



*The mission of the Children's Services Council of Martin County is to enhance the lives of the children of Martin County and to enable them to attain their full potential.*

## **Children's Services Council of Martin County (CSCMC)**

### **REQUEST for PROPOSALS for**

**Two (2) Funding Priority Areas *Strong, Nurturing Families* and *Safe, Stable Communities***

**Funding Cycle: October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027**

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: Friday, May 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

Pursuant to CSCMC's Guiding Principles outlined in the CSCMC 2026-2031 Strategic Plan, CSCMC targets prevention and early intervention services for our most vulnerable children, families, and communities while advocating for and supporting the increased availability of needed services for all children and their families. CSCMC gives funding preference to program models that are evidence-based or research-proven, with demonstrated positive impact and sustainable, replicable outcomes.

### **Strong, Nurturing Families and/or Safe, Stable Communities**

CSCMC invites eligible community service organizations to submit applications in response to this competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the funding cycle of October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027. CSCMC will accept proposals per the below two (2) funding priority areas, and their associated subcategories:

#### **1. Strong, Nurturing Families**

- 1.a. Child Maltreatment and Parent Engagement**
- 1.b. Children Living in Economic Hardship and Poverty**

#### **2. Safe, Stable Communities**

- 2.a. Intimate Partner and Family Violence**
- 2.b. Juvenile Justice Involvement**
- 2.c. Out-of-School Suspension**
- 2.d. Unintentional Injury and Death**

The CSCMC annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process is appropriate for submission and review of program/initiatives that can demonstrate positive impact, with sustainable and replicable outcomes, and that meet certain minimum characteristics defined by the funding priority area(s) and its subcategories, per the published RFP. Programs/initiatives must have measurable gains/results, preferably defined by evidence-based or research-proven interventions and/or evidence-based curricula, with well-defined outcomes associated with industry standard evaluation methodology and/or standardized or validated measurement instruments.

Programs/initiatives proposed in partnership with the Martin County School District (MCSD) **must** align with and complement existent MCSD school-based services, curricula and/or interventions, and must have approval by the MCSD prior to CSCMC contract execution.

### **CSCMC considers the following applicant eligibility as outlined within this document:**

- CSCMC Funding Eligibility and CSCMC RFP Funding Eligibility, page 2.
- RFP Parameters, Required Budget and Support Documents, and Application Requirements, pages 3-4.
- Applications deemed below minimum eligibility criteria may be determined ineligible for further review. All applications must be submitted via the CSCMC online application within The Hub-Martin. For instructions to access the associated application, page 4.

CSCMC Policy 2.1 "CSCMC Funding Authority" (excerpts): CSCMC has the discretionary authority to allocate and provide funds for organizations that offer services for the benefit of children and families. CSCMC solely reserves the right to reject any or all CSCMC Applications for Funding; deny the issuance or renewal of a CSCMC Contract; and deny, delay, or terminate funding in circumstances it believes are not in the best interest of CSCMC and the public. (CSCMC Policy 2.1a) All funds are allocated solely at the discretion of CSCMC, and no Provider is entitled to, nor guaranteed funding. CSCMC Funding may also be terminated if funds become unavailable. (CSCMC Policy 2.1b) The Council's funding allocation decisions are final, and there are no appeals. (CSCMC Policy 2.1e)

## Request for Proposals (RFP) Timeline

Release CSCMC 2026-2027 RFP & Online Application Access.....	Thursday, March 26, 2026
<b>The link to the RFP Application is located on the CSCMC website .....</b>	<b><a href="https://www.cscmc.org/">https://www.cscmc.org/</a></b>
Proposers (Virtual) Conference ( <i>attendance is highly recommended</i> ).....	Monday, March 30, 2026, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
<b>The link to register for the Conference is located on the CSCMC website ....</b>	<b><a href="https://www.cscmc.org/">https://www.cscmc.org/</a></b>
Deadline to Submit Online Questions .....	Thursday, April 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m.
<b>Applicant 2026-2027 RFP Submittal Due Date.....</b>	<b>Friday, May 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m.</b>
Meetings with Applicants ( <i>determined by CSCMC</i> ) .....	June - August 2026
CSCMC 2026-2027 Staff Recommendations to Council.....	Monday, August 24, 2026
CSCMC 2026-2027 Funding Term .....	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027

## CSCMC Funding Eligibility

### CSCMC Funding Eligibility criteria pursuant to the following policies:

- 1.1a CSCMC funds not-for-profit incorporated organizations, neighborhood organizations, and local government organizations. For-profit organizations are prohibited from applying for CSCMC funds.
- 1.1b Organizations or programs that operate under the exclusive jurisdiction of the public school system are prohibited from applying for funds directly from CSCMC.
- 1.1c Programs requiring worship or religious instructional activities, as a condition of participation, shall not be funded.
- 1.1d Programs of organizations with their own taxing authority are limited to two years of CSCMC funding. Subsequent eligibility for funding must be requested in writing to CSCMC and approved by Council on an annual basis, unless otherwise approved by CSCMC. CSCMC Council has waived the above requirement of a written request for the City of Stuart, Florida and for Martin County, Florida, in perpetuity, until terminated by CSCMC Council, with or without cause, and upon written notification to those organizations.
- 1.1e CSCMC-funded programs are required to be in direct alignment with the goals and strategies of the CSCMC Strategic Plan; and not supplant existing resources; and collaborate with other community partners in the public and/or private sector.
- 1.1f The target population for the purposes of CSCMC funding is limited to Martin County children and youth, prenatal up to 18 years of age or older if still in high school or currently enrolled in a program funded by CSCMC, or with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and under 22 years of age, and the family members or primary caregivers of those children and individuals.
- 1.1g CSCMC will not provide funding to organizations for the acquisition of real property.

## CSCMC RFP Funding Eligibility

All applicant organizations seeking to enter the competitive Request for Proposal process for the Children's Services Council of Martin County's (CSCMC) Annual Funding Cycle (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027) for the **Strong, Nurturing Families** and/or **Safe, Stable Communities** priority areas may do so if:

- Proposing a Martin County-based program(s) **not currently funded** by CSCMC under the **Strong, Nurturing Families** or **Safe, Stable Communities** priority areas
- and/or**
- Proposing a program(s) **currently funded** by CSCMC under the **Strong, Nurturing Families** and/or **Safe, Stable Communities** priority areas, with a request to continue the program within the same funding priority area, inclusive of proposed revisions.

## CSCMC Request for Proposals: Parameters

CSCMC's Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Priority Areas of **Strong, Nurturing Families** and/or **Safe, Stable Communities** is a competitive process for ALL applications, including applications for programs currently funded by CSCMC. Note the following parameters:

- CSCMC gives funding preference to program models that include evidence-based and/or research-proven interventions and/or curricula, with demonstrated positive impact and sustainable, replicable outcomes determined via industry standards of evaluation and/or with the use of standardized and/or validated measurement instruments.
- CSCMC fosters collaboration among provider agencies and encourages assessment of collective impact with community partners to develop increasingly robust systems of care.
- CSCMC funding is informed by current national, statewide, regional and/or systemwide data per occurrence and prevalence of issues that align with the well-being of children and their families. CSCMC focus is also influenced by local qualitative input and quantitative data, the latter benchmarked against comparable sources, as indicated.

Upon consideration of application submission to this RFP, note necessity of alignment with the *CSCMC 2026-2031 Strategic Plan*, most specifically to the **Strong, Nurturing Families** and/or **Safe, Stable Communities** funding priority areas and all related *Leading Indicators & Investment Statements* (pages 6 & 10). The *CSCMC 2026-2031 Strategic Plan*, including Guiding Principles and associated documents can be located at <https://www.cscmc.org/financials-reporting/#toggle-id-7>

## Required Budget and Support Documents

The online application requires the upload of documents including the applicant organization's most recent audited financial statements, Auditor's Management Letter, and the organization's response to that letter (if applicable), current IRS Form 990, Board of Directors list, and key staff job descriptions. These documents support CSCMC's assessment of the applicant organization's fiscal health and capacity to manage CSCMC funds. Additional required uploads include the organization's current operating budget and the proposed program budget projecting expenses for the period October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027.

## Important Program Budget Submission Format Change

The applicant's proposed program budget must be completed in the CSCMC Budget Workbook (Excel format) provided within the online application. The CSCMC Chart of Accounts is also available within the online application under the Resources Section to assist with budget preparation. Applicants must:

- Download the CSCMC Budget Workbook (Excel) from the application link
- Enter all required itemized program budget information directly within the workbook
- Save the completed workbook in Excel format (PDF conversions will not be accepted)
- Upload the completed workbook in the designated Budget Upload section of the application

Note: The Excel Budget Workbook replaces direct budget entry into budget tables within the RFP Application. Budget information entered elsewhere in the application will not be reviewed or considered.

## Martin County Service Area Budget Requirement

Because CSCMC funds services exclusively for Martin County residents, the proposed program budget submitted in the CSCMC Budget Workbook must reflect only the Martin County portion of the program. If the proposed program operates across multiple counties or service areas, applicants must isolate and present only the expenses attributable to services delivered to Martin County residents. Budgets that include costs attributable to services for individuals who are not Martin County residents, or for services delivered outside Martin County, will not be considered.

## CSCMC Application Requirements

Applicants are advised to review the CSCMC Program and Funding Policies and the CSCMC Sample Contract and Budget to determine their ability to comply fully with all CSCMC policy and contract requirements. These documents are available in the online RFP Application under the **Resources Section** or as otherwise provided by CSCMC.

- All applications in response to this CSCMC Request for Proposals must be electronically completed and submitted within The Hub-Martin by **May 1, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**, at which time access will be electronically closed.
- Required uploads include all organizational support documents and the completed CSCMC Budget Workbook (Excel) as described above.
- The applicant organization's duly authorized official, Executive Director or equivalent, must certify that the information provided within the CSCMC Application for Funding is true and correct. The authorized official must attest, to the best of their knowledge, that the organization's governing body (Board of Directors or equivalent) has approved submission of the application and indicates the date of approval. Proof of these attestations must be provided to CSCMC upon request (*CSCMC Policy 1.2a excerpt*).
- Following the submission deadline, no additional application information will be accepted by CSCMC in any format, including verbal, electronic, or hard copy.

## CSCMC Online Application Access & Questions

The online application for the CSCMC Request for Proposals for **Strong, Nurturing Families** and/or **Safe, Stable Communities** is located within The Hub-Martin "Grants" Module.

The RFP application link is located on the CSCMC website: <https://www.cscmc.org/>

- It is recommended that the online application be accessed via the Google Chrome web browser.
- For assistance to **access or submit** the online application, email CSCMC at [programsupport@cscmc.org](mailto:programsupport@cscmc.org)

**Once within the application, submit ALL questions (general, program, fiscal) ONLY via the 'Ask a Question' link.  
Deadline to Submit Questions: Thursday, April 30, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

## CSCMC Cross-Cutting Strategies

**CSCMC cross-cutting strategies will prevail regardless of funding priority area and type of programming:**

**Ensuring access** to quality services and a community of opportunity for all children and families, with the intent to reduce disparities often associated with social determinants such as socioeconomics, poverty, geography, gender, race, ethnicity, etc.

**Evidence-based and research-proven** services, strategies, curricula, programming; validated measurement tools; research-linked outcomes and results; data-driven benchmarks and meaningful improvement.

**Resiliency and social competence.** Settings with a consistency of high emotional support positively contributes to a child's social competence and translates to a child's ability to understand and manage their emotions and behavior, feel empathy for others, develop healthy identities, build close relationships with peers, and practice cognitive flexibility. Social competencies refer to a range of prosocial behaviors associated with a child's future success across a wide range of contexts in adulthood (e.g., school, work, family life).

**Trauma-informed, trauma-responsive culture.** Practices and approaches that support a trauma-informed culture, across and including the entire organization, and that decrease the residual of adverse experiences, create welcoming and safe environments for children, and, ultimately, build community resiliency over time.

**Unique learning needs.** A system that provides the services and interventions necessary within an environment that supports all participants’ unique learning needs, for maximum individual benefit.

**Youth voice.** As part of program culture, and preferably across the organization, youth are empowered to be part of shared decision-making processes and have the opportunity to learn from the expertise of adults. Youth voice supports young people to have a positive impact and affect change in their communities and is an empowering process, giving young people a sense of ownership within their communities and overall society.

**Literacy focus.** Children are given the foundation to build on the pillars of literacy — phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The foundation is built from quality early learning experiences with a consistent caregiver trained in developmentally appropriate practices. The first several years of elementary school continues this positive momentum, utilizing science-based reading principles and literacy practices. Increasing attendance in school, as well as preventing summer learning loss and promoting positive health and developmental growth, are among the strategies that support the achievement of grade level reading.

**Parent-Child Relationships and Family Engagement.** Secure, nurturing parent-child relationships are the foundation of a child’s healthy development, well-being, and lifelong learning. Engaged and responsive caregivers foster a child’s sense of safety, belonging, and confidence, supporting brain development, emotional regulation and school readiness. Programs and systems that promote meaningful parent and caregiver engagement — through consistent communication, partnership in goal setting and participation in decision-making — strengthen families and elevate outcomes for children.

**Quantitative and Demographic Data**

Quantitative data specific to Martin County and the CSCMC priorities that comprise the focus of this Request for Proposals are included throughout this document, with local demographics on pages 14–16.

**Qualitative Community Input**

**Parent/Guardian Survey and Community-Based Provider Surveys**

Electronic surveys were distributed by CSCMC to various parent/guardian populations and to community-based providers and stakeholders to gain insight about the systems that align with the support of families with children and the safety and stability of our communities. Valuable input was provided pertaining to perceived gaps in care and the need for specific strategies, programming, etc.

**Please refer to the summarized results of the below surveys available at the end of this document. Parent/guardian and community-based responses may be pertinent to the subcategory(ies) to which your organization is interested in applying.**

**Participant Population**

**Discussion Points**

Parents/guardians of youth enrolled in MCSD VPK, K-12 Grades & Head Start; English & Spanish versions.

Use and availability of local services, resources & input re: specified strategies & programming.

Selected community-based providers & stakeholders associated with local services for children & families.

As above.

Martin County Zero to Five (0-5) System of Care Providers

Utilization of parent/guardian support & engagement strategies, & effect upon students’ learning.

## Strong, Nurturing Families and Safe, Stable Communities

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), young children experience their world through their parents and other caregivers. Their ‘Essentials for Childhood’ framework establishes that safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments (SSNRs) are essential in averting early adversity and preventing child maltreatment.

The interplay of stable, nurturing relationships and environments that are secure and safe from physical and psychological harm significantly shapes the development of children’s physical, emotional, social, behavioral and intellectual capacities. The extent to which these needs are consistently met through sustained, comprehensive efforts will impact the evolution of skills that help assure each child reaches their full potential.

Shared investments of interventions and strategies within multiple sectors and across our systems of care will support children and their caregivers in the quality and depth of their relationships, as well as create the framework within communities that ensure children and families will thrive.

**CSCMC Policy 5.14 Federal, State and Local Requirements:** In delivery of the services provided in accordance with the CSCMC Contract and its Attachments, as applicable, as well as the required Supporting Documents, it is the Provider’s responsibility to assure that all applicable federal, state, and local requirements are met, including but not limited to compliance with licensing requirements, health/safety codes, and zoning codes.

### 1. Strong, Nurturing Families

CSCMC is seeking prevention and early intervention program models and initiatives that support the integration of services and resources necessary to support strong and nurturing families within Martin County. Comprehensive responses will include specified research-based/informed, evidence-based and/or research-proven strategies and interventions that will positively impact the countywide prevalence and occurrence of the below issues experienced by families with children, as well as increase and sustain the engagement of the parents/guardians involved in the lives of child participants.

**CSCMC will accept applications within this priority area per alignment with a minimum of one of the two (2) leading indicators listed below as the primary focus of the proposed program/initiative.**

#### Leading Indicators: Strong, Nurturing Families

- a. Child Maltreatment and Parent/Guardian Engagement
- b. Children Living in Economic Hardship and Poverty

#### Investments in strong and nurturing families

**Families are connected with community resources and support systems.**

- County-wide resource and referral navigation and case management that establishes a gateway to services among community providers and partners.

**Families with children are resilient and able to cope with adversity.**

- Evidence-based curricula and interventions to promote healthy parent engagement, family resilience and protective factors, to reduce the risk and occurrence of child maltreatment.

**Families with children will overcome economic hardship and poverty, to achieve self-sufficiency.**

- Targeted resource-building and/or coaching to support economic stability and ensure that basic needs are met or, optimally, exceeded.
- Individualized strategy-building to stabilize families toward self-sufficiency and economic mobility.

## 1.a. Child Maltreatment and Parent Engagement

### Child Maltreatment

Per the World Health Organization (WHO), child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes any and all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, per commission and omission, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. International studies reveal that 6 in 10 children under five (5) years of age regularly 'suffer physical punishment and/or psychological violence at the hands of parents and caregivers, and that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men report having been sexually abused as a child.

Child maltreatment often has severe short- and long-term physical, sexual, and mental health consequences. Maltreatment causes stress that is associated with disruption in early brain development. Violence against children is also a contributor to inequalities in education, e.g., children who experienced any form of violence in childhood have a 13% greater likelihood of not graduating from school. And, consequently, as adults, maltreated children are at increased risk for behavioral, physical, and mental health problems.

Not only is child maltreatment often hidden, with only a fraction of child victims in receipt of necessary support from health professionals, a child who is abused is more likely to abuse others as an adult. According to WHO, preventing child maltreatment before it starts is possible, with effective prevention approaches including supporting parents, teaching positive parenting, as well as effecting the culture regarding violence and punishment.

In 2022, an estimated 1,990 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States. In the same year (the most recent year for which there is national data) 558,899 U.S. children (unique incidents) were victims of abuse and neglect. This equates to eight (8) children out of every thousand.

- **Out-of-Home Placement**

The out-of-home placement ('foster care') rate in a community acts as one critical indicator of child safety, family stability, and overall public health. Closely tied to socioeconomic factors and systemic issues, higher rates may highlight underlying issues such as local poverty levels, lack of economic resources or strain on the allocation of federal, state and/or local support, and insufficient and/or inaccessible family support services. In any case, that renders families limited or unable to provide safety, stability and security, social safety nets and effective family preservation programming provides preventative, protective support, as well as a response to specific crises.

During the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024, there were 328,947 U.S. children in foster care placement, with 7% under the age of one year; 51% under 10 years of age; 28% between the ages of 11 to 16; 6% at 17 years of age; and 7% between the ages of 18 to 24. During this FFY, with a count of 17,198, Florida ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest state for children in out-of-home placement (before adjustment for population size). During this time frame, within the child maltreatment system of care, Florida had 8,712 licensed foster homes.

Per the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) data, for the months of January through December of 2025, the statewide average rate of removal of children from their homes due to neglect, abuse, abandonment, etc., was 3.5 per 100 alleged victims. In comparison, the 2025 removal rate across the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit, which includes the counties of Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie, was an average of 4.4 per 100 alleged victims, higher than the rate across Florida. Reasons for local removal of a child/youth mirror that of national data, e.g., due to issues related to adequacy of supervision and/or substance abuse on the part of the parent/guardian.

Per DCF available data, specific only to Martin County, a range of 24 to 45 children ages 0-18 were in out-of-home care in any given month from January 1 through December 31, 2025. Though Martin County's placements are typically comprised of licensed foster homes; shelter and group home settings; and relative foster homes, the number of available licensed foster homes within Martin County is reported to be lower than the local need.

Martin County, Children in Out-of-Home Placement														
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG	RANGE
2025	24	29	29	29	32	37	43	42	42	43	45	43	37	24-45
2024	38	32	29	27	27	24	25	27	26	25	23	25	27	23-38
2023	60	63	55	55	52	51	48	51	48	47	43	44	51	43-63

FL Department of Children & Families, Children in Out-of-Home Care Monthly Trend, Children Only, Martin County. Duplicated Counts

Martin County, Children Entering Out-of-Home Placement														
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	AVG	RANGE
2025	0	5	1	3	13	13	7	7	3	3	6	0	5	0-13
2024	0	3	4	1	0	2	2	3	0	3	1	2	2	0-4
2023	6	4	3	1	4	2	2	4	1	6	0	1	3	0-6

Communities Connected for Kids, Circuit 19, Children Entering & Exiting Out-of-Home Care, Martin County, Unduplicated Counts

Although Circuit 19 has experienced a decrease in the number of youth in need of out-of-home sheltering, the decline is disproportionately less within the 13-17 year old age group. This, along with a greater likelihood of attaining placement permanency among younger children has results in the higher need for out-of-home care among the oldest grouping, i.e., teens. Additionally, every county experiences ‘lockouts’ per which the parents/guardians initially refuse the return of their dependent youth ready to return home from, for example, a Baker Act, residential stay or DJJ. These homes are typically supported via intensive in-home services, with the goal of the child/youth being sustained within their family of origin. When this outcome is not realized, and out-of-home placement is the only available option, it is unfortunately typical for these youth to ‘age-out’ within the foster care system.

Separation of a child from their family of origin is a disruption of the ‘rhythms’ of growing up, and can be traumatizing in itself, in addition to the experiences, such as neglect, abuse, etc., that lead to out-of-home placement. Per a survey of adults ages 18-71 having experienced out-of-home care as a child, the toll of entering the system was associated with experiencing four (4) adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), with each additional foster care placement resulting in an increase in ACEs by 0.45 points. According to the National Council for Adoption, rather than a focus on an increase or decrease in the number of children entering foster care, the goal is reduced child maltreatment rates; reduced time spent outside of permanent family care; and a reduction in both the time frames and the numbers of children awaiting adoption.

### Parent Engagement

Parent/guardian engagement builds crucial protective factors – parental resilience, social connections and knowledge of child development – that foster child resilience, safety, and healthy development. Actively involved caregivers result in benefits for their children, including reduced high-risk behaviors and greater emotional security, social skills and self-efficacy.

Program practices that promote protective factors in children and families focus on the *Strengthening Families Framework* and include offering parent education; helping them build nurturing and trusting relationships; facilitating their social support networks; guiding their response in times of need and during crises; connecting them to concrete services, resources and opportunities; and observing and being alert to early warning signs of maltreatment. The latter, in particular, helps families receive help early and potentially avoid negative outcomes.

- **Protective Factors**

**(The) Protective & Promotive Factors Framework** is an organized, strengths-based approach used to promote healthy outcomes and ameliorate the negative impacts of risk factors. The *Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework* of the Center for the Study of Social Policy encourages the engagement of families in building competence around five (5) key protective factors: parental resilience; social connections and relational behavior; knowledge of parenting and child development; navigation of resources within systems of care; and awareness of their role in nurturing their child’s social and emotional growth.

- **Parent Education**

Research confirms that adherence to the structured content of evidence-based behavioral parent training programming is a key predictor of improved parenting self-efficacy with consequent increases in child outcomes. With that, adherence to implementation, focusing on core principles such as positive parenting styles, nurturance, consistency, structure in establishing expectations/‘rules’, as well as ‘home practice’, are deemed critical per predictors of outcomes. Based on the guidelines from the Virginia Statewide Parent Education Coalition (VSPEC), the key characteristics of effective parent education programs include: well-defined goals, objectives, and measurable outcomes to assess effectiveness; strengths-based focus; targeted risk reduction related to child maltreatment; curricula responsive to the specific target population; protective factors enhancement; cultural competence; active learning; fidelity regarding program completion and follow-up, and an identified evaluation component.

### 1.b. Children Living in Economic Hardship and Poverty

#### **Struggling Families**

In 2023, 29%, or 38 million, of all U.S. households were ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), i.e., earning above the poverty level yet struggling to meet basic needs. Nationwide, the total of ALICE households plus those meeting poverty criteria comprised 42%, or 55 million households. Statewide, a total of 47% of Florida’s households were either ALICE (34%) or earned below the FPL (13%).

Of the 69,169 Martin County households in 2023, a total of 46% were ALICE (32%) plus those meeting poverty criteria (14%). It is important to note that this represents an additional 4,876 Martin County households met either threshold in 2023, compared to 2022, all compositions. (See ALICE data, page 14)

According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, child poverty alone in the U.S. nearly tripled from 5% in 2021 to 13% in 2024. The Foundation grimly references the “serious threat to children’s development and long-term well-being,” while adding that as “housing, food, child care and health care costs continue to rise, families find it increasingly difficult to make ends meet despite receiving assistance.”

- **Family-Centered Coaching toward Economic Self-Reliance**

Family-Centered Coaching, although beneficial to a wide range of households, is designed with a trauma-informed care lens to support families that have experienced or are experiencing financial distress. Though trauma is most frequently associated with the effect of or incidence of violence, abuse, neglect and disaster, etc., trauma effects are notable due to the lived experience of poverty. The family-centered coaching model differs from traditional methods and is a nationally recognized best practice in empowering families to be their own ‘leader’ in holistically addressing the needs of the entire unit, as well as individual members. The model attributes the family as their own expert in identifying its unique strengths and needs, and in establishing the strategies and timelines to meet specified targets, while recognizing that internal and external issues may slow or hinder progress at times, e.g., job loss.

Overall, in attaining their self-defined outcomes, family-centered coaching typically propels families toward greater stability and economic self-sufficiency and ‘upward mobility’. Routinized meetings with a program coach helps the family identify goal barriers and review solution-focused tasks to meet benchmarks for each domain threshold. Typically, the model includes an assessment instrument that documents the level of self-reliance within each of many domain areas, completed upon program entry, routinized reassessments and at program completion, with a rating methodology to determine level of growth within each domain and overall progress toward self-reliance. Additional tools may include CLIFF surveys, budgeting formats, individual coaching session formats and methodology to document outputs, e.g., number of coaching sessions.

## 2. Safe, Stable Communities

CSCMC is seeking prevention and early intervention program models and initiatives that support the integration of services and resources necessary to support safe and stable communities across Martin County. Comprehensive responses will include specified research-based/informed, evidence-based and/or research-proven strategies and interventions that will positively impact the countywide prevalence and occurrence of the below issues experienced by children, youth and their families, as well as increase and sustain the engagement of the parents/guardians involved in the lives of child participants.

**CSCMC will accept applications within this priority area per alignment with a minimum of one of the below four (4) leading indicators as the primary focus of the proposed program/initiative.**

### Leading Indicators: Safe, Stable Communities

- a. Intimate Partner and Family Violence
- b. Juvenile Justice Involvement
- c. Out-of-School Suspension
- d. Unintentional Injury and Death

### Investments in safe and stable communities.

#### Children and youth are engaged with their schools and communities.

- Evidence-based preventative education and community outreach to increase empathy, healthy communication and conflict resolution skills that are developmentally appropriate for children and youth of all ages.
- Evidence-based diversion interventions and truancy prevention strategies to reduce involvement with the juvenile justice system and reduce recidivism.
- Evidence-based interventions that reduce out-of-school suspensions and increase school engagement.

#### Children and youth are free from unintentional injury and death.

- Access to water safety swimming lessons for eligible children and parent/guardian education, to reduce occurrence of drowning and nonfatal submersion injury.
- Promote community messaging and/or evidence-based interventions that help protect children from preventable injury and unintentional death and that support safe communities.

#### 2.a. Intimate Partner and Family Violence

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that dating violence affects millions of U.S. teens each year and emphasizes the cycle of intimate partner violence (IPV) as one that often initiates early, i.e., prior to age 18, and can set the stage for victimization throughout one's life. Youth who are victims of teen dating violence are more likely to experience depression and anxiety symptoms; engage in unhealthy behaviors, e.g., tobacco, drugs and alcohol use; exhibit antisocial behaviors, e.g., lying, theft, bullying or hitting; and to have suicidal thoughts.

#### Youth Surveying

The *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* collects various risk-related data regarding middle and high school students at the state level only, per their experiences 12 months prior to responding. Results are available at national and statewide levels only:

- **High School, Grades 9-12**

According to the 2021 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* of U.S. high school students:

- 8.1% of Florida respondents reported *Physical Dating Violence*, the highest percent attributable to the 10<sup>th</sup> grade (9.4%). The national respondent rate was 8.5%.
- 8.1% of Florida respondents reported *Sexual Dating Violence*, the highest percent attributable to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (8.7%). The national respondent rate was 9.7%.
- 11.1% of Florida respondents reported *Sexual Violence by 'Anyone'*, the highest percent attributable to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade (11.9%). The national respondent rate was 11.1%; of these respondents, 59.5% also reported teen dating violence.

- **Middle School, Grades 6-8**

According to the 2021 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey* of U.S. middle school students:

- 4.3% of Florida respondents reported *Physical Dating Violence*, the highest percent attributable to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade (4.9%).
- No query regarding sexual violence was included in the middle school survey.

Note: The State of Florida ceased the use of the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, then implementing the *Florida-Specific Youth Survey (FSYS)*, administered during spring. The 2024-2025 FSYS survey results specific to 'dating violence' follow, yielded from a sample of Florida high school students (n = 4,208):

- 8% of students reported to have been a victim of teen dating violence and/or abuse, compared to 9% per the 2023-2024 FSYS
- 73% of students indicated they can recognize teen dating violence and/or abuse, compared to 76% per the 2023-2024 FSYS
- 65% of students responded they know how to report teen dating violence and/or abuse, compared to 75% per the 2023-2024 FSYS

A study by the University of Texas Center for Violence Prevention focused on a (21-session) healthy relationships curriculum delivered in middle and high schools with a finding that teen participants with a history of adolescent relationship abuse were less likely to recommit acts of violence within three (3) years following the intervention. Their program was designed to equip students with essential skills for “maintaining healthy relationships while targeting several shared risk and protective factors of problem behaviors like dating violence and substance use.” Their goal was the interruption of the link between adolescent relationship abuse and adult intimate partner violence, stating 20-30% of U.S. teens have experienced relationship abuse that often leads to negative emotional/behavioral and physical health consequences.

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), prevention efforts need to impact occurrence and recurrence of both experiencing intimate partner violence and/or perpetrating violence, while promoting healthy, respectful, relationships. The Center emphasizes the need to address risk and protective factors at multiple levels with strategies that include individuals, couples and families; promote protective environments within schools and across communities; and coordinate access to specified resources among service providers.

## **2.b. Juvenile Justice Involvement**

National data on juvenile arrests for 2024, recently available, show that juvenile arrests are down: 28% lower than 2019 (before COVID) and 4% lower than 2023. A recent publication by The Annie E. Casey Foundation emphasizes that when young people harm others or break the law, they need accountability *in tandem with* ‘opportunities, support and, most importantly, connections with caring adults to help them find a positive path forward’. Additionally, prioritizing diversion and rehabilitation and restoring ties to family and community, not severing them, align with a perspective of reform. Overall, research supports that strategies built upon these pillars *work* – and that less youth incarceration is compatible with less youth crime.

## Overall Youth Arrests

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice reports a Martin County intake rate per number of youth age 10-17 arrested through FY 2024-25 of 10.1 per 1,000 all offenses. This compares to a 2024/25 rate of 15.5 per 1,000 across Circuit 19 and 12.8 statewide.

<b>Martin County, Youth Arrested, All Offenses Ages 10-17</b>							
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Youth Arrested</b>	16.9	12.2	9.4	12.1	14.5	10.2	10.1
<b>% Difference from Previous FY</b>		-28%	-23%	30%	19%	-30%	-1%
<b>% Difference from FY 2018-19</b>	0%	-28%	-45%	-28%	-14%	-40%	-41%

FL Department of Juvenile Justice, Data as of 10.9.25 NOTE: Youth are counted only once, regardless of their number of arrests during the year of report.

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice reports a Martin County intake rate per number of arrests of youth age 10-17 FY 2024-25 of 14.2 per 1,000 all offenses. This compares to a 2024/25 rate of 23.4 per 1,000 across Circuit 19 and 20.7 statewide.

<b>Martin County, Arrests per 1,000 Youth, All Offenses Ages 10-17</b>							
<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
<b>Arrests of Youth</b>	24.4	17.8	12.3	17.6	20.2	13.7	14.2
<b>% Difference from Previous FY</b>		-27%	-31%	44%	15%	-32%	3%
<b>% Difference from FY 2018-19</b>	0%	-27%	-50%	-28%	-17%	-44%	-42%

FL Department of Juvenile Justice, Data as of 10.9.25 NOTE: Total of all arrests. If same youth was arrested more than once during fiscal year, each individual arrest is counted.

## Juvenile Drug Arrests

While overall drug arrests for juveniles saw a downward trend in some earlier reporting years, according to the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA), recent data indicates that drug-related offenses remain a factor in juvenile crime. Specific to Florida, juvenile arrests were reported to have surged by 17% annually since the COVID-19 pandemic, with 43,394 juveniles arrested in fiscal year 2022-2023. Per an NBC affiliate's report, a Florida-based judge attributed this rise to factors such as drugs, mental health issues e.g., depression and anxiety, and a lack of positive role models, emphasizing the importance of early intervention.

In 2021, Martin County juvenile drug arrests of those ages 0-17, specific to the possession or sale of illegal drugs, represented the lowest arrest count (7) and rate per 100,000 (56.5) since 2005, the latter statistically significantly lower than that year's statewide rate. However, from 2021 through 2024, the local juvenile drug arrest rate was higher than Florida's rate, though not statistically significantly higher, placing Martin County's rate within the third (highest) quartile statewide.

In response, evidence-based interventions based upon trauma-informed care, cognitive-behavioral therapy and educational support can serve at-risk youth and strengthen their families, while addressing public safety. Prevention programs with an emphasis on restorative and diversion strategies in response to nonviolent offenses, citations and misdemeanors, are typically associated with the goal of reduced recurrence, and optimally include measures to promote social competencies, problem-solving skills and self-regulating behavior. Diversion programming offers significant advantages for the individuals, their communities and the justice system by focusing on accountability, rehabilitation and addressing root causes of behavior, while being less stigmatizing for the youth. Overall, participants in diversion programs have significantly lower rates of re-arrest and future convictions, compared to those served within traditional system proceedings.

Primary prevention curricula and/or strategies can 'immunize' individuals and groups and promote overall awareness of risk factors and the consequences of specific illegal actions. This level of programming is often part of a larger framework designed to leverage impact through its availability to youth across a variety of settings.

## 2.c. Out-of-School Suspension

Out-of-school suspension temporarily removes students from their regular school setting, during which the youth cannot attend school or activities. Research suggests that this removal is said to have the potential negative effect of disrupting education, which may link to lower academic outcomes, as well as increased disengagement from school and, for some, an increased risk of involvement with the juvenile justice system and of dropping out.

Conversely, restorative, therapeutic in-school-suspension, along with other alternatives to out-of-school suspension, allows students to continue completing schoolwork in a supervised setting, even if removed from their regular classroom(s), with the impact of preventing learning loss. In-school suspension includes the opportunity to begin to resolve issues related to the root of the suspension, helping the student link specific acts to consequences, while presenting options that encourage behavioral reflection, positive skill-building and appropriate conflict resolution. An effective in-school or alternative suspension program can also detect learning problems, provide support for behavioral issues, before they become serious and to help students better understand the expectations of the school, classroom(s), teachers, etc.

Overall, in-school suspension can be effective and necessary for specific ranges and types of behaviors and infractions in helping to sustain student attendance, versus a punitive approach. A trauma-informed approach acknowledges the reality that many students may have experienced trauma that sets the stage for being triggered by traditional disciplinary approaches. It is thus important that non-out-of-school suspension environments are those in which students can feel safe and supported. Parent contact and engagement is integral to reducing repeat offenses and may help school connectedness for both students and their guardians.

## 2.d. Unintentional Injury and Death

Below presents the three (3) most prevalent causes associated with unintentional fatal injuries of infants, children and youth under age 18. Additional areas of concern as a response to unintentional fatal injury, including preventative strategies, public education and/or specified training, universal messaging, etc., may be included for consideration within submitted applications.

The injury surveillance system provides access to multiple data sources, including primary sources, to provide information to Florida's injury prevention community for program planning and evaluation, available at: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/>

Additional data is provided by the Florida Department of Children & Families, Child Fatality Prevention at: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/childfatality> & FLHealthCHARTS <https://www.flhealthcharts.gov/charts/QASpecial.aspx#INJ>

### **Unintentional Fatal Injuries**

Nationally, about 1 in 5 child deaths is a result of unintentional injury. Leading causes of unintentional fatal injury vary by age, with suffocation the primary one associated with infants (birth to 1); drowning for children ages 1-4; and motor vehicle traffic incidents for children and youth ages 5-19 years.

Notably, Martin County data spanning years 2023 through 2025 is consistent with the below as the most prevalent causes of unintentional fatal injury by these age groups: infants, children and youth.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that, overall, the states with the lowest injury and fatality rates have shown that consistent investment in public safety campaigns, age-specific injury prevention programs and legislative support can support effective strategies - and save lives.

- **Drowning, Water Submersion**

During 2025, statewide, 119 child deaths were due to fatal water submersion injury, the majority occurring within the 1-3 age range. In the U.S., drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children age 5 and under and is among the top five leading causes for ages 5-14. Typically, nearly 70% of childhood drownings (ages 1-4) occur during ‘non-swim times’, when the child was not expected to be in or near the water.

Lack of swimming ability is a leading cause of drowning, as many children and adults lack essential water survival skills. The CDC emphasizes that while formal swimming lessons are essential for reducing the risk of drowning, ‘children who have had swimming lessons still need close and constant supervision when in or around water’. The American Red Cross emphasizes it is necessary and critical for children to have ‘access to swim lessons until swimming competency criteria is achieved’, while parents and caregivers engage in essential evidence-based safety training. Skill development for both the child and adult is viewed as a continuous process, not a one-time event, to build and maintain critical competencies.

The National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) references the five layers of prevention that, used together, reduce the risk of drowning, as follows: barriers and alarms; life jackets; emergency preparation, i.e., CPR training and basic water skills; active adult supervision; and water competency. Mitigating risks in the home is a critical component of drowning prevention, as the home environment – specifically for children under age 5 – is the most dangerous location for fatal drowning incidents. Cross-training home visitation care providers to recognize in-home water hazards is a proactive, potentially life-saving step, along with ensuring caregivers know the NDPA layers of protection and promoting public education.

- **Sleep Environments**

Unsafe sleep environments such as positioning, bedding, surfaces, etc., increase the risk of suffocation and strangulation. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the CDC offer evidence-based recommendations to create safe sleep environments and practices to significantly reduce sleep-related infant death. Campaigns that include local, state and national efforts can address the prevalence of sleep-related infant death and promote comprehensive safety recommendations.

- **Motor Vehicle, Traffic**

Motor-vehicle crashes continue to be the number one cause of preventable death for U.S. teens. According to data available from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the number of teen motor-vehicle occupant deaths has increased for the third time since 2019 and estimated the total number of 2023 deaths among teens ages 13 to 19 (including pedestrian and bicycle incidents) averaged eight (8) deaths per day.

Young driver crashes that result in fatalities also include their passengers, occupants of all other involved vehicles and non-occupants. During 2023, nationally, a total of 2,611 people lost their lives in crashes involving a teen driver. According to the National Safety Council, driver inexperience is the root cause of crashes involving a teen driver. Beyond inexperience, key factors leading to fatal crashes during 2023 included speeding (34%), alcohol impairment (24%) and ‘distractions’. Per the CDC, risk is higher among teens ages 16-19 than among any other age group, with a fatal crash rate almost three times as high as drivers ages 20 and older, per mile driven. Within this age range, 16-year-olds are at the highest risk, twice as likely to be involved in a car crash than an 18- or 19-year old driver.

## **ALICE Population & Poverty: Martin County**

**ALICE** (*Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed*) represents those who are working whose salaries do not match Martin County's cost of living. ALICE recognizes that though basic costs like housing, food and gas have increased, wages for existing jobs have not proportionately increased. More people are reporting that they are living ‘paycheck to paycheck’, where one car repair or medical bill can tip them over into a state of financial crisis.

The ALICE Household Survival Budget estimates the bare minimum cost of household necessities (associated with housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan), plus taxes and a contingency fund (miscellaneous) equal to 10% of the budget.

<b>2023 ALICE in Martin County</b>		
<i>Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed</i>		
Households earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county.		
<b>Overall Martin County Profile</b>		
<b>Martin County Total Population</b>	<b>163,315</b>	
<b>Total Number of Martin County Households</b>	<b>69,169</b>	
<b>% of ALICE Households, County &amp; State</b>	32% Martin County households are ALICE 34% Florida households are ALICE	
<b># of ALICE Households, Martin County</b>	<b>22,134</b> Compared to 20,875 per 2022 data	
<b>% of Households Living in Poverty, Martin County</b>	14% Living in poverty, countywide, all populations *Compared to 9% per 2022 data 13% Florida households living in poverty Same as 2022	
<b># of Households Living in Poverty, Martin County</b>	<b>9,684</b> Compared to 6,067 per 2022 data	
<b>Median Household Income, County &amp; State</b>	\$74,601 Median Martin County household income \$73,311 Florida (average) household income	
<b>County Subdivisions</b>	<b>Total Households</b>	<b>% ALICE and Poverty</b>
Indiantown CCD	6,417	39%
Port Salerno-Hobe Sound CCD	28,882	45%
Stuart CCD	32,521	42%
<b>CCD (Census County Division):</b> A sub-county statistical geographic area that usually represent a single contiguous area consisting of one or more communities, economic centers, or major land use areas in a county or county equivalent.		
Sources: <a href="https://www.uwof.org/sites/uwof/files/2025-alice-report-county-snapshots-florida.pdf">https://www.uwof.org/sites/uwof/files/2025-alice-report-county-snapshots-florida.pdf</a> United Way of Martin County: <a href="https://www.unitedwaymartin.org/alice">https://www.unitedwaymartin.org/alice</a>		

### Families with Children, Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

Poverty is a significant social determinant of overall health. The federal poverty definition uses thresholds based on family size, state of residence and family composition. For example, for the 48 contiguous states, the 2026 FPL (100%) for a family of four is \$32,150 (with \$5,500 for each family member over a household count of eight).

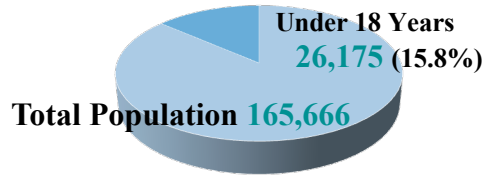
The U.S. Census (ACS) calculates data for families with related children ages 0-17, per the percentage whose combined income from all family members ages 15 or older is below the federal poverty level. In 2024, Martin County’s families falling within this classification was 13.8%, a decline, compared with the 2023 data of 14.3% and ranking the county in the second quartile (2<sup>nd</sup> of 4, highest) across Florida’s 67 counties.

See below historical data per ‘Families Below Poverty Level With Related Children (Aged 0-17)’, Martin County, 10 Year Report (FLHealthCHARTS):

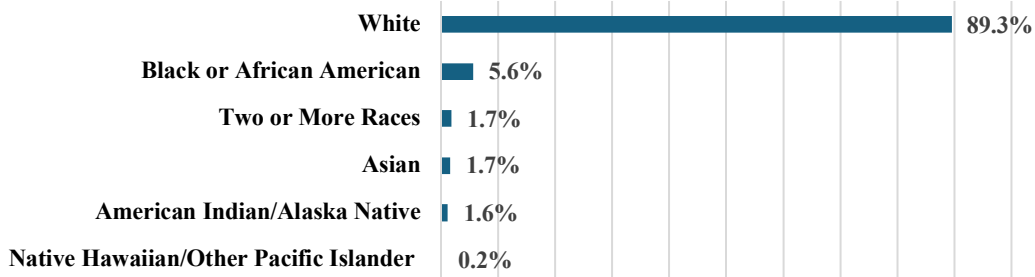
<b>Martin County: % of Families Below Poverty Level w/Related Children 0-17</b>		
	<b>Martin</b>	<b>State</b>
2024	13.8%	13.7%
2023	14.3%	14.0%
2022	11.9%	14.4%
2021	12.1%	14.8%
2020	12.8%	15.2%
2019	11.7%	16.3%
2018	12.8%	17.3%
2017	13.2%	18.2%
2016	15.0%	19.1%
2015	15.3%	19.8%

## Martin County Demographics

### Martin County 2024 Total Population and Under Age 18, Estimates



### U.S. Census Estimates All Ages Martin County, FL July 1, 2024 Population by Race



ETHNICITY: The 2024 estimate of 'Hispanic or Latino' individuals was 17.0% of the total Martin County population, while the estimate of 'White alone, not Hispanic or Latino' individuals was 74.8%.

Martin County 'Counts' by Age/Gender Calendar Year 2024			
Age	Male	Female	Total by Age
0	620	602	1222
1	628	616	1244
2	660	620	1280
3	664	655	1319
4	695	708	1403
5	732	678	1410
6	718	648	1366
7	678	688	1366
8	680	717	1397
9	743	698	1441
10	773	724	1497
11	736	744	1480
12	799	764	1563
13	806	806	1612
14	837	822	1659
15	828	778	1606
16	848	802	1650
17	816	784	1600
18	778	669	1447
19	642	587	1229
20	665	627	1292
21	695	660	1355
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,346</b>	<b>14,737</b>	<b>30,083</b>

Source: U.S. 2020 Decennial Census Data, 2024 Update

## References

### Strong, Nurturing Families and Safe, Stable Communities

Publication: Essentials for Childhood: Creating Safe, Stable, Nurturing Relationships and Environments for All Children, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/php/guidance/index.html>

#### Strong, Nurturing Families

##### 1.a. Child Maltreatment and Parent/Guardian Engagement

###### Child Maltreatment

World Health Organization; Child maltreatment. <https://www.who.int/news-room>

###### Out-of-Home Placement

Charts: Martin County, Children in Out-of-Home Placement; FL Department of Children & Families, Children in Out-of-Home Care Monthly Trend, Children Only, Martin County <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/child-family> and

Children Entering Out-of-Home Placement; Communities Connected for Kids (Monthly Data Reports: 2023, 2024, 2025), Circuit 19, Children Entering & Exiting Out-of-Home Care, Martin County

NCFA - National Council for Adoption; Foster Care and Adoption Statistics - AFCARS 2025 Update <https://adoptioncouncil.org/article/foster-care-and-adoption-statistics/>

Adverse Child Experiences and Psychosocial Well-Being of Women Who Were in Foster Care as Children. D. Bruskas, D. Tessin. The Permanente Journal, 2013 Summer;17(3):e131–e141. doi: [10.7812/TPP/12-121](https://doi.org/10.7812/TPP/12-121)

###### Parent/Guardian Engagement

Enhancing Protective Factors of Children and Families, Supplemental Training

<https://www.virtuallabschool.org/st/abuse-3#:~:text=Model%20positive%20and%20appropriate%20relationship,%2C%20deployment%2C%20and%20training%20schedules>

What is the Difference Between Parental Involvement and Engagement? <https://www.aecf.org/blog/parental-involvement-vs-parental-engagement>

###### Protective Factors

Parental Resilience: Protective and Promotive Factors; Center for the Study of Social Policy, pp 1-5

<https://cssp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/ProtectiveFactorsActionSheets.pdf>

###### Parent Education

Improving child behavior through parent training in child welfare services: A mixed-methods study of families receiving in-home services. Patricia L. Kohl, et al. Children and Youth Services Review, Volume 155, December 2023 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2023.107269>

‘Home Practice is the program’: Parents’ Practice of Program Skills as Predictors of Outcomes in the New Beginnings Program Effectiveness Trial.

Cady Berkel et al. Prev Sci.2018 Jul;19(5):663-673.[10.1007/s11121-016-0738-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-016-0738-0)

Virginia Statewide Parent Education Coalition (VSPEC) <https://www.familiesforwardva.org/va-parent-education-coalition>

VSPEC Toolkit

[https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/59/2022/11/VSPEC\\_Proof\\_FinalANGELAUPDATES822022.pdf](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/59/2022/11/VSPEC_Proof_FinalANGELAUPDATES822022.pdf)

##### 1.b. Children Living in Economic Hardship and Poverty

###### Struggling Families

Measuring Access to Opportunity in the United States: A 10-Year Update, KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot

<https://assets.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-measuringaccessupdate-2025.pdf>

## Family-Centered Coaching toward Economic Self-Reliance

Family-Centered Coaching Model <https://familycenteredcoaching.org/>

The Martha O'Bryan Center <https://marthaobryan.org/strategies/>

Family-Centered Coaching: A Toolkit to Transform Practice & Engage Families

[https://familycenteredcoaching.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/FamilyCenteredCoaching\\_Toolkit\\_V1R5\\_WebReady.pdf](https://familycenteredcoaching.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/04/FamilyCenteredCoaching_Toolkit_V1R5_WebReady.pdf)

## **Safe, Stable Communities**

### **2.a. Intimate Partner and Family Violence: Healthy Relationships**

#### Youth Surveying

FLHealthCHARTS: High School Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS) and Middle School Risk Behavior Survey (MS-YRBS)

The 2023 Florida-Specific Health Behavior (Youth Survey) Results

Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, and Bullying Victimization Among High School Students-Youth Risk Behavior Survey, United States, 2021. Supplements/April28,2023; CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

UTMB Health Blog Article, 'New Study Shows Positive Impact of Healthy Relationship Program in Reducing Teen Dating Violence', September 7, 2023

'Intimate Partner Violence Prevention: Resource for Action. A Compilation of the Best Available Evidence', 2017. Division of Violence Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. CDC [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-prevention-resource\\_508.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/ipv-prevention-resource_508.pdf)

FLHealthCHARTS: High School Risk Behavior Survey (HS-YRBS) and Middle School Risk Behavior Survey (MS-YRBS)

The 2022-2023 & 2024-2025 Florida-Specific Health Behavior (Youth Survey) Results

<https://www.fldoe.org/file/19980/2325-CompData.pdf>

Dating Violence, Sexual Violence, & Bullying Victimization Among High School Students-Youth Risk Behavior Survey, US 2021 Supplements/April28,2023; CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

UTMB Health Blog Article, 'New Study Shows Positive Impact of Healthy Relationship Program in Reducing Teen Dating Violence', September 7, 2023

### **2.b. Juvenile Justice Involvement**

What Juvenile Justice Data Reveal - and What the Numbers Can't Tell Us. Annie E. Casey Foundation, Posted February 18, 2026, Tom Woods. <https://www.aecf.org/blog/what-juvenile-justice-data-reveal-and-what-the-numbers-cant-tell-us>

#### Overall Youth Arrests

Charts: Martin County, Youth Arrested, All Offenses Ages 10-17; FL Department of Juvenile Justice, Data as of 10.9.25 <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile/delinquency-profile-dashboard>

and

Martin County, Arrests per 1,000 Youth, All Offenses Ages 10-17; FL Department of Juvenile Justice, Data as of 10.9.25 <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile/delinquency-profile-dashboard>

#### Juvenile Drug Arrests

Assessing Youth Early in the Juvenile Justice System, Anne M. Hobbs et al, Journal of Juvenile Justice, Fall 2013, Vol. 3.1 Homeland Security Digital Library

Delinquency Intake 2021-22. Sherry L. Jackson, MSW, Ph.D., Director of Research & Data Integrity, FDJJ

<https://www.djj.state.fl.us/content/download/633001/file/%282021-22%20CAR%29%20Intake.pdf?version=2>

FL Department of Juvenile Justice, Delinquency Profile, <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile>

Florida Substance Use Trends: Annual Report 2025. Presented by: Ben Hackworth, MPH, FADAA  
Epidemiologist Consultant. June 25, 2025

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.fadaa.org/resource/resmgr/pptpdfs/powerpoint\\_annualreport\\_fina.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.fadaa.org/resource/resmgr/pptpdfs/powerpoint_annualreport_fina.pdf)

Risk and Protective Factors of Child Delinquency, Gail A. Wasserman et al. CHILD Delinquency, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, April 2003

<https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/ojdp/193409.pdf#:~:text=Evidence%20sug%2D%20gests%20that%20these%20factors%20play,social%20cognition%2C%20academic%20achievement%2C%20and%20neuropsychological%20function>

Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) Florida DCF <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/samh/florida-youth-substance-abuse-survey>

The Delinquency Profile Dashboard <https://www.djj.state.fl.us/research/reports-and-data/interactive-data-reports/delinquency-profile/delinquency-profile-dashboard>

## 2.c. Out-of-School Suspension

The Problem with Traditional In-School Suspension <https://theartofiss.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-iss>

Evidence-Based Alternatives to Suspension and Expulsion <https://www.aclusocal.org/app/uploads/2014/03/Ev-Based-Practices-LCFE-Discipline-Toolkit.3.17.14.public.pdf>

School Connectedness - Restorative Practices <https://www.cdc.gov/youth-behavior/school-connectedness/restorative-practices.html>

OJJDP Truancy Prevention Literature Review [https://ojdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews/truancy\\_prevention.pdf](https://ojdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews/truancy_prevention.pdf)

## 2.d. Unintentional Injury and Death

### Unintentional Fatal Injuries

Florida Injury Surveillance System <https://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/>

### Drowning, Water Submersion

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drowning Prevention.

<https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/index.html>

National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) <https://ndpa.org/layers/>

American Red Cross Water Safety <https://www.redcross.org/watersafety>

### Suffocation

Accidental Suffocation and Strangulation during Infant Sleep. NIH, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt476/files/documents/2021-11/suff-strang-info.pdf>

Sleep-Related Infant Suffocation Deaths Attributable to Soft Bedding, Overlay, and Wedging. Pediatrics, 2019. Alexa B. Erck Lambert et al. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6637427/>

US Department of Health and Human Services, Safe to Sleep. <https://safetosleep.nichd.nih.gov/>

Evidence Base for 2022 Updated Recommendations for a Safe Infant Sleeping Environment to Reduce the Risk of Sleep-Related Infant Deaths. Academy of Pediatrics. Technical Report, June 21, 2022. Rachel Y. Moon, MD, Pediatrics (2022) 150 (1):e2022057991 <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/150/1/e2022057991/188305/Evidence-Base-for-2022-Updated-Recommendations-for>

### Motor Vehicle, Traffic

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/teen-drivers/prevention/index.html>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) <https://www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/teen-driving>

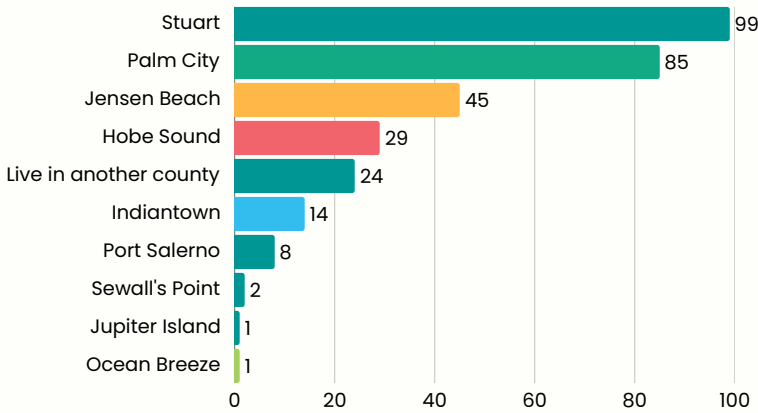
(772) 288 - 5758    cscmc@cscmc.org

101 SE Central Parkway  
 Stuart, Florida 34994

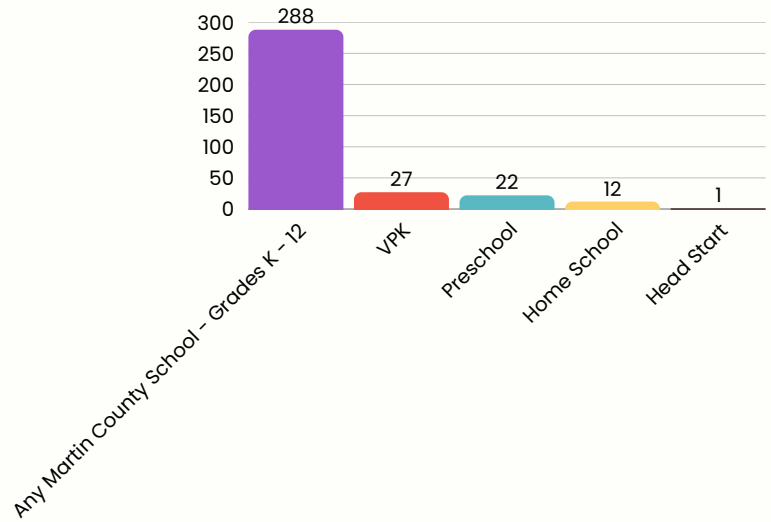
## Parent/Guardian Survey

### Data Highlights from 308 Survey Participants

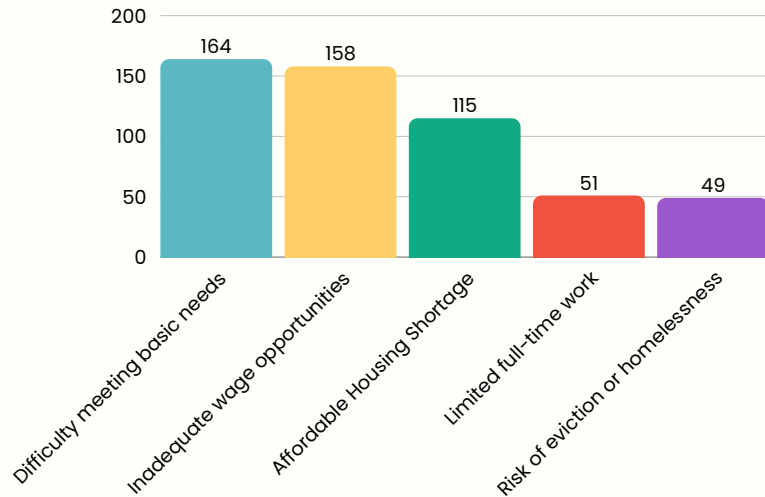
#### Family Residence



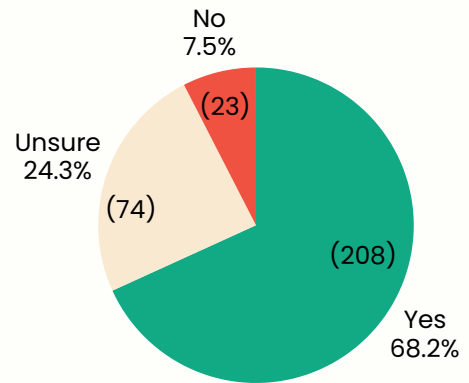
#### Where Children Attend School



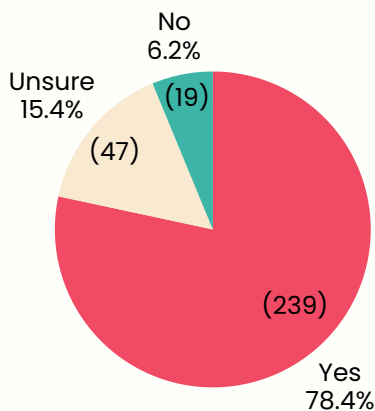
#### Family Concerns



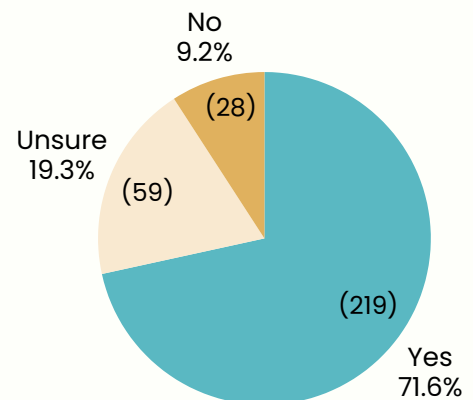
#### Would classes improve parent-child communication & problem solving?



#### Is there a need for healthy non-abusive relationship education for adults and youth?



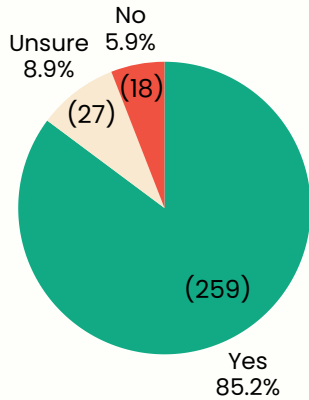
#### Would parent budgeting classes be helpful?



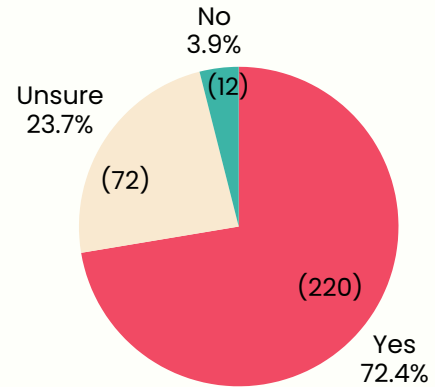
(772) 288 - 5758    cscmc@cscmc.org

101 SE Central Parkway  
 Stuart, Florida 34994

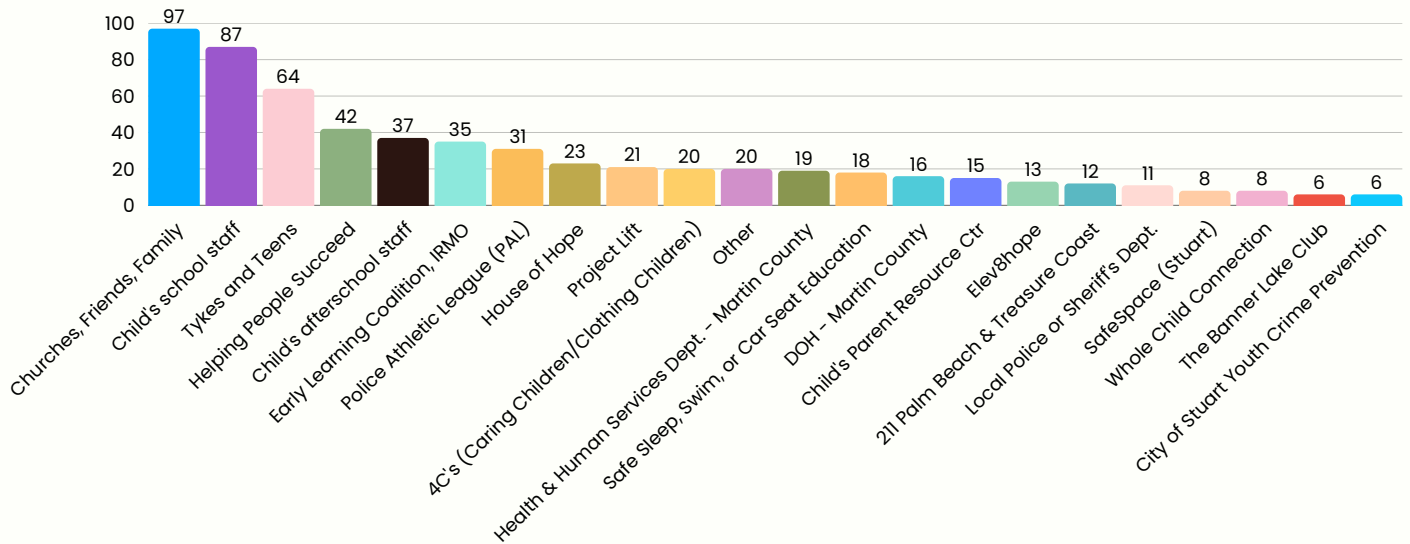
### Would parents benefit from guidance on how to work with their child's teacher(s) & school?



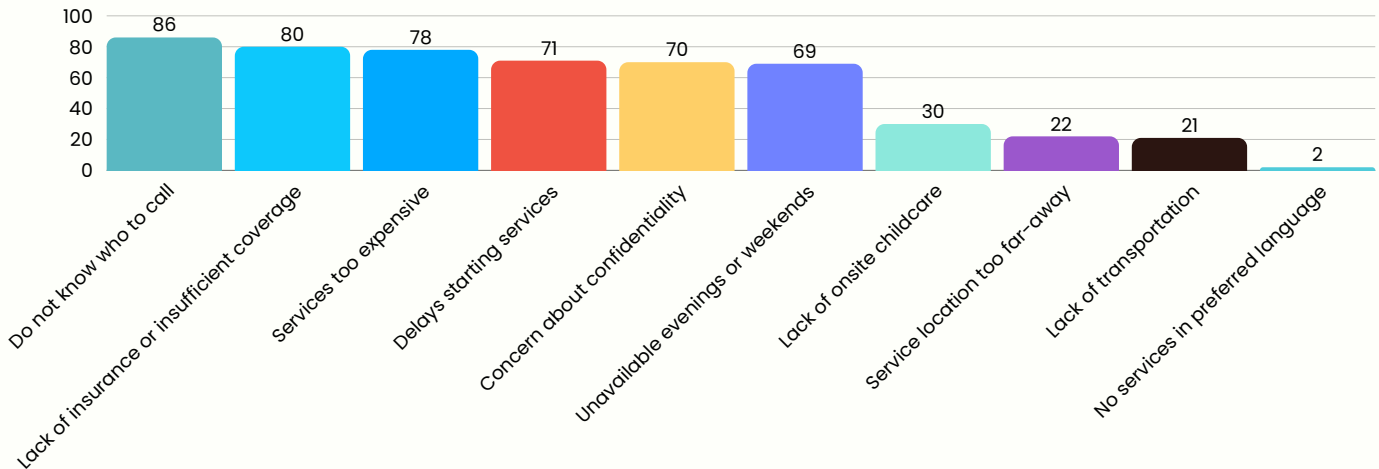
### Is there a need for more youth crime prevention programs?



### Family Local Resource Usage



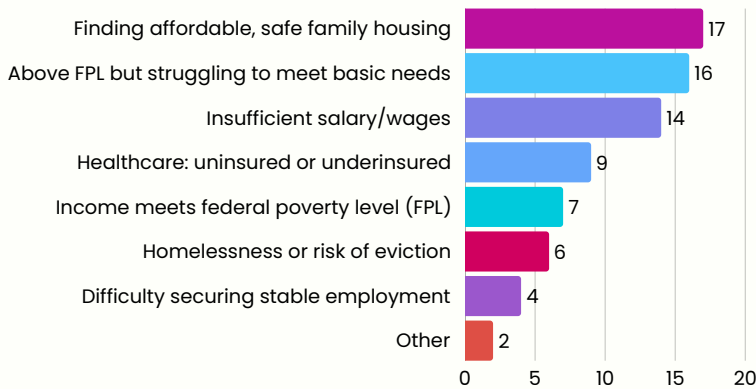
### Concerns Accessing Family Resources



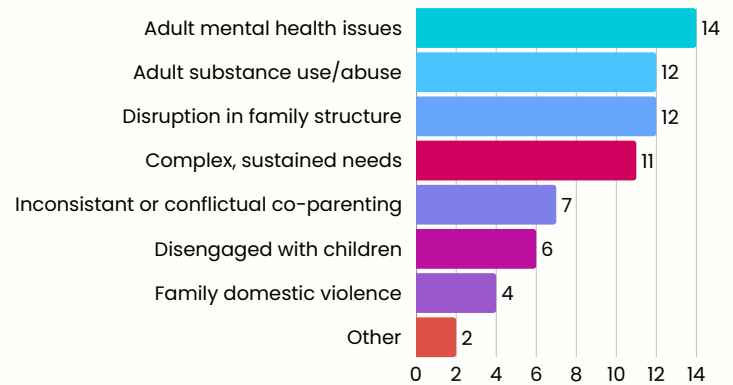
## Community-Based Provider Survey

### Data Highlights from 19 Survey Participants (n=27)

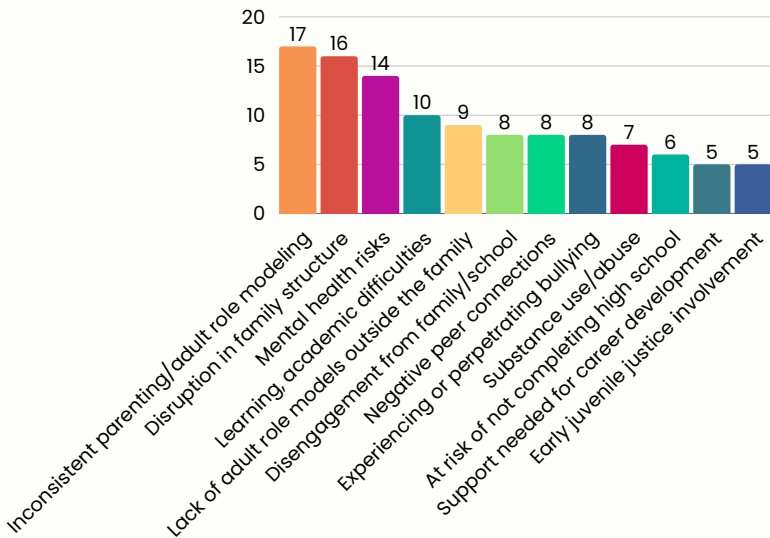
#### Greatest Concerns Facing Martin County Families



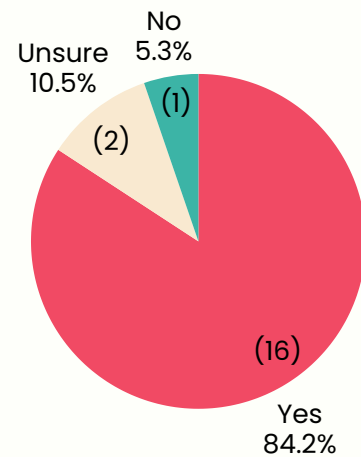
#### Additional Adult Stressors



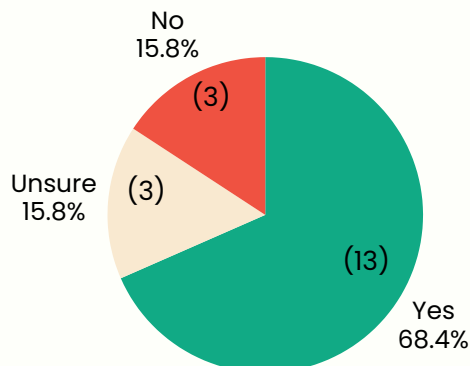
#### Additional Youth Stressors



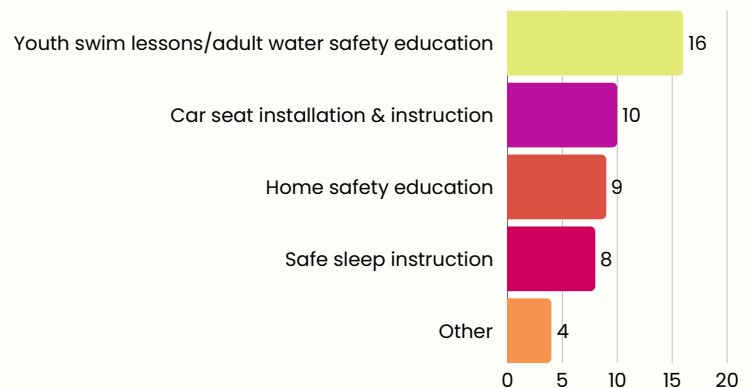
#### Is there a need for healthy non-abusive relationship education for adults and youth?



#### Is there a need for resources to support parenting & caregiver skills?

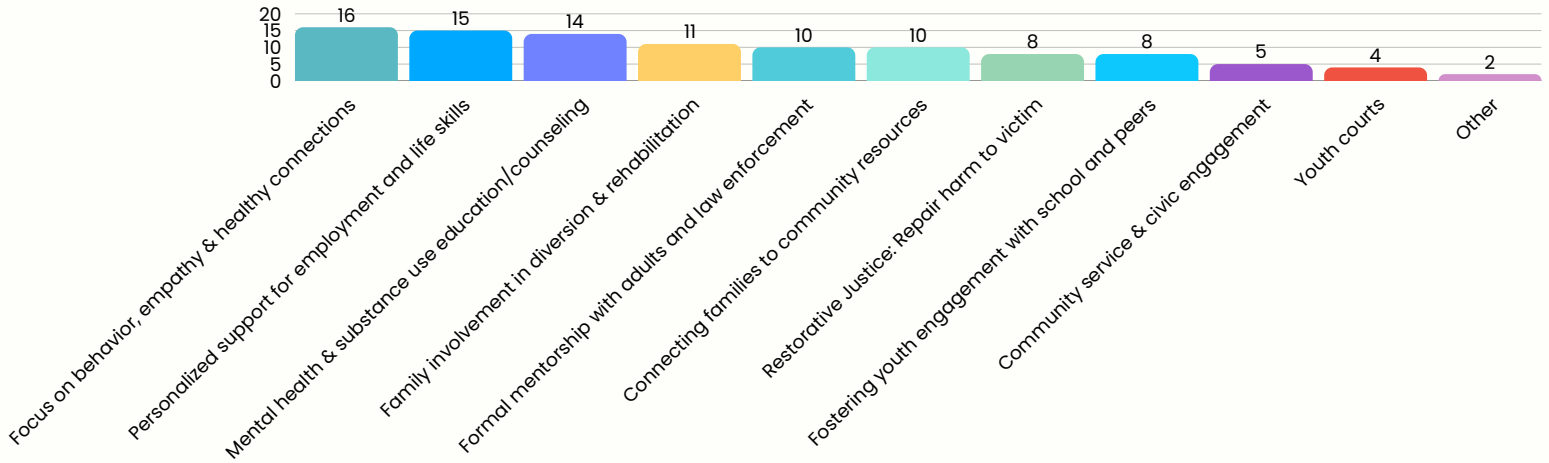


#### Resources needed to prevent unintentional injury & death among youth

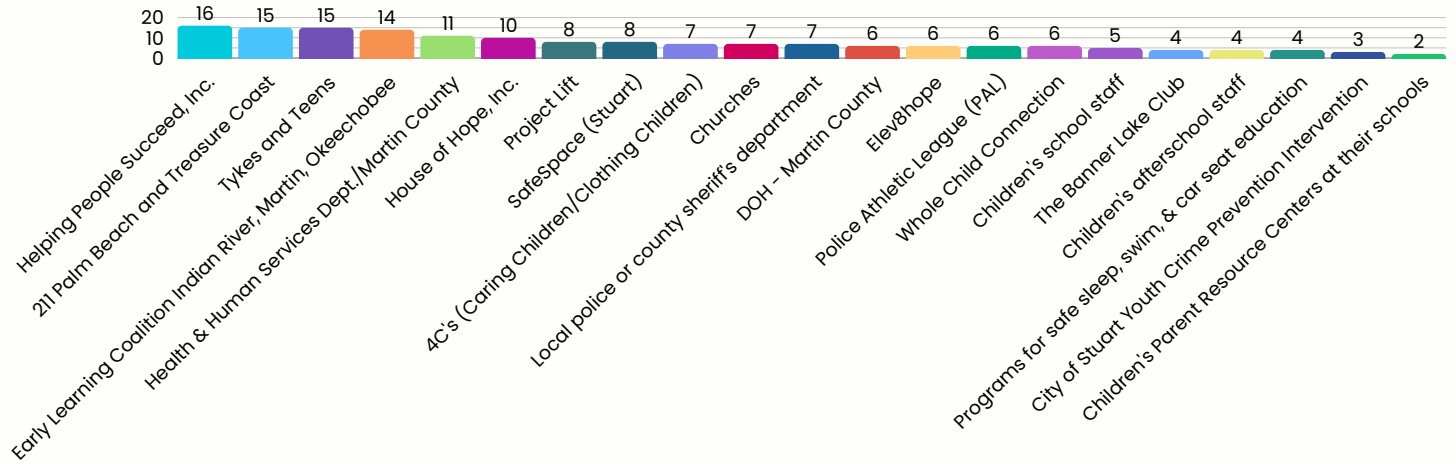


The mission of the Children's Services Council of Martin County (CSCMC) is to enhance the lives of the children of Martin County and to enable them to attain their full potential.

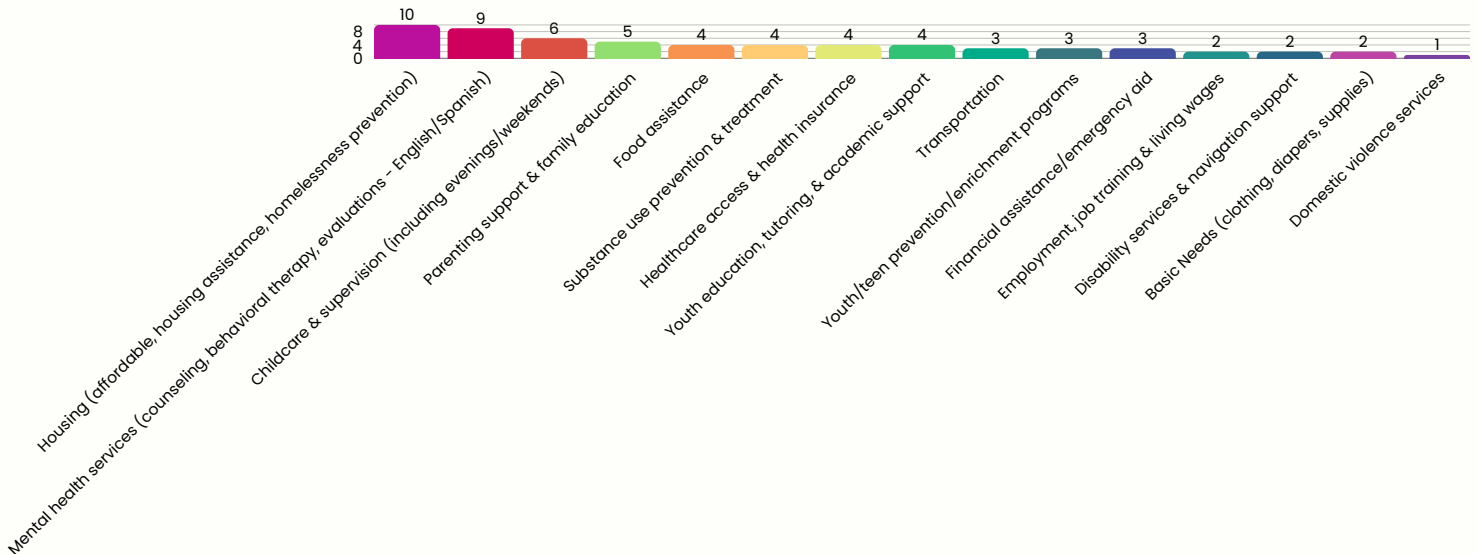
## Diversion Programs to Prevent Juvenile Justice Re-Entry



## Resources Contacted or Recommended to Families in the Past Year

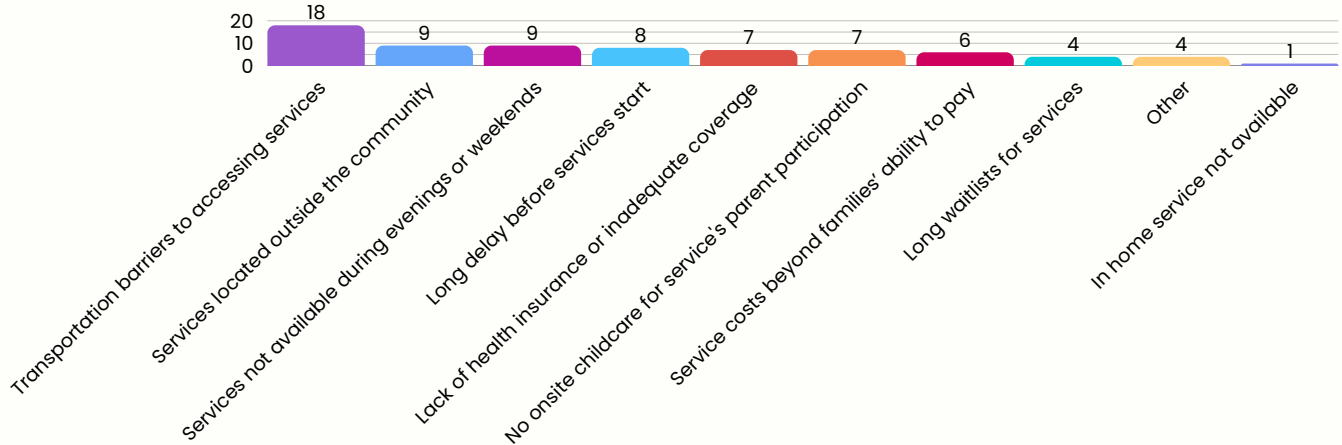


## Most Common Resource Needs for Martin County Families



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## Barriers to Accessing These Most Common Resources Needs



## Additional Comments or Suggestions

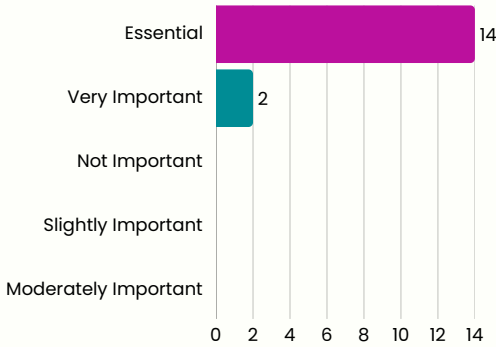
“ While we have WCC and 211, resources are not always known. Parenting teens is especially challenging and often when we see under/untreated mental health concerns. In home services for middle & high schoolers is limited. ”

“ Thank you for all the good provided to our community by CSCMC. Keep it going! ”

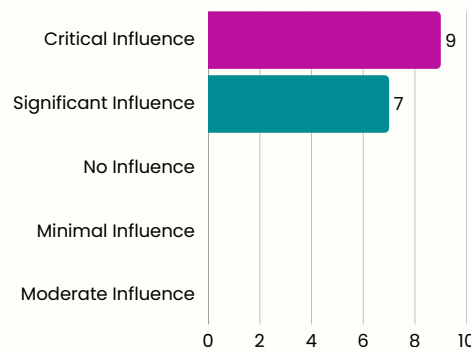
## 0-5 System of Care Provider Survey

### Data Highlights from 16 Survey Participants (n=34)

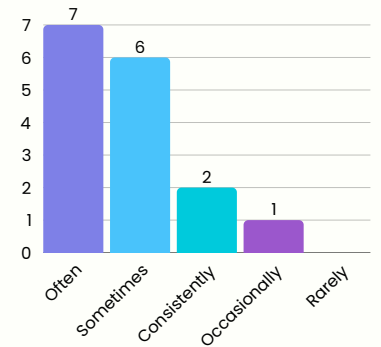
#### Importance of Caregiver Engagement & Trust in Early Learning & School Readiness



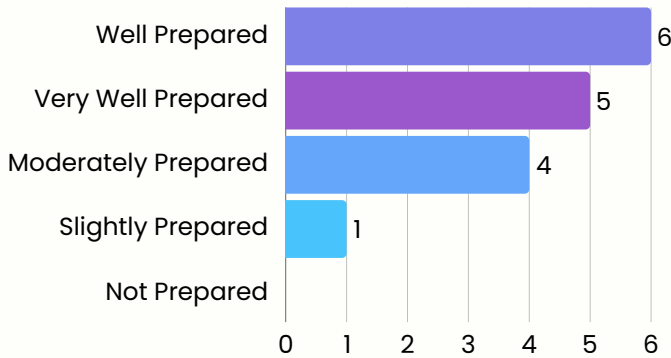
#### Parent Engagement & It's Effect on Attendance, Behavior, & Academic Growth



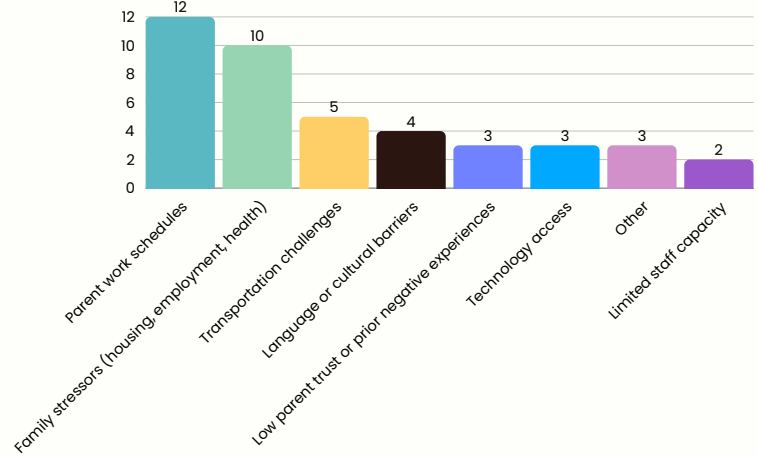
#### Consistency of Family Partnership in Child's Learning & Development



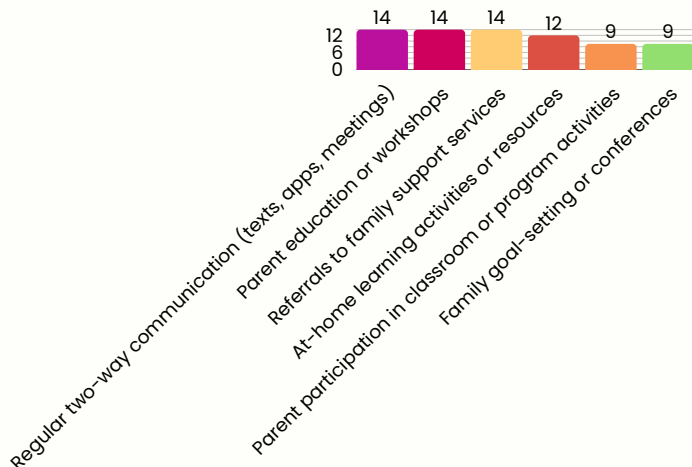
#### Staff Preparedness to Engage Diverse Families



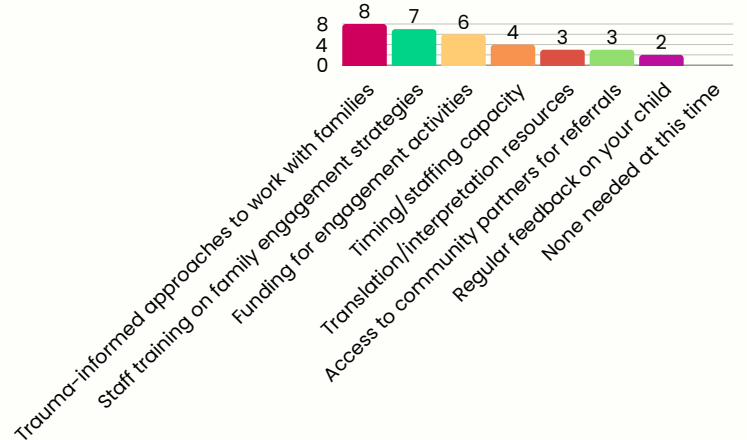
#### Primary Challenges to Parent Engagement



#### Parent Engagement Strategies Currently in Use

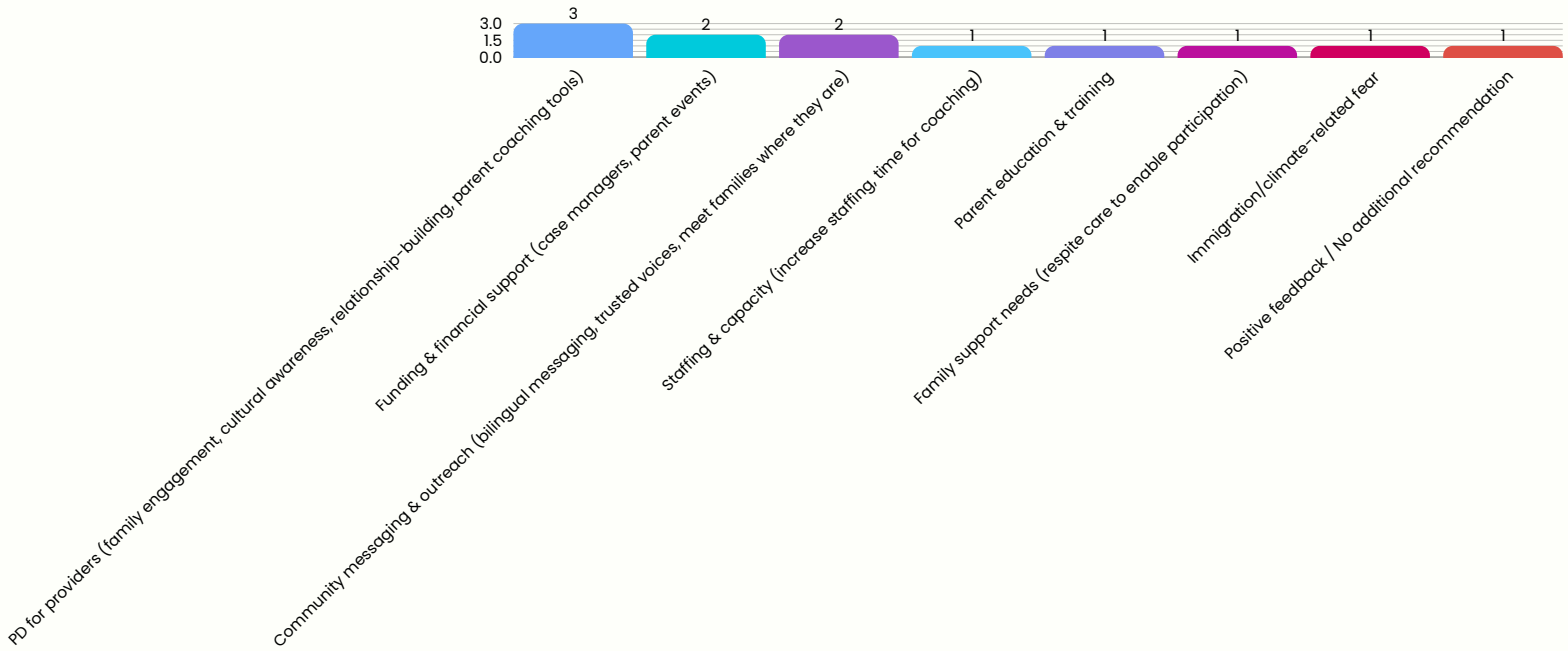


#### Additional Supports Needed to Strengthen Parent Engagement



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## Supports Needed from CSCMC and Community Partners



## Define Meaningful Parent Engagement in an Early Learning Setting

