



CHILDREN'S TRUST REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 11, 2022 at 4:00 PM

CTAC, 802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Call to Order

Chair Dr. Margarita Labarta called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Roll Call

PRESENT

Chair Maggie Labarta
Vice Chair Tina Certain
Treasurer Lee Pinkoson
Member Karen Cole-Smith
Member Ken Cornell
Member Denise Ferrero
Member Patricia Snyder
Member Cheryl Twombly

ABSENT

Member Shane Andrew
Member Nancy Hardt

Agenda Review, Revision and Approval

Approval of the agenda also approves all of the items on the consent agenda.

Motion to approve the Agenda made by Member Pinkoson, Seconded by Member Snyder.

Motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Consent Agenda

1. Board Attendance YTD
2. 5.26.22 Data Technical Advisory Minutes
3. 6.8.22 Special Meeting Minutes
4. 6.13.22 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
5. Board Meeting Evaluation - Survey Results from 6.27.22
6. June 2022 Checks and Expenditures Report

7. Programmatic Award and Expense Report
8. 3rd QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT
9. CTAC Strategic Planning Activities and Timeline

General Public Comments

Chair's Report

10. Discussion of Format for 7/26 Special Meeting

Member Cornell suggested the two final candidates for Executive Director give a brief presentation, followed by board questions and public comments at the July 26th meeting. There was a general consensus and staff direction to coordinate.

Executive Director's Report

11. Executive Director Report

AED Goldwire updated the board on the recent graduation of the first BLI Cohort and the positive media coverage associated with one of the Trust's providers, Gainesville Circus Center. She mentioned the upcoming phase of the Listening Project and highlighted the coding activities provided by New Tech Now.

Presentations

12. Healthy Start of North Central Florida, Inc. Update on NewboRN Home Visiting Program (NHVP) and Maternal Family Partner at Comprehensive Women's Health (Mia Jones)

The board received presentations on the participation and impact of the funded programs.

13. Teens Work Alachua (Deon Carruthers)

Deon Carruthers gave an update on the successes and challenges of the TeensWork Alachua programs.

14. Afterschool Programming

Bonnie Wagner presented the Afterschool Summary Report for FY2022, which provided demographics, statistics, and other feedback from the six programs.

Old Business

15. Contract for Accounting Services No. 12041 - Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC (Kristy Goldwire)

Frank Mason, CRI, proposed a 40% discount for ongoing services, which would be paid by unused money from their FY2021 contract, and new money from the FY2022 budget. The total funding would be capped at just over \$53,000, regardless of the hours worked by CRI staff to complete the necessary work.

Motion by Member Cornell, Seconded by Member Pinkoson, to amend the contract according to staff recommendations.

Motion approved by voice vote, with Vice Chair Certain in dissent.

New Business

Board Member Comments

Member Cornell mentioned the 14M in fund balance and the critical needs in the community. He requested staff bring back recommendations on how to meet those needs. Member Cole-Smith agreed. Member Pinkoson suggested the Saving Smiles Program and the Child Advocacy Center. Member Twombly and Vice Chair Certain reminded the board that there have been recent cuts in United Way funding resulting in additional urgency to meet the needs of the community. Chair Labarta suggested that staff reach out to providers with capacity for mental health, dental health, and food insecurity.

For Your Information

Items in this section are for informational purposes only and do not require any action by the Trust.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, July 25, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Children's Trust of Alachua County
802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Monday, August 8, 2022 @ 4:00 PM

Children's Trust of Alachua County
802 NW 5th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

Adjournment

Chair Dr. Margarita Labarta adjourned the meeting 6:51 PM.

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Participation

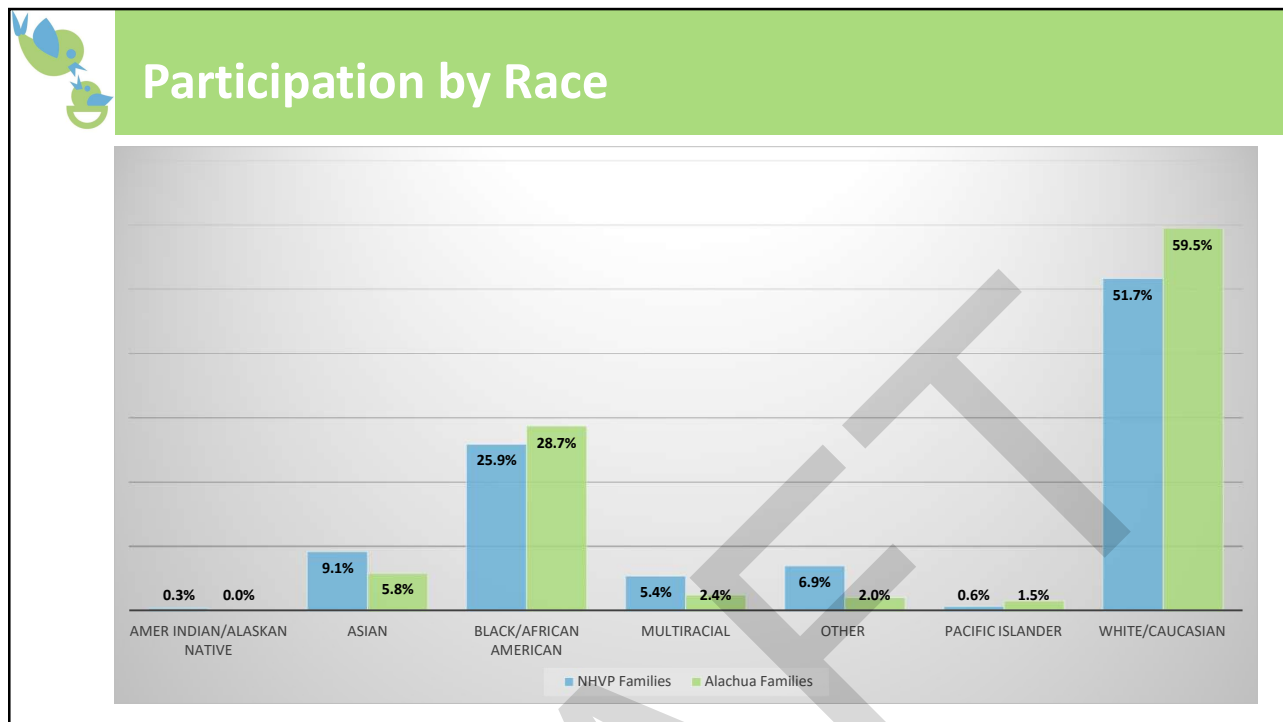
Year	Families Visited in Hospital		Consented to Program		Completed Home Visit/Assessment	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
2021-2022*	1,273	73.5%	781	61.4%	472	60.4%
2020-2021**	890	56.8%	492	55.3%	211	42.9%

*October 2021 – May 2022
**October 2020 – May 2021

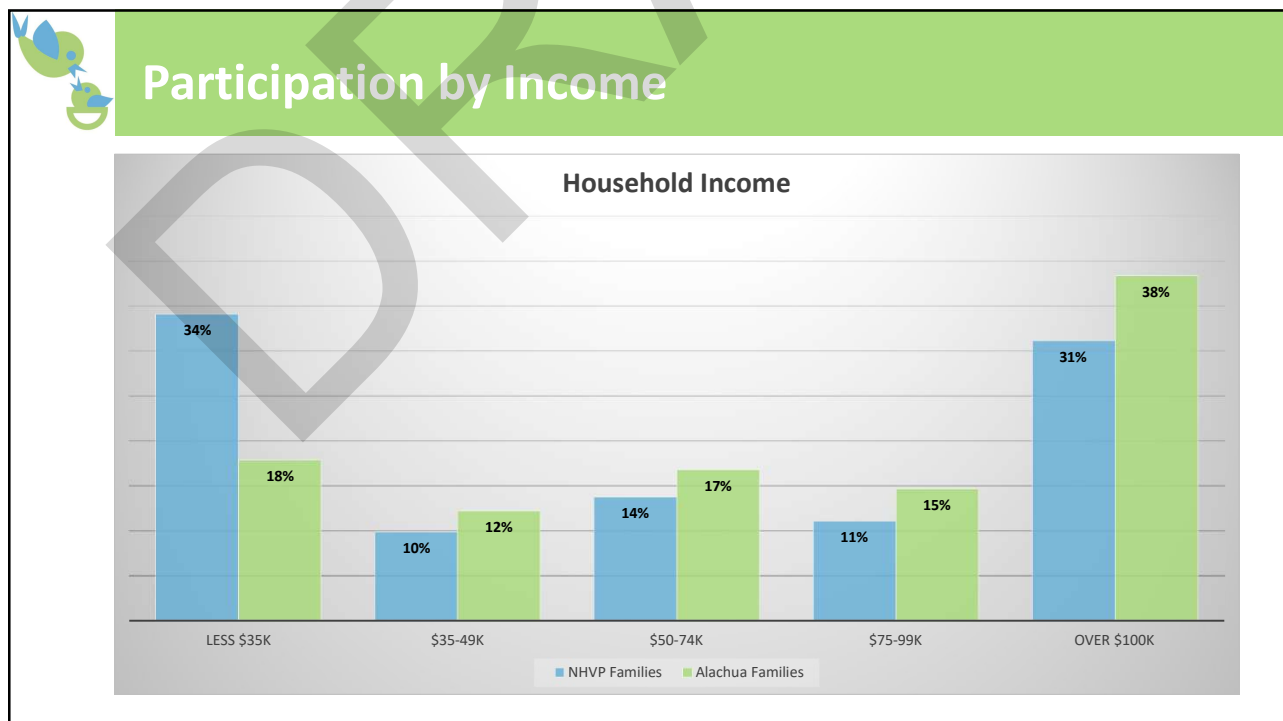
Barriers

1. Not wanting someone in their home
2. Already in a home visiting program
3. Not their first baby
4. Medical Professional

2



3



4

Outreach and Awareness

Advertisement

- Giggle Magazine
- Radio – Magic 101.3, Joy FM, WUFT
- Newspaper Ads
- Bus Ads
- Ads in health care provider offices (CWH)

Home Visiting Programs

Community Agencies and Events

Social Media

Prenatal Care Providers

Pediatricians



What are moms saying about the NewboRN Home Visiting program?

- Nurse Sandee's visit far exceeded any expectations we had. She made my husband and I feel so empowered during such a vulnerable time as new parents. The education and resources she provided were perfect for our needs. This is an amazing service.
- It was nice to have a medical professional come to the house rather than me having to physically go to an appointment.
- Nurse Gina was great! She answered all my questions, and she was very knowledgeable. We covered a wide range of topics, and she was able to refer me a lot of resources.
- Awesome info, even for a second time mom!
- This program is amazing and I'm literally telling every new mom I know about it.!

NewboRN Home Visiting is sponsored by Healthy Start of North Central Florida.

CHILDREN'S TRUST

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Father Involvement

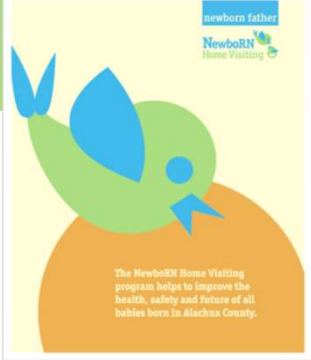
Father Folder

Father participation during Visit

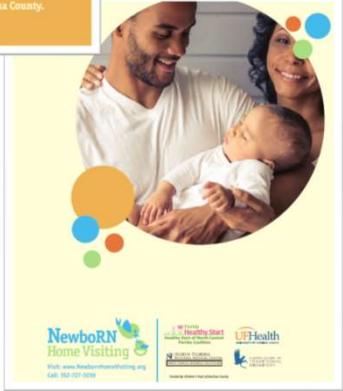
- This year = 38%
- Last year = 31%

Infant CPR and Infant Safety Community Classes

- May 2022: 5 of the 15 attendees were dads



The NewboRN Home Visiting program helps to improve the health, safety and future of all babies born in Alachua County.



NewboRN Home Visiting

Visit: www.NewboRNHomeVisiting.org
Call: 352-277-9356

Healthy Start of North Central Florida

UFHealth

6


Impact on Families

Medical Referrals = 64

- 51 for high blood pressure
- Others: mental health, rash, high temperature, incision care, infant illness, infant heart murmur

Supplies and Support Provided to Families

- Pack N Play
- Sleep Sacks
- Car Seats (CPS Tech - checks and installations)
- Breastfeeding Supplies (Certified Lactation Consultants)
- Thermometers
- First Aid Kits



7

Impact on Families

Satisfaction Survey Results (186 surveys received; 40% of participants)

- NewboRN nurse was helpful = 100%
- Information received was helpful = 100%
- Would recommend the program to a friend = 100%

Comments:

This program is incredible!!! The nurse, Sandee Muir is a wonderful woman. She came to my home and spent over 3 hours with me to do a physical assessment of my newborn and visit with me. She gave me so much useful and valuable knowledge regarding newborn care, breastfeeding assistance, post pregnancy care for the mother (me), and an endless list of resources and tools to connect me to the right outlets. I am in such awe of how caring and personable Sandee is and her genuine attention to patient care. Sandee truly cares about the mothers she visits. She came bearing gifts for my newborn and I, and my time with her was so helpful and I am thankful for her warmth and professionalism in visiting me and my newborn. As a first-time mother, I had a lot of questions and Sandee answered in great detail all of my questions. I will be spreading the word to the community just how amazing this program is! Thank you, Sandee!



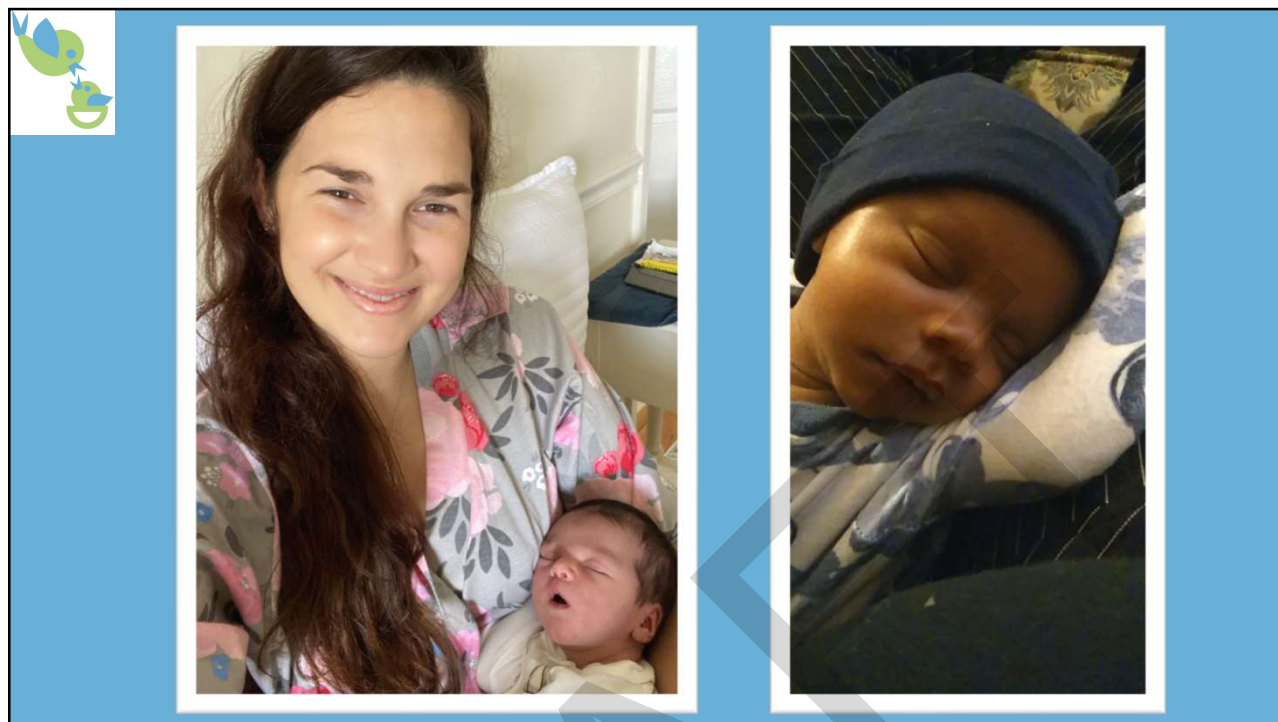
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10



11



Family Partner

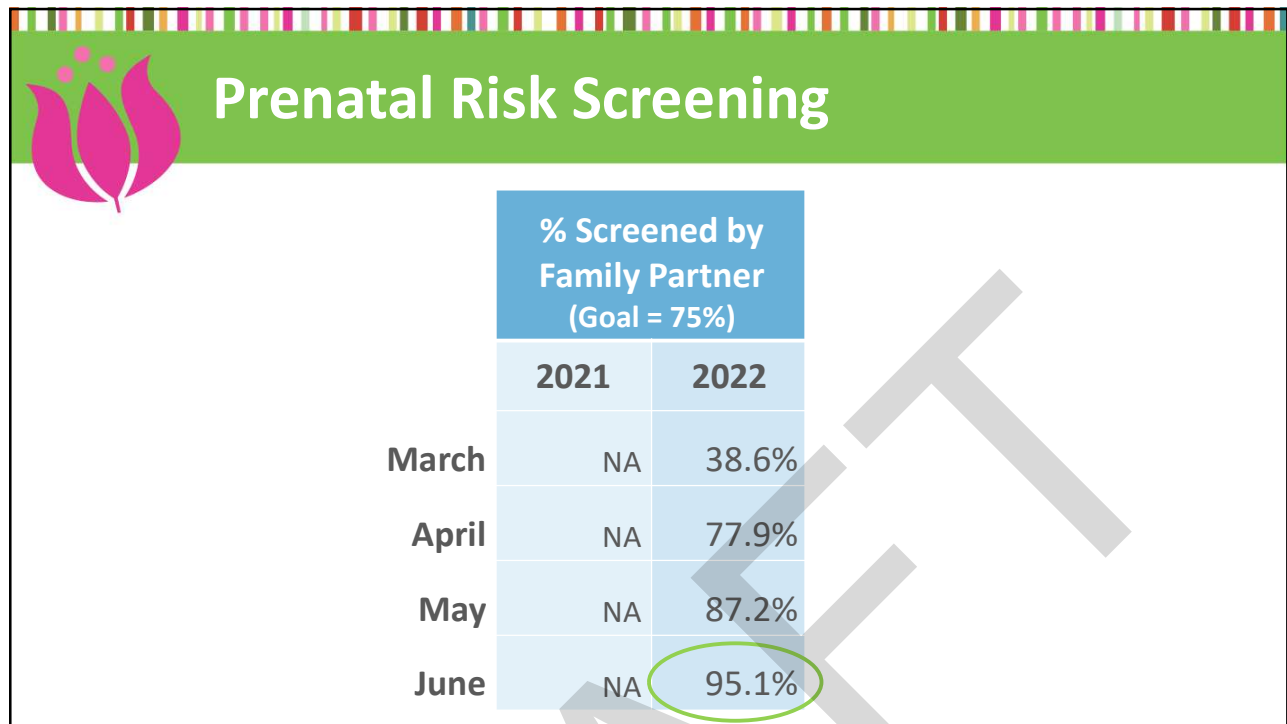
Comprehensive Women's Health



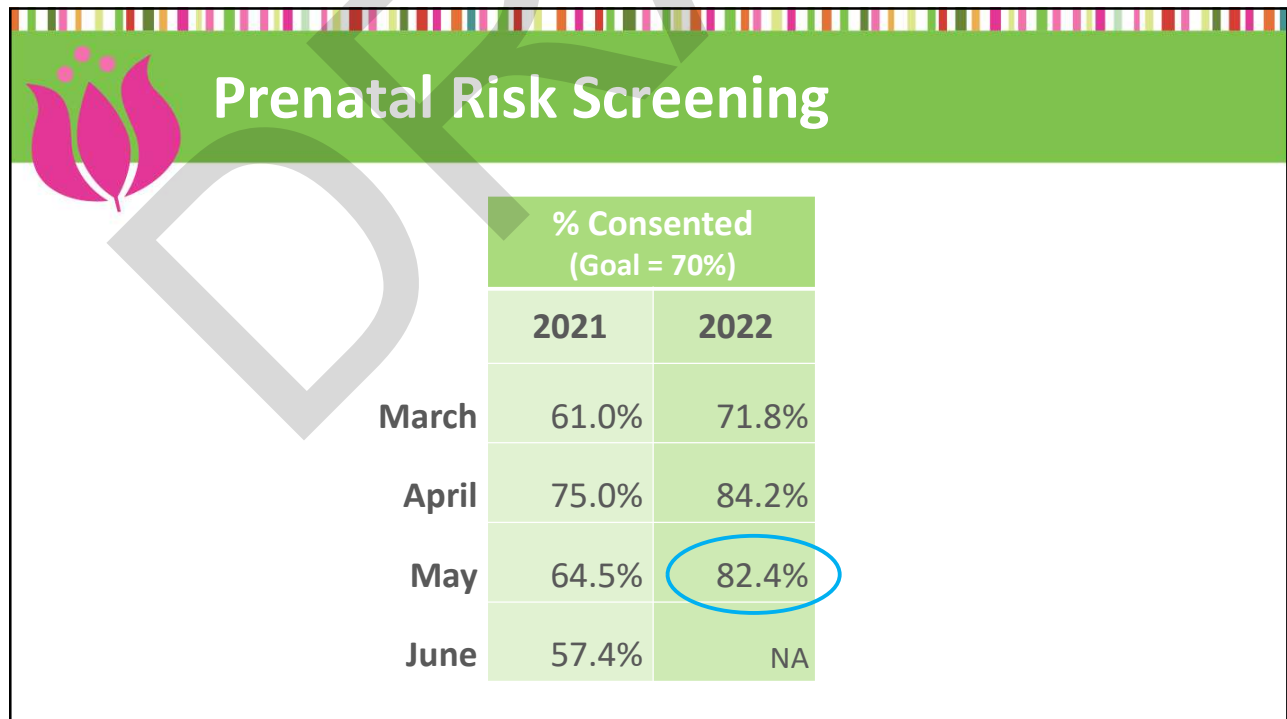
WellFlorida Council

Florida Healthy Start
Healthy Start of North Central Florida Coalition

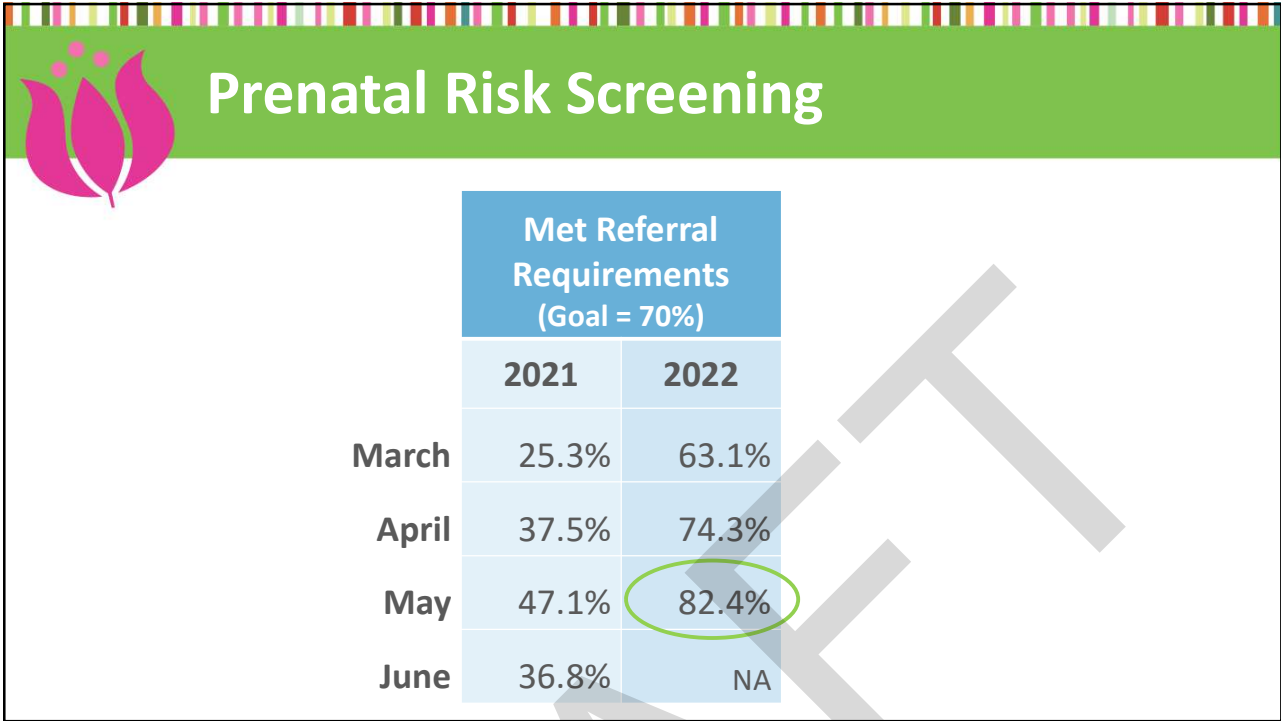
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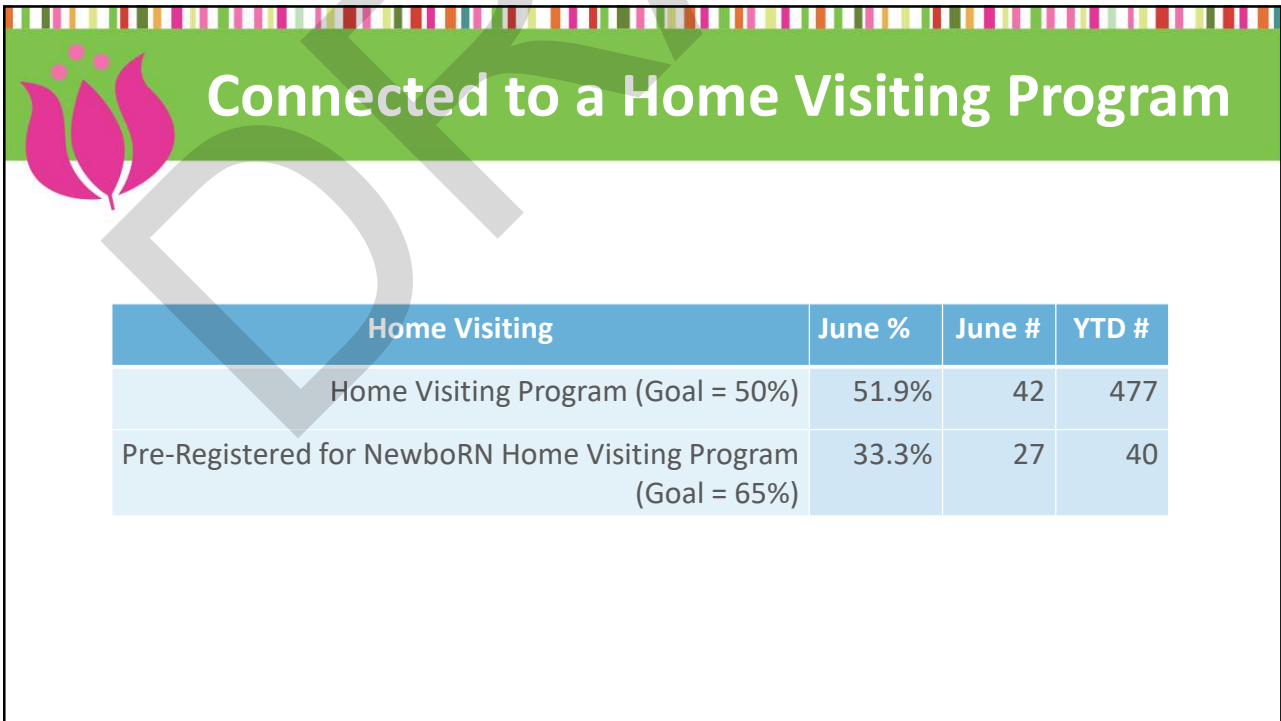
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14



15



16



Child Passenger Safety Checks

Car seat installations and safety checks = 28



Did you know that 3 out of 4 car seats are not properly installed? At Comprehensive Women's Health, we care about you and the safety of your little one. Every Friday we will be offering FREE car seat installation assistance. Registration is required, mothers-to-be must be at least 35 weeks pregnant, and space is LIMITED as these are one-on-one appointments. Please allow 45 minutes for your appointment. To register, please call Alex at 352-332-7222 ext. 232.

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19

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1



TeensWork Alachua Pilot Successes





- **Goal: 150-200 Teen Summer Jobs**
- **As of July 1st: 207 Teens Working**
- **43 Different Worksites**




2

Provider Challenges



Challenges for contracted providers include:

- Worksite recruiting for ages 14-15
- Establishing a bank account for direct deposits
- 25 hour a week worksites (150 hours)
- Misinformation/confusion with parents and teens
- Timely payroll
- Identification documents
- Worksite Behavior issues
- Follow-through from teens



3

Payroll Approval Systems

Goodwill Industries of North Florida:

- Goodwill HR Department
- ADP payroll system

Minority Business Listing, Inc:

- Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI)
- Two sub-contract Staffing agencies
(Manpower (Teens 16-18)
(Remedy (Teens14-15))



4

Afterschool Summary Report – FY2022

Children’s Trust of Alachua County

Bonnie L. Wagner

Research, Planning, and Evaluation Coordinator

July 8, 2022

Introduction

This report explores the initial year of the Children’s Trust of Alachua County’s funding afterschool programming for children in need in Alachua County.

In August 2021 through a competitive bid process, the Trust sought qualified afterschool program providers to host rising kindergarteners through 12th graders in safe and enriching afterschool programming for the 2021-2022 school calendar year. Ultimately, six organizations were funded to provide programming:

- Aces in Motion
- Boys and Girls Club
- Deeper Purpose
- Gainesville Circus Center
- Girls Place
- Kids Count

The purpose of this report is to gain knowledge on performance, successes, and areas for improvement afterschool programming. The primary audience for this report is the Trust staff, board, and providers who implement or help support the implementation of services who can gain insights and take actions to improve services and outcomes for children and families.

Table of Contents

Introduction

Key Questions:

Why is afterschool important?

Who was served?

How much service was offered?

How much service did youth receive?

What factors are associated with attendance?

How much did service cost?

How did youth and parents experience services?

Conclusion

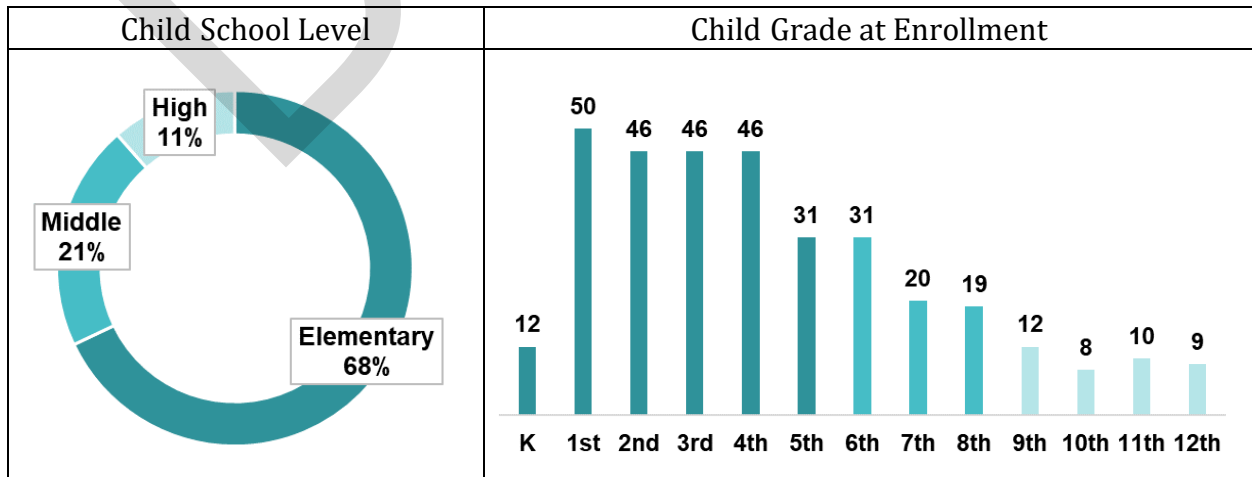
Why is afterschool important?

Participating in high quality afterschool programming provides a structured, nurturing environment for youth to learn and develop. Out-of-school time opportunities allow for youth to take part in activities to promote their health, well-being, and support academic learning. Children’s Trust funds are exclusively directed for youth in need of extra support, specifically for children struggling financially, educationally, or due their family circumstances. Afterschool programs provides a safe environment for youth to develop bonds and relationships with peers and caring adults. Afterschool also provides access to expanded learning opportunities, which, inspires, enriches, and develops children’s career interests and making real-life connections to complement their academic learning during the school day.

Who was served?

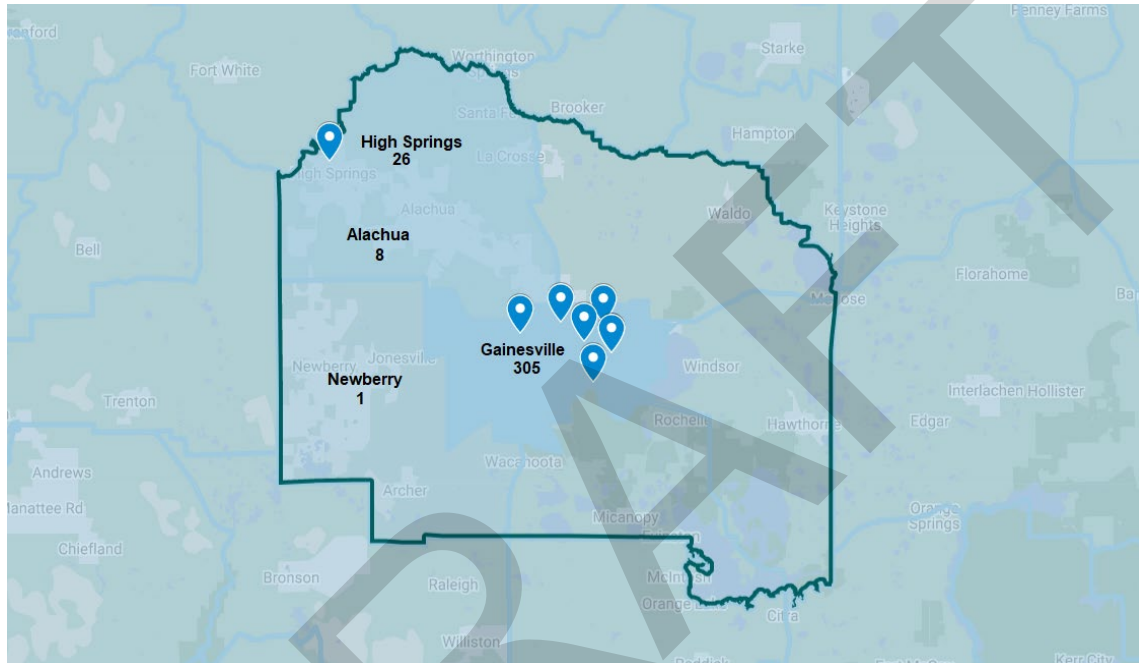
Overall, **340** youth were served through afterschool programs funded by the Trust. All providers exceeded the goal set for the number of youth enrolled.

The average age of youth served is 9.8 and ranged from five to nineteen years old. Over two thirds of youth were in elementary school, twenty-one percent in middle and eleven percent in high school. Metcalfe (35), Rawlings (35), High Springs Community (28), Norton (24), and Westwood (20) were the five schools where the greatest frequency of afterschool youth attended.

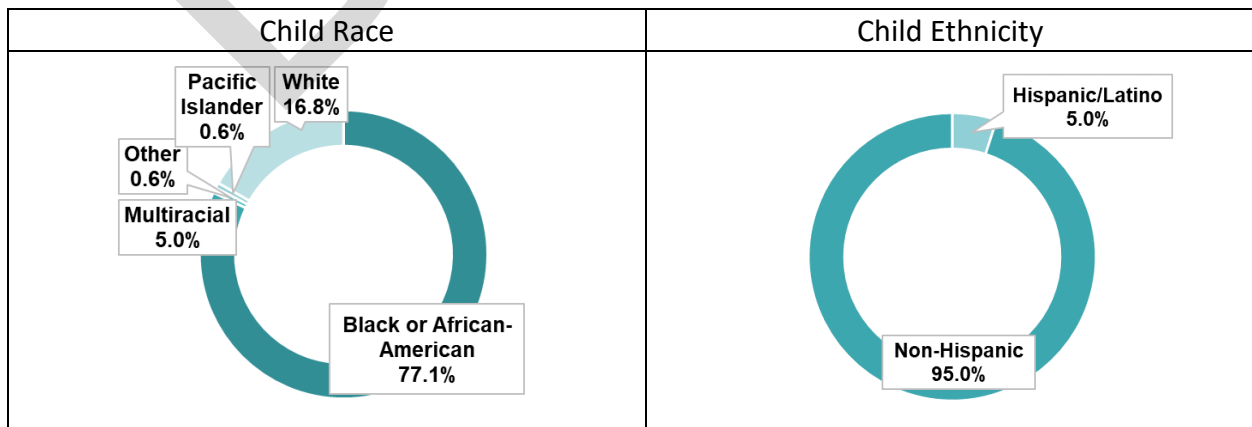


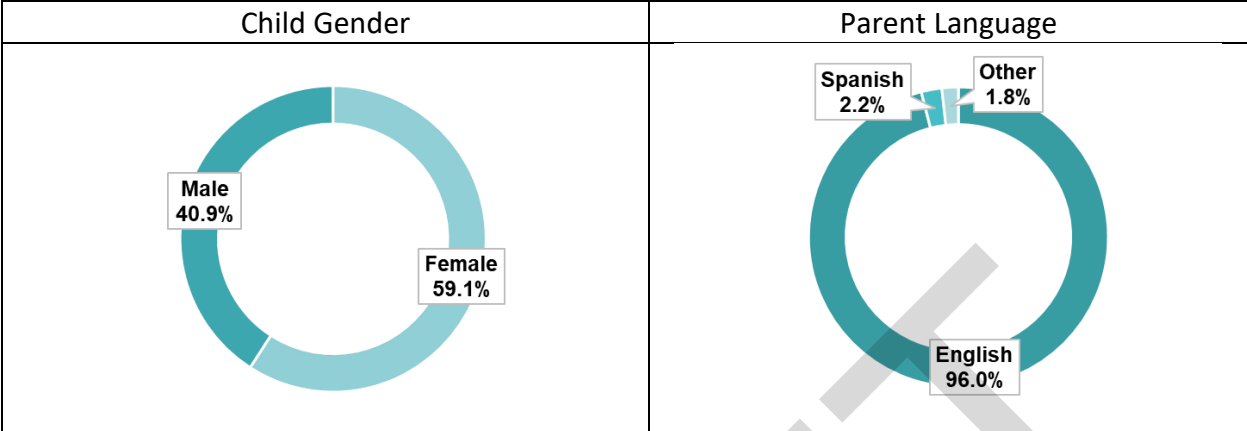
All youth are Alachua County residents. Ninety percent of youth reside in Gainesville, followed by some representation from High Springs (8%), Alachua (2%), and Newberry (<1%).

Figure 1.
Provider Locations and Youth Served by City of Residence.



Seventy-seven percent of youth are Black or African American, 17% are White, five percent Multiracial, and under two percent indicated other races. A large majority of youth identified as non-Hispanic (95%).





Nearly all parents were reported as being English speaking with just a few parents speaking Spanish or other languages. More female youth are served than males with most sites having a greater prevalence of females than males, and one site – Girls Place – serving females exclusively.

To be eligible for a Trust scholarship families provide documentation to demonstrate need. Allowable documentation verifying scholarship eligibility included: income verification (pay statement, W2, tax return, etc.), receipt of public assistance (SNAP), receipt of special education services (IEP, 504 plan), or children in foster care, voluntary and formal kinship care (placement letter). Children might have multiple situations apply to them though parents are to provide one documentation for scholarship eligibility. Most youth qualified for a scholarship based a family income at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (65%), following by being a recipient of SNAP benefits (18%), having a family income between 200%-400% of the federal poverty level (13%), special learning needs (3%), and out-of-home placement (<1%).

How much service was offered?

Providers offered an average of **150 days of service** ranging from 132 to 166 days. In total, this represents 1,192 days of programming provided to youth. In some instances, the actual days of programming is lower than the contracted number of days. Reasons for this include closures due to COVID, other illnesses, lack of staffing, and miscalculation in the number of program days.

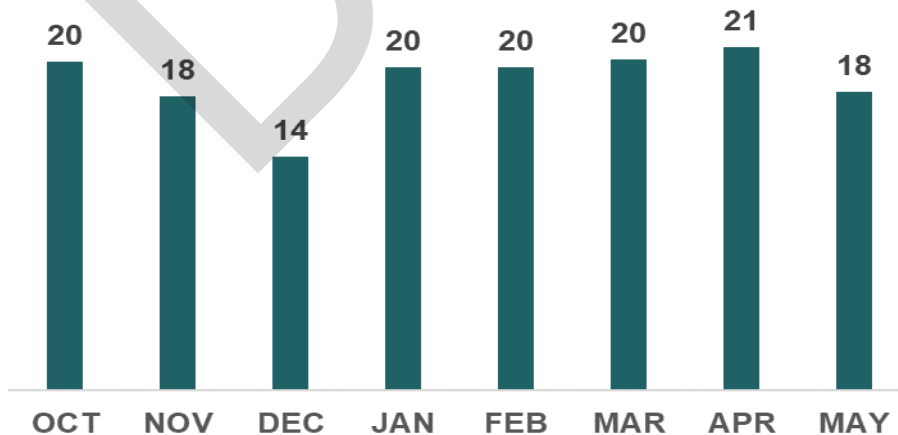
Table 1.

Days of Services by Provider Agency and Site.

Provider Agency	Site	Actual Program Days	Contracted Program Days
Aces in Motion	Duval ELC	141	141
Boys and Girls Club	Northwest	155	155
	Woodland Park	155	155
Deeper Purpose	Kids Academy	147	164
Gainesville Circus	Gainesville Circus	166	160
Girls Place	Girls Place	162	163
Kids Count	Duval ELC	132	139
	Faith Mission	138	139
All Afterschool Programs		1,196	1,216

Figure 2.

Average Days of Service Offered per Month.



How much service did youth receive?

On average **youth attended 91 days** of programming, which ranged from 72 to 111 days across sites. Relative to the days of service offered by the site, on average, youth attended **62%** of the program days offered.

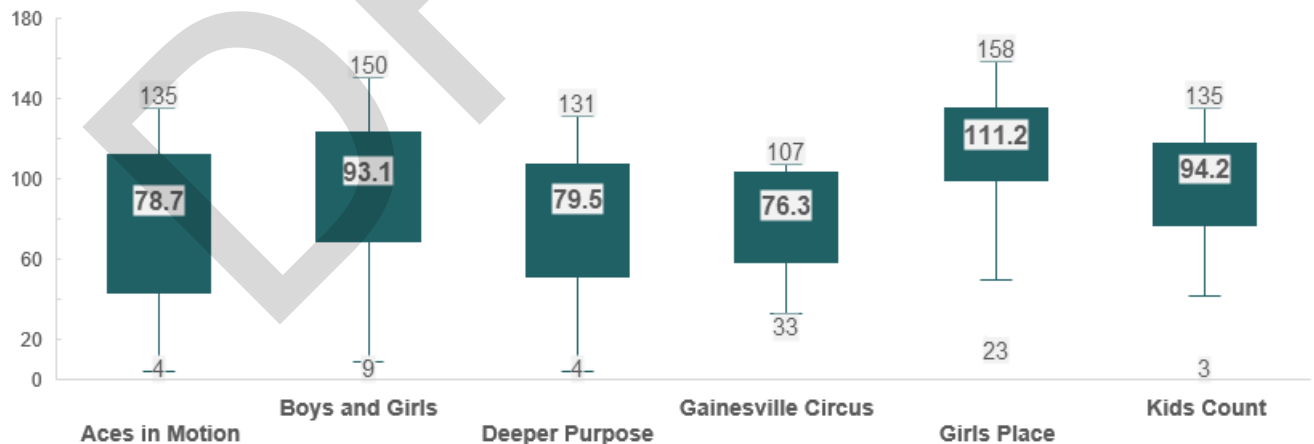
Table 2.

Youth Attendance by Provider Agency and Site.

Provider Agency	Site	Program Days Attended	Average Attendance	Program Days Offered
Aces in Motion	Duval ELC	56%	79 days	141
Boys and Girls Club	Northwest	64%	99 days	155
	Woodland Park	47%	72 days	155
Deeper Purpose	Kids Academy	54%	80 days	147
Gainesville Circus	Gainesville Circus	46%	76 days	166
Girls Place	Girls Place	69%	111 days	162
Kids Count	Duval ELC	66%	87 days	132
	Faith Mission	75%	103 days	138
All Afterschool Programs		62%	91 days	150

Figure 3.

Youth Attendance Distribution by Provider Agency.



While the majority of youth were signed up in October and stayed for the duration of the school year (62%), there were some children who exited the program early or joined later in the year (38%). Across providers, 81% of youth attended at least 50 days.

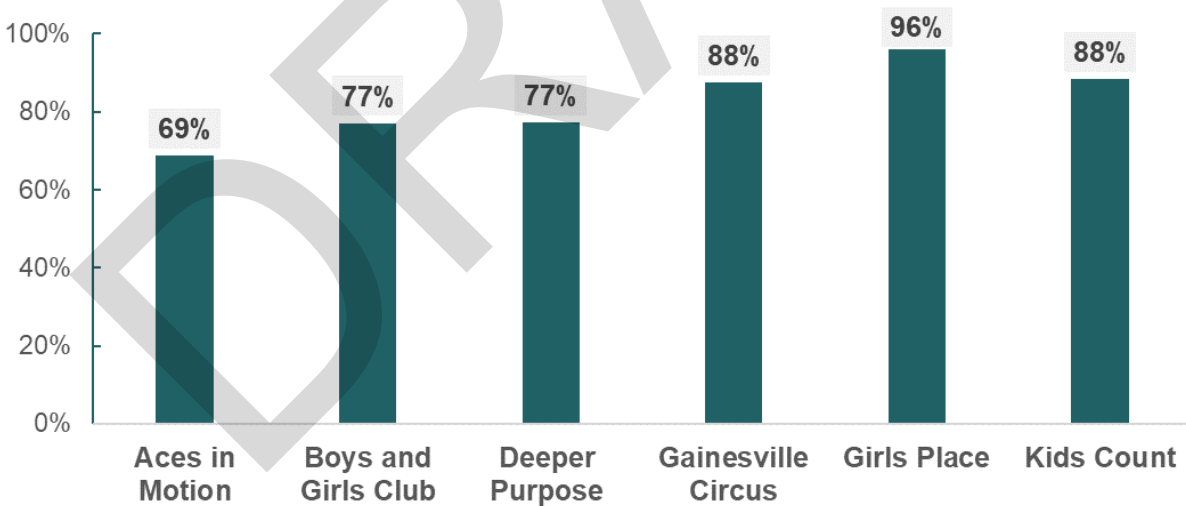
Table 3.

Youth Duration in Services

Provider Agency	Enrolled for 8 months	Average Months
Aces in Motion	70%	6.8
Boys and Girls Club	56%	6.7
Deeper Purpose	43%	6.1
Gainesville Circus	31%	5.9
Girls Place	78%	7.2
Kids Count	67%	6.8
All Afterschool Programs	62%	6.7

Figure 4.

Percent of Youth Attending at least 50 days by Provider Agency.



What factors are associated with attendance?

Attendance in a multitude of settings has been greatly impacted by COVID, especially in school, afterschool, and childcare programs. An article in Education Week highlights how COVID exacerbated chronic absence causing disrupted learning and argues that family engagement and building relationships with adults and other students are effective strategies for tackling chronic absenteeism¹. Absence from learning opportunities, including school, afterschool, and childcare, has likely had significant influence in the decreases seen in 2021 for kindergarten readiness, 3rd and 8th grade reading proficiency, as well as high school graduation rates in Alachua County. According to [AttendanceWorks](#), research shows the undeniable benefits of regular school attendance, and the high costs related to absenteeism, including lessened student achievement and increased dropout rates. If family engagement, strong bonds with adults and fellow students, good attendance habits are reinforced in afterschool they will likely also translate to improved school attendance.

Figure 5.

Children’s Trust of Alachua County, Goal 2 – Children Learn What They Need to Be Successful and associated Community Level Indicators.

ALL CHILDREN LEARN WHAT THEY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL			
	Alachua County Previous Value (Yr.)	Alachua County Most Recent Value (Yr.)	Change Between Years
Children are Ready for Kindergarten <i>Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screener (FLKRS)</i>	58.4% (2020) 44.2% of black students	54.8% (2021) 35.4% of black students	▼
3rd Grade Reading Proficiency <i>Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English Language Arts</i>	56.6% (2019) 31.8% of black students	52.5% (2021) 29.4% of black students	▼
8th Grade Reading Proficiency <i>Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) English Language Arts</i>	60.7% (2019) 31.2% of black students	57.8% (2021) 31.9% of black students	▼
High School Graduation Rates	90.4% (2020) 84.1% for black youth	86.6% (2021) 82.5% for black youth	▼

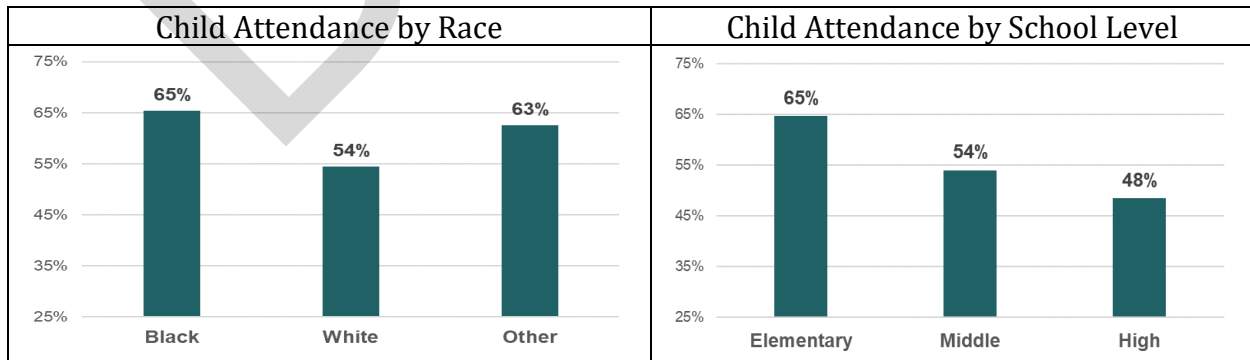
¹ Blad, E. (2022). Chronic Absenteeism Spiked During COVID. Here’s What Schools Can Do About it. Education Week. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/chronic-absenteeism-spiked-during-covid-heres-what-schools-can-do-about-it/2022/04>

Providers were asked during site visits more about the causes of absence and below summarizes the reasons described. Provider were also asked to complete an “End of Program Reflection Survey” where they could rate each reason as a “major”, “moderate”, “minor”, or “not a factor”. Illness, sickness, or injury was frequently endorsed as a major factor in attendance. Parent custody, medical appointments, and other activities was also noted as a major factor by a third of provider agencies. Transportation, moving out of the area, and other activities were noted as moderate factors by half of providers.

Causes of Absence:

- Illness, sickness, or injury
- Moving out of the area
- Homelessness or housing insecurity
- Other activities (such as sports, clubs, etc.)
- Academic tutoring
- Parent custody
- Social dynamics between youth (i.e., bullying, not getting along)
- Medical appointments
- Transportation

Demographics characteristics statistically associated with attendance include race and school level². Specifically, children identified as White demonstrated the lowest rates of attendance (54%), followed by those whose race was identified as Other (63%), and Black (65%). School level was also statistically associated with attendance with children in elementary school attending at higher rates than middle and high school students.



² Note: Aces in Motion program data could not be included in this analysis because they did not submit data in the same requested format as other providers.

How much did services cost?

The Children’s Trust allocated **\$761,989** for children to be served in quality afterschool programs. While the actual amount spent is still pending final provider invoicing, Table 4 presents the funding allocation for each provider agency, the number of children served, and the cost per child. The average cost per child is \$2,241, which ranges greatly from \$1,485 to \$5,971.

Table 4.

Cost per Child Estimate based on Funding Allocation.

Provider Agency	Funding Allocation	Children Served	Cost per Child
Aces in Motion	\$188,443	64	\$2,944.42
Boys and Girls Club	\$142,569	96	\$1,485.09
Deeper Purpose	\$72,175	35	\$2,062.14
Gainesville Circus	\$95,539	16	\$5,971.19
Girls Place	\$120,238	51	\$2,357.61
Kids Count	\$143,025	78	\$1,833.65
All Afterschool Programs	\$761,989	340	\$2,241.14

Due to recent labor market shortages, it is imperative to offer competitive wages and benefits to attract and retain high quality staff. Providers indicated a key success factor was their staff – their commitment and dedication – and providing training so that they can provide the best possible services to children in their care. The average weighted daily market rate for school age children in Alachua County per the Florida Office of Early Learning is \$26.82, which would equate to \$2,441 if youth attended 91 days³. There are many factors that go into calculating the cost of care, and the [Wallace Foundation](#) offers another cost calculator⁴.

³See link: <https://www.floridaearlylearning.com/providers/market-rate>

⁴Wallace Foundation’s Out-of-school time Cost Calculator: <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/cost-of-quality/pages/default.aspx>

How did youth and parents experience services?

At the end of the program or upon exit families are asked to complete a satisfaction survey to provide their perspective and feedback on the program. The survey was available in English and Spanish and could be completed on paper or online. There were 185 surveys completed with a completion rate of 54%. It was noted that parents with multiple children enrolled tended to submit one survey per family.

Table 5.

Survey Completion Rates.

Provider Agency	Completion Rate	Completed Surveys	Children Served
Aces in Motion	62.5%	40	64
Boys and Girls Club	41.7%	40	96
Deeper Purpose	57.1%	20	35
Gainesville Circus	100.0%	16	16
Girls Place	68.6%	35	51
Kids Count	43.6%	34	78
All Afterschool Programs	54.4%	185	340

Overall, **93%** of those surveyed reported their experience was either “**good**” or “**great**” and **all** indicated they **would recommend** the program. Across all items, displayed in Figure 6, youth and parents expressed consistently high levels of satisfaction. Parents and youth were also asked what they liked best about the program. Key themes regarding what children **liked best** included:

- **Activities**

“The surprise cookouts”

“Splash days”

“The book giveaways”

“Doing fun circus arts.”

“Science experiments.”

“Playing sports with the other kids, field trips.”

- **Staff**

"The loving teachers."

"Positive adult role models."

"How loving, caring and eager [staff] were on a daily with not only my kid but with others kids that a I saw on a daily."

"All four of my girls and myself agree that the staff and administration is the best experience of it was not for staff that create the loving, warm and welcoming environment for all the girls. The staff are dedicated and passionate about each child not just academically, but their well-being. They are so uplifting and encouraging."

- **Making Friends**

"Getting to know new friends."

"Making so many friends"

"Seeing their friends every day."

"Making friends."

- **Help with Schoolwork**

"Being able to have homework help readily available."

"Getting help w/ homework & meeting new friends."

"Tutoring and staff"

"The environment, activities, and help with homework. "

"Work with the other teammates and learning the right way to study."

In addition to the themes noted building relationships and feeling cared about were significant and impactful for children. Some or many children may have been eager for connection coming out of the isolation and separation that COVID created. In the words of one family, what they liked best was:

"Being able to be themselves. Becoming close with people they didn't know initially."

On the other end of the spectrum, what parents and youth **liked least** included:

- **Homework** – While youth and parents expressed appreciation for the help with schoolwork, youth also expressed that homework was their least favorite

program component. At the same time, there were also comments provided about wanting more help and homework time.

"Mandatory academics."

"Doing homework"

"Almost no help on homework."

"Wanted more homework time"

- **Peer Problems** – Making friends, being able to socialize and bond with peers was what many youth liked best, but when youth didn't get along it was also noted as what they disliked most about the program.

"Some kids were not nice."

"Mean students."

"When some of the children in her group would not listen and follow what they were being instructed to do because it caused everyone to get in trouble."

"She sometimes complained about bullying"

- **Staff** – Many described connection and relationship with staff as what they liked best about the program, and it was also reflected in their dislikes in instances when staff leave or when youth felt unable to connect.

"When a counselor would leave for a new job, college, etc."

"She not being able to connect and communicate with some of the coaches was a struggle for her."

- **Too Hot** – Several youth noted their greatest dislike was the heat of the gym and being outside in the heat. Again though, sports and being outside was also noted frequently as what many youth enjoyed most.

"How hot it is in the gym."

"Being outside a lot in the heat."

- **Food** – Some youth noted the snacks and the food being their favorite part, yet there were also some youth who expressed they disliked the snacks and meals provided, or that there wasn't enough.

"Not enough snacks"

"Food was always cold"

Figure 6.

Satisfaction Results by Item.



Conclusion

The initial year of the Children's Trust funding afterschool program included many successes. Specifically, **340** youth in need received services with very high rates of satisfaction among those surveyed. Youth and parents expressed appreciation for the staff, help with homework, being able to socialize and develop bonds with peers, and enjoyment of the activities and enrichment programming offered.

While high rates of youth received at least 50 days of service, better attendance is desired. Regular and on-going attendance may never be achievable for all children, however, is a necessary element to achieve the positive impacts desired by both the Children's Trust and providers. The Trust will continue to measure attendance and support providers in addressing barriers to fully engaging children as needed.

The Trust aspires to see all children reach their potential academically and ensuring children with special needs receive supports needed as well as children have their basic needs met. Further exploration of how this is currently happening, possibilities for further enhancements is underway. Another area of consideration might be to explore how to provide services to youth in eastern Alachua County.