



**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA
AGENDA ITEM**

Department of Community Services / Human Services Division

Date: January 17, 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: Children Services Advisory 2024-2025 Needs Assessment Update

BACKGROUND:

The Children's Services Advisory Committee (CSAC) met on December 10, 2024, and approved the 2024-2025 Needs Assessment Update. This update builds on the 2024-2027 Needs Assessment and highlights the evolving needs of children and families in Indian River County. It includes updated data, analysis, and reaffirmation of funding priorities to ensure continued alignment with the county's strategic goals.

The Needs Assessment Subcommittee collaborated extensively to produce this update, following the timeline below:

- **August 2024:** Staff met with the Needs Assessment Subcommittee Chair to develop a comprehensive timeline for the assessment process.
- **September 2024:**
 - Subcommittee members reviewed their respective sections of the 2023-2024 Needs Assessment and gathered updated data where available.
 - Staff collected and organized the data provided by subcommittee members.
- **September 25, 2024:** The subcommittee convened to review and analyze the collected data, identifying areas requiring additional information.
- **October 23, 2024:**
 - Staff presented the updated Needs Assessment, incorporating new data and narratives.
 - Subcommittee members reviewed the revisions and suggested further updates.
- **November 2024:**
 - **November 8, 2024:** The subcommittee met to review changes and updates, ensuring critical information was accurately reflected.
 - Staff finalized revisions and drafted the 2024-2025 Needs Assessment Update.
- **December 20, 2024:** The subcommittee held a final meeting to review and approve the updated document.

This comprehensive process ensures the update remains a vital resource for identifying and addressing the needs of children and families in Indian River County.

DESCRIPTION AND CONDITIONS:

The 2024-2025 Needs Assessment Update represents a continuation of CSAC's commitment to identifying and addressing the needs of children and families in Indian River County. This process includes:

- **Comprehensive Evaluation:** The Needs Assessment provides an updated evaluation of services, including asset mapping and analysis of unmet and under-met needs.
- **Community Engagement:** Feedback from local stakeholders and community surveys informs the prioritization of services, ensuring the assessment reflects current challenges and opportunities.
- **Data-Driven Approach:** The update integrates quantitative and qualitative data to guide decision-making, focusing on funding priorities that support health, family nurturing, and educational success.

Key highlights of the 2024-2025 update include:

1. **Enhanced Asset Mapping:** Identifying existing programs, service gaps, and geographic areas with unmet needs.
2. **Reaffirmed Funding Priorities:** Emphasizing Health & Well-Being, Nurturing Families & Communities, and Success in School & Life.
3. **Five-Year Strategic Framework:** Aligning assessment findings with long-term planning to address systemic issues effectively.

Through collaboration with the Needs Assessment Subcommittee, these updates provide a robust foundation for future program funding and resource allocation.

A copy of the full report is available for review in the County Commission Office.

FUNDING:

There is no funding required for this item.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend the Board accept the Children's Services Advisory Committee's Needs Assessment 2024/2025 Update, as submitted.

ATTACHMENTS:

Children's Services Advisory Committee Guidebook (Revision 12.10.2024)

APPROVED AGENDA ITEM FOR JANUARY 28, 2025