



Partnership for Strong Families’ Children’s Partnership Councils 2023/24 Summary Report

Overview

Since their beginning in 2013, Partnership for Strong Families’ (PSF) Children’s Partnership Councils (CPCs) have served vulnerable and at-risk children and families in their communities and collaborated with local partners to fill resource service gaps.

In the 2023-24 fiscal year, these five Councils experienced budget cuts due to budget restraints at PSF. Despite this, each Council utilized their \$2,000 budgets to help PSF further our mission, establish new partnerships to benefit children and families in rural areas, and provide additional prevention services to keep children safe in their own homes whenever possible.

This report was put together by Jacob Clore, Community Engagement Specialist for PSF, who led each council and managed each of their budgets. The report highlights each CPC’s priorities, community engagement, and the innovative ways they filled gaps in resources.

Columbia County CPC

How They Spent Their Resources:

Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent*
Kiwanis Club Sponsorship for Fort White Back-to-School Bash	\$250	\$239.08
Individual Assistance Requests	\$1,171.98	\$1,171.98
Diapers and Wipes	\$428.02	\$428.02
Camp Vouchers for Patrons at NorthStar Family Resource Center	\$400	\$400.00
Total	\$2,250	\$2,235.08

The **Columbia Children’s Partnership Council** experienced structural changes during the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, combining the membership of the Council with NorthStar Family Resource Center’s Resource Center Advisory Council. This was implemented to combine the shared knowledge of both groups to represent the missions of both groups, the group name was changed to the **Columbia Family Resource Council**.

In July, Columbia Children’s Partnership Council members hit the ground running by organizing the in-person Fort White Back to School Bash. In addition to materials provided my Council members, the Columbia County School District donated backpacks while Straight from the Heart of North Central Florida donated school supplies. The Kiwanis Club of Lake City also sponsored \$250 to purchase giveaway items like laptop cases to incentivize participants to visit each table. As in years past, this year’s event happened in conjunction with student orientation at Fort White High School and was well attended by both Council members and families.

Council members voted to allocate their funding to vouchers for camp at the Richardson Community Center, diapers and wipes to be distributed by the NorthStar Family Resource Center, and assisting families with individual assistance requests (utility assistance, rent assistance, car seats, pack ‘n’ plays, diapers and wipes,

***All expenditures are accurate as of 6/13/24**

etc.). Individual assistance benefited 6 families with a cumulative total of 10 children. In one of these cases, a father was working towards self-sufficiency and was moving into a new apartment, but needed help with the carryover cost for his electric bill. Council funds helped the father cover those costs.

New Council members include:

- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- The Pentecostals of Lake City
- American Red Cross of North Florida

Baker, Bradford, Union CPC
How They Spent Their Resources:

Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent*
Individual Assistance	\$2,000	\$1,787.79
Total	\$2,000	\$1,787.79

Like their counterparts in Columbia County, the **Baker-Bradford-Union Children’s Partnership Council** started their fiscal year by providing backpacks with supplies to two distribution events in Bradford and Union counties. These backpacks and supplies were provided thanks to funds from the previous fiscal year and contributions by Council members. As Council members identified additional Back-to-School events to benefit families and with the reduction of allocated funds, they decided to no longer purchase school supplies with Council funds.

Council members voted to allocate the entirety of their funding to individual assistance requests, which benefited 10 families with a cumulative total of 29 children. In one of these cases, a mother who was the sole breadwinner of her family was hospitalized for a heart condition and went on medical leave. Assistance from the Council helped her pay for her families utility bill while her husband found work to cover the family’s expenses.

Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy (Tri-County) CPC
How They Spent Their Resources:

Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent*
Community Baby Shower Items	\$500	\$498.52
Items for Treating Lice/Pest Kits	\$500	\$491.44
Summer Camp Vouchers	\$1,000	\$890.00
Total	\$2,000	\$1,879.96

As in previous fiscal years, the **Tri-County Children’s Partnership Council** meetings have taken place concurrently with the Tri-County Community Resource Center’s Resource Sharing meeting. The Council voted in favor of allocating funding to contribute child safety items to the upcoming community baby shower, summer camp vouchers, and items to deal with lice and pests in the home. The latter allocation came about after Jacob shared why children were removed from their homes in 2023, with one of the reasons being listed as environmental hazards. Beverly shared that a significant amount of removals for this reason happen as result of the presence of lice and/or pests in the home. This encouraged Council members to allocate funds for items to help treat and mitigate these issues to be distributed at the Resource Center.

***All expenditures are accurate as of 6/13/24**

New Council members include:

- American Red Cross of North Florida
- CarePortal
- Cedar Key Lion’s Club
- Dixie County Paramedicine Program
- Fiber by Central Florida
- Levy County Emergency Management
- Panhandle Counseling
- Tri-County Pregnancy Center
- UF Health Cancer Center

Madison, Taylor CPC

How They Spent Their Resources:

Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent*
Individual Assistance (Madison County)	\$1,000.00	\$649.98
Individual Assistance (Taylor County)	\$858.96	\$858.96
Car Seats (Taylor County)	\$141.04	\$99.96
Total	\$2,000.00	\$1,608.90

The **Madison and Taylor Children’s Partnership Council** meetings follow a different format from the other Children’s Partnership Councils, with the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison, and Taylor facilitating the meetings.

The Council splits the allocated funding evenly between Madison and Taylor counties. Madison county allocated all their funding to individual assistance requests while Taylor County allocated their funding to individual assistance requests and car seats. The requests benefited 10 families with a cumulative total of 22 children. 3 families received assistance after experiencing the impacts of Hurricane Idalia, which particularly devastated Madison and Taylor counties.

New Council members include:

- Dads Against Prison
- FLDOE Blind Services
- Veteran’s Affairs
- Florida Legal Services
- Self/Pregnancy Care Center

Suwannee, Lafayette, Hamilton CPC

How They Spent Their Resources:

Item	Amount Allocated	Amount Spent*
Individual Assistance (Suwannee)	\$700	\$650.00
Individual Assistance (Hamilton)	\$400	\$335.00
Individual Assistance (Lafayette)	\$400	\$71.99
Safety Items for Child Abuse Prevention Month	\$500	\$479.08

***All expenditures are accurate as of 6/13/24**

Total	\$2,000	\$1,536.03
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The **Suwannee-Lafayette-Hamilton Children’s Partnership Council** allocated their funding to child safety items to be dispersed during Child Abuse Prevention Month and individual assistance requests. The requests benefited 7 families with a cumulative total of 20 children. In one of these cases, Council funds helped a family afford utilities after moving to a new apartment due to Hurricane Idalia damaging their home.

New Council members include:

- Love INC
- American Red Cross of North Florida
- CarePortal

Families Served

Children’s Partnership Council	Baker, Bradford, Union	Columbia	Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy	Madison, Taylor	Suwannee, Lafayette, Hamilton
Individual Assistance					
# of Families	10	5	N/A	9	9
# of Children	29	14	N/A	19	24
Pack ‘n’ Plays	0	0	N/A	1	4
Car Seats	0	2	N/A	1	1

*All expenditures are accurate as of 6/13/24