



# 2023 Annual Report



***Submitted to:***  
***Leon County Commission***  
***December 29, 2023***

## Children's Services Council of Leon County

### 2023 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 2023 Annual Report to the Leon County Commission.

The Council convened its first meeting in Fiscal Year 2022-23 on Thursday, October 20, 2022, holding a total of 10 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 achieved the following accomplishments.

- ✓ Executive Director completed first year, with a subsequent two-year contract approved (through December 2024).
- ✓ Hired two additional full-time Team Members (Program Accountability and Research Manager, and Program and Quality Assurance Specialist), totaling five full-time Team Members.
- ✓ Completed 2023 funding cycles to include the following:
  - Summer (Bridge) Programs – Summer Learning (16 programs) and Summer Feeding (1 program)
  - Family Support Services – Family Strengthening/Parent Education (7 programs) and Youth Mentoring (5 programs)
    - Additionally, issued an Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) for Family Resource Center (FRC) Management (Intent to Award in December 2023, w/contract to be executed in January 2024)
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Small Investments for Program Success (SIPS) funding – Developmental Funding (3 programs) and Program Funding (7 programs)
  - Secured evaluation and negotiation community volunteers to score applications/negotiate BAFOs (best and final offers) and issued a final funding summary for Summer 2023 (attached).
- ✓ Hosted a Summer Youth Program Expo, in partnership with Leon County Government and the City of Tallahassee, to showcase available summer programming for families, targeting specific zip codes.
- ✓ Implemented funded programs evaluation process through VanGaard Evidence-Based Consulting, LLC, in addition to continuing partnerships with the United Partners for Human Services (UPHS) and Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) for capacity-building and technical assistance services.
- ✓ Funded two sole source contracts – School Readiness “On-Ramp” Program with the Early Learning Coalition (ELC) of the Big Bend and Rebound & Recovery Project to help increase resiliency for pre-K students.
- ✓ Held Strategic Planning Meeting (September 2023) to update impact focus for FY 2024-26 funding and determine allocation strategy.
- ✓ Completed the Truth in Millage (TRIM) process, adopting final millage rate and FY 2023-24 budget.
- ✓ Opened CSC Leon Office location and hosted more than 20 nonprofit organizations that used the training and meeting room at no cost.

Below are the statutorily required areas addressed in this 2023 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 three funding cycles, as follows:*

- ***Summer (Bridge) Program Funding***, one-time, short-term investments for Summer Learning and Feeding Programs (contract period: May 15 – August 30).

- *Summer Learning – 16 programs, \$1.567 million disbursed, served 1,014 unduplicated children (91%).*

- *Summer Feeding – 1 program, \$125,000 disbursed, served 7,826 households (405%).*

*Total funding disbursed - \$1.692 million (See attached summary for detailed information.)*

- ***Family Support Services Funding***, investments in a variety of programs that reach children, youth, and families in their neighborhoods to promote connectivity, facilitate access to resources and increase family functioning. Additionally, for Mentoring a focus on youth gun violence reduction.

- *Family Strengthening/Parent Education – 7 programs, two-year contracts (August 2023 – September 2025); \$2.285 million awarded, to serve approximately 1,500 persons.*

- *Youth Mentoring – 5 programs, one-year contracts (August 2023 – September 2024); \$979,658.72 awarded, to serve approximately 670 children/youth.*

*Total funding awarded - \$3.265 million to serve approximately 2,170 persons (depending on outcome achievement, contracts can be renewed with Council approval.*

- ***4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Small Investments for Program Success (SIPS)*** allows eligible community organizations with an operating budget of \$100,000 to receive up to \$15,000 outside of established priority funding cycles; SIPS applications are accepted and awarded each quarter.

- *Developmental Funding (3 programs) and Program Funding (7 programs) – \$149,424 awarded.*

*SIPS Programs have up to six months to use funding (by March 2024) and must report outcomes.*

- ***School Readiness “On-Ramp” Program with ELC of the Big Bend***, a local funding category to allow ALICE families in Leon County to enter the School Readiness program by creating an “on ramp” for families to access an existing support program, thereby better leveraging existing federal dollars.

- *Pilot On-Ramp Program – up to \$250,000 via sole source contract (May 2023 – May 2024) to leverage up to \$2,888,727 in federal/state School Readiness funding, to serve approximately 500 children.*

*As the program works alongside other School Readiness programs, CSC Leon has extended the contract period to May 2024.*

- **Rebound & Recovery with the Stoops Center for Communities, Families and Children at Florida State University, College of Social Work**, a cognitive behavioral resiliency program for pre-K students in all Leon County public schools to increase student understanding of and capacity to regulate their emotions.
  - *Rebound & Recovery Program - \$445,200 approved via sole source contract (August 2023 – August 2024) to implement program in 61 classrooms, 1,200 students and 172 staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, guidance counselors, and school social workers and psychologists).*

*As the program works in conjunction with the Leon County Academic Year 2023-24, the final program impact will be presented at program conclusion; at the Council's approval, the program may be continued for the next academic year.*

**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 2023-24, the Council approved a total budget of \$9,633,960; all revenue is from ad valorem taxation at a millage rate of 0.3477.*

*To fund the continuation of activities, services, and programs, \$7,575,244 is “program funding” as detailed below:*

<b>Program Investments and Supports</b>	<b>Rollover Funding from FY 2022-23</b>	<b>Continuation &amp; New Funding</b>
<b>Family Resource Centers (ITN in FY2023)</b>	\$4,000,000	
<b>Family Strengthening/Parent Education</b>	\$2,100,000	
<b>Youth Mentoring (</b>	\$800,000	
<b>Early Learning/Early Childhood</b>		\$1,945,000
<b>Summer (Bridge) Funding</b>		\$1,750,000
<b>Youth Development</b>		\$25,000
<b>Capacity Building &amp; Technical Assistance</b>		\$169,000
<b>Program Software (SAMIS)</b>		\$30,000
<b>Program research and analysis (evaluation)</b>		\$30,000
<b>Community Outreach &amp; Events/Activities</b>		\$20,000
<b>Funding for new programs</b>		\$3,006,044
<b>Subtotal – Program Investments</b>	\$6,900,000	\$7,575,244

**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 and continues to inform the work the Council is doing. 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.*

*In September 2023, the Council held a strategic planning meeting to determine the focus for consistent and sustained funding for fiscal years 2024-26. The draft framework is being used as a reference for staff to present programming options for Council consideration.*

**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 and an updated planning meeting in September 2023; is refining its strategic focus for fiscal years 2024-26; and approved multiple programs to be awarded 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.**

*See Section I for detailed information on programming supported by CSC Leon. Additionally, the summary presentation for Summer Bridge Programming 2023 is attached, as well as a presentation on the progress of the Council from inception to present.*

**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 enough funding cycles to determine which programs to eliminate and/or continue, expand, or add.*

**Submitted by: Cecka Rose Green, CPM**

**Title: Executive Director**

**Date: Friday, December 29, 2023**



*Putting Our Kids First*

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT TO  
LEON COUNTY BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

**DECEMBER 29, 2023**

# CSC LEON MISSION & PRIORITIES

**CSC Leon is a catalyst for positive change to improve the lives of children, youth and families in Leon County.**



**Success in School & Life**



**Healthy Children, Youth & Families**



**Stable & Nurturing Families & Communities**

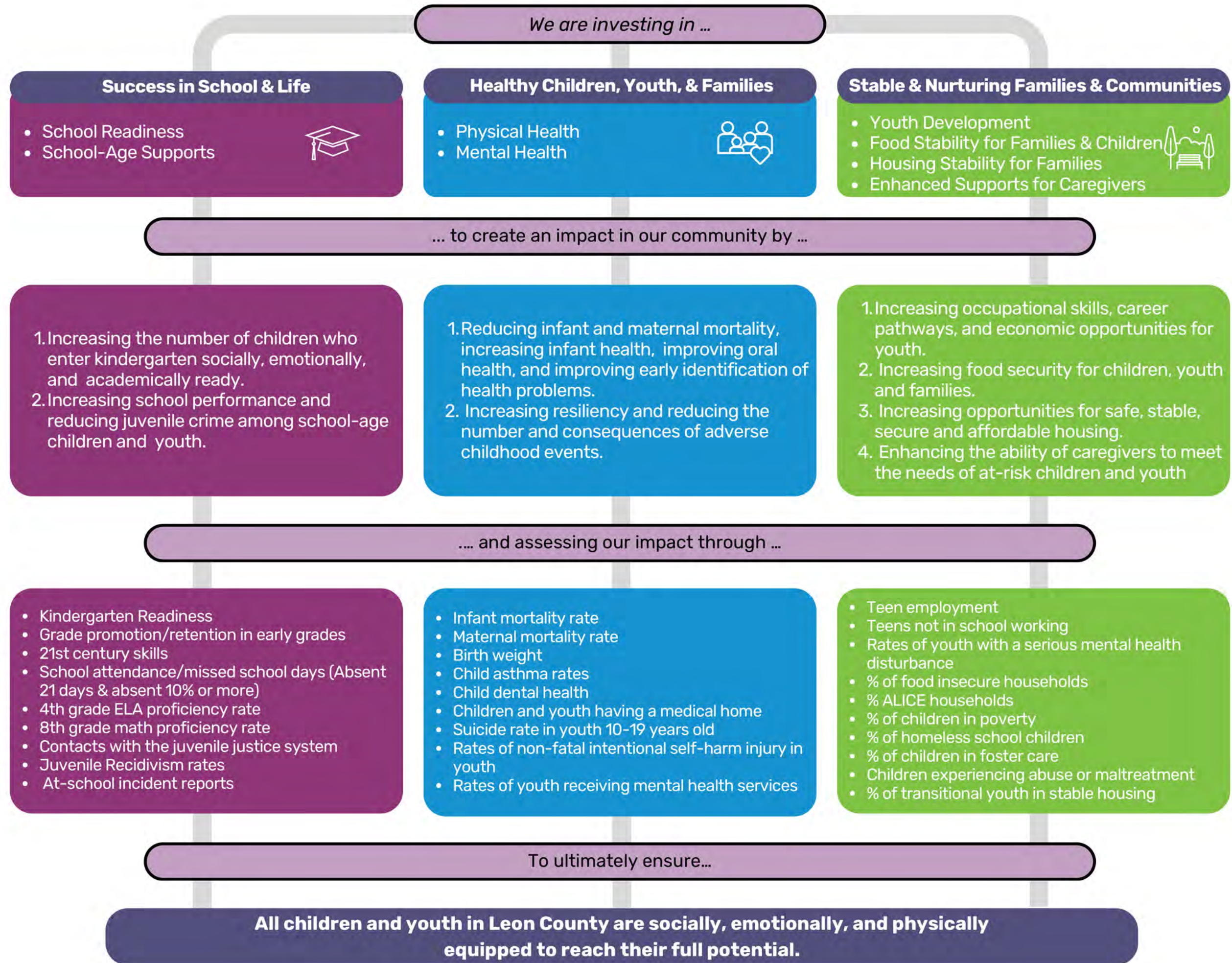
We provide dedicated funding to expand programs and access to family supports to ensure all children and youth are socially, emotionally, and physically equipped to reach their full potential.



### Theory of Change

The Children's Services Council of Leon County (CSC Leon) is a catalyst for positive change to improve the lives and outcomes of children, youth and families in our community.

CSC Leon was approved by its community in November 2020 and established in May 2021 to provide children with early learning and reading skills, development, treatment, preventative and other children's services.





# CSC LEON COUNCIL MEMBERS



**Dr. Zandra Glenn**  
Chair  
Community Resident



**Terrence Watts**  
Vice Chair  
DCF Appointee



**Paul Mitchell**  
Treasurer  
Community Resident



**Atty. Carolyn Cummings**  
Leon County  
Commissioner



**Rocky Hanna**  
Superintendent of Schools



**Darryl Jones**  
School Board Chair



Judge **Anthony Miller**  
2nd Judicial Circuit



**Mark O'Bryant**  
Community Resident

# CSC LEON TEAM MEMBERS



**Cecka Rose Green**  
Executive Director



**Dina Snider**  
Director of Finance & Operations



**Jacinta Clay**  
Administrative Services  
Manager



**Stephanie Eller Vaughn**  
Program Accountability  
& Research Manager



**Prisha Malone**  
Program Quality &  
Accountability Specialist



**Holly McPhail**  
Special Projects Manager

# CSC LEON HISTORY

1

**Nov, 2020**

Leon County voters approve the formation of CSC Leon.

2

**May, 2021**

The Governing Council convenes for the first time.

3

**Nov, 2021**

Community Needs Assessment commences; First ad valorem taxes received.

4

**Jan, 2022**

Executive Director begins.

5

**Apr, 2022**

First Community Investment cycle begins.

6

**Jun, 2022**

First CSC Leon-funded services commence; Community Needs Assessment concludes.



# CSC LEON HISTORY

7

**Oct, 2022**

Draft Strategic Framework to guide future investments presented.

8

**Nov, 2022**

2nd year of Ad Valorem taxes begin to arrive.

9

**Feb, 2023**

Second Community Investment cycle begins; CSC Leon opens Administrative Offices and Community Resource Room.

10

**Mar, 2023**

Capacity Building services commence; Third Community Investment Cycle begins.

11

**May, 2023**

First Innovative Funding project commences; Second round of CSC Leon-funded summer services commence; CSC Leon turns 2!

12

**Aug, 2023**

Second Innovative Funding project commences; First round of CSC Leon-funded priority services commence.



# CSC LEON HISTORY

13

**Sep, 2023**

Council hosts post needs-assessment Strategic Planning Session.

14

**Nov, 2023**

3rd year of Ad Valorem taxes begin to arrive.

15

**Dec, 2023\***

CSC Leon hosts **Family Book Fair & Childhood Screening** (December 11); Family Resource Center Investment partner announced.

16

**Jan, 2024\***

Council to host "workshop" on innovative solutions for next priority service investment.

17

**Mar, 2024\***

Third round of CSC Leon-funded summer bridge recipients announced; CSC Leon hosts **Summer Youth Expo** (March 23).

18

**May, 2024**

CSC Leon turns 3!



**\*anticipated**



# CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVED TO DATE

# 3,943

## Children, Youth & Families

**Summer Bridge 2022**  
**Summer Learning 2023**  
**Youth Mentoring**  
**Family Strengthening**

# 369,236

## Meals Served

**Summer Bridge 2022**  
**Summer Learning 2023**

## **CSC Leon dispersed \$1.692 million to 17 agencies for services May 15-August 30.**



### **Stable & Nurturing Families & Communities**

- **\$125,000 for summer feeding**
- **7,826 households (405%)**



### **Success in School & Life**

- **\$1.567 million for summer learning**
- **1,014 unduplicated children (91%)**

CSC Leon provided 36 site visits and/or support sessions during the course of the contract and are currently finalizing the financial reconciliation of all expenditures to ensure compliance with Fiscal Guidelines.



**“This camp was AMAZING! They instilled confidence and critical thinking skills into my children. I appreciate that it was hosted on FAMU campus and I hope that my children are encouraged to attend there as students one day!”**

*-Parent, Citizens for a Sustainable Future*

**“I loved the opportunity for my children to socialize and grow as students and productive members of their community.”**

*- Parent, Creative Mind Solutions*

**“Amazing amazing amazing! Can’t wait until next Summer. Kids need this performing arts experience!”**

*-Parent, Tallahassee Nights Live Foundation*



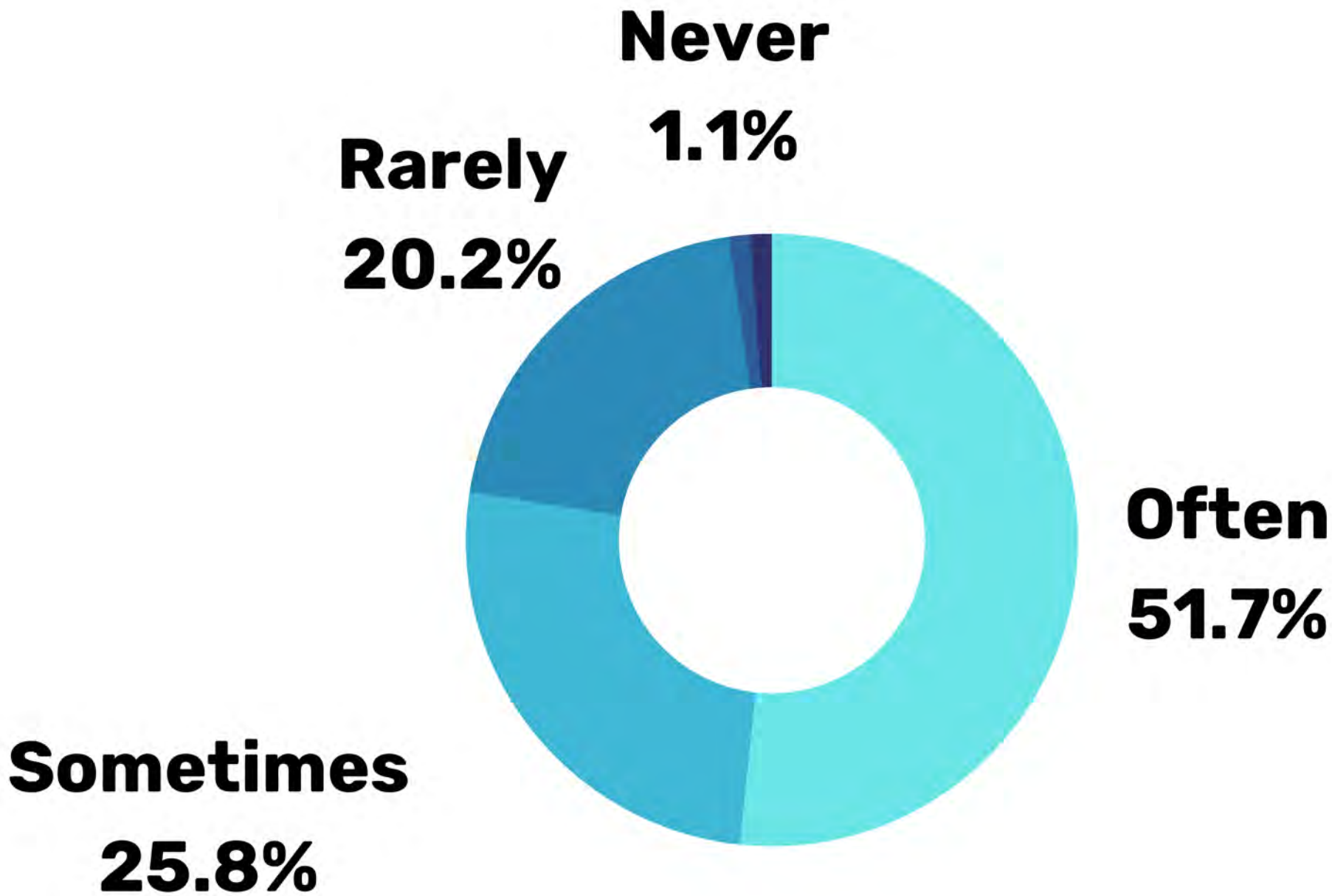
# SUMMER 2023 UPDATE - FEEDING



<b>Zip</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>Pounds</b>	<b>Meals</b>	<b>Households</b>
32301	10	61,249	51,041	1,605
32303	7	88,280	73,567	1,150
32304	7	76,341	63,618	1,714
32305	5	42,535	35,446	800
32310	9	59,152	49,293	1,544
Other	6	25,128	20,940	1,013
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>352,685</b>	<b>293,905</b>	<b>7,826</b>



**How often do the meals/food you receive from this summer distribution program help you afford other items needed for your household such as rent/mortgage payments, utilities, medical care, etc.?**



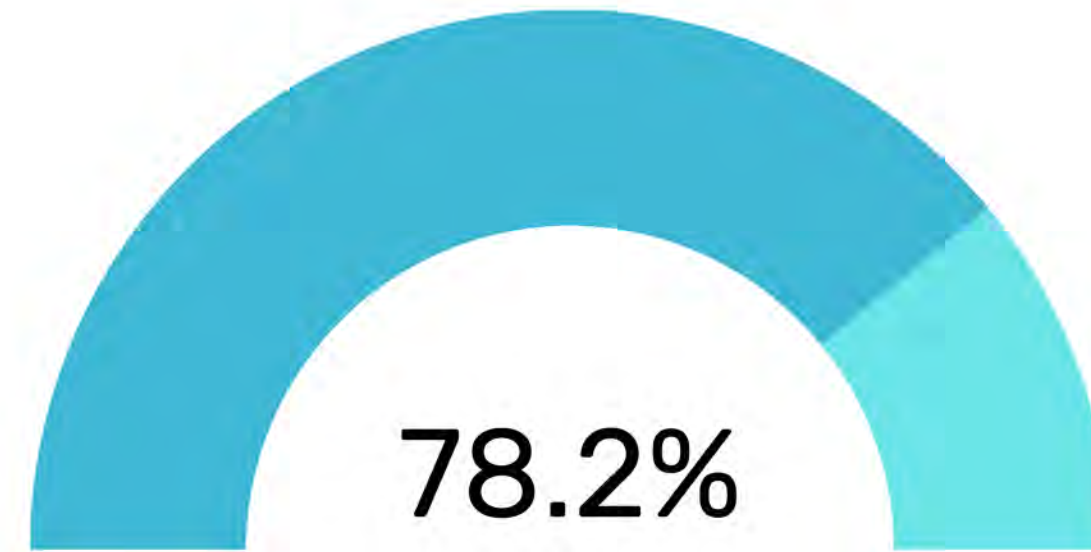
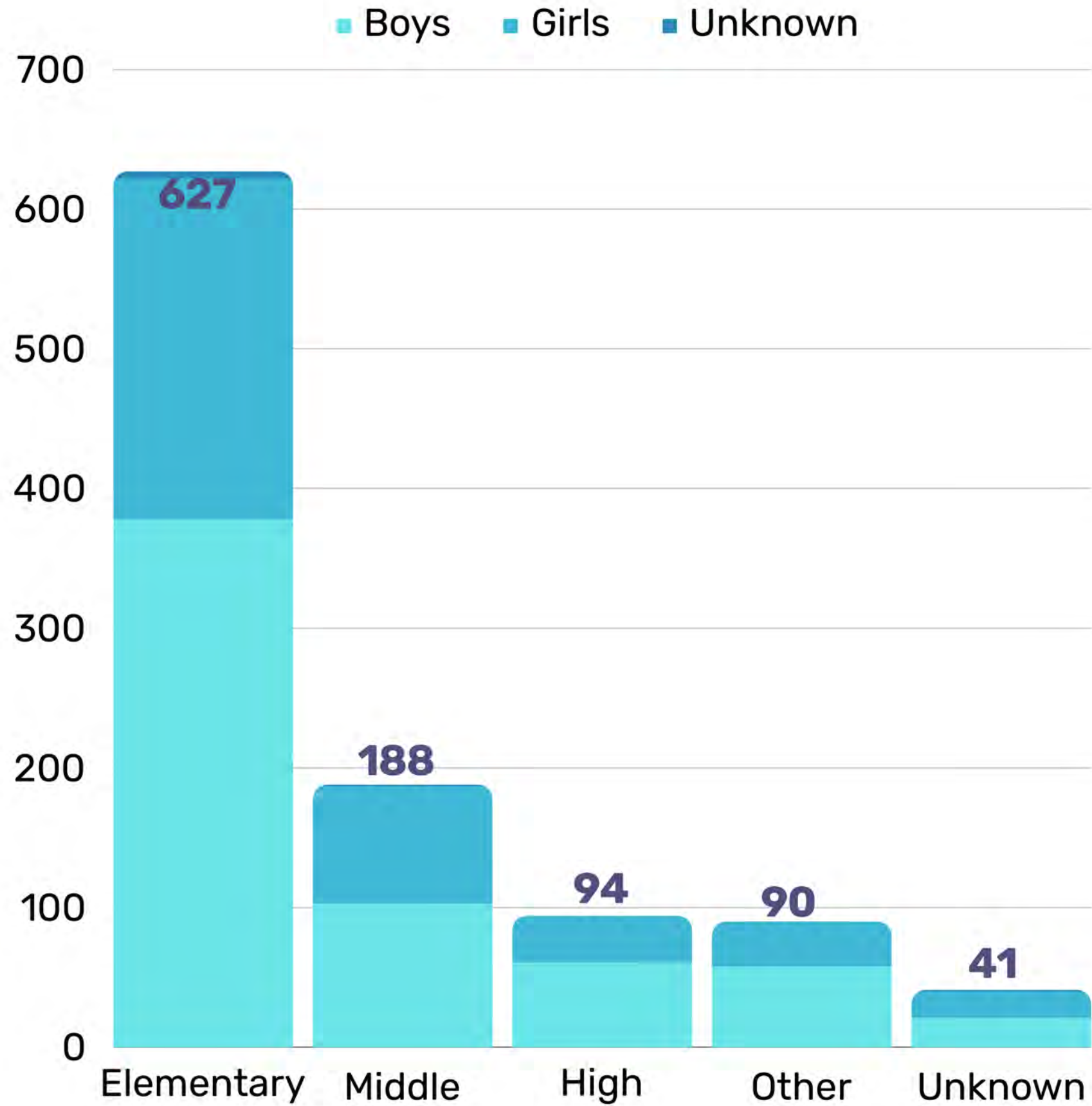


**In addition to all the meals that Second Harvest distributed, the summer learning programs also distributed**

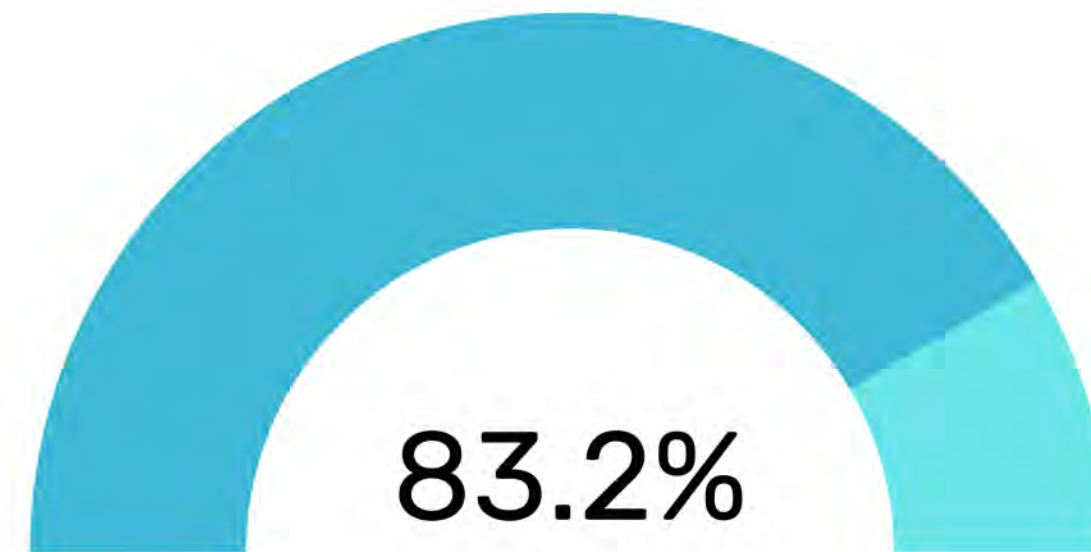
**43,882**

**breakfasts, lunches and dinners.**

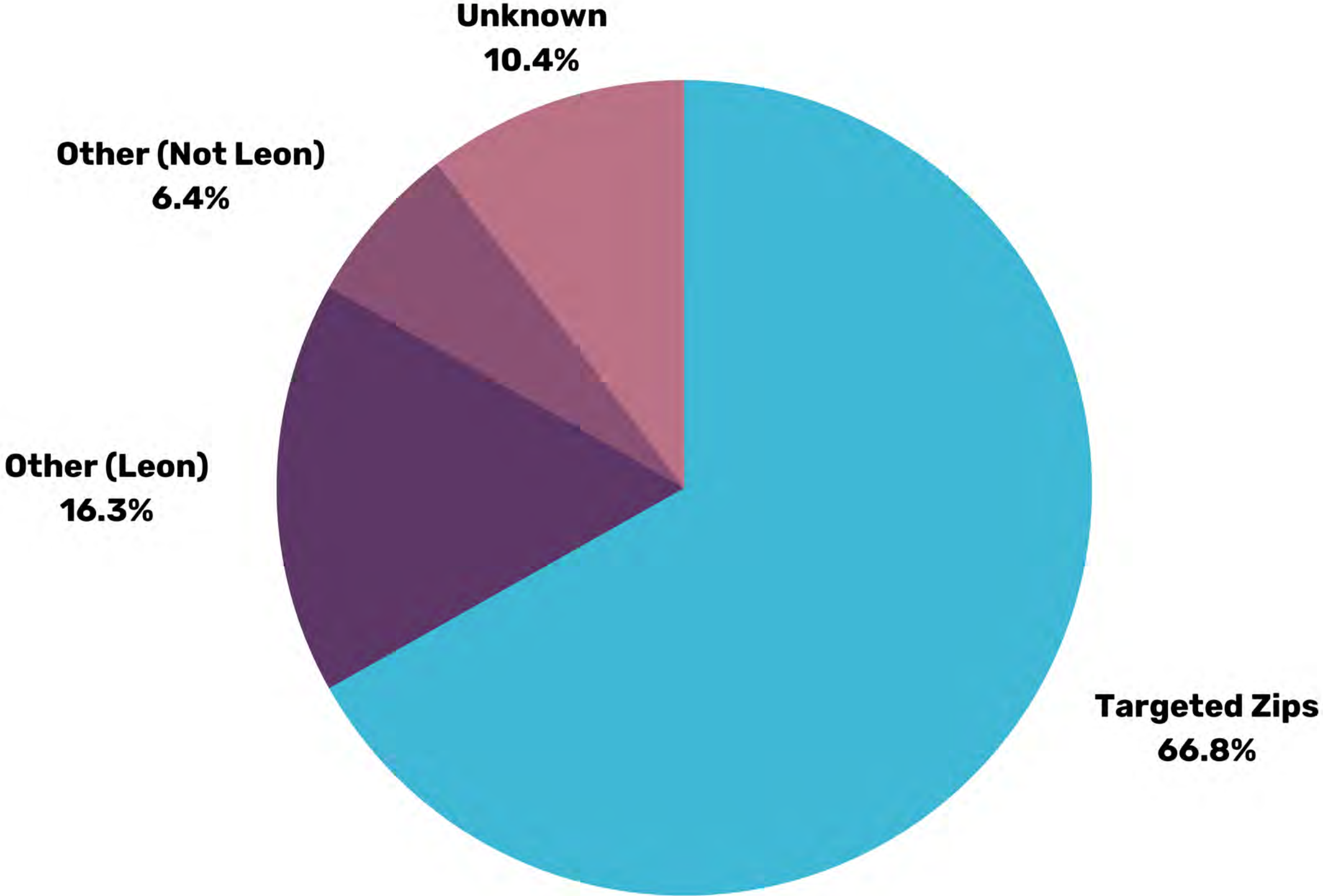
# SUMMER 2023 UPDATE - LEARNING



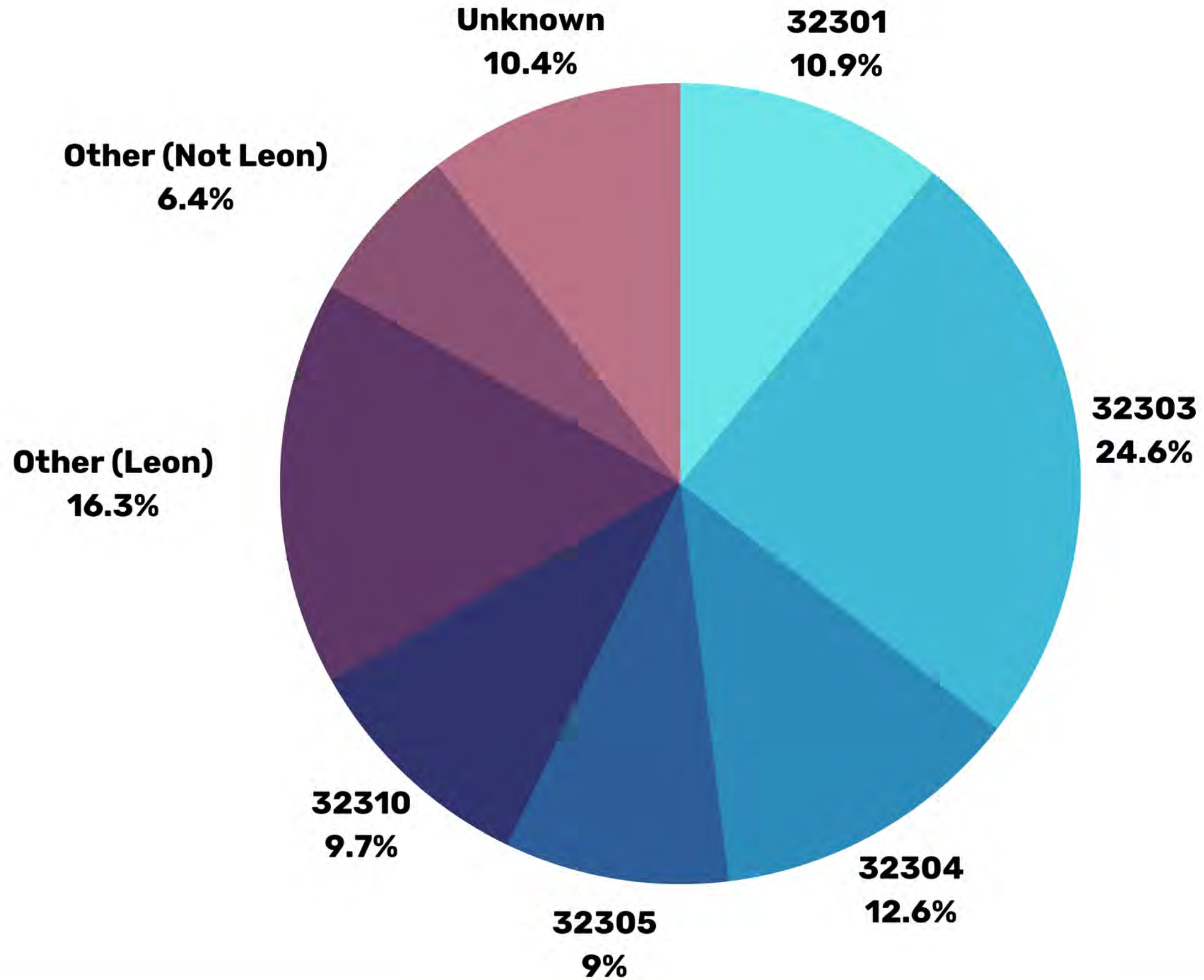
**Black or African American**



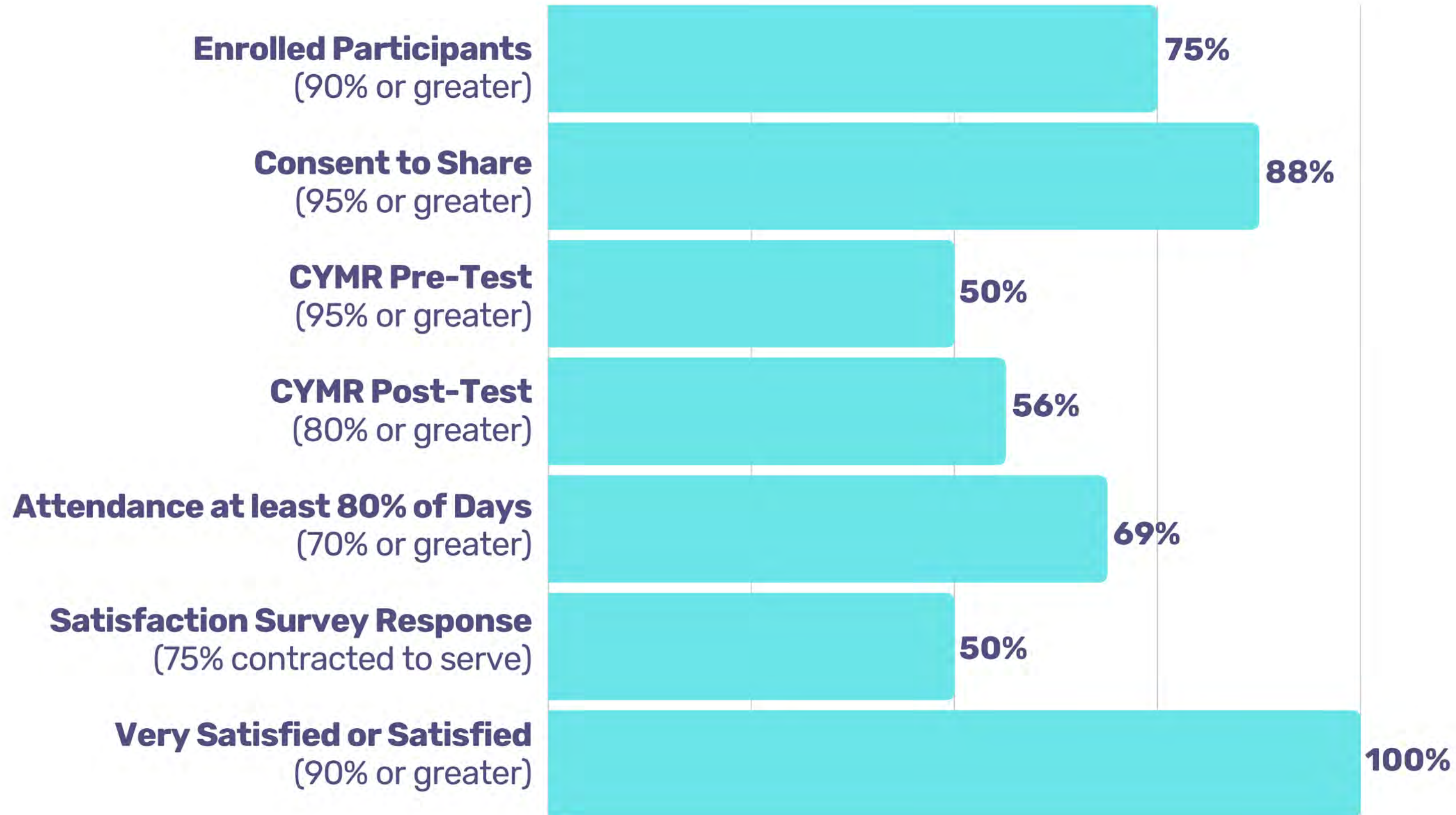
**Non-Hispanic**



# SUMMER 2023 UPDATE - LEARNING

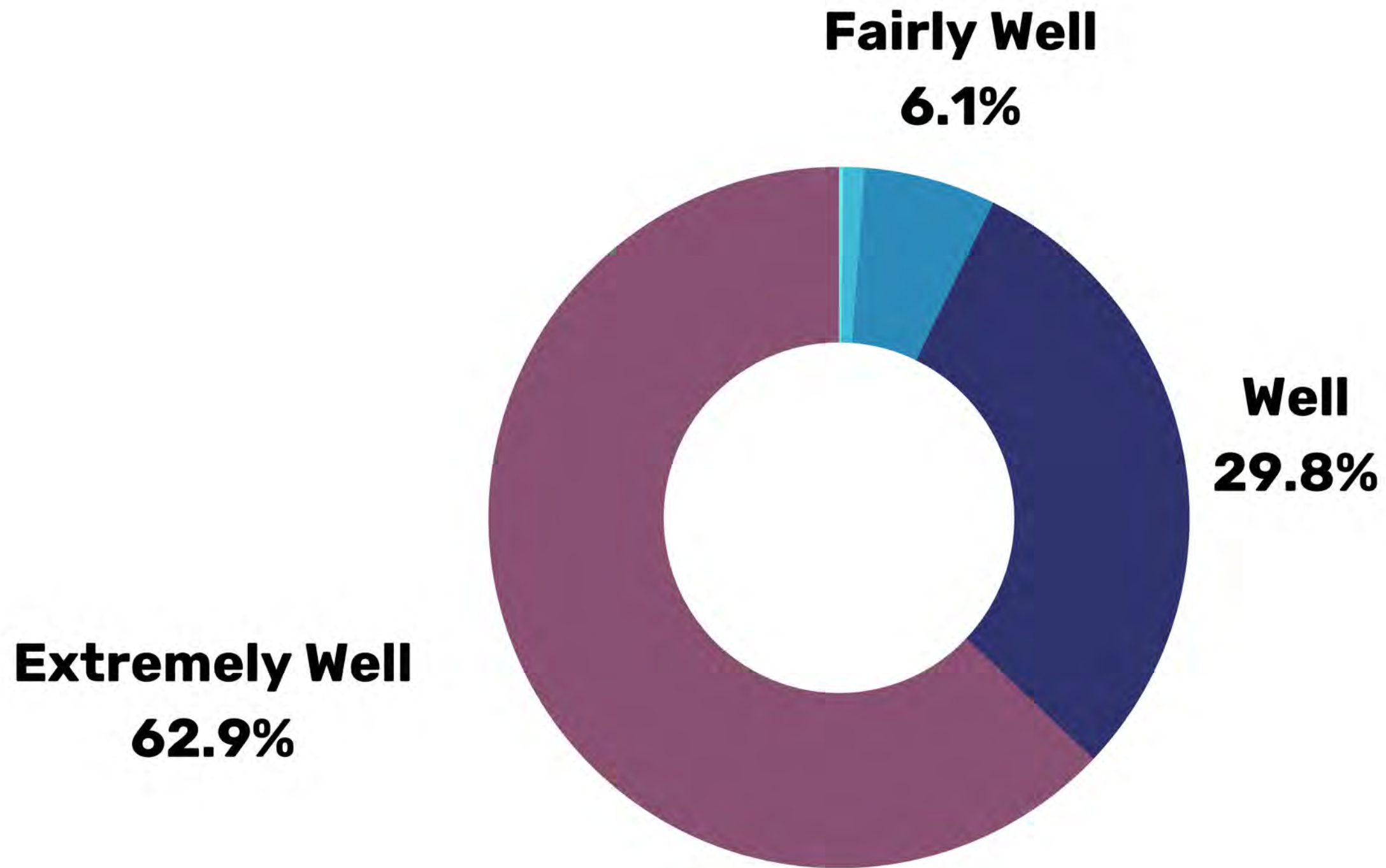


# SUMMER 2023 UPDATE - LEARNING





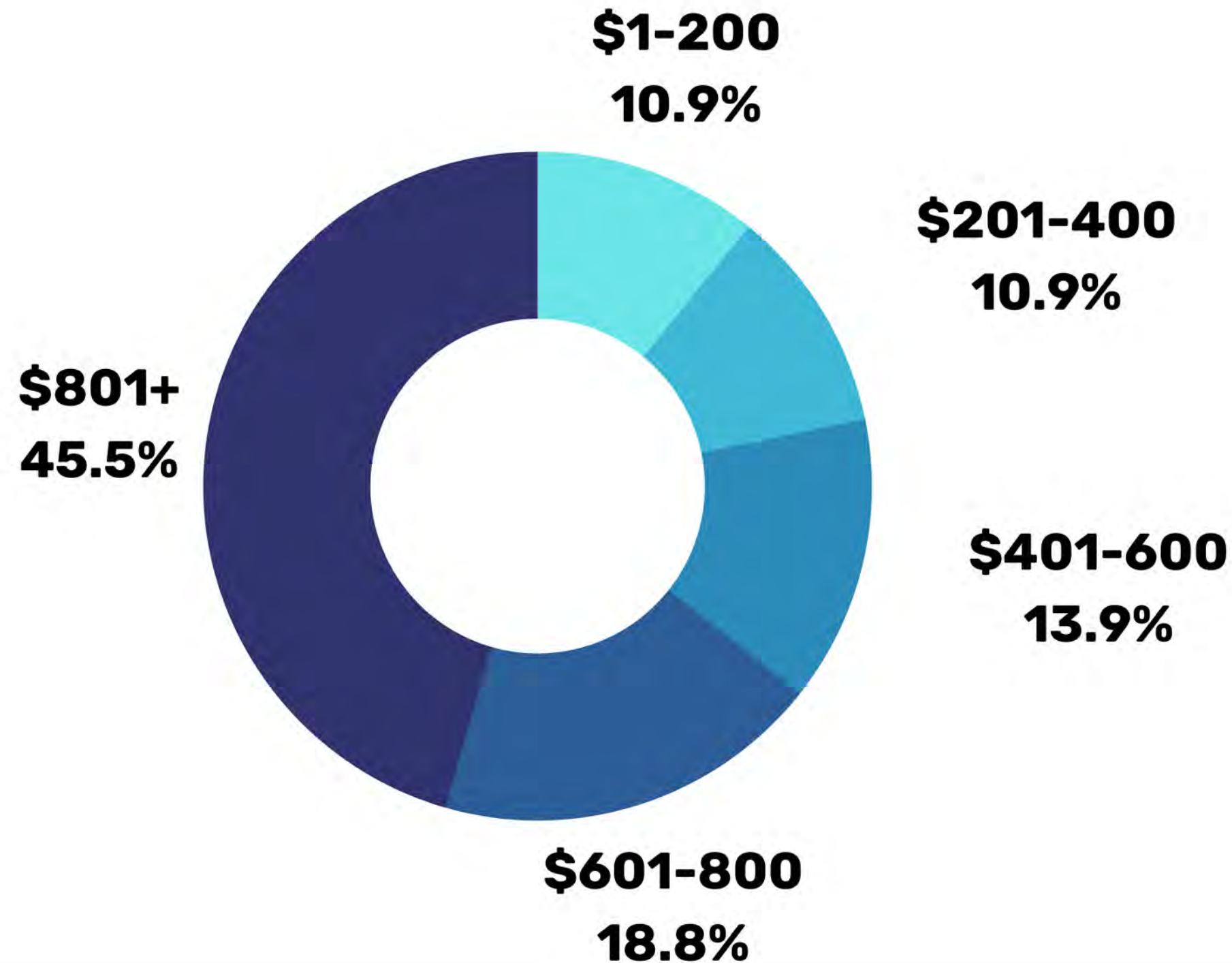
**How well did your child's summer program help prepare them for the next school year?**



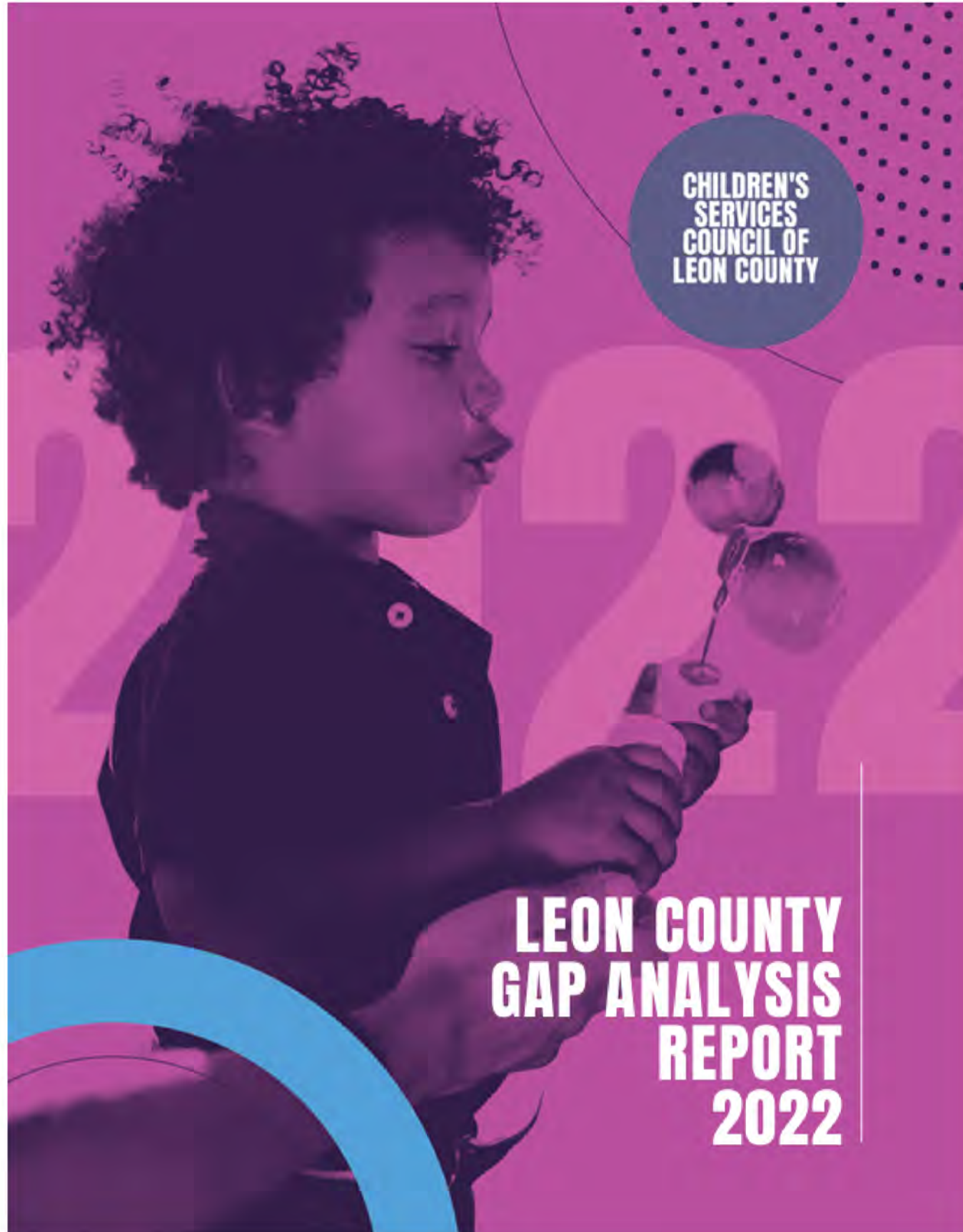




**Please estimate how much you saved in childcare, camp fees, and/or food by participating in this summer learning program (total cost all summer):**



# NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DATA



## BASELINE

### Success in School & Life

54% 3rd Grade Reading  
50% Kindergarten Readiness  
18.6/1,000 Juvenile Crime

### Healthy Children, Youth & Families

10.4% Low Birth Weight Babies  
13.7% Self-Harm Among Youth  
273.9/100,000 DV Incidence

### Stable & Nurturing Families & Communities

15.9% Families in Poverty  
17.3% Food Insecure Children  
9.8% Youth Don't Feel Safe at School

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DATA



BASELINE

BASELINE +1

## Success in School & Life

54% 3rd Grade Reading  
50% Kindergarten Readiness  
18.6/1,000 Juvenile Crime

52% 3rd Grade Reading ↓  
49% Kindergarten Readiness ↓  
25.1/1,000 Juvenile Crime ↑

## Healthy Children, Youth & Families

10.4% Low Birth Weight Babies  
13.7% Self-Harm Among Youth  
273.9/100,000 DV Incidence

10.9% Low Birth Weight Babies ↑  
15.0% Self-Harm Among Youth ↑  
299.8/100,000 DV Incidence ↑

## Stable & Nurturing Families & Communities

15.9% Families in Poverty  
17.3% Food Insecure Children  
9.8% Youth Don't Feel Safe at School

16.8% Families in Poverty ↑  
15.6% Food Insecure Children ↓  
11.9% Youth Don't Feel Safe at School ↑



## Recommendations

1. Focus on closing gaps through afterschool and summer programming
2. Foster collaboration among providers, funders, and the community
3. Provide strategic capacity building to providers
4. Target inequity through access to resources
5. Prioritize prevention and early intervention
6. Bring awareness to current resources
7. Leverage experts to address systemic issues impacting children, youth, and families in Leon County
8. Create a CSC Leon Youth Advisory Council to elevate youth voices
9. Bring awareness to CSC Leon's presence in the community

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT – WHAT WE DID

## Actions

1. Created a recurring funding type to support expanded learning opportunities during the summer; just completed second round; each year expectations and minimum standards increase
2. Formed “Trusted People” in partnership with neighborhood leaders, Leon County, City of Tallahassee, and United Way of the Big Bend
3. Contracted with strategic partners to provide capacity building services to grant seekers over the next 2 years; Created a recurring funding type to support small providers to build internal capacity
4. All services funded are required to target neighborhoods identified with the largest gaps (the maps!)
5. Majority of funded programs target families with children (0-12)
6. Working with 2-1-1 and other partners to ensure families know who to call when they need assistance; NOT reinventing the wheel
7. Regularly consult with providers and families through listening sessions, workshops and more to ensure we are moving in the right direction

# NEEDS ASSESSMENT – WHAT WE’RE PLANNING

## Actions

- 8. CSC Leon Youth Advisory Council is tentatively planned for next year
- 9. JUST launched our newsletter, Treehouse Talk, with a provider storytelling campaign

and so much more!



The screenshot shows the top portion of the 'Treehouse Talk' newsletter. At the top is the CSC LEON logo with the tagline 'Putting Our Kids First'. Below the logo, it says 'Introducing...' followed by the 'Treehouse Talk' title in a white script font on a dark blue background. Underneath, it reads 'The Official Newsletter of the Children's Services Council of Leon County'. A 'Navigate to:' section lists several links: 'Council Meeting Recap', 'CSC in the News', 'Upcoming Meetings & Events', 'Partner Spotlight', 'Family Resources', and 'Connect With Us'. At the bottom, there is a section titled 'At our last meeting...' with a photo of a group of seven people standing in front of a wall with charts. To the right of the photo is the text 'Strategic Planning Narrows Council Focus' and the date 'November 6, 2023'.

### Partner Spotlight: Second Harvest of the Big Bend

Second Harvest of the Big Bend is our first Partner Spotlight. Join CEO Monique Ellsworth on a tour of their facility and learn how they are fighting hunger one family at a time.



# TYPES OF INVESTMENTS

## Priority Funding

- Long-term investment in evidence-informed solutions that match clearly identified needs and expectations
- May require a stepped approach if capacity for evidenced-informed programming does not yet exist
- Robust reporting requirements of client-level data; mandatory participation in CSC database

**Success in School & Life**



**\$979,660**

**Healthy Children, Youth  
& Families**



**\$1,257,560**

**Stable & Nurturing Families  
& Communities**



**\$1,027,970**



# TYPES OF INVESTMENTS

## Innovative Funding

- Investment in solutions(s) to address identified issue(s) using an innovative or promising practice
- CSC is a partner in the implementation and design of the solution
- Requires identification of a research question and securing the right evaluation partners to test the intervention/solution

**Success in School & Life**



**\$695,200**

**Healthy Children, Youth  
& Families**

**Stable & Nurturing Families  
& Communities**





# TYPES OF INVESTMENTS

## Summer (Bridge) Funding

- Short-term investments to bridge identified gaps during the summer months
- Modest expectations for outcome impact; increasing with each year
- Primarily expansion of existing programs

Success in School & Life



**\$2,410,675**

Healthy Children, Youth & Families



**\$211,160**

Stable & Nurturing Families & Communities



**\$654,640**



## Capacity Building & Assessment

- (1) Partner engagement to provide training and supports designed to build the operating capacity of service providers to grow their readiness and competitiveness to respond to CSC investment opportunities
- (2) Limited-scope contracts for small investments to help support eligible nonprofits sustain, expand and build internal capacity to collect data and write reports (SIPS)
- (3) Internal evaluation and data management services

ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

✓ ✓ ✓  
\$865,500

# COMMITTED BUT NOT SOURCED (YET!)

## Priority Funding

- Family Resource Center (FRC) Management - on schedule to announce investment partner

**Stable & Nurturing Families  
& Communities**



**\$4,000,000**

## Capacity Building

- Second round of SIPS applications will be determined in December

**ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS**



**\$150,000**

**\$12,307,365 invested/encumbered**  
to directly improve the lives of  
children, youth and families.



GET ENGAGED!



**[www.cscleon.org](http://www.cscleon.org)**

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