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Additionally, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the Leon County community members and providers who helped make this report possible by taking the time to share their knowledge and opinions.

Snapshot of Just Some of Our Participating Partners







Approved by a majority of the Leon County electorate in the November 2020 general election, the Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) has been established to provide children with early learning and reading skills, development, treatment, preventative, and other services to children, youth and families. As an independent special district authorized by Section 125.901, Florida Statutes,

CSC Leon will provide funding for these services throughout the County by annually levying ad valorem taxes, not exceeding the maximum millage rate of one-half (1/2) million.¹ Ultimately, CSC Leon is a catalyst for positive change to improve the lives and outcomes of children and families in the local community.

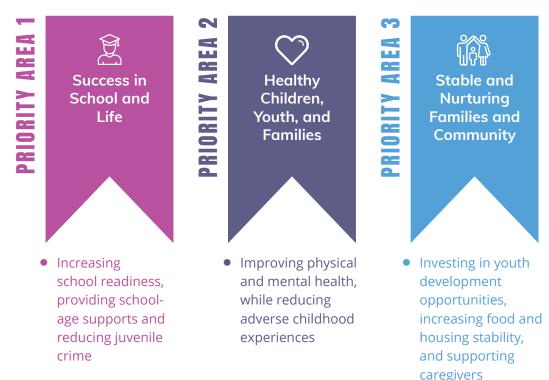
One of the first tasks of CSC Leon was to identify and assess the needs of the children in the County and submit to the Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC") a written description of:

- The activities, services and opportunities that will be provided to children.
- The anticipated schedule for providing those activities, services and opportunities.
- The manner in which children will be served, including a description
 of arrangements and agreements which will be made with community
 organizations, state and local educational agencies, federal agencies, public
 assistance agencies, the juvenile courts, foster care agencies, and other
 applicable public and private agencies and organizations.
- The special outreach efforts that will be undertaken to provide services to atrisk, abused, or neglected children.
- The manner in which CSC Leon will seek and provide funding for unmet needs.
- The strategy which will be used for interagency coordination to maximize existing human and fiscal resources.

As a precursor to CSC Leon, the BOCC established an independent Children's Services Council Planning Committee ("Planning Committee") with the purpose of creating a roadmap for elements such as ethical governance and measurable, results-based outcomes for CSC Leon.

¹ Children's Services Council (CSC) of Leon County. (2021, November 2). About Us - Children's Services Council of Leon County. Retrieved March 24, 2022, from https://cscleon.org/about/

The Planning Committee gathered information, sought expert advice, developed guidance on quality controls and accountability measures, kept the public informed and engaged, and laid the groundwork for future collaboration. After an extensive review of data on unmet community needs, the Planning Committee determined broad priorities to encourage funding a range of potential programs reflecting the critical needs identified in the planning process:



To move this work forward, CSC Leon determined that a comprehensive asset and needs assessment was required. As such, CSC Leon formed a Needs Assessment Committee, which reviewed the Planning Committee's priorities on July 8 and July 22, 2021. The Needs Assessment Committee recommended using the Planning Committee's priorities as a basis for completing the comprehensive asset and needs assessment.

CURRENT REPORT

CSC Leon contracted with Q-Q Research Consultants (Q-Q Research) to conduct a comprehensive asset and needs assessment that identifies:

- · children's services currently available,
- barriers preventing these programs from fully meeting the needs of children in Leon County,
- gaps that exist within current programming, and
- outcomes that should be tracked by programs and services.

Gap Analysis

Q-Q Research conducted a Gap Analysis, which is a comprehensive approach that incorporates a variety of data sources to identify the difference between the current and desired community conditions.² Several quantitative and qualitative data sources were used for the current gap analysis, including:

- Community Needs Assessment Survey (CNAS)
- Secondary Data Sources
- Provider Survey (PS)
- Provider Interviews and Community Focus Groups

All data points were triangulated to inform strengths and areas of need for the children, youth, and families of Leon County. Where available, secondary data was disaggregated by zip-code to understand areas of need for specific regions of Leon County, Florida. This information can be found in the Zip Code Profile tables in Appendix A (i.e., Tables 1, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19).

Findings



Priority Area 1: Success in School and Life

School Readiness

• Kindergarten readiness can be defined as the set of academic, social, emotional, and behavioral skills needed for children to enter school ready to learn and thrive. Both primary and secondary data sources pointed to kindergarten readiness as a relative strength in Leon County, with expanding participation in pre-kindergarten programming and on-average positive views on the availability of such programs. As of 2020, children in Leon County were also testing ready for kindergarten at a rate higher than the state. Within Leon County, 61.6% of children tested ready on entering kindergarten, as compared to 56.9% of children across Florida.³ However, rates of kindergarten readiness varied greatly within the county, ranging from 18% to 83% at the school level. On average, substantially lower rates of kindergarten readiness were found in Title 1 schools.

² Smartsheet. (n.d.). The Complete Guide to Gap Analysis. Retrieved March 24, 2022, from https://www.smartsheet.com/gap-analysis-method-examples

Florida Department of Education. (nd). FLKRS Statewide Results. Retrieved on January 6th, 2021 from: https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs/flkrs-sw-results.stml

School Age Supports

- Several student achievement indicators in Leon County are on track with or surpass achievement statewide. Despite this, substantial achievement gaps remain, indicating a need for further supports to ensure that all children can benefit from a quality education. For example, as of 2020-21, 70.8% of 3rd graders who were *not* economically-disadvantaged tested proficient in English Language Arts in Leon County, compared to just 34.2% of those who *were* economically disadvantaged.⁴ In addition, during the 2019-20 school year, 14.5% of students in Leon County were absent 21 or more days as compared to 9.8% of students across the state of Florida.⁵ In both the CNAS and focus groups, community members emphasized a need for programs and services (e.g., out-of-school time programming) to address equity and maximize opportunities for success in the education system. Also apparent across multiple data sources was the need to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth development outcomes.
- Also relevant to school aged youth are rates of juvenile crime and involvement
 in the justice system. The rate of youth aged 10 to 17 arrested annually has
 decreased since 2016, both across Florida and in Leon County.⁶ Despite this,
 the rate of juvenile arrests in Leon County remains higher than the rate at the
 state level. In addition, a disproportionate number of arrests in the county
 affect Black and African American youth. In focus groups, providers stressed
 the importance of programs that provide productive options for youth to help
 reduce juvenile crime.



⁴ Florida Department of Education (2021). K-12 Student Assessment. Retrieved on January 6th, 2022 from: https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/

Florida Department of Education. (2022) Archive: Data Publications and Reports. Retrieved on January 6th from: https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/data-sys/edu-info-accountability-services/pk-12-public-school-data-pubs-reports/archive.stml

⁶ Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. (2022). Delinquency Profile Dashboard. Retrieved on June 2, 2022 from: https://www.djj.state. fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile/delinquency-profile-dashboard

Priority Area 2: Healthy Children, Youth, and Families

Physical Health

As a whole, secondary data and survey results suggest that pre- and perinatal healthcare represent relative strengths in the community. In 2020, 75% of births in the county had received adequate prenatal care, as compared to 66.6% across the state of Florida. However, data at the zip code level show that a higher proportion of births are to mothers without prenatal care in southern and western regions of the county. Similarly, findings from the CNAS showed that attitudes varied significantly across zip codes regarding the availability of pre- and perinatal health services, suggesting a need for targeted programs in specific neighborhoods to improve access to healthcare before and during delivery. Surveys and focus groups also indicated a need for health-promoting activities and expanded auxiliary health services for children and youth across the entire community, specifically vision and dental.

Mental Health

• Multiple data sources highlighted mental health as an area of need for children and youth in the community. Recent figures in areas, such as youth suicide and domestic violence, are higher in Leon County than in the state of Florida. For example, in 2020, the rate of domestic violence offenses in Leon County was 824.6 out of 100,000 in Leon County compared to 492.2 out of 100,000 statewide.8 At the same time, the suicide rate for youth aged 18 and under in Leon County reached 5.9 out of 100,000, compared to 2.6 out of 100,000 across Florida.9 In keeping with findings from secondary data, community members expressed a need for higher quality and more accessible mental health services and programs to meet the needs of children and youth.

Florida Health Charts. (2022). Florida Health Charts Community Map. Retrieved on June 9th, 2022 from: https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=ChartsMapps.chartsMapper

⁸ Florida Health Charts. (nd). Total Domestic Violence Cases. Retrieved on January 6th, 2022 from: https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer

⁹ Florida Health Charts. (2021). Suicide Deaths. Retrieved on January 6th, 2022 from: https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=Death.Dataviewer

Priority Area 3: Stable and Nurturing Families and Communities

Youth Development

• Publicly available indicators point to some successes in youth development for Leon County. As compared to the state of Florida, a smaller proportion of youth aged 16 to 19 in the county are both unemployed and not attending school. In addition, the on-time high school graduation rate is above the state level. As of the 2019-20 school year, Leon County students graduated on time at a rate of 94.4% as compared to 90% at the state level.¹⁰ Despite this, community members expressed during both the CNAS and focus groups that programs and services related to financial literacy training and other skill development are needed to help youth transition into productive adulthood.

Food Stability

• Families who live below the federal poverty limit or among Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) face higher risk of experiencing food insecurity. This is important to note, as 22% of children and youth in Leon County live below the federal poverty limit¹¹ and an additional 19% of households in Leon County can be characterized as ALICE.¹² As a result, there is a sizable proportion of children and youth in the community who may be experiencing barriers in accessing reliable, nutritious food. This data is supported by findings from both the CNAS and focus groups, which suggested a need for expanded access to healthy food sources, particularly during summer and school holidays, for less advantaged children and youth in the community.

Housing Stability

• As of 2020, 53.6% of households in Leon County were housing cost burdened. This represents a slightly higher rate than the 52.6% of households across Florida.¹³ Findings from the CNAS demonstrated that approximately two thirds of all respondents believed housing to be unaffordable in Leon County (65%). This view was further supported in parent and provider focus groups. On average, community members expressed positive views toward housing quality through the CNAS. However, housing quality varies, with lower-income families in the community struggling to access quality homes.

Florida Department of Education. (2021). Florida's High School Cohort: 2019-20 Graduation Rate. Retrieved January 6, 2022 from: https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7584/urlt/GradRates1920.pdf

Office of Economic and Demographic Research. (2021). Leon County. Florida Legislature: Tallahassee, FL. Retrieved on January 6th, 2021, from: http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/area-profiles/county/leon.pdf
 United Way. (2022) United for ALICE: Florida Statewide Overview. Retrieved on March 7th from: https://www.unitedforalice.org/

¹² United Way. (2022) United for ALICE: Florida Statewide Overview. Retrieved on March 7th from: https://www.unitedforalice.org/ state-overview/florida

¹³ Florida Scorecard. (2022). State of Florida Metrics: Quality of Life and Quality Places. Retrieved on January 6th from: https://thefloridascorecard.org/pillar&c=36&pillar=6

Lower-income survey respondents were significantly less likely to report that the basic housing needs of children are being met. Similarly, community members described poor housing conditions for disadvantaged families in Leon County and financial pressures due to the increasing cost of living. On the CNAS, most families felt that the parks and recreational facilities around their homes were safe, although this left just over a quarter finding that such spaces were unsafe.

Enhanced Supports for Caregivers

• Both primary and secondary data sources suggest a need to support caregivers in Leon County. For example, rates of child abuse and children in foster care are slightly above statewide estimates. The rate of children aged 5 to 11 experiencing physical, emotional, or sexual abuse has dropped over the past decade in both Leon County and across Florida, although the county rate of 607.1 per 100,000 exceeded the statewide rate of 583.9 as of 2020.14 In addition, there was an increase in the county-level abuse rate following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community members also cited a need for parental education and programs to address the expense of childcare during focus groups.

Opportunities

The following opportunities for impact were developed to address the gaps that emerged in the analyses:

- Focus on closing gaps through afterschool and summer programming
- Foster collaboration among providers, funders, and the community
- Provide strategic capacity building to providers
- Target inequity through access
- Bring awareness to current resources
- Prioritize prevention and early intervention
- Leverage experts to address systemic issues impacting children, youth, and families in Leon County
- Create a CSC Leon Youth Advisory Council to elevate youth voices
- Bring awareness to CSC Leon's presence in the community

Please note, the order of these opportunities does not indicate prioritization. Rather, the order follows the layout of the discussed findings throughout the duration of the report.

Florida Health Charts. (2022). Children Experiencing Child Abuse (Aged 5-11 Years). Retrieved on January 6th 2022 from: https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/ChartsReports/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=NonVitalIndNoGrp.Dataviewer

Key Outcomes and Measures

Q-Q Research developed a Key Outcomes and Measures (KOM) tool that defines the domains of interest to CSC Leon's work and proposes measures related to each of these domains. The goal of the KOM tool is to provide a comprehensive guide to reliable and valid measures of interest in the evaluation of programs aimed at improving outcomes for children, youth, and families. Evaluation staff at funded organizations and other stakeholders will be able to consult this tool to enrich their evaluation efforts.

To develop the KOM, members of the research team completed the following:

- Began KOM development with the three domains established by CSC Leon:
 success in school and life;
 healthy children, youth, and families; and
 stable and nurturing families and communities.
- 2. Defined preliminary subdomains within CSC Leon's three domains and the constructs of interest associated with each subdomain
- 3. Considered essential elements to include in the KOM tool that would be most useful for stakeholders, such as cost, target age range.
- 4. Consulted with subject-matter experts on the KOM and received additional feedback for incorporation.
- 5. Conducted a comprehensive literature review to locate outcomes and measures pertinent to the isolated subdomains
- 6. Held focus groups with providers serving children, youth, and families in Leon County, FL, to further inform the KOM tool (e.g., measures to consider, provider capacity for data collection, and management).
- 7. Finalized the selection of measures based on the following criteria:
 - a. Measures could not be designed for, or normed on, narrow populations (e.g., focused on a specific minority group).
 - b. Measures must have demonstrated reliability and validity (i.e., if tools had sub-measures, only tools where all sub-measures have demonstrated sufficient reliability were included).
 - c. Onlymeasures grounded in well-researched theoretical understandings of healthy development and developed by area experts were included. Additionally, preference was given to tools that have been shown to correlate with other measures or validated with approaches such as factor analysis.

The following measurement types were included in the KOM:

- **a. Outcome Measures:** Tools that can be incorporated into program evaluation work to assess the program's effect on its participants.
- **b. Screeners:** Brief assessments intended to flag children or youth at risk of a negative outcome.
- **c. Risk and Protective Factor Measures:** Assess for characteristics associated with a higher or lower likelihood of adverse outcomes in a given domain.
- **d. Secondary Measures**: Measures from external sources (e.g., publicly available data) that provide aggregate snapshots (e.g., Leon County as a whole).
- 8. Determined key benchmark indicators to provide a baseline for CSC Leon as they work to move the needle on key outcomes (see Figure 9). Benchmarks were selected if they were:
 - a. Publicly available with the ability to be tracked over time.
 - b. Anticipated to change over time due to successful program implementation supported by CSC Leon.
 - c. Indicators of positive development that ultimately point to success in long-term outcomes.

Findings

The final KOM tool contains a comprehensive set of measures to evaluate the effectiveness of CSC Leon activities. For each of the three domains, the tool delineates relevant subdomains and lists measures used in various aspects of program evaluation.

Priority Area	Domain Area	Total # Measures
Success in School and Life	School Readiness	34
(n = 103)	School Age Supports	69
Healthy Children Youth and	Mental Health	80
Families (n = 125)	Physical Health	45
	Food Stability	11
Stable and Nurturing	Housing Stability	9
Families and Community (n = 65)	Supporting and Expanding the Number of Caregivers	33
	Youth Development	12

Service providers will be able to consult this tool to locate sound measurement tools and expand their thinking related to evaluating the impact of their work. For each subdomain, the tool also lists publicly available benchmark impact measures anticipated to move over time as a function of successful program implementation and which the CSC and their partners may wish to track over time.

Funding Options A and B

Q-Q Research presented Funding Options A to CSC Leon's Program Services Committee on April 7, 2022, and Board on April 21, 2022. In this report, Q-Q Research provided recommendations for CSC Leon's expedited priority investments. The programs/ initiatives funded through the expedited priority investments are meant to address community needs in the short term while the longer-term community investment process is developed and finalized. The awards for Funding Options A will run from June 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022, and will generate immediate, positive impacts on priority areas throughout Leon County. For more information, see the Funding Options A report published on CSC Leon's website (https://cscleon.org).

Funding Options B was presented to CSC Leon's Programs Services Committee on May 31st. Funding Options B represents opportunities for long-term investments. Ultimately, these long-term investment opportunities set the stage for CSC Leon to allocate funds for multi-year funding cycles, while recognizing the importance of building the infrastructure, processes and systems that will facilitate collaboration, continuous learning and data informed decision making. To see specific long-term investment opportunities documented in Funding Options B, see Table 22 in the appendix.

Comprehensive and Informative Programs Inventory

Comprehensive Programs Inventory (CPI)

The Comprehensive Programs Inventory (CPI) is a database and linked dashboard comprised of organizations serving children, youth, and families in Leon County. The CPI contains detailed information about organizations, such as general operations information (e.g., address, phone number, website, number of clients served), organization type (e.g., charitable organization, private foundation, church), target population(s) (e.g., special needs, LGBTQIA, targeted zip codes), demographics of the target population(s), and the CSC Leon sub-domains of focus (e.g., mental health, youth development, school readiness).

A series of datasets (i.e., IRS Publication 78, 2-1-1 Big Bend, UPHS, Secondary Data Research, Provider Survey) were used to comprise a list of over 1800 organizations currently serving children, youth, and families in Leon County. This data was used to develop the CPI database into an interactive online dashboard that could be used to access the data in a more user-friendly format. CSC Leon Staff and stakeholders have the ability to filter on multiple parameters (e.g., organization type, target population, priority area of focus, sources of funding), allowing users to identify and select CBO's of interest. The dashboard can be added to CSC Leon's website as either a public-facing resource or Council access only.

The database is designed to be continually updated as organizations apply for funding from CSC Leon. Updates are supplied via a Provider Survey (PS). The PS allows an organization to provide a summary of details that may not be conveniently located through a general proposal narrative, such as programs currently offered, populations served, or priority areas targeted, among others.

It will also allow CSC Leon to have a more expansive view of services provided in Leon County and potentially identify gaps or areas of need. For example, the dashboard allows for filtering by priority area targeted. As such, CSC Leon can search for providers in a specific priority area or see which priority areas appear to be underrepresented.

Findings

The final draft of the CPI had a total of 1,877 organizations listed. To collect data that was not available via the databases and secondary research, the PS was distributed via email to all organizations with available contact information, which was 84.0% of the total database (n = 1577). Among the 1,577 organizations that received the PS, only 3.1% completed the survey in its entirety (n = 49). To try to maximize efforts, Q-Q Research partnered with a dedicated liaison who made personal phone calls to encourage providers to complete the survey and to provide one-on-one support for the PS. Additionally, members of the Q-Q Research team conducted online secondary research to complete any missing information across the 1,877 organizations where contact information was not available. A website could not be located for 554 organizations, leaving these with incomplete CPI elements. However, CSC Leon plans to continue pursuing this information from organizations that serve children, youth, and families in the community.

Priority Area	CSC Leon Subdomains	Total # Organizations Offering Services within CSC Leon Subdomains
Success in School	School Readiness	213
and Life (n = 340)	School Age Supports	127
Healthy Children	Mental Health	114
Youth and Families (n = 212)	Physical Health	98
	Youth Development	164
Stable and	Food Stability	70
Nurturing Families and	Housing Stability	92
Community (n = 344)	Supporting and Expanding the Number of Caregivers	18
No Priority Area Indicated	No Sub-Domain Indicated	1197

Future of the CPI

The CPI database was designed to act as a starting point from which CSC Leon could further evolve and develop the data contained within as their work grows and their use case becomes more defined. As work in the community continues, it may become necessary to add or remove data types to refine the dashboard and allow it to grow with the organization. Also, as more organizations complete the survey, CSC Leon may be able to more readily identify the information needed for making funding decisions and allowing for refinement of the PS. As such, this database and the PS used to inform it should not be seen as static or final. It is meant to be a resource that changes and evolves as the organization does.

Informative Programs Inventory (IPI)

Members of Q-Q Research developed an **Informative Programs Inventory (IPI)** of current programs and services in Florida, the U.S., and around the globe using effective and other practices and any demonstrated results related to key outcomes for CSC Leon to reference as they develop innovative ways to serve children, youth, and families in the community. This inventory categorized nationwide and statewide evidence-based and promising and emerging practices into three categories: a) Evidence-Based, b) Research-Based, and c) Promising Practice.

The IPI was developed in two phases:

Phase One: Developing the IPI Dataset

- Development and maintenance of Q-Q Research's current inventory of nationwide evidence-based, promising, and emerging practices. Q-Q Research added to inventory using empirical research.
- 2. Leon County services providers were invited to provide evidence-based and promising practices used by their organization in the Provider Survey (PS) to allow providers to nominate evidence-based and promising practices that they found effective for the population they serve.
- 3. Q-Q Research reviewed all promising programs identified by the providers to determine if a program met the criteria to be defined as promising and thereby included in the IPI.

Phase Two: Creating the IPI Online Dashboard Platform

 The final IPI was provided in a user-friendly, interactive drill-down dashboard, providing CSC Leon Staff and stakeholders the ability to filter on multiple parameters. Filters included (1) Priority Area, (2) Domain Area, (3) Evidence Level, and (4) Program Title. Once the desired filters are selected, users can see the priority area, domain area, evidence level, program title, program description, and outcomes for all programs that fit the search criteria (see Figure 16). The user interface is powered by Microsoft Power BI.

Findings

The final draft of the IPI had a total of 130 identified programs under Success in School and Life, 114 programs under Healthy Children, Youth, and Families, and 119 programs under Stable and /Nurturing Families and Community.

Priority Area	Domain Area	Total # Programs and/ or Practices	# Evidence- Based	# Research- Based	# Promising Practice
Success in School and	School Readiness	25	1	21	3
Life (n = 130)	School Age Supports	105	13	84	8
Healthy	Mental Health	72	8	51	13
Children Youth and Families (n = 114)	Physical Health	42	0	4	38
	Food Stability	2	0	1	1
	Housing Stability	6	1	4	1
Stable and Nurturing Families and Community	Supporting and Expanding the Number of Caregivers	56	8	42	6
(n = 119)	Youth Development	55	3	46	6

Table 21:

Funding Options B: Long Term Investment Opportunities

RECOMMENDATIONS ACROSS ALL DOMAINS

	Recommendations Across Domains			
Investment Area	Proposed Investment	Population	Requirements	
Systems Building	Strategic steering committees by geography. Potential models: Transforming Early Childhood Communities (TECCS), Oregon Systems Change Model, StriveTogether Theory of Action™ framework	By Geography	 One qualified entity would centralize and lead the development of the various committees Identify number of committees and geographic areas to be represented (each area should have representation from at least have one target zip-code) Set systems, functions, and processes in place across committees. Review gap analysis for each geographic area and set subsequent priorities in alignment with long term recommendations Measurement and mapping Community engagement – These models include participation from all stakeholders in the community: service recipients, community-based organizations, private businesses, faith institutions, government entities, etc. Targeted, place-based systems improvement Shared learning network Monitoring and evaluation 	
	Partner with other founders and key stakeholders to enhance/develop program directory	Universal	 Include programs funded and not funded in all domains User friendly database that can be updated and accessed in real-time Ability to filter by program type, geography, population being served and other relevant categories Functionality that facilitates referral processes Develop functionality to integrate with other directories 	
Evaluation	Tool(s) to collect/ integrate, analyze and use data in real time. Potential solution: UpMetrics	Universal	 Tool(s) to collect data (or integrate data collected by service providers) Data analysis at the provider and CSC level Real time access in a user-friendly manner for service providers and for the CSC 	

	Recommendations Across Domains			
Investment Area	Proposed Investment	Population	Requirements	
Evaluation (cont.)	Formative evaluations of evidence-based and promising models being implemented under each of the domains	Universal with focused on target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 One qualified entity to design and complete formative evaluation for each of the subdomains All programs funded to pilot recommended models would participate in the evaluation Evaluation trends in results should be disseminated and used for capacity building efforts Evaluation results should be used to inform recommendations for future funding cycles 	
Capacity building	Capacity building services for CSC Leon funded providers. Potential tools: NIRN Practice Guide to Supporting Implementation, All Children Thrive Quality Improvement Framework	Universal	 Organization with expertise on provider capacity building and established relationships with service providers Complete Organizational capacity assessment (OCA) Provide guidance on areas required for funding (e.g., data collection) Develop close relationship with entities completing formative evaluations Use results from different phases of formative evaluation to make decisions about supports needed Implement a comprehensive plan that is flexible and adaptable to diverse adult learning styles Initial priority around helping organizations build and maintain social-emotional wellness, diversity and inclusion practices 	
	Communities of practice specific to each domain		 Organization with expertise on the specific domain and established relationships with service providers Every funded program should be required to participate Opportunities for cross-fertilization Alignment with capacity building efforts Alignment with system building efforts 	
Family* Advisory Council	Family* advisory council to participate in shaping investments. Potential models: Youth-led Participatory Action Research (YPAR), Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative's (JCYOI), and A guide to forming advisory boards for family serving organizations.	Universal	 Family representatives (e.g., youth and parents*) of all areas of the community, ensuring participation from target zip-codes Provide insight about effectiveness and reception of approaches, as well as additional gaps identified Reducing barriers that limit awareness of resources by promoting CSC Leon efforts to friends, families, and other peers Youth and their families benefit, including leadership opportunities, career-related experience, and financial support 	

	Recommendations Across Domains			
Investment Area	Proposed Investment	Population	Requirements	
Public Relations	Hire PR/marketing firm to develop long term strategy to raise awareness about CSC Leon's presence and role in the community and to increase awareness around other issues that are important to the community.	Universal	 Established firm with knowledge of the community and strong local partnerships, with expertise around diversity and inclusion Experience with innovative strategies to raise community awareness around public health issues and social initiatives Experience with developing and leading campaigns inclusive of branding, strategic distribution of marketing materials, social media utilization, etc. Monitoring and tracking campaign reach and impact, and brand awareness. 	
Contingency Funds	Allocate funds to possible unforeseen future expenses related to family stabilization, natural disasters, etc.	Universal with focus on target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	Develop policies and procedures for fund management and distribution	
Reserves	Q1 allocation for Fall grant cycle	N/A		

^{*} represents funding options offered by the CSC Leon Programs Services Committee. *Italic text* represent recommendations where it is important to consider how federal and state funding impact available services and resources over the course of the year.

SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND LIFE

Subdomain: School Readiness

- Affordability of early learning programs
- Availability of early learning programs
- Awareness of existing early learning programs

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Child scholarship slot payments to expand participation in early learning programs	Prioritize programs serving in target zip codes and/or vulnerable populations	 High-quality, evidence-based school readiness and VPK program Capacity for additional slots Curriculum that supports social-emotional learning and integrates it into the program daily activities Health and wellness (healthy meals, nutrition education, physical activity) Parent engagement and education Extended hours for working families 	
Pilot evidence-based or informed models to increase center-wide social-emotional wellness. Potential models: High Scope Curriculum, Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices, Creative Curriculum	Universal	High quality school readiness or VOK program Organizational capacity to implement pilot External team to conduct formative evaluation	Increase the number of children who enter kindergarten socially, emotionally, and academically ready: Early Development Instrument (KOM ID: 1.1.9) or Desired Results Developmental
Implement evidence-based and promising parent education models that support early brain development.* Potential models: Brain Bags and Parents as Teachers (PAT).	Universal	 High quality parent education program that focuses on parents' role in brain development and the critical importance of the early years Parent engagement and education Easy to access resources that parents can use effectively and consistently 	Profile: Kindergarten (DRDP-K) (KOM ID: 1.1.11)
Partner with school district to collect the Early Development Instrument (EDI) and the Middle Years Development Instrument baseline and develop plan for future data collection.	Universal	 EDI data collection plan in partnership with UCLA Coordinate teacher training with school district Data analysis and dissemination through strategic steering committees 	

Subdomain: School Readiness

- Affordability of early learning programs
- Availability of early learning programs
- Awareness of existing early learning programs

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Partner with other community stakeholders to implement a center and/ or teacher focused incentives program*	Universal with focus on target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 High-quality, evidence-based school readiness and VPK program that meets additional criteria (to be determined) Program's slot reimbursement is enhanced with CSC funds Early learning practitioners who met specific criteria (to be determined) around credentials, continuous education, etc. Practitioners receive supports such as scholarships to increase access to higher education and training Practitioners receive salary supplements using CSC funds. 	Increase retention
Partner with other community stakeholders to increase recruitment and retention of male participation in the early childhood workforce.* Although a specific model was not identified, this York City Study and the strategies provided by anzuk.blog offer some valuable insights.	Universal	 Assess current landscape of male participation in early education in the county Identify partners and key stakeholders, such as the ELC, higher and continuing education institutions, advocacy groups, etc. Educational campaign highlighting the importance of having male role models and educators actively involved in early learning Identify and implement recruitment and retention strategies that could be implemented in the short, medium, and long term 	of early learning practitioners Increase early learning programs operational capacity

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Subdomain: School-Age Supports

- English Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency
- Disparities in education and proficiency across subpopulations (CWD, Affordable and accessible afterschool and summer programming economically disadvantaged, ELL)
- Services for children with disabilities

- Social-emotional supports for children
- Parent engagement and education

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Fund innovative, high-quality afterschool and summer programs.	Funding opportunities available to all programs, but funding decisions to prioritize programs serving in target zip codes and/ or serving vulnerable populations	 Organization implementing high-quality program Social-emotional learning Academic support/ enrichment Life Skills Other enrichment activities such as sports, arts, civic engagement etc. Health and wellness (healthy meals, nutrition education and physical activity) Parent engagement and education 	Increase school performance: Percent of students promoted to next grade and High School graduation rate (School District
Pilot evidence-based or promising afterschool models focused on children's social-emotional development. Potential models: Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Training: Competent Learners Achieving School Success (BEST in CLASS) and Coping Power	Target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Organization implementing high-quality program Organizational capacity to implement pilot External team to conduct formative evaluation 	records KOM ID: 2.3.1 and 2.3.2) Consider the Youth Outcome Measures Online Toolbox as a complementary tool (KOM ID: 2.1.8) Reduce juvenile crime among school-aged children and youth: Contacts with the juvenile justice system and recidivism rates (Florida Department of Juvenile Law Enforcement (KOM: 3.1 and 3.2)
Fund a planning effort to identify training and capacity building needs for current and potential providers and develop a framework to address those needs.* The framework may integrate capacity building models, such as the one developed by the <u>David P. Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality</u>	Universal	 Organization with training and capacity building expertise to lead the planning and framework development effort Convene existing and potential providers Identify tool(s) that assesses program implementation, with emphasis in social-emotional wellness Review recommended capacity building model as well as other evidence-based or promising capacity building practices that can be integrated 	

Subdomain: School-Age Supports

- English Language Arts and Mathematics proficiency
- Disparities in education and proficiency across subpopulations (CWD, Affordable and accessible afterschool and summer programming economically disadvantaged, ELL)
- Services for children with disabilities

- Social-emotional supports for children
- Parent engagement and education

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Additional supports for CWD and ELL being served	Programs serving CWD and ELL	 Separate funds allocated to support accommodations (physical or staff related) Partner with existing expert organizations that advocate for CWD and ELL to increase awareness and inform capacity building efforts 	
Fund evidence-based or promising practices focused on children and youth who are at high risk or have been involved in the delinquency system.* Potential models: Connections, Front-End Diversion Initiative, Young Parents Project, Adolescent Diversion Project, Crossover Youth Practice Model, Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP), Family Solutions Program (FSP)	Universal with emphasis in target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Organization with expertise in the juvenile justice system Partner with other entities supporting juvenile justice efforts Organizational capacity to implement evidence-based program 	• Reduce juvenile crime among school-aged children and youth: Contacts with the juvenile justice system and recidivism rates (Florida Department of Juvenile Law Enforcement (KOM: 3.1 and 3.2)

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HEALTHY CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Subdomain: Physical Health

- Affordable and accessible programs for youth fitness activities Awareness of available health services in the community and sports
- Limited health education

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Benefits Awareness & Enrollment Support specialists in all funded programs	Universal with highest concentration in target zip-codes	 One central agency manages specialists supporting funded programs (ensure consistency in role qualifications, training, and functions) Assigned to each funded program Support program participants and do outreach in the community/geographic area being served Public benefits outreach and awareness One-to-one enrollment support 	Reduce infant and maternal mortality (Maternal Mortality Review Committee - Florida Health / Physician & hospital records KOM: 1.1 and 1.2) Increase infant health, improve oral health, and improve early identification of health problems (Physician /
Mobile Health Units • Pediatric • Vision • Oral Health	Prioritize locations in target zip codes and/ or vulnerable populations	 Expand capacity of existing units (identify additional funding needed to expand effort that are already in place) Provide screening and health services Rotate throughout afterschool and summer camp programs 	
Fund evidence-based or best practices model that is aligned with the systems building work and provides opportunities for communities to partner with schools and other stakeholders an increase access to physical and mental health supports.* Potential models: Communities that Care and Community HUB model. This proposed investment is also included in the Enhanced Support for Caregivers, and the Food and Housing Stability subdomains.		 Lead organization with expertise in systems building that can support planning and implementation of model Partnerships with community providers for referrals Effective referral process 	hospital data KOM: 1.2.1)

Subdomain: Physical Health

- Affordable and accessible programs for youth fitness activities Awareness of available health services in the community and sports
- Affordable and accessible vision and oral health services
- Limited health education

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Fund evidence-based or best practices model that supports women and families through pregnancy and childbirth.* Potential models: Family Foundations and Nurse Family Partnership.	Target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Existing high-quality parenting program or new program with strong organizational capacity Solid plan to implement evidence-based program Caregiver education Peer support Accessing resources Solid plan to implement evidence-based model 	

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Subdomain: Mental Health

- Key concern in the community
- Affordable and accessible mental health services
- Caregiver capacity and support to meet emotional needs of children
- Anger and trauma management support
- Social-emotional learning opportunities
- Awareness of existing mental health services and resources

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure Link	
Fund mental health specialists in all funded programs	Universal	 One central agency would manage mental health specialists to support funded programs (ensure consistency in role qualifications, training, and functions) Assigned to funded programs (a few programs may share one) Implement universal awareness campaigns Provide mental health first aid training for staff Provide mental health support for children and youth 	Increase resiliency (EPOCH Measure of Adolescent Well-Being KOM: 2.1.7)	
Partner with other funders and key stakeholders to implement mental health campaigns across county. This campaign would be embedded into the larger Public Relations investment recommendation in the Across Domains section. *	Universal	Research informed practices to increase mental health awareness Facilitate access to program directory and referrals	Reduce the number and consequences of adverse childhood events (Yale-Vermont Adversity in Childhood Scale (Y-VACS) KOM: 2.2.6) Improve social	
Fund selective and indicated prevention programs for youth. Potential models: Blues Program, Bounce Back, Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS), and Emotional and Behavioral Health Crisis Response and Prevention (EBH-CRP),	Universal with highest concentration in target zip- codes	 Existing high-quality programs Organizational capacity to implement new model External team to complete formative evaluation 	interaction & positive relationships (Assessment of Interpersonal Relations KOM: 2.3.12)	

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STABLE & NURTURING FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

Subdomain: Youth Development

- Lack of engaging programs for youth
- College and career readiness programs
- Life skills curricula

- Targeted program for vulnerable populations
- Family engagement and education
- Lack of care coordination amongst providers

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
High-quality youth development afterschool and summer programs	Universal	 Existing high-quality youth enrichment program Capacity for additional slots Social-emotional learning Academic enrichment Life Skills – college/career readiness, financial literacy Enrichment Health and wellness (healthy meals, nutrition education and physical activity) Parent engagement and education Extended hours for working families Have continuous quality improvement processes in place, inclusive of high quality training for direct service staff (e.g., teachers)* 	 Build occupational skills, expand career pathways, and increase economic opportunities (US Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration KOM:1.2.1) Reduce juvenile crime among school-aged children and youth (Florida Department
Pilot evidence-based or promising youth development models. Potential models: Cooperative Learning. Year Up, Eisenhower Quantum Opportunities Program, Youth Relationships Project	Target zip- codes and vulnerable populations	 Existing high-quality youth enrichment program Solid plan to implement evidence-based model 	
Develop funder collaboration to fund and operate youth career and job readiness programs	Target zip- codes and vulnerable populations	 Engage other potential funders and stakeholders Identify opportunities to develop and implement pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, internship, or other types of job readiness and vocational programs. One qualified entity to leverage funding, develop and coordinate program Life Skills – soft skills for job placement and financial literacy Job placement for a specific amount of time Opportunities for professional mentoring 	of Juvenile Law Enforcement KOM: 3.1 and 3.2)

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Subdomain: Food and Housing Stability

- Availability of healthy food
- High poverty and ALICE rates
- Lack of affordable and safe housing
- · LGBTQ youth homelessness

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Strategic Steering Committees in each geographic area will have the Food & Housing Stability subdomain as the initial priority area to work on.	Universal to a specific geographic area, with emphasis on target zip- codes and vulnerable populations	 Undertake food and housing stability, and community violence, as urgent priorities for recommendations. Review gap analysis and other community indicators Engage stakeholders from the public and private sector Identify potential root causes and intervention strategies 	Reduce the consequences of food insecurity by ensuring that children and youth in Leon County have adequate year-round access to healthy food (FL Health Charts KOM: 2.1) Reduce the number of children and youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness (United Way ALICE Report KOM: 3.1 and Housing Information System, National Center for Homeless Education KOM: 3.2)
Fund efforts to support families access to access existing resources as well as family stabilization supports. Potential model: Strengthening Families	Target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Organizational capacity to implement model and influence systems level change Ability to administer funds to support family stabilization Ability to recruit and train community members to work as navigators* Ability to utilize efficient referral network Services to be provided 24 hours per day, 7 days per week 	
Fund evidence-based or promising practices that seek to eradicate poverty.* Potential models: Basic Income Guaranteed, Bridges Out of Poverty and Getting Ahead, Cambridge Recurring Income for Success + Empowerment (Cambridge RISE)	Target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Engage stakeholders from the public and private sector Organization with expertise and ability to effect systems change Organizational capacity to implement selected model 	

Subdomain: Food and Housing stability

- Availability of healthy food
- High poverty and ALICE rates
- Lack of affordable and safe housing
- LGBTQ youth homelessness

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Fund evidence-based or promising practices model that is aligned with the systems building work and provides opportunities for communities to partner with schools and other stakeholders an increase access to physical and mental health supports. Potential models: Communities that Care and Community HUB model. This proposed investment is also included in the Physical Health and the Enhanced Support for Caregivers subdomains.*	Universal to a specific geographic area, with emphasis on target zip- codes and vulnerable populations	 Lead organization with expertise in systems building that can support planning and implementation of model Partnerships with community providers for referrals Effective referral process 	
Fund evidence-based or best practices model that supports youth transitioning out of foster care. Potential models: Better Futures Program and LifeSet	Target zip-codes and vulnerable populations	 Organization with expertise working with children in the foster care system Partner with other entities supporting youth transitioning out of foster care Organizational capacity to implement evidence-based program 	Build occupational skills, expand career pathways, and increase economic opportunities

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Subdomain: Enhanced Supports for Caregivers

- Increase in child abuse as a result of the pandemic
- Disparities in number of children in foster care by zip code
- Lack of services for youth transitioning out of dependency care
- Support for caregivers in meeting emotional and behavioral needs of vulnerable children
- Mental health services for children and families
- Navigating available services

Proposed Investment	Population	Programmatic Requirements	Key Outcome Measure
Pilot a set of evidence-based and/or promising parenting programs: Brief Strategic Family Therapy, ACT Raising Safe Kids Program, Child First	Funding opportunities available to all programs, but funding decisions to prioritize programs serving in target zip codes and/or serving vulnerable populations	 Existing high-quality parenting program or new program with strong organizational capacity Solid plan to implement evidence-based program Caregiver education Peer support Accessing resources Solid plan to implement evidence-based model 	 Improve parenting
Fund evidence-based or promising practices model that is aligned with the systems building work and provides opportunities for communities to partner with schools and other stakeholders an increase access to mental health supports. Potential model: Communities That Care, PROSPER (Promoting School-Community-University Partnerships to Enhance Resilience) This proposed investment is also included in the Physical Health and the Food and Housing Stability subdomains*	Target zip codes and/or serving vulnerable populations.	 Existing family mental health support program Capacity for additional families Partnerships with community providers for referrals Effective referral process 	skills and family dynamics (Alabama Parenting Questionnaire KOM: 5.1.2; The Parenting Practices Scale KOM: 5.1.11)

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REPORT ADDENDUM

The following table was developed to reflect the most recent data for all CSC Leon Key Benchmark Indicators. Some of the data displayed were released after the finalization of the report. As a result, CSC Leon and the Q-Q Research team wanted to provide the most recent data for benchmarking purposes to properly inform the progress made by the Children's Services Council in Leon County, FL.

Definitions for each measure below can be found on the CSC Leon website.

Table 21:

Updated Data for Key Benchmark Indicators as of June 2022

Success in School and Life				
Measure	Year of Data	Leon County	Florida	Data Source
Kindergarten Readiness	2021	50%	50%	Florida Department of Education
3rd Grade Reading	2022	54%	53%	Florida Department of Education
8th Grade Math	2021	29%	37%	Florida Department of Education
School Absentism	2020-2021	25.6%	16.6%	Florida Department of Education, reported by Florida CHARTS
Juvenile Crime	2020-2021	18.9/1,000	16.0/1,000	Florida Department of Juvenile Justice
High School Graduation	2021	94%	90.1%	Florida Department of Education

Healthy Children, Youth, and Families					
Measure	Year of Data	Leon County	Florida	Data Source	
Births with Adequate Prental Care	2020	75%	66.6%	Florida Department of Health	
Low Birth Weight Babies	2018-2020	10.4%	8.7%	Florida Department of Health	
Childhood Immunization Rate	2021	93.7%	93.3%	Florida Department of Health	
Children without Health Insurance	2020	3.4%	7.2%	Florida Department of Health	
Childhood Obesity Rate	2020	15.2%	14.4%	Florida Department of Health	
Hospitalizations for self- harm among youth	2020	38.8/100,000	70.8/100,000	Florida Department of Health	
Suicide Rates among youth	2020	12.6/100,000	13.1/100,000	Florida Department of Health	
Domestic Violence Incidence	2020	824.6/100,000	492.2/100,000	Florida Department of Health	
	Stable and Nurt	uring Families and	Community		
Measure	Year of Data	Leon County	Florida	Data Source	
Families in Poverty	2020	15.9%	15.2%	Florida Department of Health	
ALICE Children	2019	77% (central);36% (outer)	39%	United Way	
Projected Childhood Food Insecurity	2020	21.2%	21.4%	Feeding America	
Youth Experiencing Homelessness	2020-2021	1.5%	2.2%	Florida Department of Education	

Stable and Nurturing Families and Community				
Measure	Year of Data	Leon County	Florida	Data Source
Teen Births	2020	10.2/1,000	15/1,000	Florida Department of Health
Children Experiencing Abuse	2020	607.1/100,000	583.9/100,000	Department of Children & Families, reported by Florida Charts
Housing Cost Burdened	2020	53.6%	52.6%	Florida Chamber Score Card, Quality of Life
Neighborhood Safety	2020	9.8%	9.1%	Florida Department of Health