



Strategic Framework



20 Years

Nurturing



Greatness



Vision

The Children's Trust envisions a community that works together to provide the essential foundations to enable children to achieve their full potential.



Foundational Values

Invest In

- » Early Childhood Supports
- » Youth Development Supports
- » Continuous Learning & Quality Improvement
- » Community Empowerment

Support

- » Whole Child Focus
- » Populations with Greater Needs
- » Evidence-Based Practices

Because
All Children
Are Our
Children

Mission

The Children's Trust partners with the community to plan, advocate for and fund strategic investments that improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County.

More About Our Values

Early childhood (from prenatal to age 5) is a critical period of development in a child's life and brain growth. During these first years, emotionally nourishing relationships lay the foundation for lifelong health, well-being and educational achievement. By supporting the caring adults who touch the lives of infants, toddlers and preschoolers, The Children's Trust maximizes its long-term impact in ensuring a bright future.

Youth development support across childhood from kindergarten through school completion are also important to sustain early childhood investments. If we provide safe and enriching, high-quality after-school and summer programming that meets the needs of school-aged children and youth, and supports academic, health, and social and emotional wellness, then children and youth will succeed academically, make good choices for healthy lifestyles and prosocial behaviors, and successfully make the transition to young adulthood.

Continuous learning and quality improvement enhances the development of high-quality services that achieve reach and impact for children and families. This requires that programs recruit, train and retain qualified and engaging staff members; conduct ongoing performance assessments; practice growth planning; and utilize program and professional development supports. The Children's Trust practices continuous learning at the contract, initiative and priority investment area levels across its portfolio of investments.

Community empowerment is essential to long-term and meaningful engagement, advocacy and collaboration with community stakeholders at all levels. This leads to leveraged investments, programs and initiatives that achieve collective impact. It is imperative to seek input from youth, families, providers and partners to inform The Children's Trust's practices and priorities as a whole. It is also essential to provide community-based



organizations with capacity-building support and connection to funding opportunities, collaborative partnerships and more. Another key to community empowerment is to inspire and inform the public about available programs and resources for children and families to support them in achieving their full potential.

A whole child focus nurtures all areas of child and youth development. This includes multiple areas of growth, such as social, emotional, physical, cognitive, approaches to learning, and health. It is also critical to ensure resources to meet basic needs that address the social determinants of health and development.

Populations with greater needs for resources and supports include children and youth with disabilities, as well as those affected by adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) or involved in the child dependency or delinquency systems.

This may include children and families residing in neighborhoods affected by poverty, crime, unemployment, community violence and trauma. It is critical to amplify strengths and build resilience to counter the negative impacts of child abuse or neglect, exposure to family and community violence, family mental health issues, legal issues, family housing instability, and extreme poverty. Children and youth with disabilities require intentional supports that ensure they are welcomed into all funded programs and served effectively with reasonable accommodations.

Evidence-based practices and programs (EBPs) offer the best chances of success for children and families. When sufficient evidence exists relevant to the populations and services to be funded, EBPs should be incorporated into programming investments.

Priority Investment Areas

Thrive by 5 Early Childhood Development

Child Care Quality Improvement System (QIS)

- High-Quality Tiered Payment Differentials
- Families Forward Child Care Scholarships
- A\$CEND Salary Supplement Program
- Career Advising, Professional Development & Scholarships
- Formative Child Assessments
- Mental Health Consultation

Early Child Care & Education Match Slots

Developmental Screening, Assessment & Early Intervention

- Universal Screening
- Autism Assessment
- Early Intervention Services & Summer Camp

Community Research Partnerships

Youth Development

K-12 After-School Programs & Summer Camps

Summer Reading Enhancements

Cultural Arts Programming

Summer Youth Internship Program

Supports for Youth Involved in Dependency & Delinquency Systems, Disconnected from School or Work

Health & Wellness

School-Based Health: Nursing & Mental Health

Oral Health Training & Preventive Services

Comprehensive Vision Follow-Up

Food & Nutrition Services (Afterschool Meals Program)

Public Benefits Enrollment

Injury Prevention Education



Parenting

Parenting & Family Strengthening Group, Individual & Home Visitation Services

Parent Club

Book Club

Books for Free

Reach Out & Read

Family & Neighborhood Supports

Family & Neighborhood Support Partnerships-Care Coordination for

- Children & Youth in High-Need Neighborhoods
- Children Exposed to Family Conflict & Domestic Violence
- Children of Incarcerated Parents
- Children Involved in or Transitioning Out of the Child Welfare System
- Youth Affected by Sexual Abuse and/or Human Trafficking
- Families & Youth Experiencing Chronic Housing Instability
- Youth Experiencing Immigration Challenges and/or in Need of Legal Advocacy
- Families Living with Significant Disabilities
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Youth

Miami 211 Helpline

Community Engagement, Awareness & Advocacy

Community-Based Organization (CBO) Supports & Coalition-Building

Funder Collaboration Initiatives

Public Awareness, Outreach & Program Promotion

Public Policy Priorities, Advocacy & Youth Civic Engagement



Learning & Quality Improvement

Trust Academy Supports for Quality Programming

- Family Services
- Youth Development
- School-Based Oral Health
- Inclusion of Children & Youth with Disabilities
- Social & Emotional Wellness / Racial Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (SEW/REDI)
- Organizational Capacity & Leadership Development

Small CBO Capacity Building

Program Evaluation & Community Research

Technology Design Solutions

Innovation Fund





Headline Community Results

The Children's Trust tracks funded program activities and performance measures carefully to assess performance and return on investments, ensuring that tax dollars are utilized to improve the lives of children and families.

It is essential to tap the collective resources of this great community to achieve sustainable results and long-term progress on the headline community results listed below. The Children's Trust cannot accomplish any of these headline results on its own, which is why

Family & Community Supports



High-quality early learning opportunities



Regular use of medical, dental and behavioral health care services



Nurturing and involved parents

community is a key part of the phrase. It takes the coordinated efforts of many partners to achieve results worthy of headlines. No one organization alone can accomplish these results at the population level in our large county or reach all children and their families. Moreover, no single organization has the expertise and resources to address the numerous, complex reasons why headline community results may not yet be at their ideal state.

In addition to the specification of broad headline community results within this strategic framework, The Children's Trust publishes annual updates of multiple indicators or current ways of measuring these results. These snapshots show data trends, as well as comparisons to state and national progress when

appropriate. Selection of exactly what to measure is based on identifying a balanced set of available indicators that:

- Reflect child, family and community levels
- Include different ages and populations
- Incorporate quantitative/administrative data and qualitative/self-reported perceptions
- Ensure a positive, strengths-based view
- Are easily communicated
- Complement other community work
- Provide quality data on a timely basis
- Parallel program performance measures

Child & Youth Well-Being



Kindergarten readiness



Academic success



Healthy lifestyle habits for eating, sleeping, physical activity and mental wellness



Good choices for prosocial behaviors in schools, homes and communities



Successful transition to adulthood



The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of all children and families in Miami-Dade County.

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