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## Children’s Services Council of Leon County 2022 Annual Report



As required by Section 125.901(2)b.5, Florida Statutes, the Children’s Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) respectfully submits this 2022 Annual Report to the Leon County Commission.

The Council convened its first meeting in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 on Thursday, October 21, 2022, holding a total of 12 Governing Council meetings, in addition to various committee meetings. CSC Leon’s work built on the foundation that was laid in the previous year for successfully fulfilling its statutory responsibilities. Last fiscal year, CSC Leon accomplished the following:

- ✓ Hired an Executive Director on January 1.
- ✓ Hired two full-time staff (Director of Finance and Operations, and Administrative Services Manager) and retained one contract staff (Special Projects Manager).
- ✓ Selected a new Council Officers.
- ✓ Hosted Community Conversations—including youth only sessions—to give citizens opportunities to provide input on programming needs.
- ✓ Completed the required Comprehensive Needs Assessment (June 2020), including possible funding recommendations for Council consideration.
- ✓ Completed first funding cycle (Summer 2022 Community Funding)—issued Request for Applications (RFA), secured evaluation volunteers to score applications, awarded funding, and issued a final funding report (attached).
- ✓ Completed strategic planning (July 2022) and started strategic framework development.
- ✓ Completed the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process, adopting final millage rate and FY 2022-2023 budget.
- ✓ Secured CSC Leon Office location and began renovations to include training and meeting spaces for use by the community.

Below are the statutorily required areas addressed in this 2022 Annual Report. Responses are italicized.

**I. Information on the effectiveness of activities, services, and programs offered by the Council, including cost-effectiveness.**

*During the past fiscal year, CSC Leon completed its first funding cycle—Summer 2022 Community Funding—as one-time, short-term investments (June 1 – August 30) to provide summer learning opportunities across the Council’s three priority areas:*

- *Success in School and Life;*
- *Healthy Children, Youth and Families; and*
- *Stable and Nurturing Families and Communities.*

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Funded programs addressed the following areas:

- Keeping kids engaged and off the streets.
- Overcoming transportation barriers.
- Improving data collection.
- Enhancing hands-on learning.
- Building workforce readiness skills.
- Providing creative spaces for career exploration.
- Improving access to mental health resources.
- Better educating the community on society needs, including recognizing signs of and responding to human trafficking situations.

Total awarded investment was \$1,565,481.69 issued through 29 contracts to fund the expansion of 30 existing programs; the projected impact was more than 10,000 children, youth, and families.

This first funding cycle reinforced that there is no one, stand-alone solution to address childhood concerns and support youth development; rather, there are several solutions, many of which are interrelated and reliant on one another to result in positive impacts on child and family well-being, and to promote student achievement. The solutions funded crossed priority areas and were successful due to the intentional collaboration of providers, including business, industry, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations.

As such, the **adjusted investment was \$1,529,366.41** (\$36,490.27 in unused funds was returned), resulting in a **total of 34,103 children, youth, and families—310.25% of goal—served** through this summer investment (CSC Leon funds only). Additionally, most of the families benefiting from summer programming resided in 32303 and 32304 zip codes.

**II. Detailed anticipated budget for continuation of activities, services, and programs offered by the Council, and a list of all sources of requested funding, both public and private.**

For Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Council approved a total of \$10.7 million to fund programming in accordance with the needs assessment, and as determined by the strategic framework; contained therein is **\$1.5 million in ad valorem tax revenue to award to providers for Summer 2023 Bridge Program funding.**

However, **this will not be continuation funding** from the previous summer; while it also will be one-time, short-term funding most likely focusing on increased access to high-quality expanded learning and feeding opportunities, the focus will not be to continue programming from the previous summer.

**III. Procedures used for early identification of at-risk children who need additional or continued services and methods for ensuring that the additional or continued services are received.**

CSC Leon's comprehensive needs assessment was completed in June 2022; subsequently, using the information from the assessment, and community and provider input, the Council held a strategic planning session in July 2022 to start identifying prospective provider investments. In October 2022, staff created the 2023-2025 CSC Leon Strategic Framework, and currently, the Council is reviewing and fine-tuning the framework.

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**IV. A description of the degree to which the Council’s objectives and activities are consistent with the goals of this section.**

*As required by this section, the CSC Leon completed the comprehensive needs assessment, including soliciting input from the community and providers; held strategic planning informed by the needs assessment; is developing a strategic framework to further refine strategic focus and future programs investments; and determined the need to continue Summer Bridge Funding, given the positive impact of the Summer 2022 Community Funding. The work that CSC Leon accomplished this past year continued to support the statutory objectives to: 1) provide and maintain preventive, developmental, treatment, and rehabilitative services for children; 2) provide such other services for all children as to support the general welfare of the county; 3) allocate and provide funds for other agencies in the county that are operated for the benefit of children; and 4) coordinate with other agencies dedicated to the welfare of children to prevent duplication of services.*

**V. Detailed information on the various programs, services, and activities available to participants and the degree to which the programs, services, and activities have been successfully used by children.**

*As aforementioned, during Summer 2022, the Council issued 29 contracts to fund the expansion of 30 existing programs. The “Summer 2022 Community Funding Report” is attached to this Annual Report, listing the various programs, services, activities, families served by zip code and age range, breakdown of the number of programs funded for each CSC Leon priority (Success in School and Life; Healthy Children, Youth and Families; and Stable and Nurturing Families and Communities); impact stories for each priority; and a complete listing of all programs funded by amount.*

**VI. Information on programs, services, and activities that should be eliminated; programs, services, and activities that should be continued; and programs, services, and activities that should be added to the basic format of the Children’s Services Council.**

*CSC Leon has not been in existence long enough, nor had more than one funding cycle (one-time and short-term) to determine which programs to eliminate and/or continue, expand, or add.*

Submitted by: Cecka Rose Green, CPM

Title: Executive Director

Date: Friday, December 30, 2022



## **Children's Services Council of Leon County Summer 2022 Community Funding Report**

The Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) issued 29 contracts to fund the expansion of 30 existing programs during summer 2022. These one-time, short-term investments totaled \$1,565,481.69 across the three priority areas and were projected to impact more than 10,000 children, youth and families. Funding was used to provide summer learning opportunities to keep kids engaged and off the streets, as well as overcome transportation barriers, improve data collection, enhance hands-on learning, build workforce readiness skills, provide creative spaces for career exploration, improve access to mental health resources, and better educate the community on societal needs including recognizing the signs of and responding to human trafficking situations.

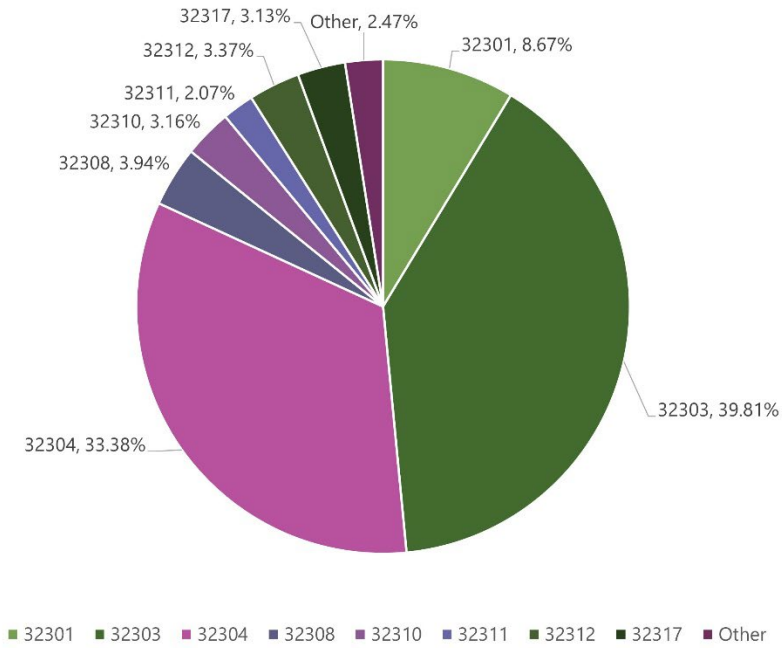
This first funding cycle reinforced that there is no one, stand-alone solution to address childhood concerns and support youth development. Rather, there are several solutions, many of which are interrelated and reliant on one another to result in positive impacts on child and family well-being, and promote student achievement. The solutions levied this summer crossed over priority areas and worked because providers—including business, industry, nonprofits and faith-based providers—intentionally collaborated together.

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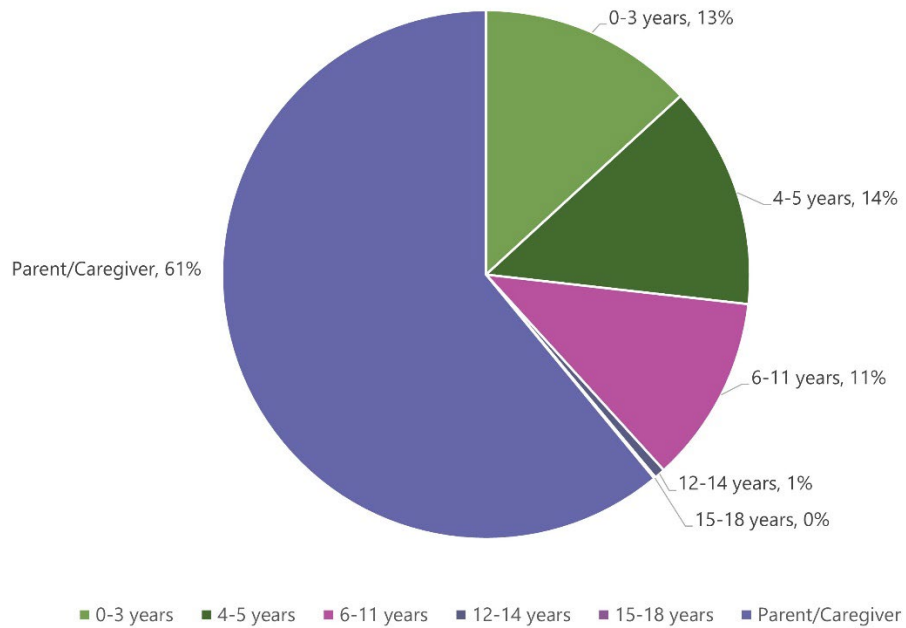
**TOTAL INVESTMENT: \$1,565,856.68**  
**TOTAL RETURNED (EXPECTED): \$36,490.27**  
**ADJUSTED INVESTMENT: \$1,529,366.41**  
**TOTAL FAMILIES PROJECTED: 10,992**  
**TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED: 34,103 (CSC FUNDS ONLY)**  
**% TO GOAL: 310.25%**

In total, 34,103 children, youth and families were served during summer 2022 with the majority of those families residing in 32303 and 32304. A detailed description of each priority area and program is provided.

### Families Served by Zip Code



### Families Served by Age Range



**Success in School & Life: Investment of \$824,678.31**

**Number of Programs: 17**

**Families Served: 2,093 (+502)**

The programs funded in this category expanded available summer learning opportunities to children and youth across the entire community, with a specific focus on Title 1 neighborhoods. More than 2,000 children and youth participated in no to low-cost summer camps and other expanded learning opportunities. In addition, 502 more children and youth already engaged in these programs benefited from higher quality curricula and/or more days of programming. For example, 21st Century Community Learning Centers were able to accept more students at nine Title 1 schools in Leon County and extend the duration of their summer program for all participants to be Monday-Friday instead of closed on Fridays (close to 700 children and youth funded by other efforts).

The funded summer learning programs are expected to impact the CSC Leon identified domains of school readiness, school-age supports, and youth development. Most programs focused on increasing academic gains and mitigating learning loss associated with the “summer slide” and long-term impacts of COVID. However, some programs focused on providing workforce ready skill development associated with STEM curricula or building resiliency through arts education and social-emotional learning. One of the programs funded, Geeks and Gramps, paired young people with seniors in their community to help with technology skill acquisition through an intergenerational approach that met a social-emotional need for all participants.



**IMPACT STORY FROM THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE BIG BEND**

We used the Special CSC Summer Funding to target families and youth who recently relocated from the Tallahassee Housing Authority property located off Orange Avenue. These residents would not have the opportunity for free summer programming in their neighborhood due to the relocation. One family in particular was contacted by the Club Director at the Springfield Boys & Girls Club and informed about the free summer camp and programming being offered at the Boys & Girls Club that was made possible by the CSC special summer funding grant. This parent was overjoyed and explained that her only option was to leave her child home alone because she had to work and could not afford summer camp. Our program gave her child a fun filled summer in a safe and positive environment.

## **IMPACT STORY FROM DREAM BUILDERS GREATNESS CENTER**

During the Summer 2022, the Kingdom Life Camp Squad had the awesome privilege of working with a community partner to enhance our Summer Enrichment Program. The **Dream Builder's Greatness Center** Family Affairs Program under the leadership of Dr. Judy Mandrell came in once a week to work with our students. They worked on self-esteem, self-empowerment, vision casting, and learning how to "Show Up for You!" The students made a video and wrote two original songs around the lesson they gleaned and learned from Dr. Mandrell. It was an Emoji Summer. We spent most of the time and various activities helping the student get in tune with their emotions and feeling. It was a time of fun and relaxation.

The creativity that was birthed from this special project was breath taking. The kids were grateful and have not stopped talking about the whole experience of the summer's activities. They learned how to use their voice and voice their feelings and opinions in a safe and therapeutic environment. Thank you, Dr. Judy, for partnering with us and making Summer 2022 one to remember, giving hope and reassurance to the students that **THIER LIVES MATTER!**

### **Healthy Children, Youth & Families: Investment – \$211,163.86**

**Number of programs: 4**

**Families Served: 1,171 (+242)**

The programs funded in this category expanded access to mental health services and support specifically for children and youth. This included partnering with existing summer camps to offer mental health services as part of those programs, offering group and individual family sessions, improving existing mental health navigation and support tools, and providing free transportation to families to access mental health services. Reports from programs indicate that 1,413 families benefited directly from these programs, with close to 3,000 additional families benefiting from the improvement of the community referral database.

The funded mental health programs are expected to impact the CSC Leon identified domains of mental health, youth development and enhanced supports for caregivers.

## **IMPACT STORY FROM TURN ABOUT**

Madi G. was a 14-year-old teen who initially came to **Turn About, Inc's** Summer Camp in 2021, after struggling with mental health and developmental issues. She had been in a crisis just the weekend prior but agreed with her mother to attend camp the following Monday. After participating daily in the groups with her fellow campers, who seemed to be most accepting of her, Madi's issues remitted. During camp, the Art Therapist on staff noticed Madi's propensity for art and she actually became the inspiration for the development of an art group that was added into Turn About's group curriculum and schedule. She continued attending art group after school and later received a fellowship to a local arts program (twice!) in The Railroad Square District. She did not have another crisis the entire 8 weeks of camp. Her mother stated that the safe space that the group and agency provided made the difference for her daughter.

This year when advertisement and information was posted for summer camp, Madi returned and was instrumental in making the space safe for new campers. Her consistent attendance and participation added to the process of health and wellness for this camp. In essence, Madi was the walking example of "passing it on." What she received, she continued to pass on to others. By the way, she continues to be active in the arts program.

### **Stable and Nurturing Families & Community: Investment – \$529, 639.51**

**Number of programs: 9**

**Families Served: 30,815 (+82,641)**

The programs funded in this category expanded available supports for families and youth, such as parenting classes, community navigation services, workforce development tools, direct financial assistance, access to food, transportation and more. Some programs used a model of parents and youth learning together, while others focused specifically on parent education or one-on-one navigation support. Topics included kindergarten registration, school attendance, college and career readiness, financial literacy, accessing legal services, etc. Through the expansive reach of food distribution efforts, technology-based platforms, and community events, these combined efforts had a positive impact on more than 30,000 families.

The funded family and youth support programs are expected to impact the CSC Leon-identified domains of enhanced supports for caregivers, youth development, housing stability, food stability and school readiness.



## **IMPACT STORY FROM HANG TOUGH FOUNDATION**

For families with medical and special needs, a visit to a store can be a stressful situation. Parents of medical and special needs children cannot simply run in and out of the store for a quick trip due to compromised immune systems and social behaviors. Despite meticulous saving and budgeting, there are always financial stressors for a medical or special needs family. This is true for parents Caroline and Jacob and their son Luke. Luke has Down Syndrome and autism. He is a happy, energetic boy who is learning to navigate social situations with the help of an ABA therapist but has a tendency to elope and yell in public situations. Luke also does not like waiting! Shopping can be difficult with Luke in tow. Caroline remarked that “the school supply drive made gathering school supplies a huge convenience.” The drive also relieved financial stressors for their family due to the extreme amount of therapies, specialist appointments, and daily expenses incurred by Luke’s diagnoses. While their medical insurance covers Luke and sister Madeline’s care, it does require that their family income must not exceed 200% of the federal poverty level. With the extraordinary amount of specialists, therapies, surgeries, and trips to Gainesville’s UF Shands to see Luke’s doctors and specialists, there is no way his family would be able to afford all of the necessities to keep him and Madeline thriving without extra assistance from Hang Tough and partners. Through the Hang Tough Foundation’s School Supply Drive, Luke’s parents Caroline and Jacob were able to prepare Luke (2nd grade) and little sister Madeline (Kindergarten) for the school year without ever stepping foot into a box store. Luke and Madeline are off to a great start and their parents can rest easy knowing her children have the exact school supplies as their peers

**Priority Area: Success in School & Life**

**Investment Total: \$824,678.31**

**Families Served: 2,093 (+502)**

FUNDED ENTITY	TOTAL Awarded	TOTAL Expended	FAMILIES Projected/Served	SUMMARY
Achieve Academy	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	20	Expand summer programming available for 20 students with special needs
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Big Bend	\$52,470.17	\$52,471.17	65	Expand summer programming to approximately 40 youth displaced by closure of Orange Ave Community Center
Choice Impact Community Development Corporation	\$42,643.76	\$40,462.99	70	Expand summer ARTS program available to approximately 70 additional elementary aged youth
Creative Mind Solutions, Inc.	\$60,848.00	\$60,848.00	30	Expand literacy and STEM focused summer programming available to an additional 30 PK-3rd grade youth and enhancing curriculum of existing 25 students; includes support for the purchase of van to overcome transportation barriers
Divine Revelations Ministries, Inc. (DRMI)	\$15,793.76	\$15,793.76	20	Expand the Geeks and Gramps Program to reach approximately 20 more youth in its intergenerational technology-based program that bridges the digital and generational divide by pairing youth with seniors to learn and teach basic and emerging technologies
Dream Builders Greatness Center	\$21,180.00	\$19,380.00	75	Expand summer programming available to 75-100 youth in targeted zip codes, ages 5-13
Killearn Sunshine Academy	\$44,380.00	\$44,380.00	200	Expand summer programming available to approximately 200 additional youth from targeting zip codes
LeMoyné Art Foundation Inc. d.b.a. LeMoyné Arts	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	10	Expand summer ARTS program available to 10 additional youth

Leon County Schools' 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC)	\$139,004.25	\$97,175.38	540	1,283	Expand the number of available 21st CCLC summer program seats to 540 additional students in nine Title 1 schools, elementary through high school, AND expand time for all participants (662+540)
Omega Lamplighters, Inc.	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	75	74	Expand summer programming available to approximately 75 youth (rising 3rd-12th grade) with a focus on academic skill development, holistic connections to services, and career and college readiness
Pace Center for Girls, Leon	\$46,000.00	\$45,081.52	70	58	Expand programming available to approximately 70 Pace Girls, aged 11-17, for the entire summer plus the addition of parent workshops to better connect families to mental health services, legal services and workforce development opportunities
Pivotal Point Enterprises, Inc.	\$42,794.00	\$42,132.52	75	101	Expand two summer programs at six different schools to serve approximately 75 youth with a social-emotional focus; includes support for the purchase of iPads to improve data collection
ReThink Energy Florida, Inc.	\$7,047.75	\$6,964.71	30	69	Expand summer STEM program available to an additional 30 youth
STEMS4GIRLS, INC.	\$8,400.00	\$8,202.32	10	21	Expand summer STEM program available to an additional 10 youth
TeenPreneur Foundation, Inc.	\$91,576.45	\$91,262.70	60	38	Expand summer programming available to approximately 60 youth in high juvenile crime neighborhoods; includes funding to add a food distribution component to the program and support to purchase vans to help students overcome transportation barriers
Young Engineers Tallahassee	\$178,540.17	\$178,899.20	50	61	Expand STEM program into the summer to serve 50 youth (3rd - 8th grade) from targeted neighborhoods

**Priority Area: Healthy Children, Youth & Families**

**Investment Total: \$211,163.86**

**Families Served: 1,171 (+242)**

<b>FUNDED ENTITY</b>	<b>TOTAL Awarded</b>	<b>TOTAL Expended</b>	<b>FAMILIES Projected/Served</b>	<b>SUMMARY</b>
2-1-1 Big Bend, Inc.	\$43,195.15	\$43,195.15	175 / 723	Expand available funds to support an additional 150 Lyft customers to overcome transportation barriers to access mental health and food stability resources; includes a staff position to expand and update the resource database specific to mental health services
Divine Healthcare Consulting, LLC dba SG Mental Health Counseling	\$93,691.59	\$95,479.98	54 / 422	Expand the availability of mental health services available to at least 54 additional youth and families participating in existing summer camps
Oasis Center for Women & Girls, Inc.	\$67,523.81	\$66,732.90	20 / 16	Expand the reach of the Soul Sisters programs to at least 15 additional mothers, including providing access to vital community resources and mental health services; includes support for the purchase of a van to help program participants overcome transportation barriers
Turn About, Inc. of Tallahassee	\$6,753.32	\$4,763.74	60 / 10	Expand availability of mental health services to approximately 60 youth participating in existing summer camps and their families, as needed

**Priority Area: Stable and Nurturing Families & Community**

**Investment Total: \$529, 639.51**

**Families Served: 30,815 (+82,641)**

FUNDED ENTITY	TOTAL Awarded	TOTAL Expended	FAMILIES Projected/Served	SUMMARY
Alternative Resources & Technical Services, Inc. (ARTS, Inc.)	\$61,032.80	\$60,008.90	180 / 201	Provide parent education to support school success including kindergarten readiness (65 incoming kindergarteners), attendance (85 K-5th graders) and connection to community resources (30 families)
ASPIRE Capital Region (Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce)	\$18,687.22	\$14,413.45	75 / 78	Expansion of FAFSA/Career Planning workshops and listening sessions hosted by ASPIRE with 5 groups of high needs/at-risk high school youth and their parents/caregivers, serving approximately 75 youth
Big Bend Homeless Coalition	\$35,588.99	\$35,588.99	24 / 82	Addition of case manager to apply diversion techniques to HOPE community clients plus direct assistance for up to 24 families
Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce (Talent Hub)	\$92,010.00	\$92,126.93	5,184 / 458	Expand the capacity of Talent Hub to better meet the needs of youth, ages 12-24, connect to college and career readiness opportunities including the more than 5,000 youth already active on TalentHub; includes a staff consultant to manage the growth of TalentHub to be laser focused on supporting articulated youth development goals
Hang Tough Foundation	\$2,500.00	\$3,650.83	75 / 225	Better equip approximately 75 struggling families with ample school supplies
Legal Services of North Florida, Inc.	\$19,611.00	\$19,358.39	20 / 13	Expand access to legal services available for at least 20 families through community referrals and educational workshops

Mount Olive Affordable Housing and Community Development Corporation	\$150,000.00	\$153,025.83	50	67	Intergenerational skill development classes for at least 50 families, direct financial assistance for up to 30 families, and full-time community navigation services for families through two community partners for up to another 150 families
Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Inc.	\$122,709.50	\$122,709.50	3,600	12,410 + 17,179	Expand provision of food distribution to the promise zone zip codes impacting approximately 1,200 unduplicated children and youth per month; establish new distribution partners/sites
Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center, Inc.	\$27,500.00	\$26,565.94	100	102	Provide direct education and support to residents at HOPE community and a handful of community programs to better support those who have been sex and labor trafficked, to help prevent further or initial victimization, and to inform and empower individuals to recognize and safely respond to human trafficking situations; this will include a general education campaign for the entire community, complete with toolkit for community partners.