



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF  
Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention  
**Children's Trust Fund of Alabama**



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION  
THE CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Greetings,

We are proud to present our 2024 Annual Report of the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention. This report highlights our revenue sources, expenditures, grantee accomplishments, and our on-going, robust program evaluation. Our agency, commonly known as The Children's Trust Fund, also proudly serves as the state chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America.

Our agency serves to obtain the resources needed to annually fund community-based prevention programs across our great state. During the time reflected in this 2024 report, we were able to fund additional programs, many for the first time, due to increased funding in our appropriation from the Education Trust Fund and the federally funded Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention program. Our grantees all embed the protective factors Strengthening Families™ Protective Factor Framework which has proved a successful model for working with families.

These community-based programs focus on providing resources, training, and support to ensure that children can thrive in safe, stable, and nurturing environments. Our agency's staff provide on-going training

and technical assistance to ensure accountability and transparency. We are very proud to partner with many state entities in delivering services and resources to communities. One of our vital partners is Auburn University's College of Human Sciences - Department of Human Development and Family Science which serves as our program evaluator. AU's team of evaluators measures the progress and success of our grantees and publishes annual evaluation reports that highlight our programs' accomplishments.

This program year highlighted our work and resources in our annual grantee training and collaboration with partner agencies and organizations in furthering the mission of prevention of child abuse and neglect. We are continuing our very important work in messaging and training regarding digital safety and we continue to focus on the experience and advocacy work of our Parent Advisory Council.

Warmest regards,  
Sallye R. Longshore  
Director



# CTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023-2024

## **District 1**

Cathy McGowin

## **District 2**

Kate Vance

## **District 3**

Churmell Mitchell

## **District 4**

Judy Miller

## **District 5**

Melanie Little

## **District 6**

Senator Dan Roberts

## **District 7**

Dr. Charles Nash

## **At-Large Members**

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Priscilla Cleveland

## **AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES**

### ***Department of Public Health***

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Jamey Durham

### ***Department of Human Resources***

Commissioner Nancy Buckner

Stan Landers

### ***Department of Mental Health***

Commissioner Kimberly Boswell

Beverly Johnson

### ***Department of Public Safety***

Colonel Jon Archer, *Director*

### ***Department of Education***

Dr. Eric Mackey

Dr. Autumm Jeter

## OUR MISSION

The Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention secures resources to fund evidence-based community programs committed to the prevention of child maltreatment. We advocate for children and the strengthening of families.





# PREVENTION PROGRAMS

## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

From October 2023 to September 2024, the Department worked with an independent research team in Auburn University's Human Development and Family Studies Department to conduct a systematic evaluation of its funded programs; to document the magnitude of the outreach and effects of the funded programs statewide for youth and parents served. Below is a brief compilation of the data:

### ADULT FOCUSED PROGRAMS

**PROGRAM TYPES:** • Parent Education • Home Visiting • Respite Care • Fatherhood • Public Awareness and Training

#### Impact on Adult Participants

7,474 adults received direct services

306,925 parents and professionals impacted through community awareness activities

### PARENT EDUCATION & HOME VISITING | 76 PROGRAMS

After program completion, 5,217 participants selected from a list of 12 possible benefits received from the program.

#### Results indicate:

- 95% had better stress management skills.
- 93% had better anger management skills.
- 97% were better able to recognize and stop themselves if at risk of harming their child.
- 93% had more knowledge about what child sexual abuse is.
- 95% had more knowledge about what child physical abuse is.
- 96% had more knowledge about what child emotional abuse is.
- 97% were more committed to getting their child appropriate medical care when needed.
- 98% had better parenting skills.
- 98% used more positive parenting skills that teach and guide their children in a loving way rather than harshly.
- 94% knew more about how to get help in their community.
- 90% used community resources available more consistently.
- 91% sought support from friends, family, or others more often.

### RESPITE CARE | 8 PROGRAMS

After program completion, 632 participants selected from a list of 8 possible benefits received from the program.

#### Results indicate:

- 96% had better stress management.
- 96% were better able to control important things in my life.
- 97% were better able to cope effectively.
- 96% were better able to overcome difficulties.
- 98% were better able to view their child in a positive light.
- 95% knew more about how to get help in their community.
- 91% used community resources available more consistently.
- 93% sought support from friends, family, or others more often.

### FATHERHOOD | 24 PROGRAMS

After program completion, 1,625 participants selected from a list of 29 possible benefits received from the program. The benefits were grouped into 9 categories.

#### Results indicate:

- 88% had improvement in workforce development.
- 80% had financial improvement.
- 93% had greater access to community resources.
- 76% improved basic needs.
- 96% had better adult relationships.
- 93% had improved parenting skills.
- 82% had improved child functioning.
- 96% had better coping skills.
- 77% had improved cooperation with the court system.

### YOUTH FOCUSED PROGRAMS

**PROGRAM TYPES:** School-Based • Non School-Based/After-School • Mentoring • Public Awareness and Training

#### Impact on Youth Participants

8,589 youth received direct services

109,850 youth impacted through community awareness activities

### 3RD-5TH GRADE YOUTH PROGRAMS

An assessment of 6 targeted outcomes with 3,188 3rd-5th grade participants revealed statistically significant improvement in average scores for:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Social Skill Development | • Abuse Awareness                       |
| • Self-Confidence          | • Emotion Identification and Regulation |
| • Enhanced Assertiveness   | • Cooperative Behavior                  |

### 6TH-12TH GRADE YOUTH PROGRAMS

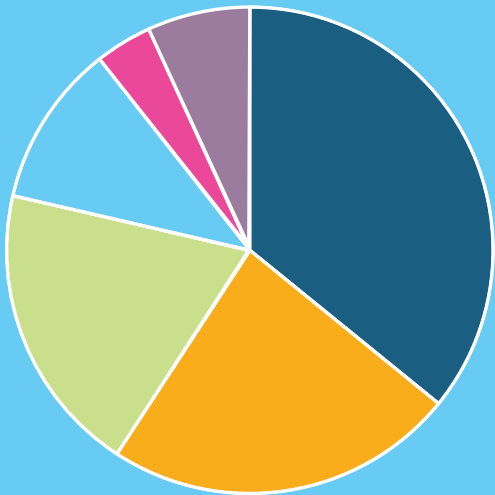
An assessment of 7 targeted outcomes with 5,364 6th-12th grade participants revealed statistically significant improvement in average scores for:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| • Emotion Knowledge of Self                       | • Emotion Knowledge of Others       |
| • Self-Confidence                                 | • Social Competence                 |
| • Commitment to Avoid Risky & Delinquent Behavior |                                     |
| • Cooperative Behavior                            | • Abuse Awareness & Resourcefulness |

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

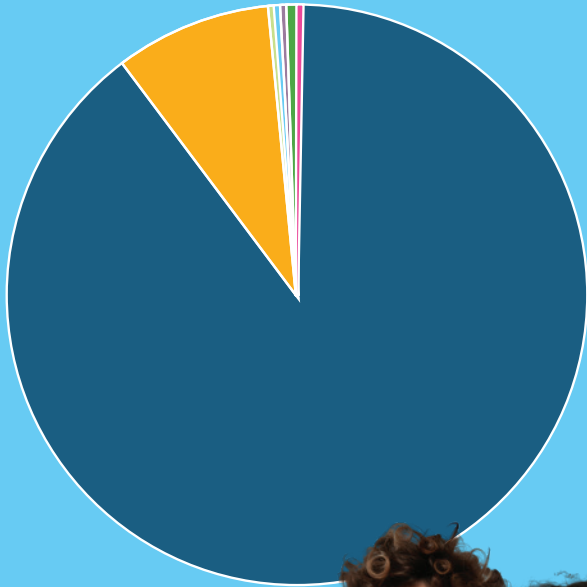
## REVENUE

Revenue	Amount
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Fund*	\$9,283,073
DHR ELP	\$6,044,159
DHR TANF	\$5,023,587
Children First Trust Fund	\$2,794,650
Community Based Child Abuse Prevention	\$978,007
Community Based Child Abuse Prevention ARPA	\$1,765,935
<b>Total Source of Funds 2024</b>	<b>\$25,889,411</b>
<i>*Primarily Education Trust Fund and General Fund Appropriations</i>	



## EXPENDITURES

Expenditure	Amount
Grants	\$23,387,298
Personnel Costs	\$2,064,899
Travel	\$82,191
Supplies, Materials and Operating Expenses	\$76,896
Rentals and Leases	\$88,612
Professional Fees and Services	\$157,353
Utilities and Communication	\$32,162
<b>TOTAL Expenditures</b>	<b>\$25,889,411</b>



# INITIATIVES

## **FATHERHOOD - THE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES THROUGH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Fatherhood Program funded by the Department of Human Resources continues to utilize the evidence-based curriculum, 24/7 DADS, to address the following components:

- Parent education and support services related to strengthening the parent-child relationship.
- Adult Education/ GED and High School Diploma Option (HSDO).
- Ready-to-Work and Workplace Essential Skills training.
- Credentialing and degree attainment opportunities through ACCS.
- Pre-apprenticeship/apprenticeship and credentialing programs.
- Re-entry services for transition back into the community partnership with Alabama Department of Pardons and Parole.
- Child Support advocacy and support services.
- Earn-while you learn stipend program for TANF eligible participants provided.

In August of 2024, Jori Jordan presented the Strengthening Families Through Workforce Program with an emphasis on Family Centered-Coaching at the National Fatherhood Summit.

### **Key Data points:**

- Fatherhood programs served parents in 50 counties across the state of Alabama
- 251 re-entry participants were served
- 1,539 participants enrolled in a new educational or skills training
- 464 participants received a vocational training certificate
- 443 participants acquired new employment during the program

## **EXPANDED LEARNING POSSIBILITIES**

The Expanding Learning Possibilities (ELP) collaborative initiative began in 2022, through a partnership between three regional Communities of Practices (HUBs), Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention/ Children's Trust Fund, and the Alabama Department of Human Resources, and it continues to transform and shift the educational paradigm today.

ELP is embedded in Communities of Practice (HUB's) to cohesively coordinate and leverage all available resources, organizations, entities, initiatives, and programs for the good of children, families, and their local communities. Each HUB uniquely reflects its regional area, as they represent the demographics of the local population to truly address the encompassing needs and mitigate barriers for both children and families, which deter their progress.

The three Communities of Practice (HUB's) – Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (SAFE), Dallas County System of Services/Arsenal Place, Tuscaloosa's One Place – provide tremendous oversight to the multiple Afterschool/ Summer school Programs. Their reach extends far beyond to provide some of the following and much more. ELP's successes are possible based on the holistic, comprehensive portfolio of services provided to their local areas. All of which leads to stronger individuals, families, and communities.

- Educational and Training Components (Children, Youth, and Adults)
- Preemptive / Preventive Services
- Reformative / Restorative Counter Measures
- Integrated Whole Family Support Components
- Community Partnerships & Alliances leading to local Innovation and Change
- Workforce Readiness and Life Preparedness

Each HUB partners with the Alabama Virtual Institute (AVI) and the Talladega County School System (Team TALL) to provide direct virtual STEM instructional lessons and



experiential activities that are facilitated in tandem with the individual Programmatic Sites. During program year 2023-2024, the sites have grown to over 45 schools serving more than 5,000 students with their after-school and summer programs.

### **PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The 2023-2024 program year was our third active year working with our Alabama Parent Advisory Council (PAC), which is a 10-member council made up of parents who serve as strategic partners to our agency and guide our prevention efforts. This group of 10 parents not only represents diverse locations throughout our state, but they also represent different genders, races, and ethnicities including 2 father voices, two bilingual mothers, a mother of a child with a disability, and a mother who grew up in foster care. At the start of our program year, we had 8 of the PAC members attend our annual Grantee Training in October 2023 to participate in educational sessions and network with prevention programs in their district as well as across the state. The PAC had a breakout session on parent engagement as well as an exhibit booth for grantees to stop by and learn more about each of them and the role of the PAC. In January, the PAC attended check presentations for their district and had the opportunity to talk with legislators. The PAC participated in a training with the Alabama Parent Leadership Network to enhance their leadership skills and better serve their communities. In February 2024, the PAC assisted Alabama in celebrating and promoting National Parent Leadership Month, receiving a total of 22 local mayoral proclamations to recognize the 20th anniversary of the month. They also utilized social media and awarded parent certificates in their community. During Child Abuse Prevention Month, the parents participated in local events and activities with grantees as well as joined us in Montgomery for our agency's annual

observance and pinwheel garden. Additionally, the parents reviewed and scored our annual grant applications as a part of the local reviewer portion of our three-tier grant review process to ensure direct parent input on the funding of our community-based prevention programs.

### **CBCAP**

After submitting Alabama's annual CBCAP Application to the Children's Bureau, we received our CBCAP grant award for a total of \$978,007 in September. This was our largest grant award amount to date with an increase of \$77,491 from the previous year. This CBCAP award as well as CBCAP supplemental funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act enabled us to support 22 programs in the 2023-2024 program year. On June 26-27th, the Children's Bureau hosted the CBCAP Annual Meeting virtually for all state lead agencies, in which Bailey Waller was asked to present a breakout session on Alabama's work with incarcerated mothers. This included sharing about the programs and services of three of our CBCAP grantees: Aid to Inmate Mothers, Alabama Prison Birth Project, and the Lovelady Center.

### **DIGITAL SAFETY; BE SMART, DON'T START**

In partnership with Fowler Davis 4 Change (FD4C), ADCANP/CTF launched two statewide prevention initiatives targeting topics that are dramatically impacting Alabama's youth. All ADCANP/CTF grantees received training to utilize and share offered by both initiatives.

The Digital Safety Education Initiative, provides youth, parents, and educators with the knowledge they need to stay safe in the digital world. The initiative offers videos, guides, and resources that help children and families recognize dangers online and what to do when they encounter those. CTF and FD4C conducted in person training sessions across the state educating over 275 people on the importance of Digital Safety with Alabama's Youth and Teens. In conjunction with the in person training, a targeted online campaign launched reaching over 3,538,900 impressions across five major online networks. <https://ctf.alabama.gov/signature-work/digital-safety/>

The BE SMART DON'T START Opioid Prevention Initiative brings awareness to the opioid crisis that is affecting youth and families today. This initiative shares current statistics on how opioids are impacting the lives of youth and how parents and adults can best help support youth. In addition to guides and educational materials for youth and families it includes videos, billboards, and social media messages that all raise the awareness of this issue. Over 63,000,000 impressions occurred through these statewide media messages. <https://besmartdontstart.com/>





# ACTIVITIES

## CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

The Children's Trust Fund kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a Pinwheel Planting and Wear Blue Day April 5, 2024 in downtown Montgomery! Grantees from all around the state brought awareness to CAP month by hosting events and educating their local communities. The theme of this year's awareness and impact campaign, led by Prevent Child Abuse America and its national network of state chapters, was "Building A Hopeful Future, Together."

## GRANTEE TRAINING

On October 10-11, the Children's Trust Fund marked a major milestone by combining its 40th Anniversary Celebration with the 2023-2024 Annual Grantee Training at the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. The event brought together over 300 CTF grantees for two days of education, inspiration, and collaboration under the theme: "Power in Partnership: Prevention with a Purpose."

The training opened with a powerful keynote from Alex Sheen, founder of the social movement and nonprofit Because I Said I Would, who inspired attendees with his message of accountability and commitment.

A special anniversary luncheon honored the agency's 40 years of service, featuring reflections and encouragement from former CTF Directors. The afternoon keynote address by Dr. Melissa Merrick, President and CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, set the tone for the celebration with a compelling message about the importance of prevention work across the country.

The momentum continued with a general session led by Dr. Wendy Ellis, Assistant Professor in Global Health and Director of the Center for Community Resilience at George Washington University, who offered insights into building resilient communities through trauma-informed approaches.

Throughout the event, grantees engaged in targeted breakout sessions covering a wide array of topics critical to strengthening prevention efforts, including: The impacts of social media and youth mental health, The Handle with Care Initiative, domestic violence and its effects, parent engagement, human trafficking, and many other relevant and timely issues.

The two-day gathering offered not only valuable professional development but also a chance for community-based programs to network, share successes, and renew their commitment to preventing child abuse and neglect across Alabama.







## CHECK PRESENTATIONS

The Children's Trust Fund hosted three check presentation events for congressional Districts 1–7. The first presentation took place in Mobile at Government Plaza for District One. The second was held in Tuscaloosa, bringing together grantees from Districts 6 and 7. The final event combined Districts 2, 3, 4, and 5 at the Alabama State House. These gatherings provided a meaningful opportunity for grantees to come together and celebrate the impactful work supported by the Children's Trust Fund.

## PREVENT CHILD ABUSE ALABAMA

Prevention thrives in collaborations. Established in 2024, Prevent Child Abuse Alabama is committed to preventing child abuse and neglect through corporate and private partnerships. The work of PCA Alabama supports the current initiatives of ADCANP and helps to fund new ones. During Grantee Training, PCA AL recognized three Champions of Prevention:

- Christy McDaniel -Parent Advisory Council Member.
- United Methodist Inner City Mission, Taylor Park After School and Summer Enrichment Program
- The Gulf Coast Family Center, Program Name- Strengthening Families Fatherhood Program

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION SUMMARY – CTF

CTF actively participated in a wide range of local, state, and national conferences to promote prevention, early intervention, and family support.

A key highlight was the Children's Trust Fund Alliance Annual Meeting, held in Seattle, WA (November 12–15, 2023). Centered on the theme "Celebrating the Stories That Strengthen Us," this national gathering emphasized the power





of storytelling, community-based strategies, economic supports for families, and the vital role of parent partnerships. CTF staff engaged with national leaders and peer organizations to exchange innovative, evidence-based approaches to strengthening families through collaboration and community engagement.

CTF leadership presented across the state on the department's core initiatives, offering insights and training to professionals in various sectors. Presentation topics included Safety Net prevention strategies, child abuse prevention efforts, the impact of the Fatherhood Initiative, Mandatory Reporting responsibilities, and the implementation of the Digital Safety Education Initiative. Presentation engagements included the MEGA Conference, Child Support Conference, Doing What Matters Conference, and others—reaching diverse audiences across child welfare, education, and social services.

In addition to speaking engagements, CTF attended and exhibited at several conferences including the Human Trafficking Summit, Early Intervention Conference, National Home Visiting Summit, Alabama Pediatric Conference, Alabama Social Work Association Conference, DHR Supervisors Conferences, Big Oak Ranch "Planting Oaks" Conference, and the Governor's Disability Policy Summit. These opportunities allowed CTF to share resources and connect with professionals committed to strengthening families and preventing child maltreatment across Alabama.





# ORGANIZATIONS FUNDED IN 2023-2024

## DISTRICT 1

Alta Pointe Health Systems, Inc.  
Baldwin County Child Advocacy Center  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Alabama, Inc.  
Coastal Family Partners  
Crittenton Youth Services  
Goodwill Gulf Coast  
Gulf Regional Early Childhood Services  
The Family Center  
United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile, Inc.  
United Methodist Children's Home  
United Methodist Inner City Mission  
Mobile County Health Department

## DISTRICT 2

Aid to Inmate Mothers  
Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers  
Alabama Parent Education Center  
Alabama Partnership for Children  
Alfred Saliba Family Services Center  
CASA of the River Region  
Charles Henderson Memorial Association DBA Charles Henderson  
Child Health Center  
Common Ground Troy  
Elmore County Family Resource Center  
Exchange Center for Child Abuse Prevention  
Family Guidance Center of Alabama  
Family Services Center of Coffee County  
Family Support Center  
Gift of Life Foundation  
Mary Hill Family Service Center  
Montgomery Area Nontraditional Equestrians  
Organized Community Action Program, Inc.  
Pike Regional Child Advocacy Center  
Southeast Alabama Child Advocacy Center  
That's My Child  
TIME Youth Dothan, Inc.  
Troy Resilience Project  
United Methodist Children's Home  
Wiregrass Hope Group

## DISTRICT 3

Auburn University  
Chambers County Council for Neglected and Dependent Children and  
Youth, Inc.  
Child Care Resource Center Inc./Employers' Child Care Alliance  
Coosa Valley Youth Services  
East Alabama Mental Health  
Evelyn Moon Crisis Shelter  
Family Services Center of Calhoun County, Inc.  
Lee County Youth Development Center  
Ostara Initiative  
Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement, Inc.  
Teens Empowerment Awareness with Resolutions, Inc. (TEARS, Inc.)  
The Children's Advocacy Center of Cherokee County

## DISTRICT 4

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals, Inc.  
Child Advocacy Center of Marshall County  
Community Action Agency of Northeast Alabama  
Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama  
Etowah County Commission  
Family Services of North Alabama  
Family Success Center of Etowah County, Inc.  
Gadsden City Schools  
Gadsden State Community College

Hospice of Marshall County- Shepherd's Cove  
James M. Barrie Center for Children, Inc.  
Jasper Area Family Services Center, Inc.  
Sheffield City School  
The Link of Cullman County, Inc.  
United Cerebral Palsy of Northwest Alabama  
United Way's Success By 6

## DISTRICT 5

Athens Limestone Children's Advocacy Center  
Attention Homes of Northwest Alabama, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Tennessee Valley  
Community Action Agency of Northwest Alabama  
Decatur Youth Services  
Morgan County System of Services, Inc.  
Mosaic Mentoring of North Alabama, Inc.  
National Children's Advocacy Center  
Parents And Children Together  
United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, Inc.

## DISTRICT 6

Alabama Hands & Voices  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Birmingham  
BridgeWays  
Bundles of Hope Diaper Bank  
CASA of Jefferson County  
Children's Aid Society  
Community Care Development Network  
Disability Rights & Resources  
Exchange Club Child Abuse Prevention Center  
Family Guidance Center of Alabama  
Foster Coalition  
Fowler Davis 4 Change  
Friends of the Court/CASA of Shelby County  
Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama  
Glenwood, Inc.  
IMPACT Family Counseling  
Kid One Transport, Inc.  
PreSchool Partners  
Shelby County Children's Advocacy Center, Inc.  
The Arc of Shelby County, Inc.  
The Bell Center for Early Intervention Programs  
The Freedom Source, Inc. (The Addiction Prevention Coalition)  
The Safe Harbor  
The Woolley Institute for Spoken-Language Education- (WISE)  
Vineyard Family Services of Central Alabama, Inc.

## DISTRICT 7

BAMA Kids, Inc.  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of West Alabama  
Central Alabama Regional Child Advocacy Center  
Child Abuse Prevention Services of Tuscaloosa  
Community Care Development Network  
Dallas County Family Resource Center  
Dallas County System of Services, Inc.  
Freedom Rain, Inc. DBA Lovelady Center  
Pathways  
Pickens County Family Resource Center  
Sowing Seeds of Hope  
The University of Alabama-Child Development Resources  
Tuscaloosa City Schools  
Tuscaloosa Family Resource Center, dba. Tuscaloosa's  
One Place  
UCPWA of West Alabama  
United Ability, Inc.  
University of Alabama Autism Clinic



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