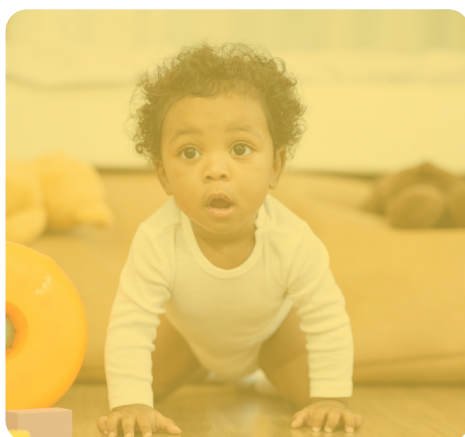


**New Strategy.
Same Promise.**



**Annual
Report
2025**

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Intro Letter



Dear Friends,

Every child deserves a safe, supported and thriving childhood.

Thanks to your support this year, we've advanced our vision of a Massachusetts where all families and children can thrive. Together, we've launched initiatives that are strengthening families today and reshaping the systems that will support them for years to come.

In April, during Child Abuse Prevention month, we learned that the number of confirmed child abuse and neglect cases went down by 7.5% from the previous year. With were still enough confirmed cases to fill TD Garden. There is still so much work ahead of us, but we are ready to meet the challenge.

Despite our resolve, we know it's not a challenge we can meet alone—it is only in collaborating across the Commonwealth that we can truly create the communities we all deserve. This year, we worked to bring together partners across sectors to align home visiting programs, prevent child sexual abuse, enhance family support center models, and create alternative avenues of family support to prevent the need for child protective services involvement.

Looking forward, cuts to food benefits, health care access, educational security and personal safety make our work even more urgent. Family support workers tell us they've never seen such levels of economic stress and mental health impacts on the families they serve. It isn't enough to keep moving forward—we must continue to accelerate our progress for kids today and generations to come.

From bold new initiatives to the quieter conversations on which progress is built, we remain committed to showing up for children, families and the family-serving workforce every day. With your support, we are ready to shape the future with focus, creativity and determination.

Thank you for showing up for us and with us; your trust and commitment carry us forward. Together, we will continue strengthening the systems that build strong families, support dedicated professionals, and ensure the work we do today leads to lasting impact tomorrow.

Sincere thanks,

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Jennifer Valenzuela".

Jennifer Valenzuela
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Kate Haranis".

Kate Haranis
Chair, Board of Directors
Founder, Haranis & Company

Who We Are

The Children's Trust is preventing child abuse and neglect by addressing its root causes and strengthening the systems that support families. As a public-private organization, it leverages its unique position to elevate insights from its programs and partners to policymakers so that policy is data-informed and grounded in the real experiences of families. The Children's Trust works across sectors and communities to align efforts, share learnings and resources, advance the field of family support, and spark the bold ideas and big actions needed to redefine how Massachusetts supports families.



Our Strategy

Redefining How Massachusetts Supports Families

Strategic Plan 2025-2029

At the Children's Trust, we believe that all children deserve to grow up in safe, loving homes supported by communities that help families thrive. For decades, we've worked toward this vision through our many programs and partnerships. Today, we are building on that foundation with a bold new strategic direction focused on system-level change.

Preventing child abuse and neglect is complex and can't be solved by one program or organization alone. Meaningful change requires addressing the root causes of child abuse and neglect and strengthening the systems that serve families across Massachusetts.

System-Level Change

We know that families don't live in isolation. They live in communities shaped by policy, people, and access to support. That's why we're focused on transforming the foundational pillars of family wellbeing with:



Strong Programs



Strong Workforce



Strong Policies



Strong Communities

When these systems work together in ways that center families and address root causes of child abuse and neglect, such as mental health challenges and economic insecurity, families get the support they need before reaching the point of crisis.



How We'll Get There: Five Interconnected Priorities

To drive meaningful, long-term impact, we are focused on five interconnected priority areas. These priorities are rooted in data and informed by real-world insights from families, the family support workforce, and our community partners.

1. Connect family support networks to promote efficiency and provide opportunities for learning and advancing together

Prevention is not the responsibility of any single organization. It requires a coordinated, collective response across systems and communities. When parents have access to stable housing, mental health care, childcare, and other supports, the risk of child abuse and neglect drops significantly, and family wellbeing improves. We are working collaboratively across systems and program areas to coordinate efforts, improve efficiencies, increase learning opportunities, and provide stronger, more accessible supports that help parents build stable, healthy environments for their children. One example is our work with home visiting providers across Massachusetts to create a more seamless and supportive experience for families. These collaborations ensure we're learning together, advancing together, and strengthening the entire family support system.



2. Prevent child sexual abuse through education, policy, and community-based approaches



Too often, the conversation about child sexual abuse begins after abuse has occurred, but we can invest time and resources into prevention efforts so that abuse never happens in the first place. Massachusetts has become a leader in this work by investing in systemic, evidence-based prevention strategies. Through initiatives like Safe Kids Thrive, developed in partnership with the Office of the Child Advocate, we've created tools, trainings, and policies that reduce risk in youth-serving organizations. We know that effective prevention requires a comprehensive approach: strong internal policies, education for both adults and children, access to resources, and ongoing collaboration rooted in data. With continued investment and a focus on early support, we can shift from reactive responses to proactive strategies that keep children safe from the start.

3. Strengthen father engagement so that fathers play a meaningful role in their children's lives, improving long-term outcomes for children

Engaging fathers as active participants in parenting strengthens entire families. When fathers are involved, children experience improved cognitive and social development, stronger academic achievement, and greater independence. Mothers benefit from reduced stress and shared parenting responsibilities, while fathers themselves experience improved health, income stability, and higher life satisfaction. Our work includes a partnership with the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections to offer a parenting support program for incarcerated fathers and fathers in the community. Since the partnership began, more than 150 fathers have graduated from the program, and of the 99 who took the course while incarcerated, only three have returned to the Hampshire County Jail and House of Correction, a remarkable success rate. These outcomes demonstrate the power of father engagement. Making fatherhood central to our mission helps redefine how Massachusetts supports families and invests in the next generation.



4. Activate a training institute to support and strengthen the family support workforce

Training is a powerful tool for prevention. Everyone who interacts with families has a role to play in helping them thrive. That's why we are expanding access to high-quality, strength-based, trauma-informed training for the family support workforce and others who regularly work with families. By equipping professionals with the skills and mindset to engage with families in respectful, supportive ways, we can begin to shift systems in ways that center families. Our trainings are grounded in decades of research and the lived expertise of those working directly with families. They promote dignity and respect as foundational values, helping to reduce family stress, improve outcomes, and build capacity across all our priorities.



5. Support families before crisis by changing culture, practice, and policy so that support is the first intervention

We envision a Commonwealth that uplifts families, rather than penalizing them for living in poverty. Too often, families struggling to meet basic needs, like stable housing or childcare, are reported for neglect, not because they've harmed their children, but because the system lacks a supportive alternative. In Massachusetts, 69% of reports to the Department of Children and Families are for neglect, disproportionately impacting BIPOC families who face systemic barriers to economic security. A staggering 24% of all reports were involving Hispanic families despite only being 13% of the Massachusetts population. It's time to shift our culture by investing in community-based solutions and reframing how we understand neglect. We're bringing together service providers, people with lived experience, and policymakers to reimagine a system that centers dignity, meets families' needs, and offers support, not punishment, as families rise from poverty.



What Makes This Work Different

We are leveraging our unique position as a public-private organization to elevate insights from our programs and partners to policymakers so that policy is data-informed and grounded in the real experiences of families. We are listening to those on the front lines, turning their insights into informed strategies, and advocating for policies that are designed with families, not just for them. We are a bridge between lived experience and action. Between real stories and real systems change.

A Future Where Families Thrive

Our strategy reflects our unwavering belief in families' strength, dignity, and potential. By investing in the systems that support families, we are going beyond our mission to prevent abuse and neglect: we're helping children and families across Massachusetts thrive.

Together with our partners and supporters, we are sparking the bold ideas and big actions needed to redefine how Massachusetts supports families. We are building a future where families are strong, children are safe, and every community is equipped to help families thrive.

Year in Review

Strengthening Nurturing Fathers Programming in Hampden and Hampshire Counties

Thanks to a grant from the Beveridge Family Foundation, we expanded our Nurturing Fathers work in two important ways.

First, we launched a new group specifically for fathers under the age of 28 in Hampden County, in partnership with the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC) Holyoke. Eight young dads graduated from the program, gaining skills, confidence, and a stronger sense of connection to their children. The group was so successful that MSPCC Holyoke is already planning another.

Second, we trained 12 new Nurturing Fathers facilitators in Hampshire County, twice as many as we originally expected. The group included eight family support professionals and four program alumni. The alumni, all fathers who had completed Nurturing Fathers in the past, received modest stipends so they could train while continuing their full-time jobs. This support opened the door for more men with lived experience to join the family support workforce. Two of these newly trained facilitators have already gone on to lead groups at the Hampshire County House of Corrections.

“Through Nurturing Fathers, I went from being impulsive to thoughtful. Isolated to connected. Unaware to informed. Nurturing Fathers pointed out all the positives that I have to offer to my daughter. I no longer feel inferior. I feel more empowered as a father.”

Nurturing Fathers program graduate



From Need to Action: Building Better Playgroup Support

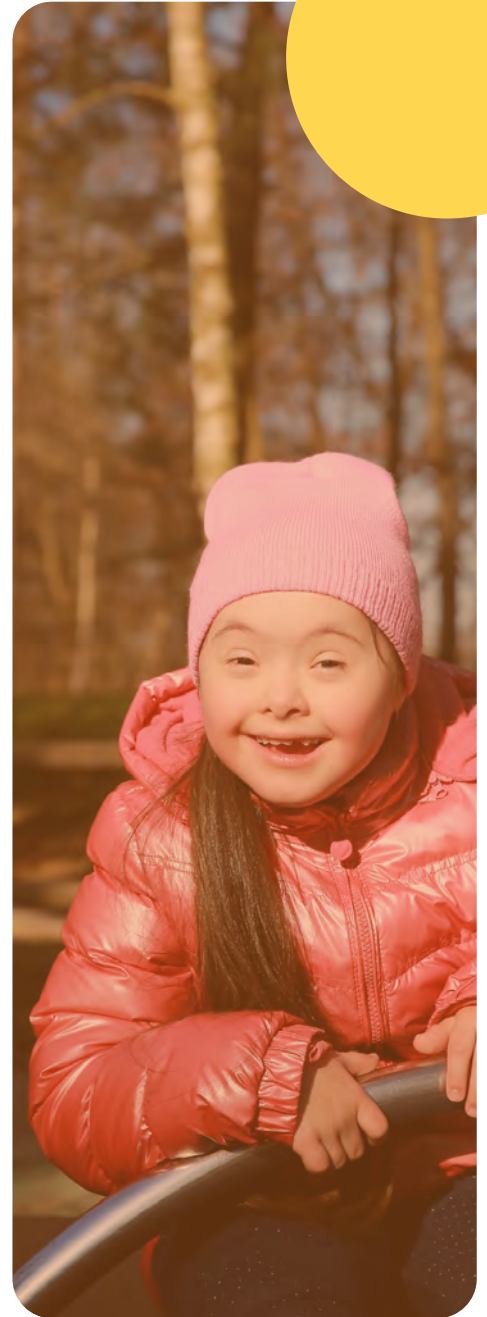
When the Martha's Vineyard Family Center asked for help strengthening their playgroups, our Family Support Team saw both a challenge and an opportunity. While there are countless resources designed for parents who attend playgroups, there is little guidance available for the people leading them. Facilitators often had to piece together their approach on their own, without a clear framework for best practices. We decided to change that.

Our team spent several months researching different models and connecting with colleagues across the country and even abroad. We learned from and trained with First 5 Ventura County in California, Playgroup Victoria in Australia, and Thriving Wisconsin.

Using this research, a two-day workshop was designed focusing on key elements of successful playgroups. The workshop emphasizes that playgroups are not casual drop-ins. They are structured, intentional spaces where children and caregivers can learn, play, and build positive relationships together. Facilitators are central to this process. They not only guide activities but also support caregiver connection, confidence, and leadership.

"Playgroups are not just for children," Kate Bullock, Family Support Coordinator at the Children's Trust said. "They also help parents and caregivers, particularly those who may be new to a community or facing challenges, find a place to connect and feel supported, during the important early years."

The first workshop launched virtually in April 2024 with the Martha's Vineyard Family Center team. Since then, Kate has facilitated seven workshops, both in person and online, reaching nearly 70 participants. Each training offers clear recommendations on group size, staffing, scheduling, and structure, and stresses the importance of welcoming families, establishing routines, setting agreements, and gathering feedback to measure impact.





The benefits of well-run playgroups are significant. For children, they foster brain development, language growth, motor skills, and social-emotional learning. For caregivers, they reduce isolation, encourage positive parenting, increase access to resources, and strengthen community bonds.

As Nobel Prize-winning economist James Heckman has said, “investment in early childhood development is the most effective investment in the economy.” The Children’s Trust’s work ensures that playgroups are recognized as part of that investment, creating meaningful benefits for families and communities alike.

“I learned things I would like to add, for example, policy & agreements, 8-week sessions. So many more families can attend [playgroups] instead of the same family for the whole year and talk to other playgroup facilitators to share ideas.”

Workshop participant

Massachusetts Impact

Home Visiting

"That title of home visitor doesn't feel like it is enough to describe what they have been to my family. My home visitors have also been my therapist, my support system, my community and the experts I can rely on. They are my go-to for everything."

Healthy Families MA program participant



24,474
Home Visits completed with
2,345
participants

Family Support Sites



7,199
Parents/Caregivers &
Children Served Through
Family Centers and SAFE
Child Communities

"They [Family Center] offered practical help like diapers and clothing, as well as family assistance funds that really supported us when no other program was able to, but even more importantly, they created space for connection. Through playgroups and family events, I found other parents who truly got it. Over time, these relationships grew into a village that stood by my family through joy and through hardship—including a recent health crisis that would have been unbearable without them. The Family Center gave us more than support—they gave us community, and that has made all the difference."

Training Institute

2,764

Trainees with an average
evaluation rating of
4.81 out of 5



“Such an incredible example of how to lead a training with intentional inclusion and presence—keeping everyone so engaged!”

Community Ambassador from Keeping Kids Safe: Train the Trainer

Fatherhood Initiative

“This program has helped me to be a father who learns to listen, and listens to learn,”

Nurturing Fathers program graduate



62

dads graduated from
Nurturing Fathers - a
113%
increase from FY24!

266%

in FFN (406 in FY24 and
1490 FY25)

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention



245

professionals signed up for the Learning Center on
SafeKidsThrive.org to advance their child sexual abuse
prevention knowledge - a

68%

increase from FY24!

“These services [SafeKidsThrive.org] are absolutely essential,” he said. “This isn’t just about compliance—it’s about protecting children. If we only get one thing right in this work, it has to be child safety—mentally, emotionally, and physically.”

Nick Cacciolfi, Recreation Director for the Town of Winchester

Our Funded Partners

The Children’s Trust has established strong partnerships with some of the most effective and impactful family support agencies and organizations throughout Massachusetts. These collaborations are designed to enhance the support network available to families, ensuring they have access to the resources and services needed to thrive. By working closely with a wide range of community organizations, we are strengthening efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect and promote the overall well-being of families across the state.

Home Visiting: Healthy Families Massachusetts

Boston Boston Area Healthy Families Catholic Charities	Greenfield/Athol Healthy Families Franklin County Community Action Pioneer Valley	Lawrence Healthy Families Lawrence Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Brockton Greater Brockton Healthy Families Programs SEMCOA	Haverhill Healthy Families Haverhill Catholic Charities	Lowell Healthy Families Lawrence Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Charlestown Harbor Area Healthy Families Bridges Homeward	Holyoke Healthy Families Holyoke Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children	Lynn Healthy Families North Shore Catholic Charities
Fall River Greater Fall River Healthy Families SEMCOA	Hyannis Cape Cod & the Islands Healthy Families Health Imperatives, Inc.	Medford Healthy Families Melrose/Wakefield Melrose Wakefield Healthcare Inc.
Gardner Greater Fall River Healthy Families SEMCOA		

Milford

Healthy Families
Framingham/Milford
Criterion Child Enrichment, Inc.

New Bedford

Healthy Families New Bedford
Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

New Bedford

Healthy Families New Bedford
Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

North Adams/Pittsfield

Healthy Families Berkshire County
Child Care of the Berkshires

Northampton

Healthy Families Hampshire
County
Community Action Pioneer Valley

Southbridge

Healthy Families of Southern
Worcester County
Worcester Community Action
Council

Springfield

Healthy Families Springfield
Square One

Taunton

Greater Attleboro Taunton
Healthy Families
SEMCOA

Waltham

Healthy Families Central
Middlesex
Jewish Family and Children's
Service

Weymouth

South Shore Healthy Families
Health Imperatives, Inc.

Worcester

Healthy Families of Greater
Worcester
Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

The Children's Advocacy
Center of Franklin County &
North Quabbin

The Children's Advocacy
Center of Hampshire County

The Massachusetts Children's
Alliance (MACA)

MASOC (Massachusetts
Society for a World Free of
Sexual Harm by Youth)

Enough Abuse

Stop It Now!



Fatherhood Initiative: Fathers & Family Network

Berkshire County
18 Degrees

Boston Metro Area
The Children’s Trust

South Coast Region
United Neighbors of Fall River

Western Massachusetts
Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Fatherhood Initiative: Nurturing Fathers Program

Brockton
Adult & Teen Challenge

Northampton
Hampshire County House of
Corrections

Norfolk
Pondville Correctional Center

Western Massachusetts
Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Family Support: Massachusetts Family Centers



Athol
Valuing Our Children
Family Center
Valuing Our Children

Cambridge
Center for Families
City of Cambridge Department of
Human Service Programs

Greenfield
Community Action Family Center
Community Action Pioneer Valley

Medford
Medford Family Network
Medford Public Schools

North Adams
Family Center of Northern
Berkshire County
Child Care of the Berkshires, Inc.

Vineyard Haven
Martha’s Vineyard Family Center
Martha’s Vineyard Community
Services, Inc.

Family Support: SAFE Child Communities

Eastham
Cape Cod Children’s Place

Events Recap

Every Step Counts: Falmouth Road Race

On August 18, 2024, our Children's Trust charity team proudly joined thousands of athletes to take on the 52nd Falmouth Road Race. This marked our second year participating in the Falmouth Road Race Numbers for Nonprofit program, allowing members of our community to run the renowned 7-mile road race while raising vital funds in support of child abuse and neglect prevention. This year's team of 12 was made up of Children's Trust staff, board members, and supporters. Together, they raised nearly \$15,000 and crossed the finish line not just as runners, but as champions for ensuring every child can grow up in a thriving family.



Fostering Family Wellbeing: A View from All Sides



On November 6 and 7, 2024, more than 800 individuals came together in person and online for two days at A View from All Sides, our annual family support training conference. From our keynote presentations by Dr. Myisha Rodrigues and Elayna Fernandez to our 56 sessions, attendees were encouraged to prioritize self-care, share their knowledge on child abuse and neglect prevention, and center learning and growth. Attendees also fostered meaningful connections across the family support community, renewing energy that will power our work forward. We also honored outstanding programs and individuals who have played a vital role in advancing the safety and wellbeing of children and families.

Investing in Families: A Legislative Briefing on Expanding Home Visiting

With the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), we hosted an important conversation at the State House about the impact and future of home visiting programs in the Commonwealth on February 11, 2025. The briefing underscored the proven benefits of home visiting programs in preventing child abuse and neglect while strengthening family wellbeing. Home visiting programs like Healthy Families Massachusetts and those administered by DPH serve more than 6,000 families annually. Yet, despite clear benefits, as a state, we currently reach only 5.3% of children under the age of three in families with incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level. With a coordinated plan in place, we are partnering with DPH to increase our impact and aim to serve 12,000 families in the next five years.



Advocating for Change: Child Abuse Prevention Month

This April, we honored Child Abuse Prevention Month with four impactful legislative events throughout the month. These events brought together policymakers, state leaders, advocates, community members, and program partners to spotlight the child abuse prevention field in Massachusetts and reinforce our commitment to preventing abuse and supporting families across the Commonwealth.

April 1, 2025



Kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month, we partnered with the Office of the Child Advocate to host a legislative briefing at the Massachusetts State House, providing an update on child sexual abuse prevention efforts across the Commonwealth. The event convened lawmakers, child protection advocates, and community leaders to discuss progress made, ongoing challenges, and next steps in strengthening prevention initiatives. We were joined by Senator Joan B. Lovely, Chair of the Senate Committee on Rules and the Joint Committee on Rules, and Representative Susannah M. Whipps to underscore the Commonwealth's commitment to proactive child sexual abuse prevention policies. We also heard from partners who emphasized the positive impact of investing in resources.

April 8, 2025

We returned to the Massachusetts State House with the Office of the Child Advocate and the Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee on Children, Families, and Persons with Disabilities, Senator Robyn K. Kennedy (D-Worcester) and Representative Jay D. Livingstone (D-Boston). Together, we hosted a briefing for legislators and state leaders that focused on strengthening Massachusetts' approach to child wellbeing through prevention and collaboration. With the support of the Casey Family Programs, we discussed strategies that support families earlier to prevent neglect, ensuring children can grow up in safe and stable environments.



April 11, 2025



In partnership with Child Care of the Berkshires, we hosted Step Up for Kids: Berkshire County. The front steps of Pittsfield City Hall were lined with 56 pairs of shoes, symbolizing the average number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect each month in Berkshire County. Local policymakers and leaders gathered to speak on the need for prevention, early support, and continued collaboration. Healthy Families Massachusetts program participant Saharah Johnson shared her impactful experience and we presented Representative Tricia Farley-Bouvier (D-Pittsfield), Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity, with the *Valuing Our Children* award for her dedication to children and families across the Commonwealth.

April 16, 2025

Wrapping up our legislative events, we gathered at the Massachusetts State House one more time with program partners, board members, supporters, and legislators for Step Up for Kids. 70 pairs of shoes lined the Grand Staircase to represent the average number of confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect every day in Massachusetts. Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, joined us to present a Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and stated, "Behind every number is a story of a child that is experiencing harm, and it's on us to ensure that we're speaking up against abuse of all kinds, but especially when it's against our most vulnerable." As emphasized by Angie Morrell and Serenity Smith of Healthy Families Massachusetts, investing in evidence-based programs like theirs makes a meaningful impact. We also highlighted the important work being done in the legislature by presenting Valuing Our Children awards to Senator Robyn K. Kennedy (D-Worcester), Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Families and Persons with Disabilities, and Representative Susannah M. Whipps (I-Athol) in recognition of their commitment to policies and programs that support families across Massachusetts.



“What makes Healthy Families so successful is the trusted relationships that home visitors build with families. Our home visitors do more than deliver information. They walk alongside parents, helping them navigate the challenges of early parenthood with confidence and strength.”

Angie Morrell, Regional Director of Prevention Services at Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

“I see parents walk into playgroups, nervous and unsure, and then light up when they see their home visitors. I see them build friendships and community, with their home visitor by their side...This work is life-changing. It is family-changing. It is community-changing.”

Serenity Smith, Healthy Families Massachusetts Home Visitor

Honoring our Program Partners: Celebration Day

On June 12, 2025, we honored our many program partners at our annual Celebration Day. We are always blown away by the hard work of family support professionals, like home visitors, case workers, and program coordinators, who are making a lasting difference in the lives of children and families across Massachusetts. The event is a small token of our appreciation for all that they do and was filled with joy, learning, and connection. From hands-on activities like tie-dye and bracelet making to powerful stories from program participants, inspiration from our guest speaker, and recognition of the dedication and accomplishments of our program partners, Celebration Day honors the heart of family support work.



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\$10,000 - \$14,999

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Rose Fonseca

Richard Bendetson

This listing represents gifts received
between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Financials

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST (PUBLIC) FY25

Revenue and Other Support:

Healthy Families (State)	\$17,684,101
The Children's Trust Account (State)	\$2,741,367
Federal Grant (Multi-Year)	\$2,571,505
Children Sexual Abuse Prevention (State)	\$2,351,044
Inter-Agency Service Agreements	\$1,776,465
Total Revenues	\$27,124,482

Disbursements:

Program Services	\$22,049,034
Non-Program Personnel	\$772,919
Management and General Infrastructure	\$655,197
Total Disbursements	\$23,477,151

THE CHILDREN'S TRUST (PRIVATE) FY25

Revenue and Other Support:

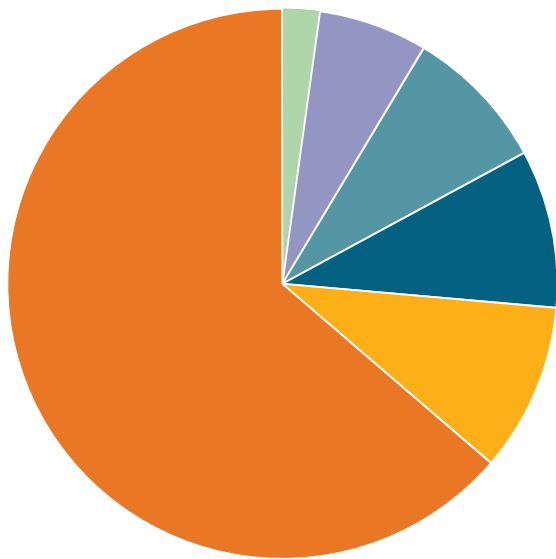
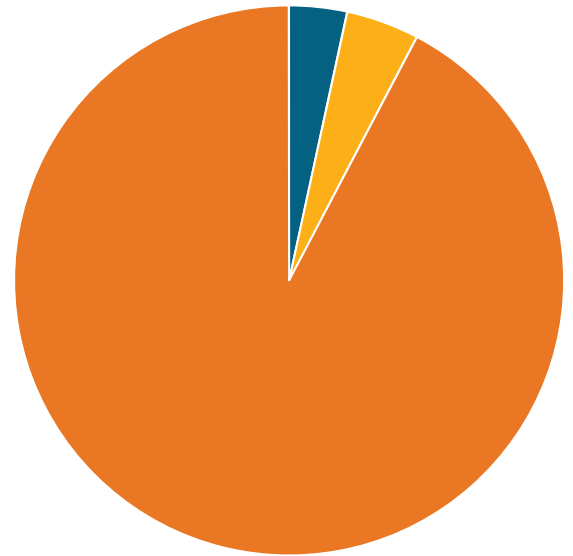
Corporate & Private Contributions	\$308,523
Conferences and Other	\$172,608
Investment (Endowment) and Interest Income	\$153,105
In-Kind Contributions	\$4,300
Total Revenues	\$638,536

Disbursements:

Management and General Infrastructure	\$374,919
Program Services	\$103,796
Non-Program Personnel	\$43,074
Total Disbursements	\$521,789

COMBINED EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

92.3%	Program Services	\$22,152,830
4.3%	Management and General Infrastructure	\$1,030,116
3.4%	Non-Program Personnel	\$815,993
100%	Total Spending	\$23,998,940



TOTAL INCOME BY SOURCE

63.7%	Healthy Families (State)	\$17,684,101
9.9%	The Children's Trust Account (State)	\$2,741,367
9.3%	Federal Grant (Multi-Year)	\$2,571,505
8.5%	CSAP (State)	\$2,351,044
6.4%	Inter-Agency Service Agreements	\$1,776,465
2.2%	The Children's Trust Account (Private)	\$638,536
100%	Total Income	\$27,763,017

Notes:

Unaudited Figures

The Children's Trust 501c3 figures are reported on an accrual basis

Investment Gain / (Loss) remains designated to the endowment therefore it is not considered operating income