

**Organization Name:** CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

### Organization Info

**Year Established:** 1970

**Most Recent 990 Year:** 2018

**Total Revenue:** 4,435,452

**Total Expenses:** 4,358,097

**Philanthropy Hub Profile Created:** No

### Program Snapshot

**Program Name:** Investing In Alachua's Rural Youth

**Award Amount:** 65325

**Contract Number:** 11572

**Type of Program:** Out of School Time/Youth Development

**Program Summary:** Workshops addressing drugs and violence will be provided to youth attending elementary school

**Target Population:** School-Age: Elementary

**Program Staffing:**

4 positions:

Family Action Services Coordinator

SNAP Lead Facilitator

2 SNAP Facilitators

**Program Site(s):**

1218 NW 6th Street

Gainesville, FL 32601

United States

**Partner(s):** School Board, various schools, The Florida Network of Youth and Family Services.

**To be completed by the Providing Agency**

How much?	Actual	How well?	Actual	Anyone better off?	Actual
<b>Expected # of children to be served:</b> <b>90</b>  <b>Intensity of Services:</b> One-time Events  # of youth attending sessions	*7  ** 121  *** 128	% of youth attending sessions	100%	% of youth increase knowledge in life skills	100%

\*Completed

\*\* Currently Enrolled

\*\*\* Expected Total

## **Project Narrative:**

Describe what has been accomplished year-to-date.

At the beginning of April, 2020 through the month of May 2020, CDS focused on the recruitment and hiring processes of two Snap in Schools program facilitators who were hired during the month of May, 2020. From the end of May until June 2020, we implemented administrative trainings and operations trainings until full SNAP in Schools trainings were made available by the Florida Network of Youth and Families. During this time, staffs were additionally trained in the prevention curriculum "Too Good for Drugs/Too Good for Violence." One SNAP facilitator unfortunately left the program before summer groups were to start and thus, the recruitment process began again in June, 2020. Candidate Shauntrell Floyd (facilitator for Shell elementary) was hired and trained as mentioned in the outlined process, in July, 2020 but has been limited in her ability to facilitate at the school until she receives her SNAP training scheduled for October 23rd. Unfortunately there were no other training opportunities available and according to the fidelity curriculum, she is unable to provide full groups until the official training.

Due to summer breaks, school closures and challenges from the pandemic, CDS staff had been significantly limited with regards to access to schools and participants during the summer and the beginning of fall. Start dates in Alachua schools were uncertain as the populations projected attendance fluctuated. Unfortunately and initially, Snap In schools was not a primary focus for schools who were also trying to navigate the pandemic while attempting to adhere to CDC guidelines. During the initial reopening of schools, SNAP staff had not been allowed to interact with the parents of youth due to COVID-19, as well as, low school attendance rates and we had no alternate means of which to provide virtual services. SNAP staffs were not allowed to move freely around the county schools to spread the word about SNAP resources and instructional days were time sensitive and teachers were struggling to find the time to allow SIS implementation in their classrooms.

In order to mitigate these challenges, Riley Redington (Alachua Elementary) facilitated two SNAP cycles with 7 participants in total at Library Partnership; a resource center and community partner in Alachua County during the summer and into the fall. Riley also completed a pre-teaching week to prepare for the students' arrival. She has since gotten the chance to meet the students and visit each classroom to provide a SNAP in schools introduction presentation and will be facilitating SNAP in four different third grade classrooms totaling 80 students. She started SNAP lessons the week of October 5th. The lessons are held on Mondays from 2-2:45 pm, Thursdays from 11:30-12:30 pm and 2-2:45 pm, and Fridays from 2-2:45 pm, totaling four sessions each week.

Shauntrell is currently establishing rapport with school staff members as well as assisting with administrative tasks during the school day. Shauntrell has now been able to establish a day to day schedule during which time she meets with and identifies students who are "at risk" and or are in need of extra support. She has begun to establish connections with students across all grade levels and will be attending SNAP training scheduled for October 23rd, 2020. Subsequent to this, she will begin groups at Shell Elementary on October 26th and will serve a total of 41 students.

It goes without saying, that our dedicated staff have put a great deal of effort and energy into implementing these new programs within rural schools; schools that would otherwise be very limited in the accessibility of community resources. During this time, the SNAP team has not only developed deep bonds with both the schools and the families but have also will have exceeded contract numbers within the initial set of groups which began this October. One major challenge plaguing the SNAP team is with regards to the ongoing needs of these rural schools and the diminishing budget from which we have to work. Remaining contract funds will not allow the current groups to be completed as all funds will be expended by November 30, 2020. In addition, we will be forced to cut groups prematurely while significant need is still present, after

rapport has already been developed and the curriculum, already underway. Unfortunately, this leaves our student populations in an extremely vulnerable place by terminating services prematurely and it is with hope that there is some consideration and flexibility regarding possible budget extension that may allow the ability to continue the work in which we've invested.