



## Children's Services Councils and Trusts Program Funding Overview

### **Background:**

Florida's Children's Services Councils and Trusts have all approached funding in many different ways over the last many years. Whether it be from the way programs were funded as a CSC or Trust was just starting to the strategic cyclical processes that well-established CSC's or Trusts take today. However, at the very center of these processes it is important to understand that each area of program funding usually has to be aligned to the following guiding principles:

1. Is there a documented need for the programs or services within my community? (If not wholly at least in part)
2. Is there a process in place for the CSC or Trust to measure/collect program or service outcomes?
3. What will the CSC or Trust be able to provide stakeholders as evidence that the funded program or service was a good use of taxpayer dollars?

### **Approaches:**

Many CSC's and Trusts release Request for Proposals (RFPs) or Invitations to Negotiate (ITNs) on a cyclical schedule with many programs being awarded 3-year contracts with options for 2 (1 year) renewals. This allows CSC's or Trusts to undergo a thorough procurement and contracting process allowing the CSC or Trust to work together with the provider to deliver the best services. Additionally, by undergoing the procurement process on a cyclical basis it allows CSC's or Trusts to focus on program areas. Examples of program areas include:

- Family Strengthening
- Early Childhood Programs
- Afterschool & Summer Programs\*
- Teen Programs
- Prosperity and Hunger
- Health & safety Initiatives
- Capacity Building

\* Summer programs are often handled annually