



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM
Community Services Department / Human Services Division

Date: March 25, 2025
To: The Honorable Board of County Commissioners
Thru: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator
Michael C. Zito, Deputy County Administrator
Cindy Emerson, Community Services Director
From: Megan Kendrick, Human Services Manager
Subject: CSAC- Return on Investment

BACKGROUND:

The Children's Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) is responsible for ensuring that county funds are invested in programs that provide measurable benefits to children and families in Indian River County. Over the past year, CSAC-funded programs reached over **20,000 touchpoints**, supporting critical services such as prenatal care, early childhood education, mental health, mentoring, afterschool and summer learning, and parenting support. To ensure the highest return on investment (ROI), CSAC has strengthened outcome measures, increased accountability with local agencies, and implemented site visits to ensure program activities align to the outcomes stated in the grant application.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

Investing in children and family services has been shown to yield significant financial and societal benefits. Research indicates that investing in children can result in a return on investment ranging from 2.7% to 16%. A high school dropout costs taxpayers over \$292,000 in lost tax revenue, increased social services, and incarceration costs, while investments in early childhood programs for disadvantaged children yield a return between \$4 and \$16 per dollar invested. These findings reinforce the importance of prioritizing early interventions and long-term support systems for children and families.

CSAC's funding priorities—**Health & Well-Being, Nurturing Families & Communities, and Success in School & Life**—align with proven strategies that enhance economic opportunity, health outcomes, and community stability.

FUNDING:

There are no changes to the approved funding for the Children's Services Advisory Committee at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board acknowledge the return on investment for children's programs.

ATTACHMENTS:

Return on Investment Report

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR March 25, 2025