



2022-2023 Grant Finalist Summary

Center for Child Counseling | Keeping Kids Safe: Preventing and Healing Child Sexual Abuse

The Organization

Since 1999, the Center for Child Counseling has been dedicated to transforming the lives of children and families in Palm Beach County. Their services focus on promoting positive mental health for children, families, and the community. They support thousands of children each year, preventing and healing the effects of adverse childhood experiences and trauma, while promoting resiliency and healthy relationships.

The Program

Child sexual abuse is a leading health concern facing children today. To tackle this crisis, in October of 2022, the agency officially merged with KidSafe - an organization that has over 13 years of expertise in education of sexual abuse. Together, they will provide an age-appropriate curriculum to 12 elementary schools that simplifies the sensitive topic of child sexual abuse and trafficking prevention, with a fun, interactive program that teaches children protective skills from a place of empowerment, not fear. The program will give children concrete tools and skills to stay safe. Children will learn to recognize their feelings, go to their Safe Adults, and speak assertively when they feel uncomfortable. Their training will extend to parents, guardians, and teachers where they will learn how to communicate safety awareness and provide skills to children, building their capacity to spot the signs of sexual abuse, and have open conversations about safety, making adults better vanguards of safety for children. This will be a new innovative, public health approach to fighting child sexual abuse which will mitigate lifelong trauma to reduce cycles of abuse, mental illness, substance abuse, violence, and exploitation. The program will impact over 7,000 children and over 4,000 adults in our community. As a CFCC program, KidSafe will have the infrastructure to expand the program impact through deeper integration into schools and the community.

How will this program impact Palm Beach County?

KidSafe serves children, their parents and teachers, and adult caregivers who live or work with them. In addition to being available for over 7,500 served annually through CFCC's clinical programs, KidSafe will be integrated into CFCC's Childcare and Community Social-Emotional Wellness Program, provided onsite in 30 partner childcare centers and elementary schools. Northern Palm Beach County is home to 14 of our partner sites with enrollment of over 7,000 children. Through our collaborative agreement with the School District of Palm Beach County, the curriculum will be available to EVERY elementary school in Palm Beach County, at no charge. Through use of a new online learning platform, each lesson, by grade, is easily accessible for schools. This includes a simple guide for instruction and animated modules to teach children critical lessons in personal safety. The goal: to get this vital content into EVERY elementary school in Palm Beach County.

Measurable Outcomes

- 85% of teachers will demonstrate increase in understanding of child sexual abuse.
- 85% of teachers will demonstrate increase in age-appropriate safety awareness communication.
- 85% of parents/caregivers will demonstrate increase in understanding of child sexual abuse.
- 85% of parents/caregivers will demonstrate increase in knowledge of how to keep children safe.
- 85% of students will demonstrate increase in knowledge of personal safety.
- 85% of students will demonstrate increase in knowledge of safe online practices.

How will Impact Palm Beaches grant be used?

The grant will be used to pay for a portion of two Multilingual Program Specialists (57,600); additional portions of staff salaries (17,760); program materials (4,640); Multimedia Public Health Campaign (10,000); and indirect administrative costs (10,000).