



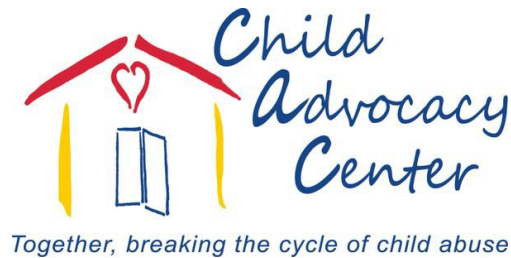
CHILDREN'S TRUST

OF ALACHUA COUNTY

Youth Mental Health Programs

September 28, 2026

Provider Agencies



- **Child Advocacy Center – Reducing Trauma Therapy Program:** Serves children exposed to severe abuse and neglect and their non-offending family members. The program serves children ages 2.5 – 18 years old.
- **Pace Center for Girls – Reach Community Counseling:** Serves girls ages 11-17 exhibiting needs or risk factors in 3 or more life domains (school, family, mental health, behavior and victimization) through community-based counseling.
- **UF Health – Partners in Adolescent Lifestyle Support (PALS):** Provides services to adolescents 11-18 years old in Alachua County schools and UF Health Psychiatric Hospital. PALS also offers mental health education and suicide prevention workshops.

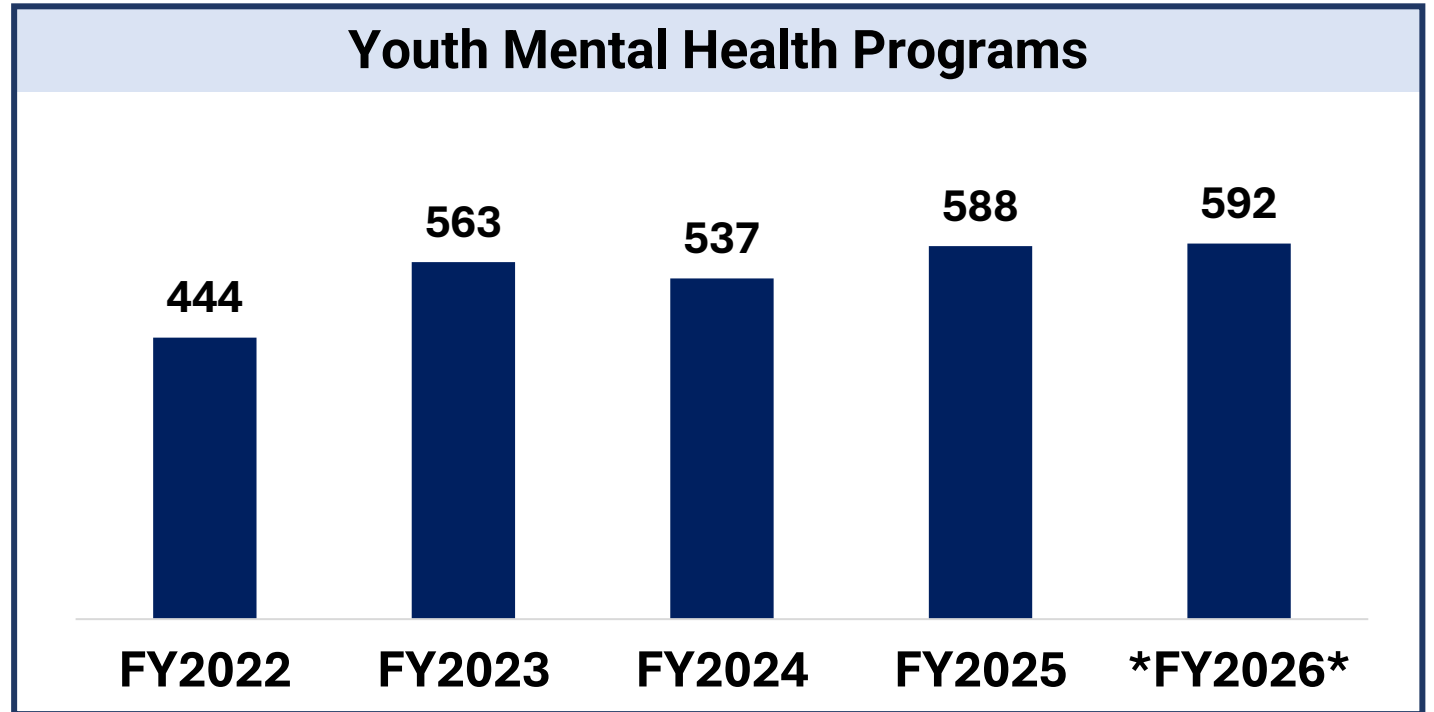
Children Served



Children served with funding from
Children's Trust of Alachua County:



Youth Mental Health Programs

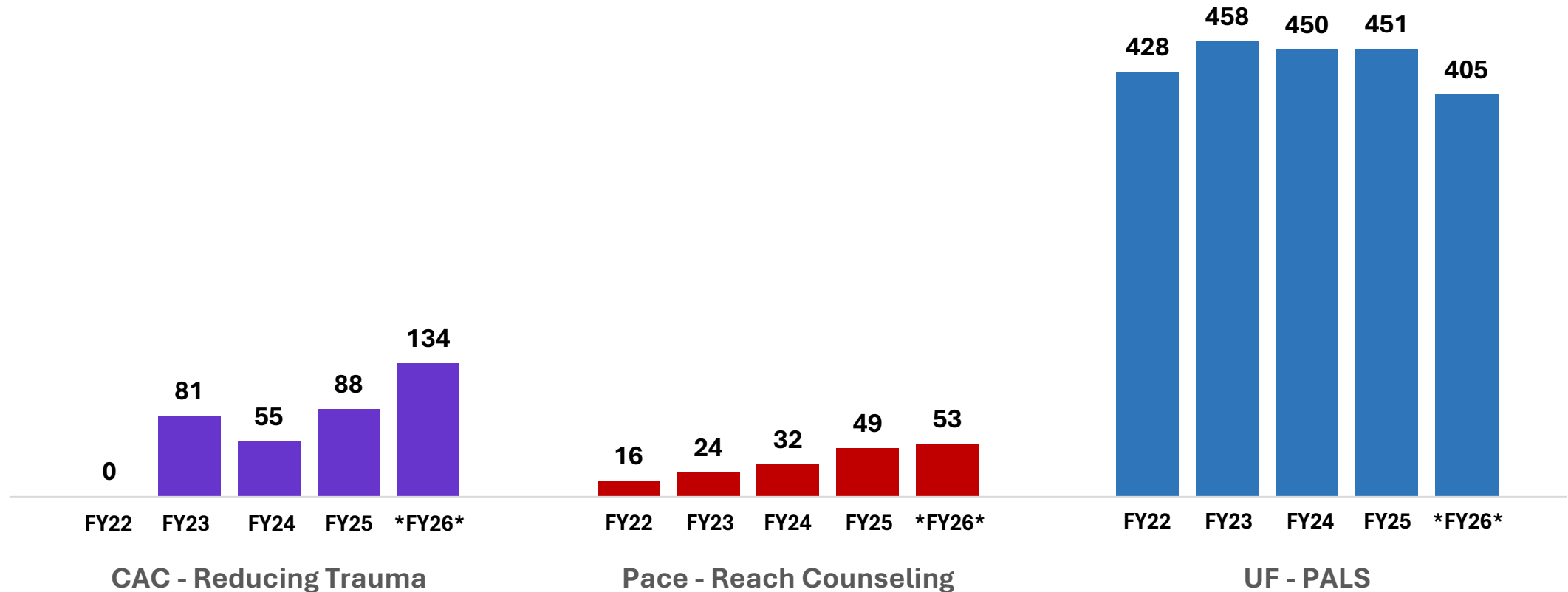


- FY2026 represents year-to-date numbers through August 2026.
- Child Advocacy Center - Reducing Trauma Therapy Program was added in FY2023.



Children served by Agency

All programs have exceeded their goal for children served in FY2026.



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FY2026 – Youth Mental Health Services



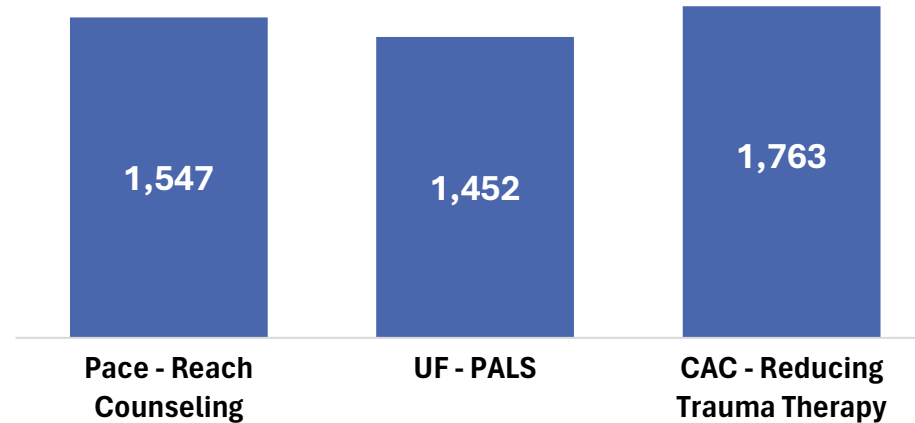
Individual Therapy: 4,762

Family Therapy: 191

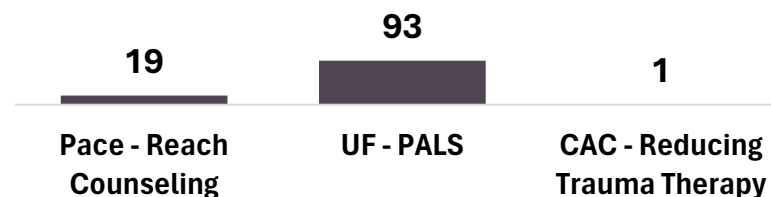
Group Sessions: 113

* Year-to-Date through August 2026 *

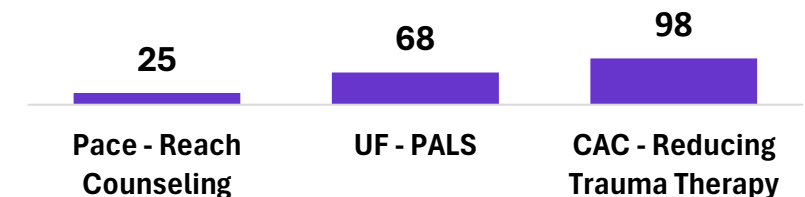
Individual Sessions



Group Sessions



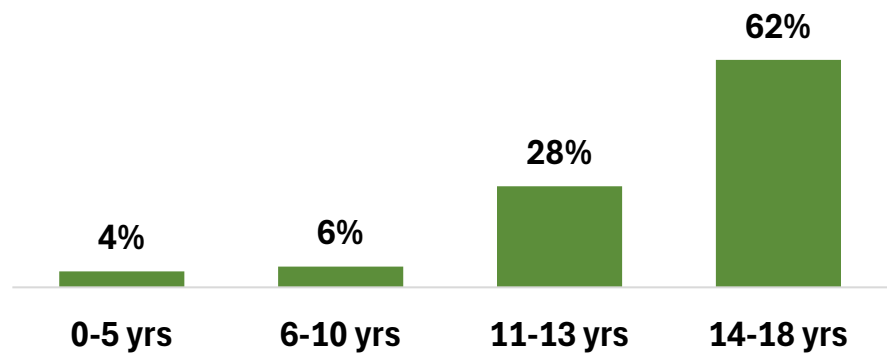
Family Sessions



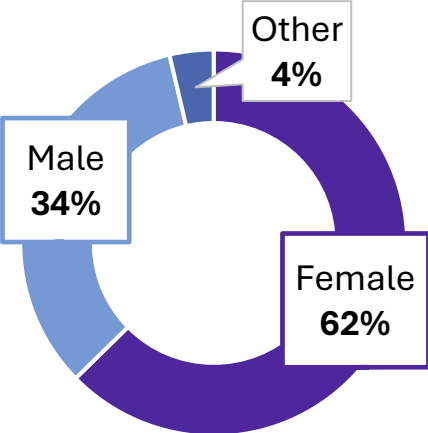
FY2025 – Demographics of Children Served



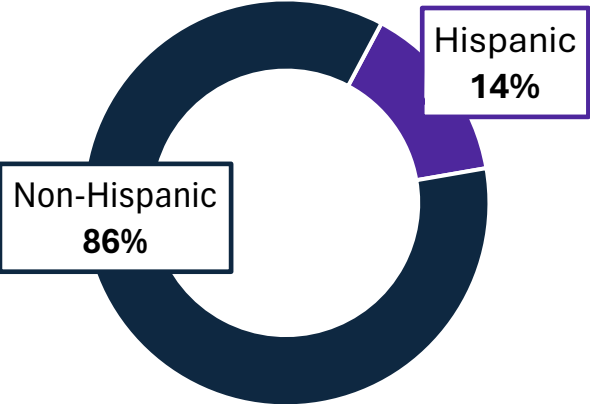
Age



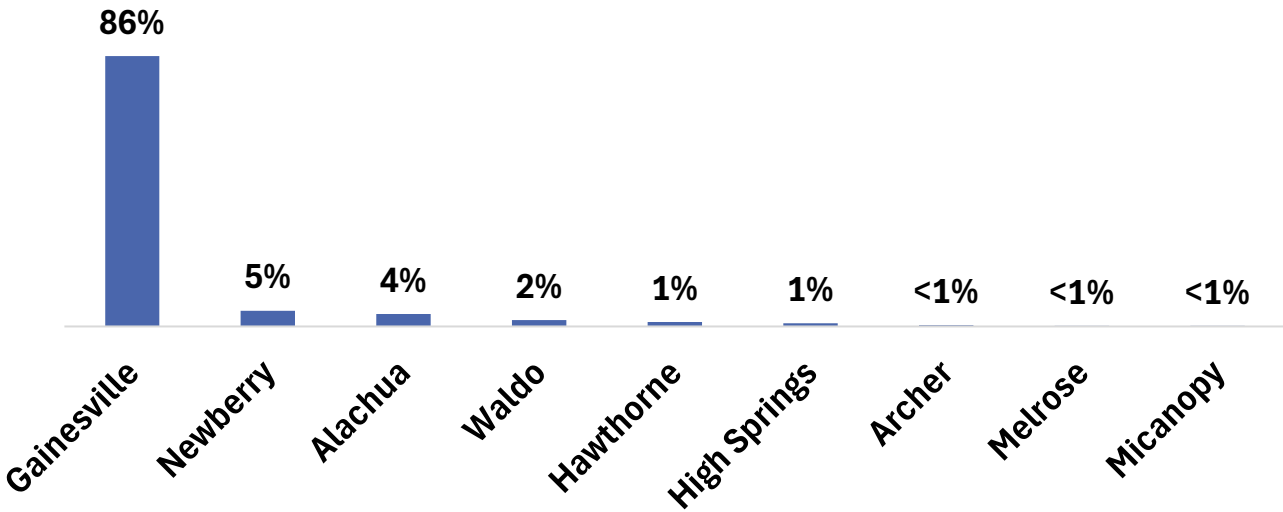
Gender



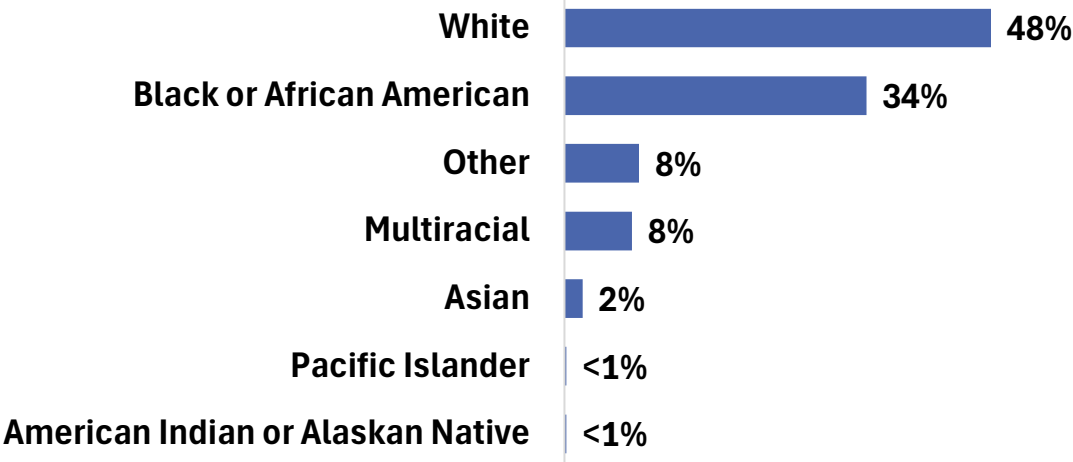
Ethnicity



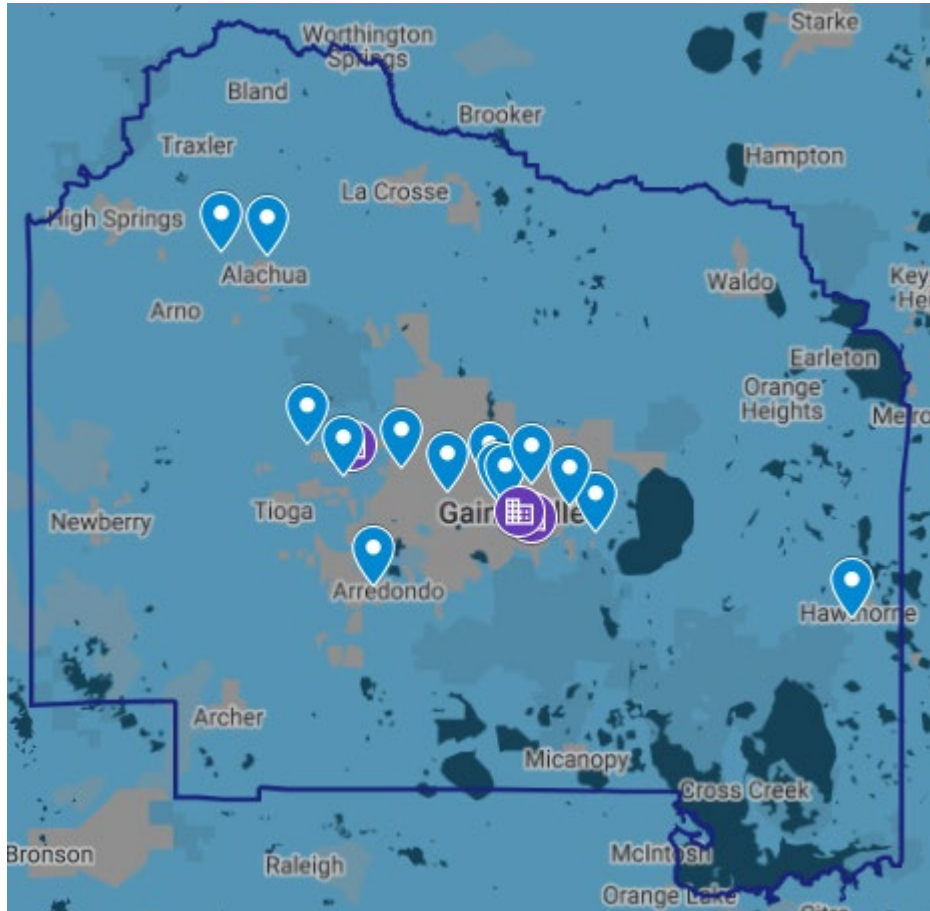
City of Residence



Race



Services are Provided throughout Alachua County



- 🏠 A. Quinn Jones
- 🏠 Buchholz High
- 🏠 Eastside High
- 🏠 Fort Clarke Middle
- 🏠 Gainesville High
- 🏠 Hawthorne Middle-High
- 🏠 Howard Bishop Middle
- 🏠 Kanapaha Middle
- 🏠 Lincoln Middle
- 🏠 Mebane Middle
- 🏠 PAM @ Loftan High
- 🏠 Project YouthBuild
- 🏠 Saint Francis Catholic Academy
- 🏠 Santa Fe High
- 🏠 Westwood Middle
- 🏢 **Child Advocacy Center**
- 🏢 **Pace Center for Girls**
- 🏢 **UF Shands Psychiatric Hospital**
- 💻 Telehealth
- Home, Libraries, and Other Community Locations





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FY2027

Performance Measures:

How Much?

Children Served

Agency	Measure	Target	Total
Child Advocacy Center	Children Receiving Therapy	120	405
Pace Center for Girls	Girls Receiving Therapy	35	
UF Health Shands	Adolescents Receiving Therapy	250	

Service Provision

Agency	Measure	Target	Total
Child Advocacy Center	Therapy Sessions	1,500	3,650
Pace Center for Girls	Individual Therapy Sessions	900	
UF Health Shands	Individual Therapy Sessions	1,250	

Family & Peer Engagement

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Parents participating in Therapy	80
Pace Center for Girls	Family Engagement Sessions	4
UF Health Shands	Psychoeducation Workshops	100

FY2027

Performance Measures: How Well?



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Engagement in Services

Agency	Measure	Target
Pace Center for Girls	Girls are enrolled 3+ months	80%
Pace Center for Girls	Girls receive 10+ therapy sessions	80%
Pace Center for Girls	Girls successfully complete the program	80%
UF Health Shands	Adolescents receive 2+ individual sessions	80%

Accessible, Specialized, & Staff Support

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Prompt referral response	90%
Child Advocacy Center	Children have a specialized treatment plan	85%
UF Health Shands	Allowed for access to mental health services	75%
UF Health Shands	Staff receive weekly clinical supervision	90%

Satisfaction with Services

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Child/Caregiver satisfaction with services	90%
Child Advocacy Center	Services helped children feel safe	85%
UF Health Shands	Adolescent satisfaction with workshops	75%

FY2027

Performance Measures:

Better Off?

Increase Coping Skills

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Skills & knowledge in addressing trauma reactions	80%
Pace Center for Girls	Improvement/flourishing in meaning and purpose	70%
UF Health Shands	Adolescents increase coping skills	75%

Improve Mental Health

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Children experience decreased symptoms	80%
Pace Center for Girls	Girls experience improved mental health	75%
UF Health Shands	Adolescents report improved mental health	75%

Improve Relationships

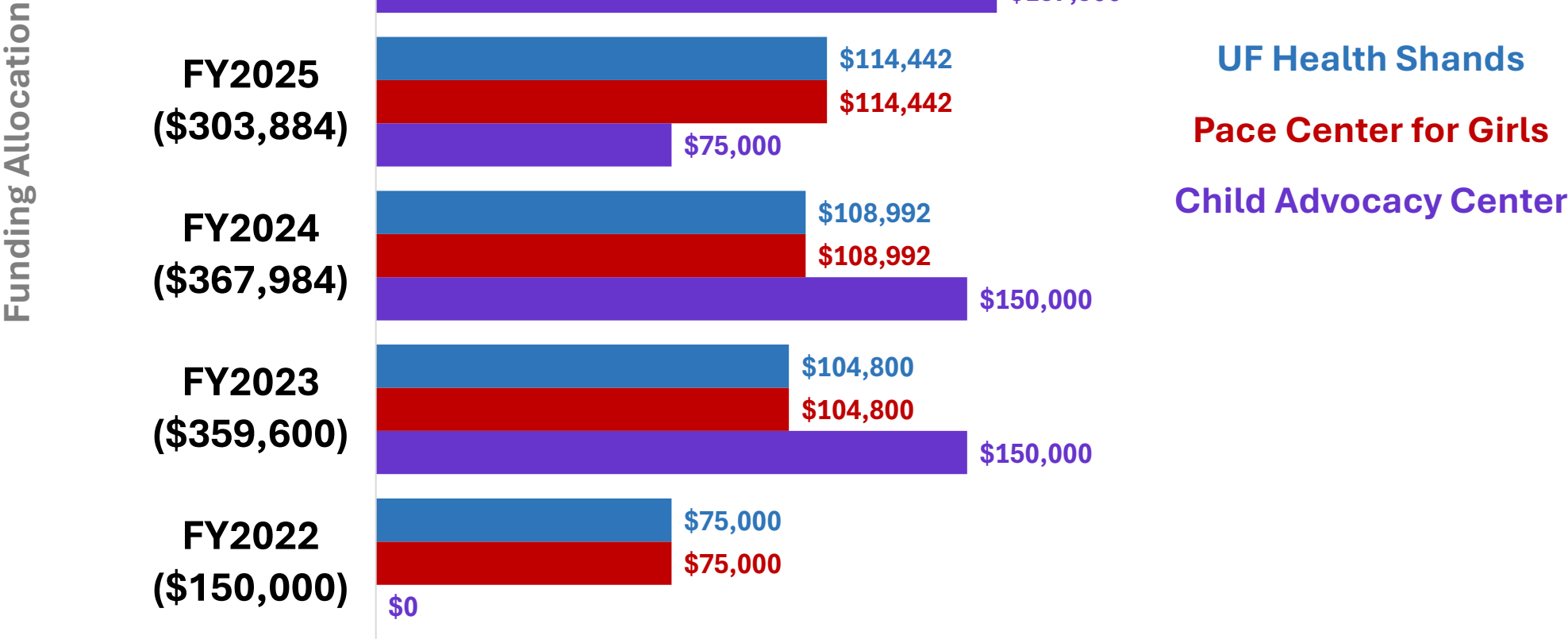
Agency	Measure	Target
Pace Center for Girls	Improvement/flourishing in social relationships	75%
UF Health Shands	Adolescents improve family and peer relationships	75%

Achieve Treatment | Program Goals

Agency	Measure	Target
Child Advocacy Center	Children achieve treatment goals	75%
Pace Center for Girls	No involvement with juvenile justice	90%
UF Health Shands	Adolescents report improvement due to services	90%

Program Funding Allocations by Fiscal Year

Children’s Trust funding investment in programs that support youth mental health.



Requested Board Action

Youth Mental Health Services | Proposed Convening



Convene the major youth mental health providers and identify how CTAC can improve distribution of services and allot/distribute throughout the county.

Summary of System Strengths and Service Gaps



SYSTEM STRENGTHS

- Multiple access points, including school based, home, community, and program-based services.
- Services are available without insurance approval or billing barriers at PALS, PACE/REACH, and CAC.
- Specialized care addresses trauma, grief, abuse, and violence, along with broader behavioral health needs.
- Flexible service models include individual and group therapy, prevention, and extended engagement.
- Providers maintain referral and collaboration relationships to connect youth with higher levels of care when needed.

SYSTEM GAPS / OPPORTUNITIES

- Conflicting input regarding if the demand meets the total need in schools. Duplication in some schools.
- Insurance coverage information is not consistently collected, limiting system level understanding of coverage and unmet need.
- Services are not billed to private insurance or Medicaid, limiting opportunities to leverage other funding sources for care.
- Provider capacity to establish mechanism to bill private or Medicaid.
- Waitlist for high-demand services for children experiencing abuse and violence

Recommendations



1.
Maintain mental health funding during FY26-27, to sunset at the end of the fiscal year.

2.
Collaborate with funded mental health providers to convene a countywide discussion on youth mental health services.

3.
Include a mental health Scope of Work (SOW) in the FY27-28 Youth Health RFP.



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Thank you!