



# JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

## 2009 - 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Getting it Right the First Time



## Letter from Our Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, welcome to the 2009-2010 Annual Report of the Jacksonville Children's Commission, Duval County's children's services council.

According to city ordinance, the Children's Commission has the "ongoing responsibility of improving the lives of Jacksonville's children by serving as the central focus for the evaluation, planning and distribution" of funds for children. To maximize dollars, the Children's Commission leverages local funds to attract additional state and federal money. In 2009-10, \$21 million in local dollars was blended with \$38 million in other local, federal and state dollars to provide needed services to children. The intent is for these funds to prevent childhood problems so that all children in our city grow into healthy, successful adults—regardless of their struggles and difficulties.

In 2009-10 we reached more than 36,000 children with prevention and early intervention services, and engaged more than 6,000 parents and children in our communitywide events. In the pages that follow, you'll learn that the Children's Commission funded a wide range of programs to support children, spanning from mentoring and early literacy coaching to counseling for runaway teens.

In these times of economic hardship, more of Jacksonville's children will face difficulties just when public dollars to help them are dwindling. For the Children's Commission, this means that simply trying hard to help children is not good enough. We must see measurable improvements in children's lives, provide excellent customer service and get the best value for the taxpayers' dollars. I am confident that this report will impress upon you the positive impact that the Children's Commission's work is having in Jacksonville.

As a pediatrician and a mother, I'm convinced that everything Jacksonville can do for its children is a public investment bringing higher dividends than we might ever imagine. We hope you take the information here and use it to advocate for all of Jacksonville's children.

Anne Egan, M.D., Chair

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*Photos courtesy of Jacksonville Children's Commission staff and City of Jacksonville photographer Wes Lester*



# GETTING IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

In Jacksonville, as in every American city, resources available to raise children differ from neighborhood to neighborhood and family to family. As a result, children with strong support systems in place often grow into working and contributing members of the community. Others, many without the same supports, struggle through childhood, adolescence and adulthood, accumulating failure and perpetuating crises in families and neighborhoods. With the intent of managing taxpayers' dollars responsibly and in the best interest of this community, the Jacksonville Children's Commission administers public funding to allow equal opportunities for growth and advancement for all young people in this city, regardless of their ZIP codes.

In its 2006 study, "Reducing Murder: A Community Response," the Jacksonville Community Council Inc. states:

*The long-term answer to reducing violence and lowering the murder rate is prevention. Prevention approaches cost less and have far greater impact than anything else. The outcomes of prevention approaches extend far beyond lower murder rates; because the risk factors are interrelated, prevention approaches address multiple community problems.*

The Children's Commission is one of taxpayers' best tools for preventing crime and its associated community problems. The Children's Commission focuses on the early years in a child's life in order to get it right the first time. In doing so, expensive rehabilitation measures are not necessary and the taxpayer burden is decreased.

For every \$1 spent on after-school programs, taxpayers save \$3. Furthermore, a RAND study found that "well-designed early childhood interventions...generate a return to society ranging from \$1.80 to \$17.07 for each dollar spent."

The Children's Commission focuses on three areas in order to get it right the first time:

- ensuring children have stable and nurturing families;
- preparing children to enter kindergarten ready to learn; and
- providing quality after-school and summer programs.

Because the Children's Commission contributes nearly \$60 million to preventing societal problems, it is necessary to link its efforts to communitywide indicators of progress in child well-being.

Programs and services funded by the Children's Commission contribute to increases in the rate of children entering kindergarten ready to learn and the high school graduation rate. Its work also contributes to decreases in Jacksonville's rate of child abuse. This annual report aims to make these connections evident for readers, taxpayers and child advocates.

# JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

VISION	CHILDREN HAVE STABLE, NURTURING FAMILIES	CHILDREN ARE PREPARED TO ENTER KINDERGARTEN
GOALS	<p>Parents and caregivers have the resources, knowledge and skills to keep their children safe and healthy, raising them in stable, nurturing home environments</p>	<p>Young children experience developmentally appropriate early learning care as well as screening for problems that could interfere with their ability to learn</p>
STRATEGIES	<p>Provide support and education for high-risk mothers with newborns through Healthy Families Jacksonville, a home visiting program <i>1,836 children</i></p> <p>Ensure that every eligible child has access to health insurance through KidCare and Medicaid <i>approximately 6,000 children every month</i></p> <p>Provide child care tuition assistance for parents who are working or attending school <i>12,559 children</i></p> <p>Provide resources to families through family programs, resource guides, <a href="http://www.JaxKids.net">www.JaxKids.net</a> and free events <i>8,400 parents and their children</i></p>	<p>Transform day care centers from custodial child care to high-quality early learning environments</p> <p>Assist early learning centers in their pursuit of a quality star rating through Guiding Stars of Duval so that parents can easily identify high-quality preschool education for their children <i>93 early education centers</i></p> <p>Promote early literacy for all 4-year-old children through Mayor Peyton's Book Club <i>10,180 4-year-olds</i></p> <p>Ensure developmental, vision, hearing and language screening for children receiving child care tuition assistance <i>5,502 children</i></p>

# FORMULA FOR SUCCESS

## CHILDREN HAVE SUPPORT DURING OUT-OF-SCHOOL TIME

Children learn positive values and stay safe and healthy in high-quality programs during out-of-school hours

Provide academically enhanced after-school care in 42 TEAM UP programs at school-based locations and 20 community-based programs at various locations  
**9,557 students**

Provide nutritious after-school snacks and meals in all TEAM UP programs  
**822,872 snacks and suppers**

Provide six weeks of full-time, high-quality, academically enhanced summer camps  
**5,830 campers**

Provide nutritious summer lunches and snacks for children in Commission-supported summer camps and low-income neighborhoods  
**540,414 snacks and lunches**

## EARLY INTERVENTION

Children who encounter barriers to their success find help through programs with special services

Provide developmental screening, case management and supportive services to homeless children living in shelters or independent living facilities  
**174 children**

Provide behavioral/mental health services through Full Service Schools or community-based outpatient care  
**3,733 children**

Provide case management services and alternative education to teens to help them remain in school and avoid teen pregnancy  
**186 girls**

Provide individual and family counseling for runaways and teens in crisis  
**200 youth**

Link elementary, middle and high school children with a caring adult through mentoring programs  
**1,395 youth**

Provide therapy, behavioral health and self-help skills training to children with special needs  
**369 children**

Provide counseling and mental health services for children at risk for criminal or anti-social behavior  
**93 youth**

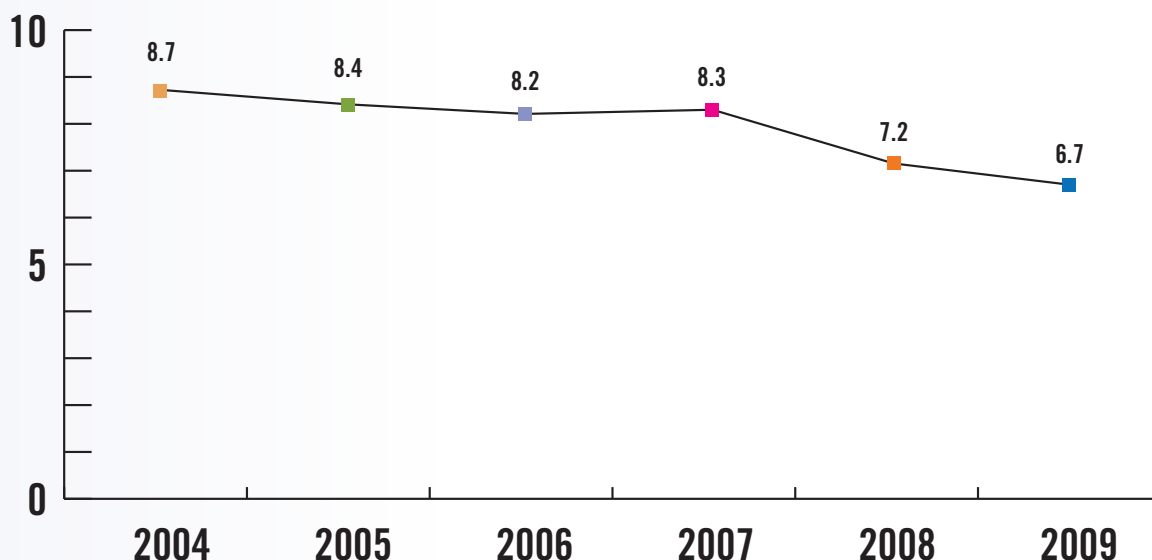
Provide an alternative to out-of-school suspension that keeps children safe and engaged in their school work and also links them to special services  
**5,150 students**

Provide supportive housing and life skills training for teens aging out of foster care  
**24 teens**

**JACKSONVILLE'S  
CHILDREN  
ARE SAFE,  
HEALTHY AND  
PREPARED TO BE  
SUCCESSFUL**

# Children Have Stable and Nurturing Families

**Verified Reports of Child Abuse per 1,000 Children, Jacksonville**



Source: Quality of Life Progress Report 2010, Jacksonville Community Council Inc.

## The Story Behind the Trend Line

In 2009, the number of children per 1,000 who were found to be abused or neglected decreased from 7.2 to 6.7. In 2003, the Department of Children and Families could not provide the number of verified reports of neglect and abuse.

Unfortunately, not all children are raised in families that are stable and nurturing. A verified report means neglect or abuse of children has reached a level that is unacceptable to the community. The trend line shows that Jacksonville has been successful in reducing reported child abuse. While this trend is encouraging, just one child experiencing neglect or abuse is not acceptable.

Preventing child abuse requires a communitywide effort aimed at educating parents and caregivers about one of the hardest jobs ever: parenting. In Jacksonville, community partners working to end child abuse include the Department of Children and Families – Circuit 4, the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition, the Duval County Health Department, Family Support Services of Northeast Florida, The Exchange Club of Jacksonville, the Duval Prevention and Permanency Task Force, Healthy Families Florida, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, local providers of

community-based care, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and teen parenting programs throughout the city.

## Our Role

Healthy Families Jacksonville is part of the nationally accredited Healthy Families Florida statewide system that consists of 33 community-based organizations, including the Jacksonville Children's Commission, that provide home visiting services in targeted areas within 55 of Florida's 67 counties. Healthy Families is proven to prevent child abuse and neglect as demonstrated through a rigorous independent five-year evaluation and follow-up study.

Expectant parents and parents with newborns up to 3 months of age are referred to Healthy Families from Healthy Start and other community service providers. Families assessed as exhibiting multiple research-based risk factors that place their children at high risk for abuse and neglect are given the opportunity to receive intensive home visiting services in an effort to prevent possible maltreatment. After 11 years, Healthy Families Jacksonville continues to achieve outstanding results:

- Healthy Families Jacksonville served 973 families and 1,836 children in 2009-10.

- 99 percent of children in families participating in Healthy Families for at least six months during 2009-10 stayed free from maltreatment.
- 119 families completed the program in 2008-09, which might take up to five years, and 12 months later, all 119 families remained free from maltreatment.
- 92 percent of Healthy Families children were fully immunized by age 2 in 2009, exceeding the 83.7 percent immunization rate for all Jacksonville 2-year-olds in 2008.

### We Got it Right!

Juanita, who participated in the Healthy Families program, explains how it made a difference in her life...

"I moved from Tampa to Jacksonville with my three children. We lived with a cousin until I was able to get an apartment. Unfortunately, after one month my family and I were evicted from our apartment because my oldest son was arrested for selling drugs.

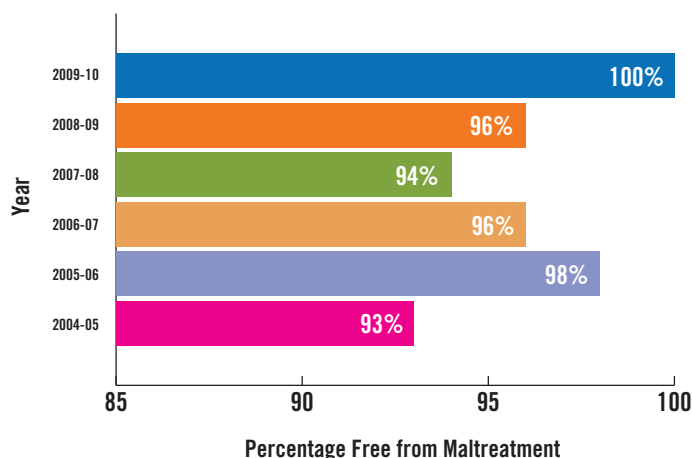
My children and I ended up moving into a homeless shelter and I was pregnant with my fourth child. While living in the shelter I overheard other mothers talking about the Healthy Families program. I called the Healthy Families office, was sent an assessment person and shortly thereafter was greeted by a family support worker.

Since being enrolled in the Healthy Families program, we have moved into another apartment, I am attending school, my husband has a new job and my family support worker patiently listens to my personal issues while sharing useful information about child development and early learning."

Protecting children from abuse and neglect is one strategy for ensuring Jacksonville's children grow up in stable and nurturing families. Other strategies include parent education, child care tuition assistance, information about community resources, workshops, support for relatives raising children and free community events such as JaxKids Day.

Some strategies reach a small and unique group of families. For example, the Children's Commission

### Percentage of Healthy Families Children Free from Maltreatment One Year Later



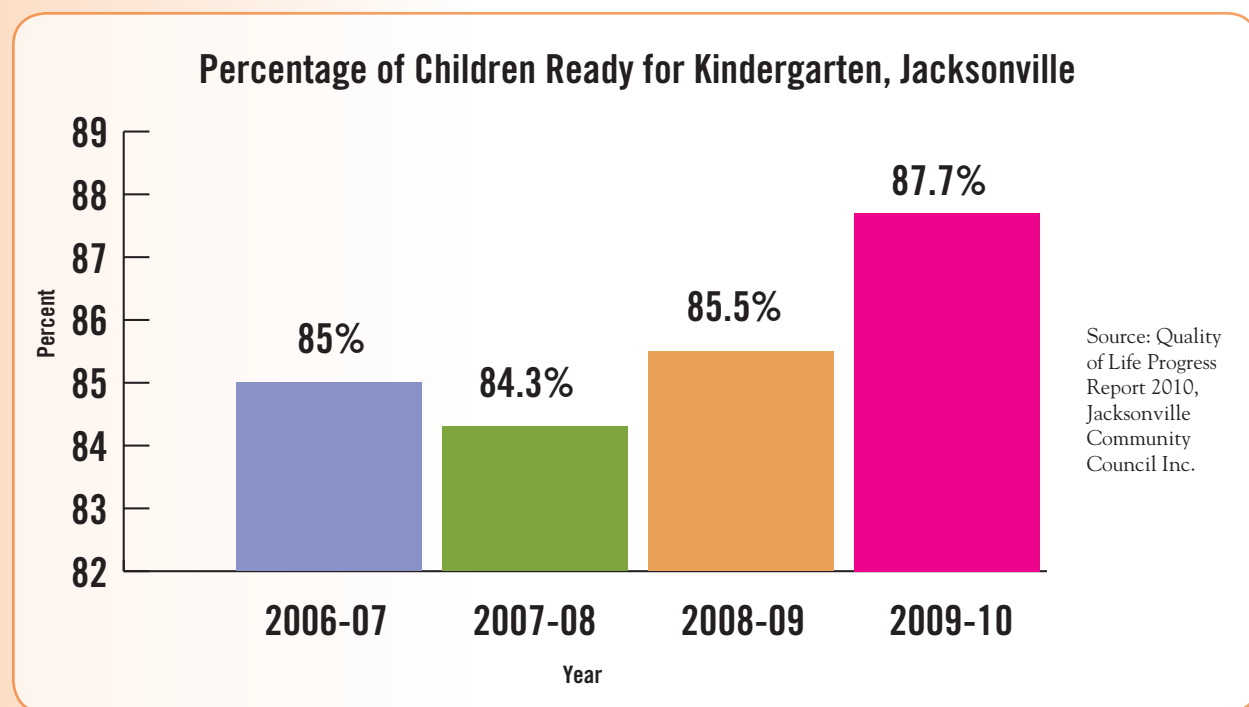
partners with Urban Jacksonville to support the Relatives as Parents Program, known as GRANDS/RAPP JAX. Forty-one grandparents and relatives raising children came to the Children's Commission for training, resources and networking opportunities in 2009-10.

The Florida Healthy Kids program helps families with free and low-cost health insurance coverage; however, a local match is required to make the program available to Jacksonville families. The Children's Commission provides \$60,000 for the local match and outreach efforts. In 2009-10, approximately 6,000 children had health insurance because of this investment.

The State of Florida provides funds to families caught between the obligations of paid work and child care. Under contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, the Children's Commission determines the eligibility of families for child care tuition assistance. In 2009-10, 12,559 children received a child care tuition voucher through this process.

In November, approximately 6,000 adults and children participated in JaxKids Day, which showcased dozens of family-serving agencies partnering with the Children's Commission. The event, which is free to all, offered hearing and speech screenings, injury prevention workshops, dyslexia screenings, as well as fun activities such as a Family Fun Run and a Red Wagon Parade.

# Children are Prepared to Enter Kindergarten Ready to Learn



## The Story Behind the Trend Line

Each year Jacksonville kindergarteners are screened for school readiness using the Early Childhood Observation System (ECHOS). In 2009-10, the screening showed the highest percentage of school readiness in kindergarteners since 2006, when screening began.

This achievement is due to an unprecedented, communitywide focus on early literacy that is planned, executed and sustained through state and local funds.

## Partners

The Jacksonville Children's Commission counts the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, Episcopal Children's Services, the Jacksonville Urban League, Duval County Public Schools, the United Way of Northeast Florida, Florida Institute of Education, Florida State College at Jacksonville, University of North Florida, Jacksonville University, parents, early education center directors, staff and teachers as its partners in this effort.

## Our Role

While no one organization or initiative is responsible for the positive trend line in kindergarten readiness, Mayor John Peyton has created the conditions for these partners to work together to increase kindergarten preparedness.

In 2004, Mayor John Peyton created *RALLY*

*Jacksonville!*, a communitywide, collaborative initiative that seeks to make early literacy a core community value and to help increase the number of children who are ready for school at the beginning of kindergarten.

*RALLY Jacksonville!* is operated under the auspices of the Children's Commission and is guided by the commitment of the mayor. It utilizes multiple strategies through a combination of public-private partnerships and improves the literacy rate and school readiness of First Coast children, with a strong emphasis on reaching low-income children.

Mayor Peyton's Book Club, part of *RALLY Jacksonville!*, has reached 54,244 4-year-olds, providing them with a unique 13-book series about people, places and amenities in Jacksonville. As a special tribute to Jacksonville-based military men and women, in 2009-10 the Book Club introduced its 13<sup>th</sup> and final book in the series, *We Salute Our Military*. In the same year 10,180 4-year-olds received a total of 142,520 books to read and keep. Also, a total of 8,400 parents and children attended events hosted by Mayor Peyton's Book Club. The events included the Great Outdoor Adventure Tree Festival, the Museum Hop and the Great Jacksonville Campout.

One indirect impact of Mayor Peyton's Book Club is the substantial level of community investment it inspires. For example, in 2009-10, \$85,000 in donations



made the Book Club possible. Nearly 50 community organizations, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, CSX Transportation and the Boeing Company, got involved in Mayor Peyton's Book Club.

A major change in Jacksonville's early education efforts began in 2007 with the birth of Guiding Stars of Duval, the quality rating and improvement system for Duval County's child care centers. Thousands of children now attend early education centers that have been evaluated for the quality of their teaching and the outcomes of their students on kindergarten readiness assessments. Guiding Stars of Duval, administered by the Early Learning Coalition of Duval, has introduced the idea of quality teaching to hundreds of early education centers in Jacksonville.

The Children's Commission funds the placement of early learning coaches into centers participating in Guiding Stars of Duval. In 2009-10, 93 centers were assisted with one-on-one literacy coaching, learning materials and lesson plans. In addition, two literacy coaches supported teachers in 30 Head Start classrooms managed by the Jacksonville Urban League.

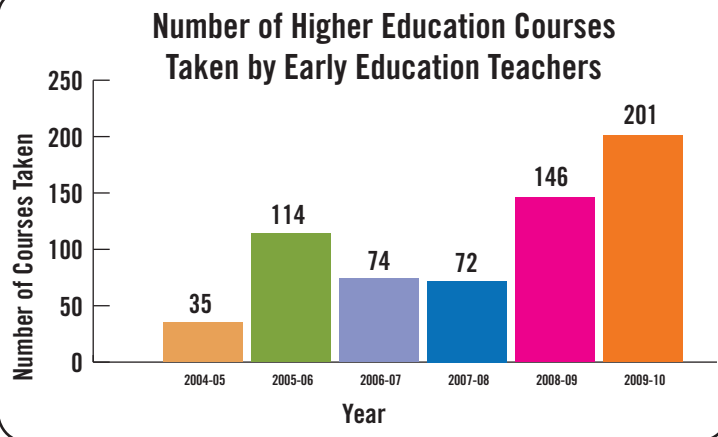
Another recent initiative is the *Jacksonville Journey* Early Learning Program. The program placed early learning coaches in 35 centers located in Health Zone 1, an area where many families struggle to provide for their children.



The majority of Jacksonville teachers in child care settings have a high school diploma only. Through funding from *RALLY Jacksonville!*, in 2009-10, 159

teachers participated in a Childhood Development Associate (CDA) course taught by coaches. In addition, teachers in the coaching program took 201 child development classes at local colleges and universities.

The number of classes being taken by teachers increased 38 percent in 2009-10 over the previous year. A culture of "can do" is developing among early education teachers because they have coaches who are encouraging them to pursue professional development.



One of the most powerful ways to ensure children are ready for school is to influence their first teachers—their parents. *RALLY Jacksonville!* funds workplace workshops on brain development and "teachable moments." Last year, 2,781 parents attended these Born Learning workshops, which were provided by United Way of Northeast Florida.

Parents and caregivers are often unaware that there are problems with their child's hearing, vision or speech because they are unfamiliar with learning milestones such as recognizing print or colors or even talking. The Children's Commission, under contract with the Early Learning Coalition of Duval and in partnership with the Duval County Health Department, screens young children so that early intervention in their development is possible. Last year, 5,502 young children were screened for developmental delays. In addition, inclusion specialists observed 374 children in early education classrooms. Of those children, 182 were referred for further help, and 90 of those children completed an appointment with a learning specialist.

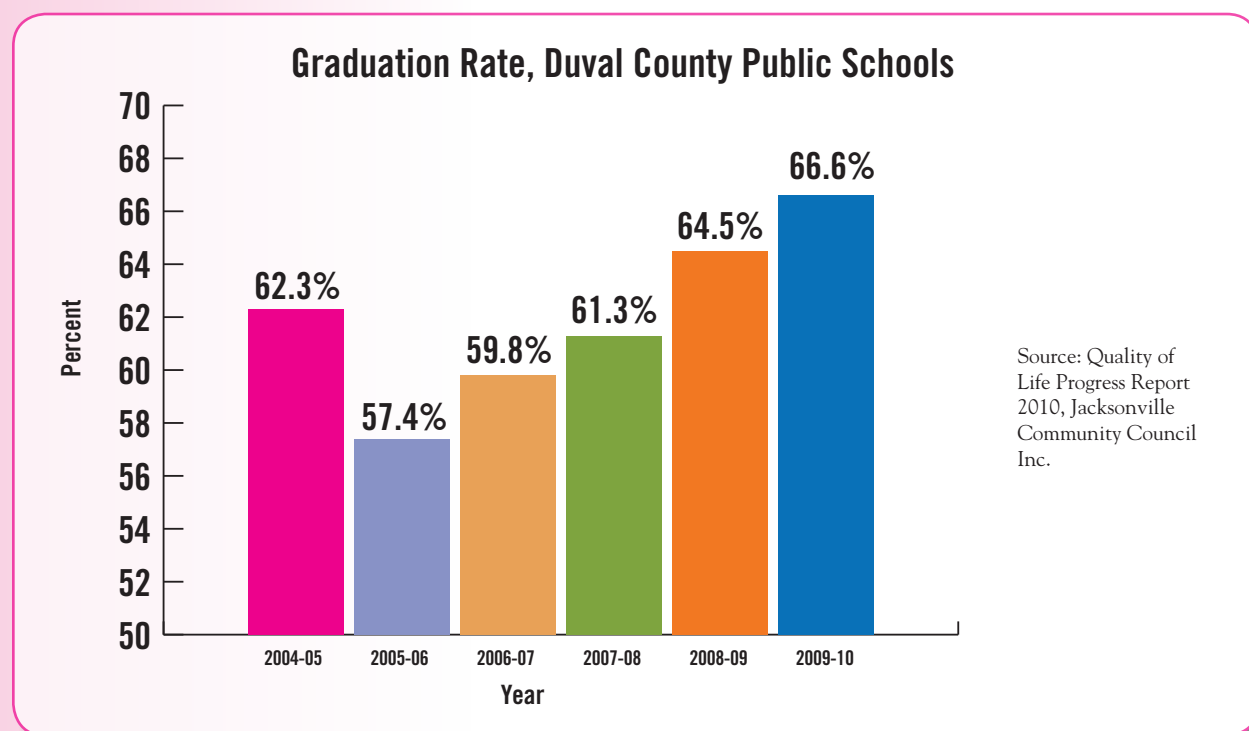
## We Got it Right!

An early education teacher has to plan lessons—even around a storybook. And many teachers feel inadequate for the task of planning a lesson. Coaches inspire early education teachers to plan their work, making literacy lessons more common in Jacksonville's early education centers.

Veronica teaches at an early education center, and Children's Commission staff coached her in lesson planning and literacy strategies. She learned quickly

and became interested in learning more. Previously, she had dropped out of high school and decided school was not for her. Children's Commission staff and the director of the early education center helped Veronica overcome her fear of school. For two years she took evening classes, earning her GED and a CDA national credential. Veronica did not stop there and is now working on a director credential. She is on her way to running a center herself.

# Children Have Support During Out-of-School Time



The graduation rate is calculated by tracking entering ninth-grade students to determine the percentage who graduate from high school four years later. Unfortunately, only two-thirds of Jacksonville's ninth graders are graduating on schedule. Jacksonville's business leaders, higher education community, parents and philanthropists are joining together to change this statistic for the better. As a result, in 2009-10, graduation rates increased to their highest rate in several years.

The Jacksonville Children's Commission estimates that between birth and age 18, youth spend 10 percent of their time in school and the remaining 90 percent outside school. Duval County Public Schools is working to make a difference in schools. Opportunities for learning outside of school—in homes, community centers, clubs, faith institutions and camps—is where the Children's Commission can influence the graduation rate.

Participating in organized activities after school makes an impact. A 2006 *Social Policy Report* on out-of-school time activities found that "youth who participate [in out-of-school time activities] demonstrate healthier functioning on...indicators ranging from academic achievement, school completion...to the quantity and quality of interactions with their parents." The Children's Commission wants all children to have a choice of compelling out-of-school opportunities.

## Community Partners

Duval County Public Schools, United Way of Northeast Florida, Community Foundation of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Public Education Fund, Learning to Finish Collaborative, youth serving agencies, parents and students partner with the Children's Commission in its efforts to support children in out-of-school programs.

## Our Role

One of the first initiatives of the Children's Commission was to develop quality after-school programs for low-income families. The Children's Commission's signature after-school program, TEAM UP, operates in 42 public school locations and has been in place for 16 years. It is based on a unique partnership between the Children's Commission, Duval County Public Schools and youth-serving agencies. Quality after-school programming has always been a priority for the Children's Commission, and now it is a priority for the Jacksonville community as well. TEAM UP is part of the city's initiative to increase the graduation rate, *Learning to Finish*, and is integral to Duval County Public Schools' five-year strategic plan for keeping students on track for graduation, as defined by its Multiple Pathways and Support Services department.

- In elementary schools, 61 percent of TEAM UP participants score at either level 1 or 2 on either the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)

reading section or its math section, which means they perform below grade level.

- Despite indications that most struggle in school, 97 percent of elementary TEAM UP students who attended for at least 60 days out of the school year were promoted to the next grade level.
- In contrast, the elementary schools' baseline was a 90 percent promotion rate, suggesting that students attending TEAM UP succeed despite the odds.

The Children's Commission also funds community-based after-school programs operated by youth-serving agencies. Children from 5 to 18 years old are playing sports, enjoying the arts and getting help with homework at 20 sites around Jacksonville.

- On average, 92 percent of youth attending 60 or more days of after-school programming during the school year were promoted to the next grade.
- On average, 72 percent of the same youth attended school regularly, absent less than 10 days during the school year.

In addition to TEAM UP and community-based after-school programs, the Children's Commission funds summer camps for low-income children throughout Jacksonville.

### Out-of-School Time Programs Funded, Jacksonville Children's Commission, 2009-10

Number of Participants	
After-school	9,557
Summer Camp	5,830

### Child Nutrition Program

The Children's Commission secured funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to feed Jacksonville's youth all year. During 2009-10, the Children's Commission provided 574,811 suppers and 248,061 snacks to children attending after-school programs at 42 sites.

In summer 2010, 254,490 snacks and 285,924 lunches were served at 173 sites. The sites included faith institutions, non-public schools, apartment complexes, early education centers, city parks, and summer camps.

According to the 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 25 percent of Jacksonville middle school students are slightly or very overweight. Children need solid information about food and healthy choices. Last year, the Children's Commission's Child Nutrition Program educated 2,447 students on making healthy food choices and the importance of physical activity. Educators taught at 31 elementary and middle schools.

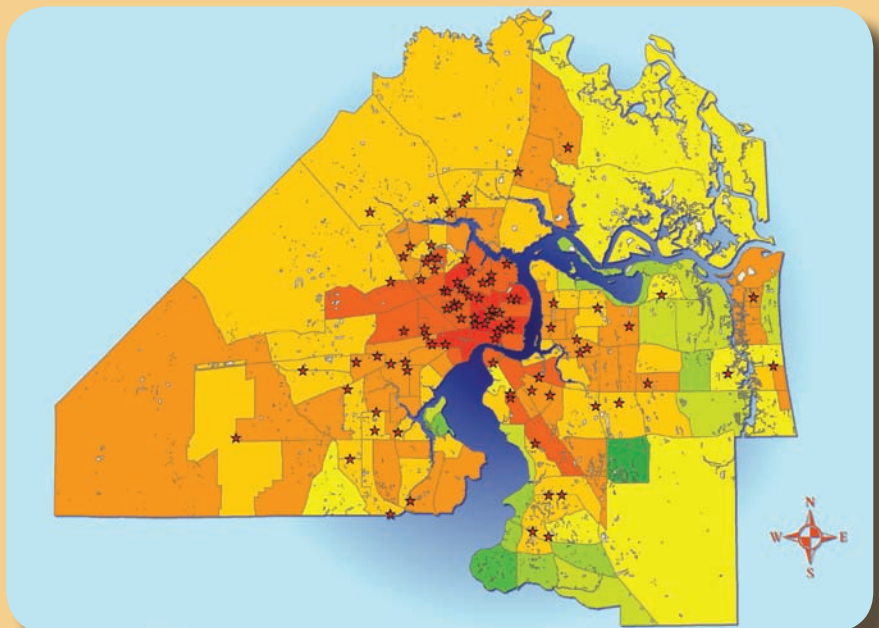
### Summer Camp

Low-income students are less likely to participate in adult-supervised summer activities that give them the opportunities to grow cognitively and socially. Johns Hopkins University researchers have found that "by ninth grade, summer learning loss could be blamed for roughly two-thirds of the achievement gap separating income groups."

In 2009-10, the Children's Commission provided 5,830 youth with six weeks of summer camp. These neighborhood-based camps offer a mix of high-quality activities focused on learning, recreation and culture. In the past two years, the Children's Commission has funded 65 percent more summer camp seats than in 2007-08.

As with after-school programs, summer camps are located in low-income neighborhoods. The map shows Jacksonville's lowest income neighborhoods in red and the highest income areas in green. The stars represent 2009-10 summer camps.

### Location of Summer Camps By Census Tract





# Early Intervention

Support for children and youth does not end with prevention efforts in young children. Early intervention is important, too. Early intervention reaches out to youth at the first signs of social, emotional or mental difficulties. The Jacksonville Children's Commission helps young people change their paths before emotional crises occur, mental illnesses become severe or arrests are made.

The Children's Commission invests in a range of early intervention strategies including teen pregnancy prevention, supporting youth aging out of foster care and engaging families of runaways. Other early intervention strategies include mentoring, supporting homeless children, case management, alternatives to out-of-school suspension and care for disabled children.

All of these contracted early intervention services measure changes in client behavior and client satisfaction. These measures vary and are specific to the service provided.

## Full Service Schools of Jacksonville

One of the most effective early interventions is Full Service Schools of Jacksonville, managed by United Way of Northeast Florida, representing Jacksonville's most comprehensive approach to helping students in public schools. Seven funding partners collaborate to provide free physical and mental health support as well as social services.

Through its partnership with Full Service Schools, the Children's Commission has become Jacksonville's largest funder of free, school-based behavioral and mental health services for children. In 2009-10, the

Children's Commission provided nearly one-third of the total budget for Full Service Schools, which served 1,240 children.

Many children who use the services are experiencing depression or anxiety, and others are exhibiting disruptive behaviors. Outcome evaluations conducted by United Way of Northeast Florida found that the average number of conduct violations decreases by 50 percent after treatment is completed.

## A Range of Early Interventions

The Children's Commission also contracts with local behavioral and mental health agencies for outpatient care and, as a result, in 2009-10, 2,472 children were treated.

The presence of a caring adult in a child's life can make the difference between success and failure. Research shows that youth who are mentored increase attendance at school, delay first use of illegal substances and experience fewer behavioral problems. The Children's Commission funded an array of mentoring programs that reached youth both in and out of schools last year. A total of 1,395 children were mentored in 2009-10 because of Children's Commission funds distributed among five different and innovative mentoring programs.

One of the most successful early intervention strategies in Jacksonville is PACE Center for Girls, another agency funded by the Children's Commission. Funds supported 186 girls attending PACE.





## We Got it Right!

Jacquie is an extremely forgiving, kindhearted young woman who has had to overcome many obstacles to get where she is today. Jacquie was abandoned at only 6 years old and in middle school her grades began to fall and her behavior worsened. After only one year at PACE, her grades and behavior improved and she was ready to return to her old school. Then tragedy struck again. Her brother was shot and killed. All of her old bad habits began to reappear when she could not cope with the loss of her brother. Jacquie knew that returning to PACE would put her back on the right track, so she decided to return for the counseling and one-on-one help. She has been back at PACE for less than a year and her grades have improved again. When asked why she made the decision to return to PACE, Jacquie said, "I really like PACE. It has helped me through some tough times in my life. I do not know where I would be without it."

Perhaps one of the earliest interventions is made through the Alternative to Out-of-School Suspension (ATOSS) program. An out-of-school suspension causes a student who is already showing signs of disengagement from school to spend a day or more out of school. This often increases the student's disengagement and works against efforts to keep the student performing at grade level. Five ATOSS centers are funded through the Children's Commission, and in 2009-10, 5,150 students attended these centers.

Families who experience great difficulties and do not receive adequate support enter crises frequently. These crises occur for numerous reasons, and a common consequence is children running away. In 2009-10, 200 children, including runaways, participated in the Family Connections program, which provides immediate help to families and young people in crisis.

In 2009-10, the Children's Commission served 291 homeless children, with the following services:

- 24 teens aging out of foster care lived independently with assistance;
- 93 teens were monitored by a case manager who met with them at school; and
- 174 stayed at the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. They were screened for developmental delays, provided one-on-one tutoring and referred for further assistance.

The Children's Commission also supports families of children with physical or developmental disabilities. In 2009-10, 369 children with disabilities received high-quality after school care, in addition to other developmental services that specifically met their needs.





# A Knowledge Hub

As a major funder of youth services, the Jacksonville Children's Commission plays a central role in the youth services sector. It also leads the way for professional development and training.

In 2009-10, 5,745 youth workers attended training at the Children's Commission. They learned about advanced youth development, managing asthma, nutrition, early childhood education and various other topics. Each month, 30 different trainings are scheduled at the Children's Commission, and youth workers can choose from them. Adults in the fields of social work, education and youth services earn continuing education units (CEUs) at the Children's Commission as well.

In 2009-10, area professionals earned 2,627 CEUs through the Workforce Development division of the Children's Commission.

Jacksonville's youth services sector recognizes the Children's Commission facility as a welcoming and practical choice for successful meetings. In 2009-10, 6,494 people attended youth-related meetings, trainings and conferences at the facility free-of-charge. This service to the youth services sector is invaluable. In all, 224 community agencies were supported through the space, scheduling and training offered by the Workforce Development division.



## We Got it Right!

In 2009-10, one of the classes offered was on fetal alcohol syndrome disorder. Dr. Anthony Perszyk, assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Florida, College of Medicine, trained youth workers and parents on the condition. As a result, Mrs. Smith, an adoptive mother raising a child from Russia, was able to find help. Mrs. Smith's daughter was exhibiting learning disabilities as well as behavioral and emotional difficulties. Without an accurate diagnosis of her daughter's struggles, she was unable to get appropriate treatment for her. The Children's Commission training on fetal alcohol syndrome opened Mrs. Smith's eyes and she got a personal referral for treatment through Dr. Perszyk. Mrs. Smith recognized the significance of identifying fetal alcohol syndrome disorder and she is now making presentations on the same topic to parent groups.







## New Town Success Zone

The Jacksonville Children's Commission facilitated the birth of New Town Success Zone, a multi-agency approach to children's services delivery. The initiative:

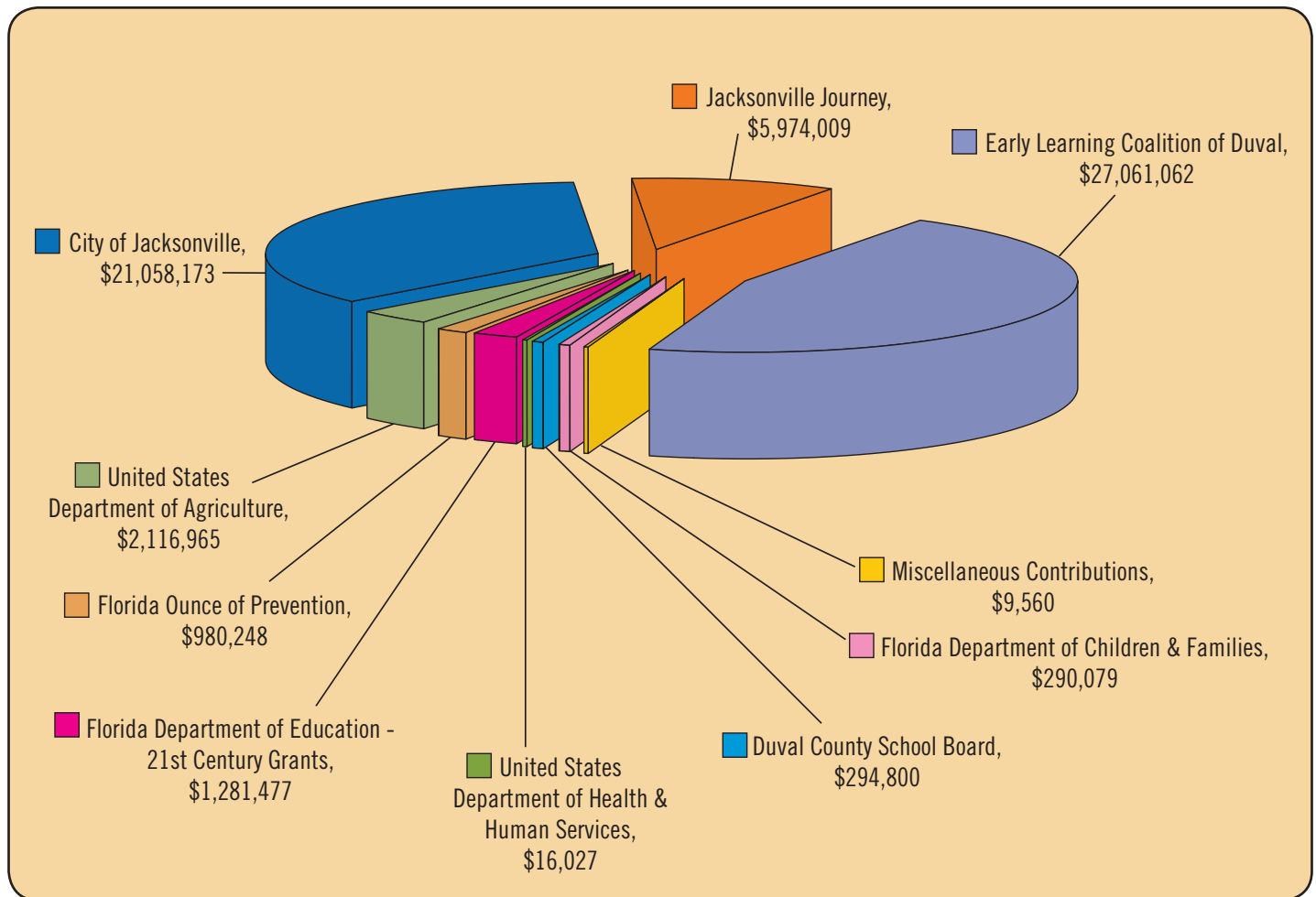
- Brings existing services into the New Town neighborhood that surrounds Edward Waters College;
- Removes economic, cultural and geographic barriers to services;
- Forges partnerships of linked and coordinated services to create a pipeline for children from conception to college; and
- Uses data to rigorously evaluate and improve services.

In 2009-10, a group of 25 residents in New Town, called Health Builders, designed and conducted a front porch survey reaching more than 650 New Town residents. The results are being used to improve health in the neighborhood.

Other achievements in New Town in 2009-10 include a 40 percent reduction in violent crime and a 25 percent reduction in property crime, an education program for new parents, a new Early Head Start center and the opening of Florida's first KIPP School (Knowledge is Power Program) a short distance from New Town.



# Revenue

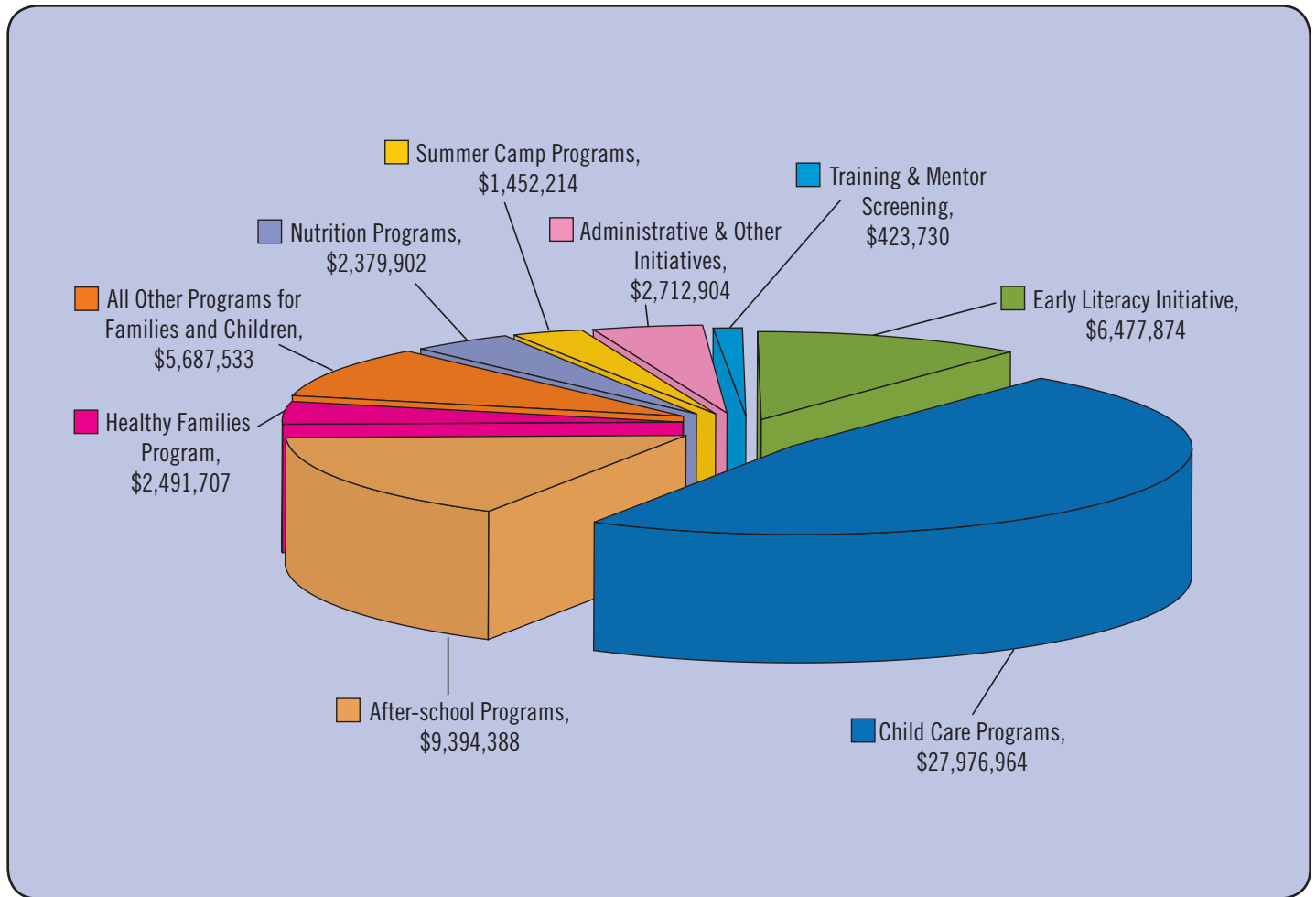


Forty-six percent of the Jacksonville Children's Commission's total revenue, or \$27 million, comes from local sources. The remaining \$32 million are federal and state funds passed through other agencies.





# Expenditures



The estimated administrative cost for distributing funds is 9.9 percent of total local dollars.



# Program Changes

The provider of after-school services at S.A. Hull Elementary School changed from the Boys and Girls Club of Northeast Florida to Communities In Schools in 2009-10. A request for proposals was created and various agencies submitted a competitive grant application. Communities In Schools received the highest score from an objective grant scoring committee.

Lake Shore Middle School also experienced a change in providers in 2009-10. This site was operated by Community Connections and after a competitive bidding process, the management of this site was transferred to Communities In Schools. A request for proposals was created and various agencies submitted a competitive grant application. Communities In Schools received the highest score and was awarded the grant.

Healthy Families Jacksonville received a 29.5 percent cut in its funding due to major cuts in grant dollars at the state-level Healthy Families Florida. Healthy Families Jacksonville went from a goal of serving 827 families to a goal of serving 605 families due to cuts in staff positions.

## Our Partners and Contracted Agencies

The following is a list of the Jacksonville Children's Commission's financial sponsors, partners and contracted agencies:

### Financial Sponsors:

Action News WAWS FOX30/  
WTEV CBS 47  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of  
Florida/Florida BLUE  
The Boeing Company  
CSX Transportation  
Early Learning Coalition of  
Duval  
JM Family Enterprises/Southeast  
Toyota Distributors LLC  
Jacksonville Jaguars Ltd.  
Office Environments and  
Services (OE&S)  
Ramco-Gershenson Properties  
Trust, Inc.  
Women Business Owners of  
Florida

### Partners:

AT&T Real Yellow Pages  
Baptist Health of Northeast  
Florida  
The Black Stallion Literacy  
Foundation  
Blue Bell Creameries

Books-A-Go-Go  
City of Jacksonville  
City of Jacksonville Office of  
Veteran and Disabled Services  
Division  
The Cummer Museum of Art  
and Gardens  
Department of Children and  
Families  
The Don Brewer Early Learning  
Center by Chappell  
Duval County Health  
Department  
Duval County Public Schools  
Early Steps: Florida's Early  
Intervention System  
Edward Waters College  
Family Support Services of  
North Florida  
FDLRS – Child Find  
Firehouse Subs  
Florida Children's Services  
Councils  
Florida Department of Education  
Florida Department of Health  
Florida Division of Forestry

Florida State College at  
Jacksonville  
Florida Institute of Education  
Gander Mountain  
Get Into the Outdoors (GITTO)  
Greenscape of Jacksonville, Inc.  
Health Care Coalition  
Health Planning Council of  
Northeast Florida  
Healthy Families Florida  
Healthy Start Coalition of  
Northeast Florida  
Jacksonville Jaguars ROAR  
Cheerleaders  
Jacksonville Kennel Club  
Jacksonville Kids Coalition  
The Jacksonville Museum of  
Science and History (MOSH)  
Jacksonville Public Education  
Fund  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Jacksonville Public Library  
Foundation  
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office  
Jacksonville University  
Jacksonville Young Democrats  
Jax-4-Kids  
JaxParks  
Junior League of Jacksonville  
Keep Jacksonville Beautiful  
Commission  
Kohl's  
Mentor First Coast of Northeast  
Florida  
Museum of Contemporary Art  
Jacksonville  
NAS Jacksonville Child  
Development Center  
NS Mayport Child Development  
Center  
Nemours BrightStart!  
Nonprofit Center of Northeast  
Florida  
Ounce of Prevention Fund of  
Florida  
Pawsitive Pets  
Radio Disney AM 600  
Reach Out and Read  
Regal Cinemas  
The Ritz Theatre and Museum  
Roy Green  
St. John's Riverkeeper  
Safe Kids of Northeast Florida  
Sam's Club  
Smurfit-Stone Container  
Corporation  
Solantic – Baptist Urgent Care  
Centers  
Starbucks Coffee Company

The Therapy Closet, Inc.  
Trad's Garden Center  
United States Department of  
Agriculture  
United States Department of  
Health and Human Services  
United Way of Northeast Florida  
University of Florida Forestry  
Extension Service  
University of North Florida  
Urban Jacksonville, Inc.  
Vision is Priceless Council  
Volunteer Jacksonville  
WJCT – Ready to Learn  
Whole Foods Market  
Wildlife Rescue Coalition  
Wolfson Children's Hospital Red  
Wagon Parade  
WorkSource

## Contracted Agencies:

AmeriCorps  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of  
Northeast Florida  
Boys and Girls Clubs of  
Northeast Florida  
The Bridge of Northeast Florida  
Chartwells Dining Services  
Child Guidance Center  
Communities in Schools  
Jacksonville  
Community Connections  
daniel  
DLC Nurse and Learn  
Episcopal Children's Services  
G.A. Food Services, Inc.  
Gelaro Trucking Co.  
Hope Haven Children's Clinic  
and Family Center  
Jacksonville Urban League –  
Head Start  
MaliVai Washington Kids  
Foundation  
Mental Health Resource Center  
New Heights of Northeast  
Florida  
Northwest Behavioral Health  
Services  
PACE Center for Girls  
Police Athletic League of  
Jacksonville, Inc.  
Speech and Hearing Center of  
Jacksonville  
Sulzbacher Center for the  
Homeless  
Wayman Community  
Development Corporation  
YMCA of Florida's First Coast  
Youth Crisis Center





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