

**Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon)  
Governing Council Meeting**

Thursday, March 7, 2024, 4:00 p.m.


CSC Leon Office | 2002 Old St. Augustine Road, Bldg. A, Ste. 50, Tallahassee, FL 32301

*Members of the public can view the meeting via live stream, when available, on this YouTube channel:*

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc74A9evhLxbHlrH63-clbQ>

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. General Public Comment
- V. Consent Agenda
  - A. Minutes from the January meeting (pg. 2)
  - B. Minutes from February special meeting (pg. 4)
  - C. Financials for January 2024
  - D. Finance & Budget Committee Report (Handout)
  - E. Executive Director's Report
- VI. General Counsel Update
- VII. Special Presentation: Family Strengthening Evaluation Update – Gary VanLandingham, Ph.D., Director, Askew School of Public Administration and Policy, Florida State University
- VIII. Summer Enrichment 2024 (pg. 11)
- IX. Funding Opportunity for Programs Designed for Special Needs (pg. 13)
- X. Small Investment for Program Success (SIPS) FY 2024 Quarter 2 (pg. 15)
- XI. Kindergarten Readiness Plan & Outline (pg. 16)
  - A. Perinatal Supports
  - B. Quality Childcare
  - C. Early Intervention Services
  - D. Housing
- XII. Next Meeting Agenda
- XIII. Member Comments
- XIV. Adjourn

	<b>MEETING:</b>	Governing Council Meeting
	<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	Thursday, January 18, 2024   4:00 p.m.
	<b>LOCATION:</b>	CSC Leon Office   2002 Old St. Augustine Rd., Tallahassee, FL 32301
<b>Members Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Zandra Glenn, Chair, Community Member</li> <li>• Terrence Watts, Vice-Chair, DCF Appointee</li> <li>• Paul Mitchell, Treasurer, Community Member</li> <li>• Atty. Carolyn Cummings, Chair, Leon County BBOC (Virtual)</li> <li>• Mark O'Bryant, Community Member</li> <li>• Rocky Hanna, Superintendent, Leon County Schools</li> <li>• Darryl Jones, School Board Chair, Leon County Schools</li> </ul>		<b>Members Absent:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judge Anthony Miller, Second Judicial Circuit</li> </ul> <b>Staff Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cecka Rose Green, Executive Director</li> <li>• Holly McPhail, Special Projects Manager</li> <li>• Jacinta Clay, Administrative Services Manager</li> <li>• Stephanie Eller Vaughn, Prog. Acct. Research Manager</li> <li>• Prisha Malone, Program Quality &amp; Assurance Specialist</li> </ul>
<b>AGENDA &amp; ACTION:</b>		
I. <b>Call to Order</b> – 4:08 pm II. <b>Roll Call</b> (See attendance above) III. <b>Approval of Agenda</b> – Mr. Mitchell moved approval; Mr. Watts seconded. Approved by consensus. IV. <b>General Public Comment</b> – Mr. J. Sheetz V. <b>Consent Agenda</b> – Mr. Mitchell moved approval with necessary corrections; Mr. O'Bryant second. Approved by consensus. VI. <b>Family Resource Center (FRC) Management Contract</b> – Overview of the contract provided by Ms. McPhail. The Council was not ready to vote. Chair Glenn pulled the agenda item to be discussed at a special council meeting in February 2024. VII. <b>Draft Emergency Funding Policy</b> – Handout was provided to Council; discussion will occur at the next Governing Council meeting. VIII. <b>Special Presentation: Family Strengthening Evaluation Update</b> – Presentation was moved to the next Governing Council meeting. IX. <b>Special Presentation: Early Learning Coalition "On Ramp" Program</b> – Liz Murphy, SHRM-CP, CEO, Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend Region, Inc. X. <b>Strategic Planning Discussion</b> – Ms. Green provided a summary of past discussions. Ms. Eller Vaughn presented baseline data and root causes impacting kindergarten readiness. Mr. Hanna moved for FY 2024-2026 Primary Funding to address Childcare & Early Education Programs, Early Childhood Curricula & Interventions and Supports for Expecting Parents & Families w/Young Children. Seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion passed unanimously.		
<b>ACTIVITIES/EVENTS</b>		
None		
<b>NEXT STEPS/TASKS</b>		
➤ Special Meeting will be scheduled to review and consider FRC Management Contract		
<b>NEXT MEETINGS:</b>		
➤ Finance and Budget Committee Meeting- TBD ➤ Governing Council Meeting – Thursday, March 7, 2023, 4:00 p.m., CSC Leon Office		

**NEXT MEETING AGENDA:**


- Summer 2024 RFA Approvals
- Kindergarten Readiness Procurements Concepts
- Emergency Funding Requests Policy Discussion
- Family Strengthening Evaluation Presentation

**MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Council Member Cummings, Hanna, and Director Green.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

	<b>MEETING:</b>	Special Governing Council Meeting
	<b>DATE &amp; TIME:</b>	Tuesday, February 20, 2024,   4:00 p.m.
	<b>LOCATION:</b>	CSC Leon Office   2002 Old St. Augustine Rd., Talla., FL 32301
<b>Members Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Zandra Glenn, Chair, Community Member</li> <li>• Terrence Watts, Vice-Chair, DCF Appointee (Virtual)</li> <li>• Paul Mitchell, Treasurer, Community Member</li> <li>• Darryl Jones, School Board Member, Leon County Schools</li> <li>• Mark O'Bryant, Community Member</li> <li>• Rocky Hanna, Superintendent, Leon County Schools</li> </ul> <b>Members Absent:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atty. Carolyn Cummings, Chair, Leon County BOCC</li> <li>• Judge Anthony Miller, Second Judicial Circuit</li> </ul>		<b>Staff Present:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cecka Rose Green, Executive Director</li> <li>• Holly McPhail, Special Projects Manager</li> <li>• Dina Snider, Director of Finance &amp; Operations</li> <li>• Prisha Malone, Program &amp; Quality Assurance Specialist</li> <li>• Jacinta Clay, Administrative Services Manager</li> <li>• Chris Roe, General Counsel</li> </ul>
<b>AGENDA &amp; ACTION:</b>		
I. <b>Call to Order</b> – 4:50 pm II. <b>Roll Call</b> (See attendance above) III. <b>Approval of Agenda</b> – Mr. Mitchell moved; Mr. O'Bryant seconded. Approved by consensus. IV. <b>Family Resource Center (FRC) Management Contract</b> – Ms. Green and Ms. McPhail summarized the contract revisions and comments submitted by Council Members. Staff from the intended provider, Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) were present: President/CEO Andry Sweet, Vice President of Community Solutions Jarvis Wheeler, Statewide Director of Community Impact Anna-Kay Hutchison, and Executive Director Tallahassee/Gainesville Area Tiffany Martin. CHS provided remarks and answered additional questions from the Council.  Public Comment: 1. Ms. Kim Sineath 2. Ms. Talethia Edwards  Mr. Mitchell moved FRC Management contract approval; seconded by Mr. O'Bryant. The motion passed with a 6-0 roll call vote.		
<b>ACTIVITIES/EVENTS</b>		
<b>NEXT STEPS/TASKS</b>		
<b>NEXT MEETING:</b>		
➤ Finance and Budget Committee Meeting – Monday March 4, 2024, 5:00 p.m., CSC Leon Office ➤ Governing Council Meeting – Thursday, March 7, 2024, 4:00 p.m., CSC Leon Office		
<b>MEMBER COMMENTS:</b>		
No member comments		
<b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>		
Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.		

**Children's Services Council of Leon County**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of January 31, 2024

---

	Jan 31, 24
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
1001 • Operating	665,578.57
1002 • Money Market Account	13,765,052.50
1011 • Bill.com Money Out Clearing	-33,556.57
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>14,397,074.50</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>14,397,074.50</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>	
1300 • Security Deposits	6,222.50
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>6,222.50</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>14,403,297.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	
2000 • Accounts Payable	-40,129.07
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>-40,129.07</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>	
Accrued Payroll Expenses	8,577.46
2100 • Employee Paid Benefits Clearing	
AFLAC	-643.64
Dental & Vision Insurance	-499.88
Group Term Life & Accidental	-1,336.48
Long Term Disability	-682.00
Supplemental Life & Accidental	362.88
<b>Total 2100 • Employee Paid Benefits Clearing</b>	<b>-2,799.12</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>5,778.34</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>-34,350.73</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>-34,350.73</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
3200 • Unrestricted Net Assets	9,207,387.23
Net Income	5,230,260.50
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>14,437,647.73</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>14,403,297.00</b>

# Children's Services Council of Leon County Income & Expense Budget vs. Actual

October 2023 through January 2024

	Oct '23 - Jan 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4000 · Ad Valorem Proceeds	6,773,513.32	7,639,186.00	-865,672.68	88.7%
4100 · Interest	70,745.93	152,784.00	-82,038.07	46.3%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>6,844,259.25</b>	<b>7,791,970.00</b>	<b>-947,710.75</b>	<b>87.8%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Operations</b>				
IT Services (Web & Email)	350.00			
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>350.00</b>			
<b>5010 · Compensation /Employee Benefits</b>				
5010.10 · Health Insurance	41,655.54	126,288.00	-84,632.46	33.0%
5010.20 · Life Insurance	0.00	4,047.00	-4,047.00	0.0%
5010.30 · Payroll taxes	7,756.77	30,283.00	-22,526.23	25.6%
5010.40 · Retirement Contribution	28,410.31	80,690.00	-52,279.69	35.2%
5010.50 · Salaries	103,855.71	395,850.00	-291,994.29	26.2%
<b>Total 5010 · Compensation /Employee Benefits</b>	<b>181,678.33</b>	<b>637,158.00</b>	<b>-455,479.67</b>	<b>28.5%</b>
<b>5020 · Contractual Services - Staffing</b>				
Audio/Video	4,858.74			
5020.10 · Accounting Fees	5,700.00	20,000.00	-14,300.00	28.5%
5020.20 · General Counsel (1099-MISC)	9,282.50	75,000.00	-65,717.50	12.4%
5020.30 · Staffing Services	19,680.00	199,000.00	-179,320.00	9.9%
<b>Total 5020 · Contractual Services - Staffing</b>	<b>39,521.24</b>	<b>294,000.00</b>	<b>-254,478.76</b>	<b>13.4%</b>
<b>5030 · Contractual Services (Other)</b>				
5030.10 · Independent Audit	0.00	20,000.00	-20,000.00	0.0%
5030.20 · Payroll processing	1,521.00	4,000.00	-2,479.00	38.0%
<b>Total 5030 · Contractual Services (Other)</b>	<b>1,521.00</b>	<b>24,000.00</b>	<b>-22,479.00</b>	<b>6.3%</b>
<b>5040 · Collection Expenses</b>				
5040.10 · Ad Valorem Collection Fees	0.00	152,784.00	-152,784.00	0.0%
5040.20 · TRIM advertisement fees	584.02	2,000.00	-1,415.98	29.2%
5040.30 · Special District fee	175.00	175.00	0.00	100.0%
<b>Total 5040 · Collection Expenses</b>	<b>759.02</b>	<b>154,959.00</b>	<b>-154,199.98</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>5050 · Communications</b>				
5050.10 · Cell phones	426.80	2,500.00	-2,073.20	17.1%
5050.20 · Internet/VOIP	1,275.93	3,000.00	-1,724.07	42.5%
5050.30 · Virtual Platform	0.00	760.00	-760.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5050 · Communications</b>	<b>1,702.73</b>	<b>6,260.00</b>	<b>-4,557.27</b>	<b>27.2%</b>
<b>5060 · Dues</b>				
5060 · Dues	20,300.00	22,200.00	-1,900.00	91.4%
<b>5070 · Information Technology</b>				
5070.10 · Computers	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00	0.0%
5070.20 · Equipment rental	6,948.30	12,000.00	-5,051.70	57.9%
5070.30 · Website maintenance	1,050.00	1,500.00	-450.00	70.0%
5070.40 · Software	871.88	3,200.00	-2,328.12	27.2%
5070.50 · Managed IT	602.31	0.00	602.31	100.0%
<b>Total 5070 · Information Technology</b>	<b>9,472.49</b>	<b>21,700.00</b>	<b>-12,227.51</b>	<b>43.7%</b>
<b>5080 · Insurance-Liab., D&amp;O, WC, Cyber</b>				
5080 · Insurance-Liab., D&O, WC, Cyber	18,076.00	20,000.00	-1,924.00	90.4%
<b>5090 · Occupancy</b>				
5090.10 · Rent	24,890.00	74,670.00	-49,780.00	33.3%
5090.20 · Furniture	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5090.30 · Security System	1,640.00	5,000.00	-3,360.00	32.8%
<b>Total 5090 · Occupancy</b>	<b>26,530.00</b>	<b>80,170.00</b>	<b>-53,640.00</b>	<b>33.1%</b>
<b>5100 · Office Supplies and Support</b>				
5100.10 · Office Supplies	322.20	1,200.00	-877.80	26.9%
5100.20 · Postage and Courier	45.77	750.00	-704.23	6.1%
5100.30 · Printing and Copying	644.00	1,500.00	-856.00	42.9%
5100.40 · Shredding	0.00	400.00	-400.00	0.0%
<b>Total 5100 · Office Supplies and Support</b>	<b>1,011.97</b>	<b>3,850.00</b>	<b>-2,838.03</b>	<b>26.3%</b>

	Oct '23 - Jan 24	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>5200 · Travel</b>				
5200.10 · Registraton-Conference/Meeting	90.00	5,000.00	-4,910.00	1.8%
5200.20 · Lodging	246.56	10,000.00	-9,753.44	2.5%
5200.30 · Meals - per diem	25.00	2,000.00	-1,975.00	1.3%
5200.40 · Transportation - auto rental	162.55	2,500.00	-2,337.45	6.5%
5200.50 · Mileage and talls	129.05	500.00	-370.95	25.8%
<b>Total 5200 · Travel</b>	<b>653.16</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>-19,346.84</b>	<b>3.3%</b>
<b>5300 · Miscellaneous</b>				
5300.10 · Awards & Recognition	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
5300.20 · CSC Awareness	9,409.85	10,000.00	-590.15	94.1%
5300.30 · Other	706.25			
5300 · Miscellaneous - Other	192.00			
<b>Total 5300 · Miscellaneous</b>	<b>10,308.10</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>-191.90</b>	<b>98.2%</b>
<b>5400 · Program Investments &amp; Supports</b>				
Capacity Building & Tech Assist	53,556.57	169,000.00	-115,443.43	31.7%
Community Outreach and Events	17,150.00	20,000.00	-2,850.00	85.8%
Early Learning	0.00	745,200.00	-745,200.00	0.0%
Family Resource Centers	0.00	4,000,000.00	-4,000,000.00	0.0%
Family Strengthening/Parent Edu	0.00	2,100,000.00	-2,100,000.00	0.0%
Family Supports	374,702.96			
Funds Available for Program	0.00	3,006,044.00	-3,006,044.00	0.0%
Prenatal/Postnatal Support Serv	0.00	1,200,000.00	-1,200,000.00	0.0%
Program research and analysis	0.00	30,000.00	-30,000.00	0.0%
Program Software SAMIS	4,000.00	30,000.00	-26,000.00	13.3%
Small Investments for Program S	15,000.00	600,000.00	-585,000.00	2.5%
Summer Bridge Programming	0.00	1,750,000.00	-1,750,000.00	0.0%
Summer Programmatic Funding	339,526.64			
Youth Development Programming	0.00	25,000.00	-25,000.00	0.0%
Youth Mentoring (Youth Violence	0.00	800,000.00	-800,000.00	0.0%
5400 · Program Investments & Supports - Other	466,910.72			
<b>Total 5400 · Program Investments &amp; Supports</b>	<b>1,270,846.89</b>	<b>14,475,244.00</b>	<b>-13,204,397.11</b>	<b>8.8%</b>
<b>6100 · Salaries &amp; Wages - Clearing</b>	<b>31,267.82</b>			
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>1,613,998.75</b>	<b>15,770,041.00</b>	<b>-14,156,042.25</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>5,230,260.50</b>	<b>-7,978,071.00</b>	<b>13,208,331.50</b>	<b>-65.6%</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
Other Income				
7000 · Prior Year carryforward	0.00	8,741,990.00	-8,741,990.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>8,741,990.00</b>	<b>-8,741,990.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Other Expense</b>				
8000 · Reserved Funds	0.00	763,919.00	-763,919.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>763,919.00</b>	<b>-763,919.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,978,071.00</b>	<b>-7,978,071.00</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>5,230,260.50</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,230,260.50</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

# Children's Services Council of Leon County Income & Expense Report

October 2023 through January 2024

	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Jan 24	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
4000 • Ad Valorem Proceeds	1,211.74	1,415,793.46	5,097,299.71	259,208.41	6,773,513.32
4100 • Interest	16,015.84	14,320.22	15,149.74	25,260.13	70,745.93
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>17,227.58</b>	<b>1,430,113.68</b>	<b>5,112,449.45</b>	<b>284,468.54</b>	<b>6,844,259.25</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
<b>Operations</b>					
IT Services (Web & Email)	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	350.00
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>350.00</b>	<b>350.00</b>
<b>5010 • Compensation /Employee Benefits</b>					
5010.10 • Health Insurance	10,622.24	10,576.84	10,182.83	10,273.63	41,655.54
5010.30 • Payroll taxes	2,216.22	3,324.33	2,216.22	0.00	7,756.77
5010.40 • Retirement Contribution	6,164.94	5,656.38	6,101.48	10,487.51	28,410.31
5010.50 • Salaries	29,673.06	44,509.59	29,673.06	0.00	103,855.71
<b>Total 5010 • Compensation /Employee Benefits</b>	<b>48,676.46</b>	<b>64,067.14</b>	<b>48,173.59</b>	<b>20,761.14</b>	<b>181,678.33</b>
<b>5020 • Contractual Services - Staffing</b>					
Audio/Video	4,858.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,858.74
5020.10 • Accounting Fees	900.00	1,762.50	1,462.50	1,575.00	5,700.00
5020.20 • General Counsel (1099-MISC)	0.00	4,415.00	4,867.50	0.00	9,282.50
5020.30 • Staffing Services	0.00	7,600.00	7,080.00	5,000.00	19,680.00
<b>Total 5020 • Contractual Services - Staffing</b>	<b>5,758.74</b>	<b>13,777.50</b>	<b>13,410.00</b>	<b>6,575.00</b>	<b>39,521.24</b>
<b>5030 • Contractual Services (Other)</b>					
5030.20 • Payroll processing	341.25	487.50	325.00	367.25	1,521.00
<b>Total 5030 • Contractual Services (Other)</b>	<b>341.25</b>	<b>487.50</b>	<b>325.00</b>	<b>367.25</b>	<b>1,521.00</b>
<b>5040 • Collection Expenses</b>					
5040.20 • TRIM advertisement fees	584.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	584.02
5040.30 • Special District fee	0.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	175.00
<b>Total 5040 • Collection Expenses</b>	<b>584.02</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>759.02</b>
<b>5050 • Communications</b>					
5050.10 • Cell phones	0.00	213.10	213.70	0.00	426.80
5050.20 • Internet/VOIP	456.25	243.15	333.13	243.40	1,275.93
<b>Total 5050 • Communications</b>	<b>456.25</b>	<b>456.25</b>	<b>546.83</b>	<b>243.40</b>	<b>1,702.73</b>
<b>5060 • Dues</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>20,000.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>20,300.00</b>
<b>5070 • Information Technology</b>					
5070.20 • Equipment rental	3,109.14	1,595.20	1,081.63	1,162.33	6,948.30
5070.30 • Website maintenance	350.00	350.00	350.00	0.00	1,050.00
5070.40 • Software	259.41	200.47	206.00	206.00	871.88
5070.50 • Managed IT	182.31	0.00	0.00	420.00	602.31
<b>Total 5070 • Information Technology</b>	<b>3,900.86</b>	<b>2,145.67</b>	<b>1,637.63</b>	<b>1,788.33</b>	<b>9,472.49</b>
<b>5080 • Insurance-Liab., D&amp;O, WC, Cyber</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,076.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,000.00</b>	<b>18,076.00</b>
<b>5090 • Occupancy</b>					
5090.10 • Rent	6,222.50	6,222.50	6,222.50	6,222.50	24,890.00
5090.30 • Security System	410.00	410.00	410.00	410.00	1,640.00
<b>Total 5090 • Occupancy</b>	<b>6,632.50</b>	<b>6,632.50</b>	<b>6,632.50</b>	<b>6,632.50</b>	<b>26,530.00</b>
<b>5100 • Office Supplies and Support</b>					
5100.10 • Office Supplies	0.00	305.54	0.00	16.66	322.20
5100.20 • Postage and Courier	10.93	0.00	34.84	0.00	45.77
5100.30 • Printing and Copying	644.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	644.00
<b>Total 5100 • Office Supplies and Support</b>	<b>654.93</b>	<b>305.54</b>	<b>34.84</b>	<b>16.66</b>	<b>1,011.97</b>
<b>5200 • Travel</b>					
5200.10 • Registration-Conference/Meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00
5200.20 • Lodging	100.83	0.00	0.00	145.73	246.56
5200.30 • Meals - per diem	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00
5200.40 • Transportation - auto rental	123.83	38.72	0.00	0.00	162.55
5200.50 • Mileage and tolls	0.00	0.00	0.00	129.05	129.05
<b>Total 5200 • Travel</b>	<b>224.66</b>	<b>38.72</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>389.78</b>	<b>653.16</b>
<b>5300 • Miscellaneous</b>					
5300.20 • CSC Awareness	4,750.00	0.00	0.00	4,659.85	9,409.85
5300.30 • Other	163.48	192.01	164.95	185.81	706.25
5300 • Miscellaneous - Other	0.00	192.00	0.00	0.00	192.00
<b>Total 5300 • Miscellaneous</b>	<b>4,913.48</b>	<b>384.01</b>	<b>164.95</b>	<b>4,845.66</b>	<b>10,308.10</b>
<b>5400 • Program Investments &amp; Supports</b>					
Capacity Building & Tech Assist	0.00	0.00	35,000.00	18,556.57	53,556.57
Community Outreach and Events	7,650.00	9,500.00	0.00	0.00	17,150.00
Family Supports	52,631.50	215,755.27	97,319.19	8,997.00	374,702.96
Program Software SAMIS	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Small Investments for Program S	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	15,000.00
Summer Programmatic Funding	65,234.05	88,368.86	20,590.93	165,332.80	339,526.64
5400 • Program Investments & Supports - Other	266,919.00	199,991.72	0.00	0.00	466,910.72
<b>Total 5400 • Program Investments &amp; Supports</b>	<b>394,434.55</b>	<b>515,615.85</b>	<b>167,910.12</b>	<b>192,886.37</b>	<b>1,270,846.89</b>
<b>6100 • Salaries &amp; Wages - Clearing</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>31,267.82</b>	<b>31,267.82</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>466,577.70</b>	<b>620,286.68</b>	<b>259,010.46</b>	<b>268,123.91</b>	<b>1,613,998.75</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-449,350.12</b>	<b>809,827.00</b>	<b>4,853,438.99</b>	<b>16,344.63</b>	<b>5,230,260.50</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-449,350.12</b>	<b>809,827.00</b>	<b>4,853,438.99</b>	<b>16,344.63</b>	<b>5,230,260.50</b>



**Executive Director's Report**  
**Governing Council Meeting | Thursday, March 7, 2024**

**CSC Leon Financial Audit FY 2022-23** – Purvis Gray, P.A., has completed the audit and presented it to the Finance and Budget Committee on Monday, March 5. The auditors will present the audit to the full Council at the April 18 meeting.

**CSC Leon Council Member Appointments/Vacancies** – Following notification from the Governor's Office on December 14, 2023, the Leon County Commission's nominated candidates for appointment to the CSC Leon were rejected, the application was reopened and readvertised in January. At the Commission's January 23 meeting, 20 applicants were approved to be sent to the Governor's Office as nominees to fill the vacant Council seats (see table below). The Governor's Office will notify the County Commission regarding selections.

Previous nominees submitted	New nominees submitted
1. Dr. Patty Ball-Thomas	10. Gavin Burgess
2. Wallisa Cobb	11. Travis Diggs
3. Dr. Zandra Glenn (seeking reappointment)	12. Brent Johnson
4. Keshia Jenkins	13. Simone Marstiller
5. Daniel Parker	14. Matt McKibbin
6. Bill Schack	15. Michelle Miller
7. John Sheetz	16. Christina Omran
8. Eric Whitehead	17. Justin Ravelo
9. Brenda Williams	18. Amanda Valter
	19. John Wilson
	20. David Bellamy

**Community Outreach and Connections** – During the months of December - February, CSC Leon connected with the following persons/entities:

- Ms. Green toured The Learning Pavilion, a smart-play preschool that strives to be inclusive for all children and uses a play-based curriculum.
- CSC Leon Team members participated in several provider conversations, both in-person and virtual, hosted by Leon County Government's Human Services and Community Partnerships Department regarding the proposed realignment of CHSP funding categories. The issue was presented by County government staff at the January 23 County Commission meeting. Ultimately, the County Commission decided to delay the realignment and unanimously approved a motion to request that CSC Leon consider replicating and funding a process similar to CHSP beginning in fiscal year 2027 for children and family programs and services (see attached letter from Leon County Administrator Vincent S. Long). After speaking with Chair Glenn, staff will prepare this request for Council discussion at a later time, but prior to December 31, 2024.
- Council staff attended the 2024 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration hosted by Leon County Government, the MLK Foundation Inc., and the ICC – Southern Christian Leadership Conference on January 10. The keynote speaker was our own Council Member Darryl Jones, Leon County School Board Member, District 3.
- CSC Leon was a sponsor for Children's Week 2024, as we have done the previous two years. Staff attended the annual Children's Week Dinner on Monday evening, February 26, during which The Honorable Janet Nunez provided the keynote address. Ms. Green was a "celebrity reader" in Storybook Village the next day, sharing the book, "Darryl's Dream" written by Darryl McDaniels of the infamous Run DMC.

*Submitted by:*

Cecka Rose Green, CPM  
Executive Director



# Leon County

## Board of County Commissioners

301 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301  
(850) 606-5300 [www.leoncountyfl.gov](http://www.leoncountyfl.gov)

### Commissioners

CAROLYN D. CUMMINGS  
At-Large  
Chair

BRIAN WELCH  
District 4  
Vice Chairman

BILL PROCTOR  
District 1

CHRISTIAN CABAN  
District 2

RICK MINOR  
District 3

DAVID T. O'KEEFE  
District 5

NICK MADDOX  
At-Large

VINCENT S. LONG  
County Administrator

CHASITY H. O'STEEN  
County Attorney

February 1, 2024

Cecka Rose-Green, Executive Director  
Children's Services Council of Leon County  
2002 Old St. Augustine Road, Bldg. A  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Rose-Green,

I want to first express our appreciation for the partnership with the Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC-Leon) over the past couple of years to address the needs of children and families in the community through initiatives and events such as the *Breaking Bread* neighborhood meetings on food insecurity and summer youth expo. In 2023, along with the City of Tallahassee (City), we memorialized our partnership with the memorandum of understanding to better coordinate and collaborate on our funding processes, resources, and data in order to meet the human services needs of children and families in Tallahassee-Leon County. This has resulted in further opportunities that will be instrumental in where we go in the future to best serve kids and responsibly invest taxpayer dollars.

For more than 25 years, the County and City have invested in the highest human service needs in our community through the Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP) including investment in children and family programs that provide services such as early learning, parental support, and youth development. As you know, over the past couple of months we brought recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) to better serve our community which include the realignment of the current CHSP categories in the upcoming two-year funding cycle that would direct children and family programs to apply for funding opportunities through CSC-Leon. The transition would maximize our limited human services resources, reduce duplication of service, and improve service delivery to focus on children's programs and services.

During their January 23, 2024 meeting, the Board decided to delay this transition and realignment of the categories for consideration and unanimously approved a motion to request that CSC-Leon consider replicating and funding a process similar to CHSP beginning in fiscal year 2027 for children and family programs and services. This allows considerable time to continue to work together and engage partners in establishing a seamless transition for human services providers of children and family programs to apply for funding opportunities through CSC-Leon.

We ask that CSC-Leon consider replicating and funding a process similar to CHSP at its earliest convenience. Should you have any questions or require further clarification on the Board's motion, please feel free to contact Shington Lamy, the Assistant County Administrator. Additionally, Shington would be happy to present at a future CSC-Leon meeting as part of consideration of this request, should you wish.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vincent S. Long".

Vincent S. Long  
County Administrator

Cc: Leon County Board of County Commissioners  
Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator

CSC Leon - Score Summary (DRAFT)  
Summer Enrichment 2024, with options

Applicant	Program Focus	1: Organizational Profile	2: Proposal Narrative	3: Staffing Plan	4: Evaluation Protocol & Assessment Tool	5: Budget	6: Community Partnership
		Up to 10 points	Up to 30 points	Up to 15 points	Up to 15 points	Up to 20 points	Up to 5 points
		AVG	AVG	AVG	AVG	AVG	AVG
A	Literacy; STEM	9.8	29	14.2	13.4	17.6	5
B	Literacy; STEM	9.8	27.2	15	13.8	18.6	4.8
C	Literacy	9.8	27.8	14.7	13.2	18	4.6
D	Fitness/Physical Development	8	26.8	14.6	14.4	18	5
E	Arts/Creative	10	26.6	14.8	11.2	19.2	4.8
F	STEM	9.8	26.6	14.4	15	15.2	5
G	Literacy; STEM	9	27	13.8	9	18.8	4.6
H	Literacy; STEM	9.7	27.4	12.5	10.4	13	4.6
I	Arts/Creative	8.7	26.2	14.4	9.4	11	5
K	OTHER	7.4	23.6	13.6	11	11.4	5
L	Literacy; STEM	7.4	23.2	11.9	10.6	16.2	2.4
M	Literacy	7.4	25.4	10.4	6.6	17.8	4.6
J	Literacy	8.7	25.1	11.2	12.4	9.8	2.3
N	Literacy	7.7	18.5	14.6	10.4	10	3.9
O	STEM	8.3	18.4	7.6	11.9	10.2	5
P	Literacy; STEM	8	20.2	8	10	11.6	1.8

CSC Leon - Score Summary (DRAFT)  
Summer Enrichment 2024, with options

Applicant	Program Focus	7: Presentation		TOTAL	AVG.	# of unduplicated children	Rolling Total # of children	Requested Amount \$	Rolling Total \$
		Up to 5 points							
		AVG							
A	Literacy; STEM	4.8		464.2	92.8%	66	66	\$181,500.00	\$181,500.00
B	Literacy; STEM	4.8		463.2	92.6%	200	266	\$225,685.00	\$407,185.00
C	Literacy	5		460.5	92.1%	100	366	\$231,580.00	\$638,765.00
D	Fitness/Physical Development	5		454	90.8%	65	431	\$142,103.59	\$780,868.59
E	Arts/Creative	5		453	90.6%	15	446	\$31,275.00	\$812,143.59
F	STEM	4.6		448.4	89.7%	50	496	\$121,177.10	\$933,320.69
G	Literacy; STEM	4.7		429.8	86.0%	70	566	\$126,000.00	\$1,059,320.69
H	Literacy; STEM	4.7		406.8	81.4%	100	666	\$193,000.00	\$1,252,320.69
I	Arts/Creative	4.3		390.7	78.1%	35	701	\$101,305.79	\$1,353,626.48
K	OTHER	4.8		379.2	75.8%	65	766	\$123,325.00	\$1,476,951.48
L	Literacy; STEM	4.5		376.5	75.3%	140	906	\$240,000.00	\$1,716,951.48
M	Literacy	2.7		371.8	74.4%	60	966	\$75,150.00	\$1,792,101.48
J	Literacy	2.9		359.1	71.8%	80	1046	\$278,048.00	\$2,070,149.48
N	Literacy	4.1		341.9	68.4%	50	1096	\$30,150.00	\$2,100,299.48
O	STEM	3.7		321.8	64.4%	145	1241	\$246,945.00	\$2,347,244.48
P	Literacy; STEM	4.9		317.6	63.5%	175	1416	\$100,743.89	\$2,447,988.37

<u>Option</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u># Programs</u>	<u># Children</u>	<u>Total \$</u>	<u>(+/-) Budget</u>
Option 1:	85% or higher	7	566	\$1,059,320.69	\$425,281.31
Option 2:	80% or higher	8	666	\$1,252,320.69	\$232,281.31
Option 3:	75% or higher	12	906	\$1,716,951.48	(\$232,349.48)
Option 4:	Natural Break, Maximize Budget	9	701	\$1,353,626.48	\$130,975.52
Option 5:	Exhaust budget	10	766	\$1,476,951.48	\$7,650.52



## **Summer Camps for Children with Special Needs Proposal**

### **OVERVIEW:**

The Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) proposes a short-term, mini-funding cycle to support nonprofit organizations that provide inclusive and enriching summer camp experiences for children with special needs. If approved, an organization may be awarded up to \$75,000 in funding for a period of four months (May 1 – August 30). These funds are to be used exclusively to provide an eligible child with financial support (scholarship) to attend camp for up to two weeks during the 2024 summer.

An estimated 1 in 4 children in Leon County has special needs or disabilities, to include: autism and related disorders, cerebral palsy, intellectual or physical disabilities, Down's syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Phelan Mcdermid syndrome or spina bifida. Summer camp experiences for this group of children offer a unique opportunity for growth, development, inclusion, and fun. They provide a platform for children to explore their interests, build relationships, and develop skills in a supportive and inclusive setting. Additionally, these experiences can have a lasting positive impact on their overall well-being and pave a way for a more inclusive and accepting society. Specialty summer camps also provide much-needed respite for families and caregivers of children with special needs by allowing them to have some time for themselves, attend to other responsibilities, or simply recharge. The peace of mind that families and caregivers can have from knowing their child is in a safe and supportive environment leads to rejuvenation and reduced stress.

Despite the benefits, many children with special needs in Leon County do not have access to these camp experiences due to limited availability or cost-prohibitive expense.

CSC Leon is seeking to provide funds to organizations dedicated to creating a safe and engaging environment where children with special needs can participate in a range of activities, such as arts and crafts, sports, outdoor adventures, and educational workshops. This funding opportunity aims to empower organizations to continue or expand their summer camp programs for children with special needs, thereby fostering their social, emotional, and cognitive growth. To be eligible, organizations must demonstrate a commitment to inclusivity and provide detailed plans for accommodating the specific needs of the children they serve. Also, applicants should outline how the funding will be used to enhance the camp experience and ensure the well-being and development of the participants.

**ELIGIBILITY:**

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, the applicant must:

1. Be legally authorized to conduct business in the State of Florida.
2. Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit as determined by the IRS (IRS Nonprofit Status Determination Letter must be provided).
3. Operate a registered summer program with the Florida Department of Children and Families.
4. Attest/demonstrate that the **majority** of children served by the program are considered "special needs."
5. Ensure scholarship recipients are Leon County residents.
6. Submit a detailed application identifying how many unduplicated children will receive scholarships from the funds. Note: an eligible child can only be awarded one (1) scholarship to a single camp during the four-month period.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

CSC Leon staff will review applications for (1) eligibility to receive funding, (2) alignment with funding priorities, and (3) amount of funding requested. All eligible applications will be presented to the Council for final review and approval. Approved applications will be notified via email. Funds will be dispersed after the approved applicant completes a funding agreement specifying exact data collection and reporting expectations.

All funding must be spent within four (4) months following the award.

**TIMELINE:**

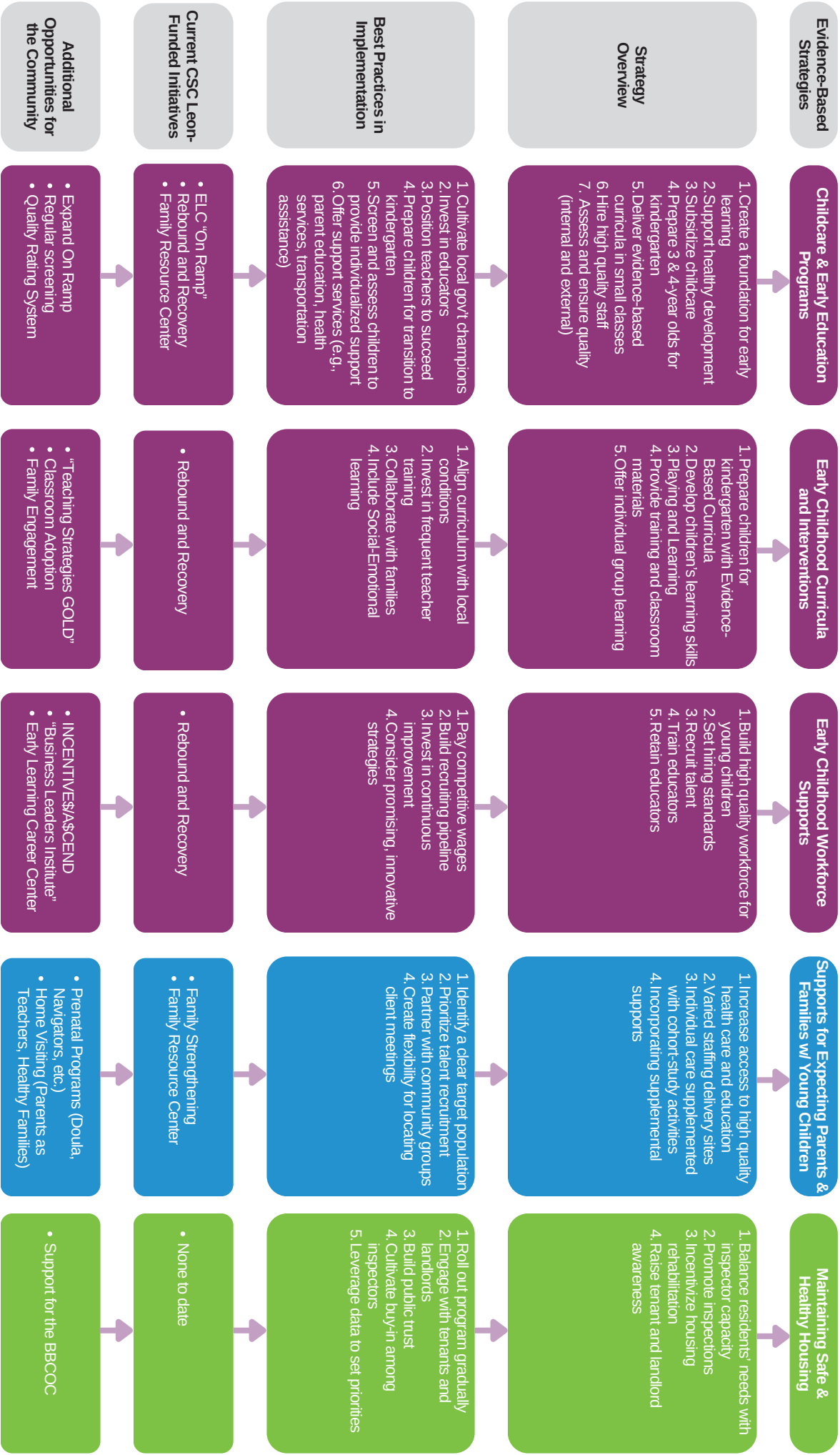
- Release Funding Opportunity: March 2024
- Applications Due: April 2024
- Council Selects Recipients: April 2024
- Funding Awarded: May 2024
- Final Reports Due: August 2025

**TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDING: \$375,000**

CSC Leon SIPs, FY 2023-2024, Q2

Organization	Category	Impact Area	Amount Requested	Funding Recommendation	Rolling Total
Blautism, Inc.	Sponsorship	Youth Development	\$5,000.00	Recommended for Funding	\$5,000.00
Diamonds in the Rough Sports, Entertainment, & Education, Inc.	Program Funding	School-Age Supports	\$15,000.00		\$20,000.00
DJ Demp Foundation, Inc.	Sponsorship	School-Age Supports	\$5,000.00		\$25,000.00
FWPC Community Development Corporation	Program Funding	Caregiver Supports	\$15,000.00		\$40,000.00
Teenpreneur Foundation, Inc.	Sponsorship	Youth Development	\$5,000.00	Consider for funding	\$45,000.00
Curls For Queens Inc	Program Funding	Youth Mental Health	\$7,000.00		\$52,000.00
Grub Hub Youth Services	Developmental Funding	Food Stability	\$5,000.00		\$57,000.00
Kalivia's Angelic Hands	Developmental Funding	Caregiver Supports	\$7,000.00		\$64,000.00
Motivating People Through Arts & Crafts	Program Funding	Youth Development	\$15,000.00		\$79,000.00

Kindergarten Readiness  
*Kindergarten readiness can be improved with education and healthcare strategies, but is heavily influenced by family stability and community supportiveness.*





## Kindergarten Readiness Outline

**Objective**—Create a robust and multi-pronged approach to increase the number of children who enter kindergarten socially, emotionally, and academically ready.

**Baseline Data**—53% of children who scored a 690+ on FAST Star Early Literacy Assessment (Florida Department of Education, Fall 2023)

- Leon County performed higher than 45 other counties in Florida and is now 2 points higher than the state average.
- Of those students who attended VPK, 70% tested “ready;” whereas, of those who did not, only 37% tested “ready.”
- Within the district...
  - 6 schools are less than 30%: Riley (21.3%), Pineview (23.9%), Renaissance Academy (24.0%), Sabal Palm (24.2%), Astoria Park (28.8%), Fort Braden (29.5%).
  - 9 schools are above 70%: Gilchrist (71.3%), Desoto Trail (71.7%), FAMU DRS (71.9%), Roberts (73.6%), Killearn Lakes (75.2%), FSUS (76.4%), Hawks Rise (77.0%), Buck Lake (80.2%), and School of Arts & Sciences on Thomasville (82.7%)

**Listening Sessions**—CSC Leon participated in five listening sessions during February 2024, connecting with more than 30 families and providers. Despite a wide variety of experiences, neighborhoods and child ages, consensus emerged on key areas:

- Kindergarten readiness is more than just being ready to read. It considers social emotional competencies and the “readiness of the family” to support the child’s learning.
  - “I can’t make my child ready if I am not ready.”
- Early supports crucial to kindergarten readiness include access to “quality childcare,” knowledge of parenting resources, and access to regular (and convenient) developmental screening.
  - “Glitz and glam does not equate to quality in a childcare setting. Relationships are key to quality.”
- Primary sources of support include parents, grandparents, and trusted friends. Other sources include faith-based leaders, pediatricians, and the internet. All groups expressed a desire to have better “navigation services.”
  - “I don’t know what I don’t know or even should know; having someone to help guide me on where to go and what to ask would be helpful.”

**Strategies:** Research shows that “kindergarten readiness” can be improved with education and healthcare strategies but is heavily influenced by family stability and community supportiveness.

1. Expand **childcare & early education programs** that:
  - a. regularly screen and assess children,
  - b. provide wrap around support services (e.g., parent education, health services like onsite therapy, transportation assistance), and
  - c. position teachers to succeed.

2. Invest in **early childhood curricula and interventions** that empower families and support teachers.
3. Build a high-quality **early childhood workforce** that positions teachers to succeed and stay in the profession.
4. Provide **supports for expecting parents & families with young children** that:
  - a. increase access to health care (e.g., prenatal care, pediatricians, etc.),
  - b. provide parenting education and supplemental supports, and
  - c. vary service delivery sites and modalities.
5. Work with community leaders to ensure **safe and healthy housing** is available.

**Proposed solutions:** Listed below are multiple solutions that CSC Leon has begun working on that all align with Kindergarten Readiness framework described above. Some of these solutions will require innovative approaches to service delivery, while others will dictate competitive procurements.

### 1. Create a “Thrive by Five” Roadmap for Leon County

The collective impact approach to achieving early childhood success and kindergarten readiness is a collaborative effort that brings together diverse stakeholders, including funders, providers, educators, healthcare professionals, policymakers, philanthropy and community organizations, to work towards a common goal. Imagine a community where everyone recognizes the critical importance of early childhood development and is committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. In this utopian community, organizations pool their resources, expertise, and knowledge to create a comprehensive support system for young children and their families (2-Gen Approach).

At the heart of this approach is the idea that no single organization or sector can solve the complex challenges facing young children and their families alone. Instead, stakeholders come together to coordinate their efforts, share data and best practices, and align their strategies to maximize impact. For example, local schools may partner with early childhood education centers to ensure that children receive consistent, high-quality instruction from birth through kindergarten. Healthcare providers may collaborate with community organizations to promote preventive care and early intervention services that support children's physical and mental health. Parents are valued as partners in this process, with opportunities to engage in their children's learning and development both at home and in the community. By fostering strong relationships and building trust among stakeholders, the collective impact approach creates a supportive and trustworthy ecosystem in which children and their families can thrive and succeed.

To this end, Director Green has had initial meetings with key funders and stakeholders. CSC Leon is taking the lead to gauge interest in creating our community's roadmap to ensure the 3,000 babies born in Leon County every year (and their families) have access to whatever supports they need to be ready to enter kindergarten, advance through the education system, choose either college or career and, ultimately, achieve their greatness.

As this effort takes shape, periodic updates will be provided to the Council.

## 2. Expand “Family Engagement” in Early Childhood Programs

Family engagement in early childhood education settings is an evidenced-informed strategy to support kindergarten readiness. It supports children's development, enhances learning outcomes, strengthens the school-home relationship, and promotes a positive and inclusive educational experience for all children. Research consistently shows that family engagement is associated with positive learning outcomes for children. When families are involved in their child's education, it leads to improved academic achievement, higher levels of school readiness, increased school attendance, and better long-term educational outcomes. Family engagement creates a strong foundation for a child's future academic success.

CSC Leon proposes a short-term, mini funding cycle to support early childhood programs to implement or expand family engagement efforts. If approved, a program may be awarded up to \$10,000 in funding for a period of 10 months. *See attached proposal for more details.*

## 3. Reduce Barriers to Early Intervention Services and Diagnostic Testing

Developmental screenings, evaluations, and therapeutic services play a crucial role in improving kindergarten readiness rates by providing early identification and intervention for young children who may need additional support. Early detection and treatment offer a proactive approach to supporting children's readiness for kindergarten by identifying areas of need early, implementing targeted interventions, fostering collaboration between educators and families, and ensuring that all children have the opportunity to thrive in their educational journey.

While numerous services for developmental screenings exist in Leon County, a serious gap in evaluative and diagnostic service availability leaves many families facing a 6–9-month waitlist. In many cases, a lack of diagnosis prevents children from qualifying for services during the window of opportunity when a child can most benefit and may negatively impact a child's educational trajectory.

CSC Leon is working with multiple partners including Early Steps, Whole Child Leon, and FSU's Center for Behavioral Health Integration to identify an innovative solution to address this issue. This work could result in a simple request for applications to fund direct services (e.g., copays and testing fees for qualifying families), but will likely be a request for proposals from community providers on how to not only pay for services but also better connect families to services (e.g., collocating testing and therapeutic services at childcare centers).

## 4. Invest in Perinatal Care Coordination and Supports

- a. **Perinatal Care Coordination**—Leon County is in the bottom quartile of the state for preterm birth, babies born with low-birth weight, infant mortality, and maternal mortality, despite having a relatively high rate of mothers accessing prenatal care during the first trimester. Studies suggest that this is due to a widening gap in birth outcomes between black and brown mothers from their white counterparts. Therefore, we propose establishing a coordinated system of perinatal patient care coordinators across OB/GYN offices, paired with transportation assistance and financial incentives can help to overcome the existing barriers to perinatal service acquisition. When a baby is born healthy and its home is connected to wholistic health care, the child's chances of having a normal

developmental trajectory increase, which in turn better prepares the child for kindergarten. *See attached concept paper for more details.*

- b. ***Perinatal Outreach and Education Campaign***—The 2022 Needs Assessment revealed with an abundance of evidence that Leon County does not have a perinatal service shortage, but rather a gap in parental knowledge of those services and several barriers to participation. For example, multiple evidence-based home-visiting interventions that produce outstanding birth, child and family outcomes are available during the perinatal period. However, these programs are not operating at capacity due to real and perceived barriers to participation. According to providers, black and brown birthing parents have historically expressed a reluctance to accept perinatal support services due to a lack of awareness or education, and inherent trust issues related to inequitable service provision. To address the awareness and education barriers, we are suggesting CSC Leon conduct a comprehensive marketing campaign to help remove these barriers and, thereby, to increase participation rates in home-visiting programs, as well as to help raise awareness of other CSC Leon-funded services. *See attached concept paper for more details.*
- c. ***Perinatal Behavioral Health Supports***—Maternal mental health plays a vital role in promoting kindergarten readiness by fostering secure attachment, enhancing positive parenting practices, reducing stress, modeling healthy behaviors, and increasing willingness to access resources that support child development. However, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men experience depression or anxiety around pregnancy, translating to approximately 600 mothers and 300 fathers per year in Leon County. Approximately 75 percent of these individuals are not screened nor treated, with black and brown families and those living in poverty disproportionately represented. Effective treatments exist but are rarely used in routine health care practice or are not available or accessible to the families who most need them. As such, CSC Leon proposes targeted interventions to create opportunities for low-income and A.L.I.C.E. families in Leon County to access perinatal behavioral health services free of charge. *See attached concept paper for more details.*

## **5. Support the Big Bend Continuum of Care Expansion of Emergency Housing for Families**

CSC Leon is actively collaborating with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County to fund emergency shelter for families using a formula based on the best available data. CSC Leon proposes including a specific line item in the upcoming budget to support those efforts.



## Family Engagement in Early Childhood Programs Proposal

### OVERVIEW:

The Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) proposes a short-term, mini-funding cycle to support early childhood programs to implement or expand family engagement efforts. If approved, a program may be awarded up to \$10,000 in funding for a period of 10 months. In total, CSC Leon anticipates issuing up to 15 awards in this first cycle, for a total investment of \$150,000.

Family engagement in early childhood education settings is an evidenced-informed strategy to support kindergarten readiness. It supports children's development, enhances learning outcomes, strengthens the school-home relationship, and promotes a positive and inclusive educational experience for all children. Research consistently shows that family engagement is associated with positive learning outcomes for children. When families are involved in their child's education, it leads to improved academic achievement, higher levels of school readiness, increased school attendance, and better long-term educational outcomes. Family engagement creates a strong foundation for a child's future academic success.

Programs can implement or increase opportunities for family engagement in a variety of ways, including:

- Conduct parenting seminars or workshops to increase knowledge of child development;
- Invest in tools to improve regular communication with parents (e.g., newsletters, digital platforms, etc.);
- Provide staff training on how to communicate with parents and caregivers (e.g., motivational interviewing);
- Create a parent advisory council similar to a PTA;
- Conduct parent feedback surveys;
- Host parent-teacher conferences to discuss developmental screening results;
- Host family-focused events (e.g., student performances, skills showcases, show & tells, structured movie nights, etc.);
- And other innovative and creative events and activities.

### ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for this funding opportunity, the applicant:

1. Must be a family childcare home OR private childcare center registered with the Florida Department of Children & Families (DCF); and

2. Be physically located in a targeted zip code OR serve at least 50% “School Readiness” eligible families; and
3. Secure a business sponsor(s) match of **at least 10%** of the amount requested; and
4. Submit a detailed outline/narrative for how the funds will be used that demonstrates a clear commitment to engaging with its families.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

CSC Leon staff will review applications for (1) eligibility to receive funding, (2) alignment with funding priorities, and (3) amount of funding requested. All eligible applications will be presented to the Council for final review and approval. Approved applications will be notified via email. Funds will be dispersed after the approved applicant completes a funding agreement specifying exact data collection and reporting expectations.

All funding must be spent within 10 months following the award.

**TIMELINE:**

- Release Funding Opportunity: April/May 2024
- Applications Due: June 2024
- Council Selects Recipients: July 2024
- Funding Awarded: August 2024
- Final Reports Due: June 2025



Children's Services Council of Leon County

## **Proposed Service Line: Perinatal Care Coordination**

**Initial Investment: \$2.8 million over 2 years**

**(October 1, 2024, - September 30, 2026)**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY NEED:** Leon County is in the bottom quartile of the state for preterm birth, babies born with low-birth weight, infant mortality, and maternal mortality, despite having a relatively high rate of mothers accessing prenatal care during the first trimester. Studies suggest that this is due to a widening gap in birth outcomes between black and brown mothers from their white counterparts.

	Caucasian	Black/Brown
Low Birth Weight Babies in Leon County (2022)	7.3%	16.7%
Pre-term Babies in Leon County (2022)	7.9%	11.8%

In addition, the 2022 Needs Assessment shows more than 25% of families identified inadequate access to quality prenatal care as a concern and 36% identified inadequate access to quality postnatal supports. However, the Needs Assessment also showed there are prenatal/postnatal service providers available in our community; this suggests that access to these services may be limited by perceptions of quality and/or other barriers, such as transportation or co-payments.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INTERVENTION:** Establishing a coordinated system of perinatal patient care coordinators across OB/GYN offices, paired with transportation assistance and financial incentives can help to overcome the existing barriers to perinatal service acquisition. When a baby is born healthy and its home is connected to wholistic health care, the child's chances of having a normal developmental trajectory increase, which in turn better prepares the child for kindergarten. The perinatal patient care coordination would be comprised of the following:

- Fund up to 12 perinatal care coordinators to provide culturally sensitive assistance and targeted case management services to guide expectant mothers and their families through available medical, insurance, and social support systems before, during, and after childbirth.
- Expand 211's Lyft™ program to assist those individuals with transportation barriers by providing free transportation to and from doctor's appointments throughout the pregnancy and for up to six visits beyond the birth.
- For participating OB/GYN offices, provide financial incentives (\$25 per patient visit) to each pregnant/new mother after completion of each prenatal/postnatal appointment to offset co-payments and encourage attendance at regular appointments; consider increasing the amount if the first prenatal appointment occurs during the first trimester.

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR INVESTMENT**

- Among evidence-based interventions impacting kindergarten readiness, healthcare navigators have the highest tier of randomized control trial research evidence (Results for America, 2024).
- An estimated cost-to-benefit ratio for enhanced prenatal care programs is \$15.26 (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2024). This means for every \$1 spent there is an estimated tax savings + increased economic output of \$15.26.

- Nonemergency medical transportation is an evidence-based strategy found to have promising to moderate levels of evidence in improving access to care (McCarthy et al, 2022).
- Studies in ridesharing have shown a significant improvement in appointment show rate from 54% to 68% (Chaiyachati et al. 2018a).
- Personal financial incentives can be effective in helping secure simple, well-defined episodes of behavior changes, such as screenings and kept appointments, and may help reduce health inequalities (Preventive Medicine, 2015).

#### **POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Decrease in low-birth weight babies
- Decrease in pre-term babies
- Decrease in infant mortality (0-364 days)
- Decrease in acute care perinatal emergency room visits

#### **POTENTIAL LONG-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Increase in babies linked to a medical provider
- Increase in children “ready for kindergarten”
- Decreased financial burden on taxpayers (less need for intensive remedial services)

#### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

- Perinatal Care Coordinators: \$1,699,200
  - 12 OB/GYN offices x \$60,000 (salary + benefits) = \$720,000 plus administrative 18% = \$849,600 x 2 years = \$1,699,200
- Transportation Assistance: \$480,000
  - 25% of the 1,200 new and expecting families in Leon County who are Medicaid eligible x 20 perinatal appointments x \$40 average round trip fare = \$240,000 x 2 years = \$480,000
- Financial Incentives: \$600,000
  - 50% of the 1,200 new and expecting families in Leon County who are Medicaid eligible x 20 perinatal appointments x \$25 incentive per visit = \$300,000 x 2 years = \$600,000

#### **STAFF IMPACT**

CSC Leon staff needed to oversee program accountability, program fidelity, and outcomes: 0.5 FTE (could be combined with Perinatal Behavioral Health Supports for 1.0 FTE).





Children's Services Council of Leon County

**Proposed Service Line:**  
**Perinatal Outreach and Education Campaign**  
**Investment: \$50,000 (August 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024)**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY NEED:** The 2022 Needs Assessment revealed with an abundance of evidence that Leon County does not have a service shortage of perinatal outreach and education services, but rather a gap in parental knowledge of these services and significant barriers to participation. For example, multiple evidence-based home-visiting interventions that produce outstanding birth, child and family outcomes are available during the perinatal period. However, these programs are not operating at capacity due to real and perceived barriers to participation (Mimi Graham, PhD, & Chris Szorcsik, CSC Leon panel discussion, 5/4/23). According to providers, black and brown birthing parents have historically expressed a reluctance to accept perinatal support services due to a lack of awareness or education, and inherent trust issues related to inequitable service provision.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INTERVENTION(S):** To address the awareness and education barriers, we are suggesting CSC Leon conduct a comprehensive marketing campaign to help remove these barriers and, thereby, to increase participation rates in home-visiting programs, as well as to help raise awareness of other CSC Leon-funded services. The campaign will use findings from the 2022 Needs Assessment and the 2024 Family Resource Center Neighborhood Readiness Assessments to complement the discovery phase prior to implementation. Research suggests that campaigns designed to promote awareness, education, and access to perinatal care as well as to other community resources that lead to improved family and educational outcomes, will successfully address the following:

- Reducing stigmas and barriers to care in communities where there may be cultural or social issues and lack of trust associated with accessing prenatal care.
- Awareness and education about the importance of prenatal care, proper nutrition, and healthy lifestyle choices during pregnancy.
- Promotion of early prenatal care (within the first trimester) to prevent or minimize adverse birth outcomes.
- Advancement of access to resources and support services such as perinatal navigators, childbirth classes, doulas, and financial assistance programs to promote holistic maternal health throughout pregnancy and beyond.
- Behavioral changes such as smoking cessation, proper nutrition, regular exercise, stress management, and substance use avoidance during pregnancy.
- Empowerment and advocacy through messages of neighbors' successful pregnancies, self-efficacy, confidence, and agency in making informed decisions about their pregnancies.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR INVESTMENT**

- A recent perinatal digital campaign targeting black women in Hillsborough County (FL) demonstrated significantly higher awareness of the importance of prenatal care and higher awareness of local resources (Bonnie et al, 2022).
- A similar campaign in Orange County (FL) resulted in increases in knowledge about prenatal care, weight gain, exercise, and the health impacts of low birthweight (Bonnie et al, 2020).

### **POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Increase in awareness of perinatal resource availability in Leon County
- Increase in understanding of the importance of perinatal care
- Increase in home-visiting and other perinatal support program participation

### **POTENTIAL LONG-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Decrease in poor birth outcomes for black and brown communities
  - Decrease in low-birth weight babies
  - Decrease in pre-term babies
  - Decrease in infant mortality (0-364 days)
- Increase in educational outcomes for black and brown communities
  - Kindergarten readiness
  - Third-grade reading scores

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

Robust marketing campaigns are estimated to cost an average of \$10,000 per month (August – December 2024) and includes discovery, planning, implementation and evaluation.

### **STAFF IMPACT**

The current CSC Leon staff are able to absorb the management of this investment.



Children's Services Council of Leon County

**Proposed Service Line:**  
**Perinatal Behavioral Health Supports**  
**Initial Investment: \$1.1 million over 2 years**  
**(October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026)**

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY NEED:** According to Florida State University's Center for Behavioral Health Integration (FSU), 1 in 5 women and 1 in 10 men can experience depression or anxiety around pregnancy. This translates to approximately 600 mothers and 300 fathers per year in Leon County. Approximately 75 percent of them are not screened nor treated (FSU, 2018), with black and brown families and those living in poverty disproportionately represented. Left untreated, perinatal mental disorders have substantial health and productivity impacts associated with significant costs to families and the affected individual. Such disorders are among the most common morbidities of pregnancy, contributing to maternal mortality as well as to adverse neonatal, infant, and child outcomes (Howard et al, 2020).

Maternal mental health plays a vital role in promoting kindergarten readiness by fostering secure attachment, enhancing positive parenting practices, reducing stress, modeling healthy behaviors, and increasing willingness to access resources that support child development. Effective treatments exist but are rarely used in routine health care practice, or are not available or accessible to the families who most need them.

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INTERVENTION(S):** Investing in maternal mental health not only benefits the mother but also lays a strong foundation for the child's success in school and beyond. As such, the proposed interventions below will create opportunities for low-income and A.L.I.C.E. families in Leon County to access perinatal behavioral health services free of charge:

- Support existing efforts by the Maternal Mental Health Collaborative to educate physicians and obstetricians on the importance of screening and referral.
- Expand existing perinatal support programs by funding full-time mental health counselors to provide short-term cognitive behavioral health therapy (and other related services).
- Provide funds to existing perinatal support programs to contract with independent mental health counselors to provide short-term cognitive behavioral health therapy (and other related services).

**JUSTIFICATION FOR INVESTMENT**

- Common mental disorders and severe mental illness have an increased risk for adverse obstetric and pregnancy outcomes, including preterm births and fetal growth impairments (Mitchell & Goodman, 2018).
- Perinatal mental health is associated with infant physical and mental health (Howard et al, 2020). When parental care is compromised due to issues such as serious depression, an infant's responsiveness can be compromised which affects brain development and adversely affects kindergarten readiness (Clinton, 2016).
- The cost-benefit ratio of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for adults is estimated at \$58.20 for every \$1 invested. While these findings are for all adults receiving CBT, the strategy holds promise to be effective in addressing maternal and paternal mental health during the perinatal period (Washington State Institute for Public Policy, 2023).

### **POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Improved family well-being
- Decrease in maternal morbidity

### **POTENTIAL LONG-TERM OUTCOMES**

- Increase in family functioning
- Increase in children “ready for kindergarten”

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

- Estimated cost to serve approximately 180 families per year with 12 sessions during the course of three (3) months is between \$331,875 – \$535,680 per year.
  - Contracted Counseling Sessions
    - 180 families x 12 sessions each x \$248 average cost per session = \$535,680 per year
  - Full-time Counselor on Staff
    - Salary for full-time licensed clinical social worker (LCSW, \$75,000) + benefits at 25% (\$18,750) + 18% administrative fees (\$16,875) = \$110,625 per counselor who is estimated to manage a maximum case load of 65 families per year x 3 to meet estimated demand = \$331,875 per year
- While either model could work, if an existing program does not have the capacity to serve 65 “expecting” families in need of perinatal behavioral health supports, then contracted counseling services is likely the best way to ensure all families with need will have access.

### **STAFF IMPACT**

CSC Leon will need additional staff needed to oversee program accountability, fidelity, and outcomes. This impact is estimated to be .5 FTE (which could be combined with perinatal care coordination for 1.0 FTE).