



2024-2025 Grant finalist Summary

Families First of Palm Beach County – Youth Empowered and Secure-Behavioral Health Services

Impact Focus Area: Health & Wellness

The Organization:

For over 35 years, Families First of Palm Beach County have empowered families with children from prenatal to 22 to thrive. As a leading South Florida social service agency, we serve over 3,200 individuals annually. Our focus on prevention and early intervention aims to ensure healthy birth outcomes, child development, school readiness, reduced mental health symptoms and increased family self-reliance.

The Program:

The Youth Empowerment and Secure program is designed to provide comprehensive prevention and intervention services for at-risk youth interfacing with the juvenile justice system. Recognizing the critical role of mental health in the lives of young people, this program aims to address underlying psychological issues, including the profound impact of trauma on behavior. Trauma can disrupt emotional dysregulation, heightened fear responses, and lead to risky behaviors including delinquency. In doing so, the program aims to build resilience, encourage the development of healthy coping mechanisms, and improve overall mental and emotional well-being. This initiative will help to reduce recidivism rates among youth in the juvenile justice system, improve mental health outcomes and facilitate successful reintegration into their communities. The program will receive referrals from the Division of Juvenile Justice-Department of Safety, schools and community partners and support youth who are either at risk of entering a Juvenile Detention Center or are detained in one of these facilities.

How will this program impact Palm Beach County?

This program addresses mental health needs within the juvenile justice system and is crucial for achieving continuity of care and meeting at-risk youth “where they are at.” By providing mental health support within the detention center setting, these programs can have profound and lasting impacts on the clients served, including reduction in recidivism rates and criminal behaviors, improved mental health, strengthening families, breaking the cycle of trauma and crime and promoting social integration.

Measurable Outcomes:

-80% of youth will receive trauma-informed assessments and ongoing intervention to address needs as evidenced by the assessment and service plan.

-80% of parents will receive education and interventions to increase positive family support and stable family home environment as evidenced by pre-post assessment.

-80% of youth will receive comprehensive, multi-component intensive support and intervention aimed at reducing risk of juvenile involvement or recidivism as evidenced by the service plan and tracking log

How will Impact Palm Beaches grant be used?

\$79,169 new therapist salary and payroll taxes/benefits, \$1,700 laptop, \$4,032 professional fees, \$1,720 telephone costs, \$750 Electronic health records, \$5,000 for therapist travel reimbursement, \$4,000 Training, \$3,529 building rent and \$100 for background screening.