



WHY THE CHILDREN'S BOARD OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY?

In October 1988, the citizens of Hillsborough County voted to dedicate a new property tax to serve the specific needs of children. This mandate led to the creation of the Children's Board, an independent special district organized under Florida Statute 125.901.

Today, the vision of the Children's Board is that Hillsborough County will be recognized as one of the top places in the nation to raise children. Our mission is to promote the well-being of children and families by uniting community partners, investing in innovative opportunities, and leading the county in best practices—so the whole community can realize its full potential.

Services and supports funded by the Children's Board constitute the building blocks for healthy futures for ALL children and families. This investment is unequalled in its return.

DOES THE CHILDREN'S BOARD PROVIDE A RETURN ON INVESTMENT?

The Children's Board costs the average homeowner only \$62.50 a year-- \$5.20 per month-- less than the cost of one fast food meal.

Over the past five years the Children's Board has generated \$139,848,167 in new dollars used to serve Hillsborough County children--a return on investment of \$4.39 for every \$1 invested.

The Children's Board brings new dollars into the community from Federal, State, corporate and private philanthropic funders.

- In 2009, more than \$600,000 in new revenue was earned from the federal Medicaid program and reinvested in local case management services.
- In 2009, the Children's Board earned more than \$220,000 in new revenue for children's services through the federal Adoption Assistance program.
- 8,400 children receive a higher quality of child care because the Children's Board provides matching funds to the Hillsborough County Early Learning Coalition for quality incentives.
- Through our Technical Assistance fund, the Children's Board builds capacity in grassroots and faith-based organizations. Over three years, grants were made to over 200 small businesses.

- Through our Social Enterprise initiative, the Children's Board helps organizations to identify, develop and implement earned income strategies so that their funding base is more diversified and sustainable. Three examples: DACCO increased client fees and its new food service business nets about \$33,000 annually. The Crisis Center has increased earned income from zero to nearly 30% of its budget including the ambulance and nurse examiners program. Success 4 Kids & Families has grown their speaking and consulting business from zero to approximately \$100,000 a year.

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S BOARD SAVE TAXPAYERS MONEY?

The Children's Board invests in prevention and saves State dollars by reducing need for costly programs like foster care or juvenile detention.

- The Children's Board invests in family and kinship support services for more than 7,000 children and their families to prevent child abuse and to divert children away from the formal child welfare system--saving the state approximately \$52 million in just one year! Source: Hillsborough Kids, Inc., the county's community based child welfare agency
- The Children's Board provides funding to the 13th Judicial Court for innovative services that keep kids out of the juvenile justice system.
- Through our maternal and child health services network, young mothers who are at high risk for health complications receive support and education to reduce repeat pregnancies.
- The Heart Gallery, a partnership with our community based child welfare agency, Hillsborough Kids, Inc., is a traveling photography exhibit that recruits potential adoptive families for foster children. Over the past five years, families were found for forty percent of participating children. Partnering with local media and the business community, the Gallery generates resources and birthday gifts for children and was the first to feature audio messages along with the professional photos. Many of our innovations are being replicated.

HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S BOARD HELP KIDS BE PREPARED FOR SCHOOL?

The Children's Board invests in making sure that Hillsborough County children are able to enter school with the skills and good health they need to be successful.

- The Children's Board is a partner with the Dolly Parton Foundation, the United Way, the Tampa Hillsborough Public Library and others to encourage reading by providing a book a month to every baby born until their fifth birthday. Last year, the Imagination Library distributed 124,112 books to families.

- More than 1,100 children and their families are served through Family and School Support Teams (FASST) available to students in elementary schools throughout Hillsborough County.

WHAT ARE WAYS THE CHILDREN'S BOARD INVESTS IN FAMILIES?

The Children's Board invests in families and communities.

- The Children's Board served as a tax preparation site for the Hillsborough Prosperity Campaign, and CBHC staff volunteered more than 200 hours to assist in the completion of 474 income tax returns for a total of \$599,530 in federal taxes returned to Hillsborough County taxpayers. Of these, 135 families qualified for Earned Income Tax Credit (\$207,214 returned) and 78 families qualified for the Child Tax Credit (\$92,431 returned to taxpayers). In total, the Prosperity Campaign returned more than \$7 million to Hillsborough County citizens, including \$2.7 million in Earned Income Tax Credit and \$979,040 in Child Tax Credits.
- Family Support and Resource Centers in Brandon, Town 'N Country, Ruskin, North Tampa, Central Tampa and Plant City provided services to more than 18,251 individuals. Community volunteers contributed more than 3,803 hours at the Family Support and Resource Centers.
- The Children's Board invests nearly \$1.5 million and leverages an additional \$1.7 million from other local, state and federal funders through an innovative flexible funding pool called the ASO. Last year, more than 4,700 children and more than 19,000 household members received support for basic needs such as housing, food, clothing, and transportation that allowed families to become more self-sufficient.

HOW IS THE CHILDREN'S BOARD A COMMUNITY ASSET?

The Children's Board office building is a neighborhood and community asset.

- In 2000, the Children's Board determined that its office building, purchased in 1993, was in need of substantial repairs and that the existing space was insufficient to meet community and organizational demands. The Board engaged in a two year planning and community engagement process before settling on the purchase of land and construction of a new office building on Palm Avenue in downtown Tampa in late 2002. The Children's Board analyzed the costs and benefits of renting vs. purchasing as part of our due diligence responsibilities. Renting space was more costly to taxpayers within five years.
- The Children's Board office building is a neighborhood-based learning and conference center for parents, child care providers, youth, educators, elected officials and community members. The Children's Board features free meeting space, free parking, easy access to public transportation and a

central location close to major transportation routes. The facility supports approximately 38,000 visitors annually. The Children's Board also provides a cost sharing tenant partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Hillsborough County.

- The Children's Board is home to the Central Tampa Family Support and Resource Center, which serves the local neighborhood, and to a library that is affiliated with the Tampa Hillsborough County Public Library system. The Library and Family Support and Resource Center provide educational opportunities and family activities, all guided by a neighborhood advisory council. Car seat safety, first aid, job skills, tutoring and computer skills are just a few of the educational classes offered. Other activities hosted and supported by the FSRC include the Prosperity Campaign, Toys 4 Tots and the Imagination library.
- The KidzCreate Art Gallery on the first floor of the Children's Board showcases children's art and raises awareness about critical issues. The Gallery works with local artists to develop themed art installations. Exhibits also travel to key county buildings, businesses, libraries and other venues and are viewed by approximately 2 million citizens annually. The Gallery develops partnerships with local businesses to provide art supplies and art therapy experiences for young people.

HOW IS THE CHILDREN'S BOARD ACCOUNTABLE?

- The Children's Board and other Children's Services Councils (CSCs) in Florida are accountable to the citizens of their county, to their governing boards, to their county commissions and to the Florida Legislature. At any time, a county commission or the Legislature can ask voters to decide if they want to keep their local CSC. This provides local elected leaders, state lawmakers and voters the highest level of control and authority over Children's Services Councils. No other government entity has this many layers of accountability and oversight.
- Fiscal accountability and oversight are governed by existing law and are nearly identical to the statutory requirements county governments must follow. All independent CSCs must comply with Chapter 218, F.S., dealing with local government fiscal matters.
- Existing law also governs budget procedures and schedule, setting of millage rates, tax caps, public notices (TRIM notices) and public hearings, tax limitations, and qualified bank depositories for cash.
- Children's Services Councils submit quarterly financial reports and independent annual audits to the County Board of County Commissioners. In addition, audits of financial records go to the Florida Department of Management Services each year. The Children's Board annual audit is posted on our website, along with up to date financial information.

- Everything Children's Services Councils do is in the sunshine – all of the Children's Board records and meetings are open to the public, including budgets, financial reports and program information.

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