropriate literacy skills.

FISCAL YEAR 2026 - 2028 (CONTINUED)

FY2026 – FY2028

Children have the skills necessary to function appropriately in all environments.



- Children with symptoms of adverse indicators of behavioral health as identified objectively by a measure of level of functioning determined by the program will build protective factors.
- Children who use drugs, alcohol, or other substances, or are at risk of use, will stop or resist use, and establish a plan to manage triggers.
- Children with one or more incidents of referral or suspension for aggression, bullying, harassment, or other negative action aimed towards another group or individual, will reduce those incidents.

Parents and caregivers have the skills and resources needed to stop preventable child death.



- Children will be safely placed to sleep in accordance with the Sleep Baby Safely Initiative of Manatee County.
- Children and families will implement water safety practices at home and in all environments where water safety is a concern.

MORE INFORMATION

State of the Community – Manatee County



There are several reports available on the state of children and families in Manatee County covering a myriad of topics. Manatee County Children's Services team will create a summary including a link to these sites in 2025, after the new Manatee County website goes live.

At this time, please see these websites for more information:

Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

- www.gradelevelreading.net/

Community Indicators Dashboard

- www.cfsarasota.org

Florida Department of Children and Families

- www.myflfamilies.com/

Florida Health Charts

- www.flhealthcharts.gov

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey

- www.myflfamilies.com/services/samh/florida-youth-substance-abuse-survey

Sleep Safely Baby Initiative of Manatee County (ELC)

- www.elc-manatee.org/Sleep-Baby-Safely

United For ALICE

- www.unitedforalice.org/

United Way Suncoast

- www.unitedwaysuncoast.org/what-we-do/

CHILDREN'S SERVICES TEAM

For questions about this report:

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**For more information on programs and investment opportunities
through Children's Services Millage:**

Manatee County Website www.mymanatee.org

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Carol Ann Felts
District 1



Amanda Ballard
District 2



Tal Siddique
District 3



Mike Rahn
District 4



Dr. Bob McCann
District 5



Jason Bearden
District 6 At Large



George Kruse
District 7 At Large

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