



The Center for Family Safety and Healing

2025 Impact Report



MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Melissa Kay Graves, MPA, President

This year reminded us of a powerful truth: family violence is not only a personal crisis, it is a public health issue that affects the safety, stability and well-being of entire communities.

Every day, The Center for Family Safety and Healing works with survivors, advocates, health care providers and community partners to address the complex factors that contribute to family violence.

Over the past year, we served more than 10,000 children and adults experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, physical abuse and human trafficking. Our team provided counseling, court and housing advocacy, safety planning, home visiting, medical services and legal support.

Each person who came to us carried a unique story of resilience. Our team was ready to meet them with compassion and expertise, and to walk alongside them on their path toward safety and healing.

At the same time, we continued to expand community awareness and education initiatives that are essential to creating lasting change. Through our tailored trainings for schools, workplaces, faith communities and partners, we reached 9,000 people, helping young people and adults create healthy relationships, recognize warning signs of abuse, and build skills that foster safe homes and communities.

In 2025, we completed a new strategic plan that will inspire and guide us over the next five years. We identified the following pillars of focus to further our vision to end family violence and create safe, thriving communities.

- **Prevention** — Stopping violence before it begins
- **Access** — Reaching people where and how best meets their needs
- **Integration and Systemic Impact** — Collaborating with partners to optimize healing, minimize trauma and advance health equity
- **Research and Evaluation** — Using data to understand the most effective prevention and intervention models

While the challenges remain significant, so too is our collective commitment. This is only possible through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners and supporters.

Thank you for helping to make sure that all people experiencing abuse in our community can find hope, help and healing. Together, we are building healthier, safer communities.

In peace and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Kay Graves".

Melissa Kay Graves, MPA
President, The Center for Family Safety and Healing

The Center for Family Safety and Healing

2026 - 2030 Strategic Plan



Mission

Empowering those affected by family violence to find hope, help and healing.

Vision

Ending family violence and creating safe, thriving communities.

Focus



Prevention



Access



Integration and
Systemic Impact



Research and
Evaluation

Foundation



Operational
Excellence



Partnerships



Culture and
Talent



Health Equity

BUILDING SAFER FUTURES:

Preventing Family Violence and Restoring Hope



For those impacted by family violence, the path to healing can be complex.

1 in 7

children experience abuse or neglect in the United States

1 in 3

teens report abuse by a dating partner

1 in 3

women and men experience rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime

1 in 4

The Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH) works to address all types of family violence. We support children, teens, adults and older adults affected by abuse through prevention, intervention and support programs. Our team uses proven methods and works together across different fields to foster resilience, healing and safety for everyone we serve.

Working together as an integrated team offers these benefits:

- Coordinated services to address child abuse through partnerships with health care, law enforcement, child welfare, legal experts and a wide range of community resources
- A network for domestic violence survivors to access services and support for safety and well-being
- A community response to family violence through education, training, advocacy, evaluation and research
- Local and regional partners who help promote family violence prevention

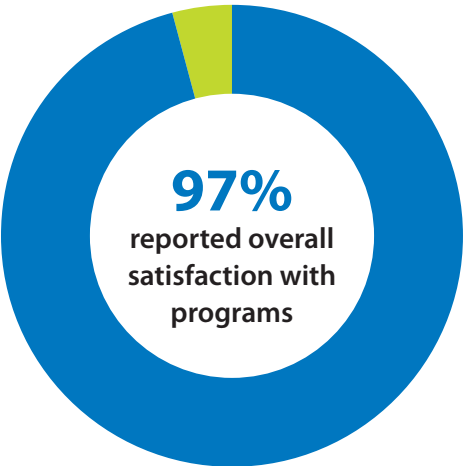
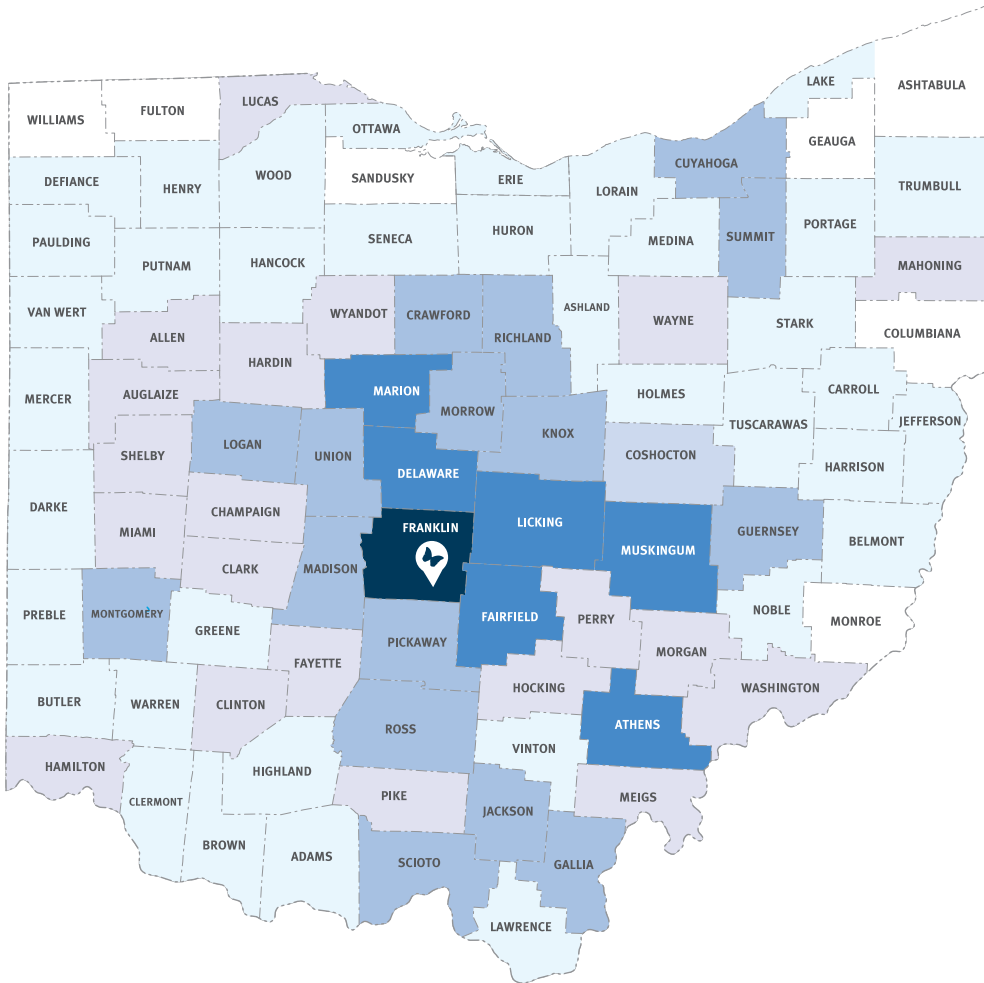
WHO WE SERVE



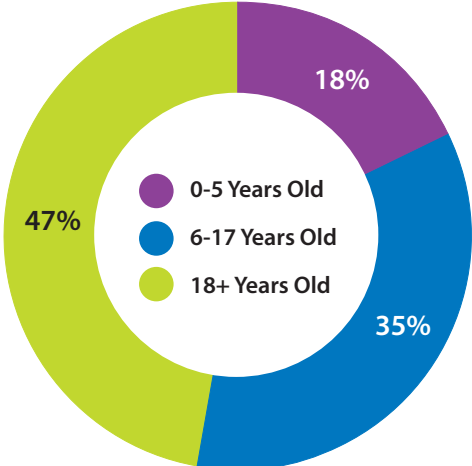
Over **10,000** unique clients served with over **64,000** visits across programs

An additional **9,000** individuals served through community education and training

81 of 88 counties served across Ohio



68% Female
**50% Black, Indigenous,
People of Color**



HEALING FOR CHILDREN

Child Assessment Center

The Child Assessment Center (CAC) provides responsive and timely medical assessments and interviews for children who may have experienced child abuse as well as supportive mental health services for these children and their caregivers.



1,124
visits



1,067
patients served

Key Achievements

- The CAC expanded its reach in 2025 by opening a satellite location in Athens, Ohio, in partnership with the Survivor Advocacy Outreach Program. By bringing medical and forensic interviewing services closer to families, the CAC improved access to specialized care in underserved communities.
- The Human Trafficking Outreach Program advanced safety and recovery efforts for trafficked youth through trauma-informed medical care and case management. A notable case involved coordinated efforts that helped a youth safely exit an active trafficking situation, ultimately leading to stable housing, continued safety and connection to long-term services.

Child Assessment Team Clinic

The Child Assessment Team (CAT) is a hospital-based inpatient consultation service for children with suspected child maltreatment. The outpatient clinic provides coordinated follow-up care for children with suspected physical abuse.



879
consults provided to
Nationwide Children's



225
patients served

Key Achievements

- In 2025, the team partnered with Nationwide Children's Primary Care Network on a quality improvement initiative to enhance identification of non-accidental trauma. As part of this effort, the CAT clinic provided follow-up services for patients identified through the initiative.

Behavioral Health Family Support Program

The Family Support Program provides counseling and psychiatry services for children and adolescents impacted by abuse, traumatic grief and family violence, to support healing and improve emotional and behavioral outcomes.



7,738
counseling visits



417
psychiatry visits

Key Achievements

- In 2025, the program expanded to 11 full-time clinicians, improving access and reducing wait times, while offering services in office, home, community and telehealth settings.
- Through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, clinicians received advanced training in complex trauma treatment and began facilitating Kids' Club groups for children exposed to family violence.

Children who participate in the groups benefit from the opportunity to:

- Connect with peers to work on identifying feelings
- Discuss fears surrounding violence
- Practice appropriate conflict resolution
- Enhance coping and safety planning
- Explore family roles and gender stereotypes

Parents shared they appreciate the opportunity for their children to connect with other children who have a shared experience. During this time, parents are participating in a parallel group and join to celebrate their children's participation in the program during the final session.

Fostering Connections Program

The Fostering Connections Program (FCP) is a specialty clinic that provides health care services to children and adolescents residing in out-of-home care environments.



Key Achievements

- The FCP improved system coordination for children in foster care by implementing Cordata's IDENTITY platform with Franklin County Children Services. The platform reduces communication gaps, supports safer medical decisions and strengthens continuity of care for children across placements.
- FCP launched a nursing process to complete state-mandated, five-day medical screenings for children entering out-of-home placement, improving timely access to services.
- The team also led a hospital-wide initiative to improve identification, registration and care connection for children in out-of-home placement, supported by staff education on trauma-informed documentation practices.
- Donor support enabled FCP to host an outing with youth from Keys to Success and Prolific Mind Youth Home, supporting engagement and rapport-building.

Health Initiatives for Justice-Involved Families

Nationwide Children's and TCFSH are working toward a community where all children and families affected by the justice system can reach their full potential. Black and Brown children are disproportionally and adversely impacted by the criminal justice system. We are addressing the issue of incarceration in our society through our work with children in the juvenile justice system and children of incarcerated parents.

Key Achievements

- **Family Engagement:** The program facilitated six Family Engagement Days at the Franklin County Community Based Correctional Facility, supporting meaningful connection between fathers and their children.



- **Care Coordination:** Care coordination expanded through the co-location of staff within the Juvenile Intervention Center medical clinic and by extending eligibility to all court-involved youth connected to the clinic or the Behavioral Health Juvenile Justice program, improving access to services.



163

new youth enrolled



293

youth served

- **Health Education:** In collaboration with TCFSH Training and Advocacy, Nationwide Children's School-Based Health and Community Wellness, health education was provided to youth residing in the Juvenile Intervention Center. Topics included healthy relationships and consent, hygiene, economic mobility and Making Proud Choices. These programs help equip youth with practical skills, health knowledge and tools for safer decision-making.

Keeping Compassion Alive: TCFSH and Partners Share Holiday and Birthday Cheer With Incarcerated Survivors and Youth

In collaboration with Just Detention International, TCFSH sent over 750 holiday cards to incarcerated survivors of prison sexual assault. This was the fourth year TCFSH participated in the initiative, which involved collaboration with staff from TCFSH and Nationwide Children's Community Wellness, along with volunteers. TCFSH team members also sent 60 birthday cards to youth in the Juvenile Intervention Center.

Lawyers for Kids

Lawyers for Kids (LFK) provides legal advice and advocacy to patients and families at TCFSH and Nationwide Children's. LFK services have a transformative impact, addressing serious challenges such as maintaining child custody for domestic violence survivors, advocating for Individualized Education Plans for disabled students, preventing housing evictions and aiding with food assistance benefits.



2,204

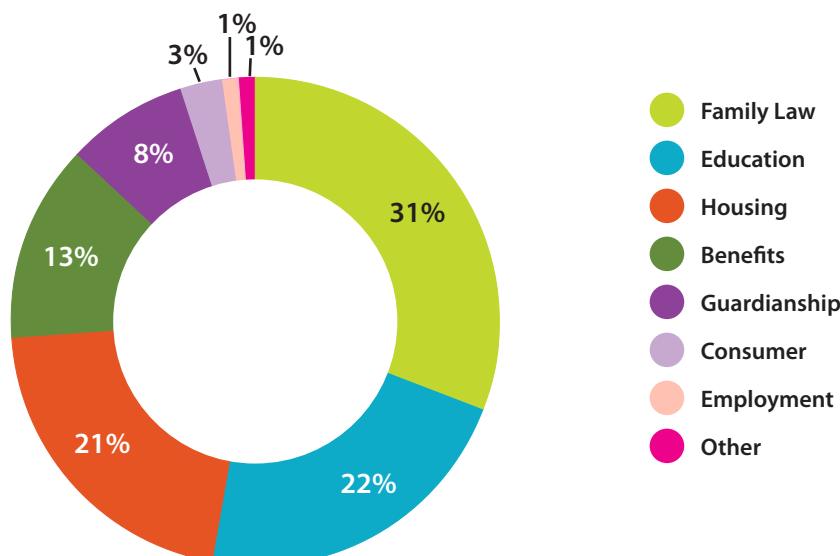
families referred
for legal assistance



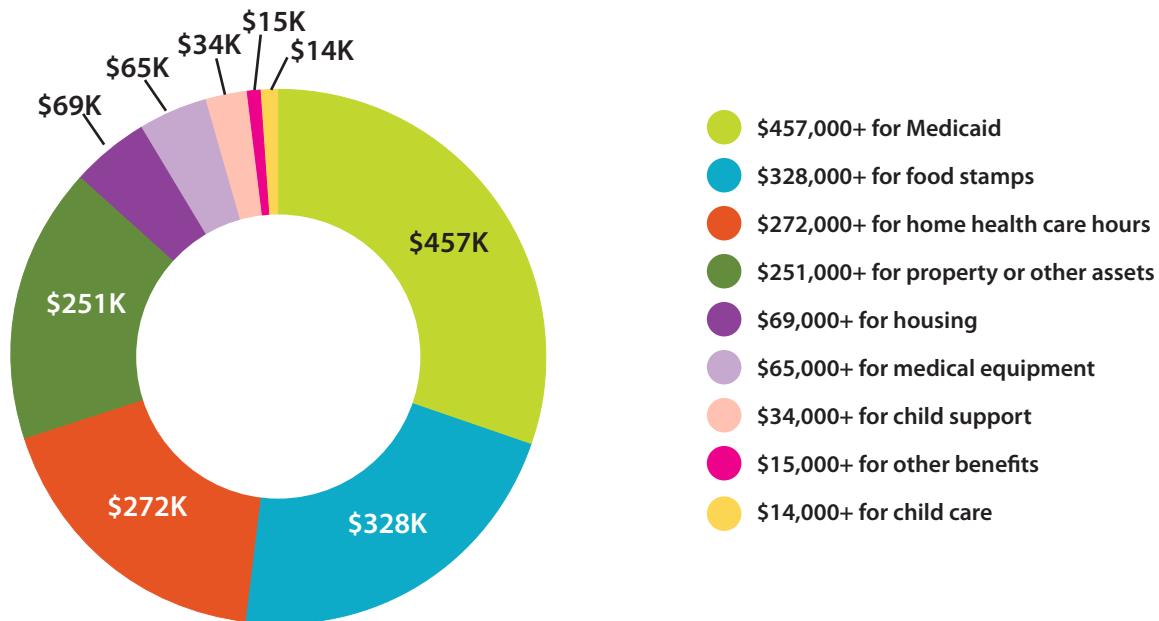
1,442

consultations
provided to clinicians

Types of Legal Services Provided



More Than \$1.5 Million Recovered or Saved for Families in 2025



Key Achievements

- LFK hosted 10 lunch and learns, with an average of 148 attendees per session. Topics included custody, addiction, immigration, housing, Medicaid, education, bullying, record sealing and rental assistance.
- LFK continued their partnership with the Ohio Department of Health to provide legal services to pregnant people and families with children under the age of one with the goal of addressing disparities in infant mortality.

Impact Story

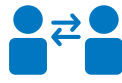
A child was referred to LFK after being suspended and facing possible expulsion for alleged inappropriate behavior at school. The child was also being treated for behavioral health needs and the therapist was concerned the child did not fully understand the situation due to their developmental delays. An LFK attorney met with the family and attended the school's administrative hearing, helping explain the child's behaviors and unmet needs in the school setting. As a result, the school kept the child in their current placement and agreed to provide the child with an IEP to deliver appropriate support.



HEALING FOR ADULTS

Adult Services Program

The Adult Services Program offers counseling and advocacy services to support adult survivors of intimate partner violence.

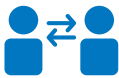


1,645

requests for services
or referrals

Adult Services Program Advocacy

Advocacy services include assistance with the development of safety plans, linkages to community resources and shelter and legal system navigation.



1,674

advocacy clients served



8,602

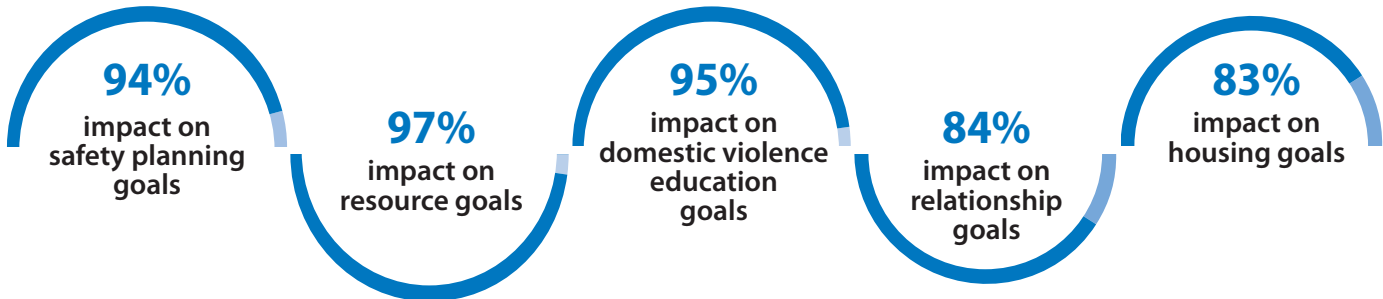
advocacy contacts



66%

of advocacy referrals
were a high risk for homicide

Advocacy Clients' Reported Progress on Survivor-Driven Goals



Key Achievements

- Housing Stability Services:** The Housing Team supported survivors with emergency rental assistance helping families avoid eviction and homelessness and sustain housing stability. The program received a 100% score in the Community Shelter Board audit, demonstrating excellence in compliance, accountability and service delivery. Additionally, five long-term housing units were identified and four were filled with families receiving ongoing advocacy services.



290

survivors received
emergency rental
assistance



\$101.7K

in assistance
provided

- Co-Response Advocacy:** The Adult Collaborative Team on Domestic Violence (ACT-DV) and Columbus Division of Police (CPD) strengthened collaboration in Patrol Zone 6 (Linden area) by assigning a CPD officer to review all intimate partner violence reports and ensure referrals for outreach. Joint case reviews between ACT-DV and CPD improved mutual understanding and informed shared action planning.

The City Attorney's Office's Domestic Violence and Stalking Unit (DVSU) committed to adding a prosecutor to future reviews to enhance multidisciplinary coordination. CPD will implement a similar officer post in Patrol Zone 3 (West Columbus) in 2026 to expand these efforts.

- **Community Advocacy and Safety:** Community Advocates support survivors in building safety, confidence and knowledge. Client feedback highlighted feelings of empowerment and validation, with many expressing relief that their experiences were taken seriously and believed.



985

survivors served

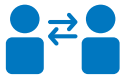


88%

of surveyed survivors
reported increased safety-
planning knowledge

Adult Services Program Counseling

Counseling services include evidence-based, trauma-informed counseling in a confidential and secure setting.



2,899

counseling visits



279

counseling clients served

79%

of closed counseling cases
had improved clinical
progress

Direct Assistance Fund

The Direct Assistance Fund supports the housing and basic support needs of clients. Funds go directly to addressing food insecurity, emergency housing, utilities and immediate safety needs.

More Than \$408,000 in Assistance Provided to Families in 2025



\$174,000+

mortgage and rent



\$150,000+

grocery and gas gift cards



\$19,000+

hotels and lodging



\$34,000+

utilities and bills



\$15,000+

moving expenses



\$13,000+

other supplies

Impact Story

A mother needed assistance with gas and groceries after her SNAP benefits were reduced. The family had recently transitioned into an apartment after spending several years in shelters, and balancing a rent payment with other essential expenses had been challenging. She regularly utilized nearby food pantries but continued to experience food insecurity. Additionally, the family needed to travel approximately two hours to attend required appointments. Gift cards funded through the Direct Assistance Fund provided critical support for food and transportation.

PREVENTION

Violence within families affects health, safety and futures. We help children reclaim childhoods and support adults navigating trauma. Prevention is at the core of our approach, because early, informed action saves lives and strengthens communities for generations.

Maternal-Infant Home Visitation

TCFSH's home visitation programs, Healthy Families America and Nurse-Family Partnership, improve pregnancy outcomes and reduce child abuse by promoting preventive health practices and screening for intimate partner violence. The programs enhance self-efficacy through home visits by nurses, social workers and early childhood professionals.



17,671
home visits



1,489
families served



8
rural and urban
counties served

Maternal-Infant Prevention Outcomes



84%
of mothers received
depression screening



87%
of infants
born full-term



86%
of infants breastfed
by 1 year of age

Family Success Network

The Family Success Network strengthens and supports families by connecting them to community resources, family coaching, parenting guidance, budgeting support and financial assistance. Family coaches help parents adopt Triple P Positive Parenting Program strategies, improve self care and coping skills, and manage behaviors at home. They empower families to build on their strengths, meet their needs and achieve their goals.



218
families served



77
families received financial
literacy education



16
families engaged in Triple P
Positive Parenting Program

Ohio Children's Trust Fund: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

TCFSH's Prevention Team, in partnership with the Ohio Children's Trust Fund, leads community-driven initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect. As the regional coordinator for central, east and southeast Ohio, TCFSH collaborates with local organizations to deliver prevention programs tailored to the unique needs of each community.



16

partner organizations



1,695

youth and caregivers
served



36

counties served

Key Achievements

- By hosting three Family Fun Day events, we engaged more than 938 individuals, providing meaningful opportunities for connection, learning and community building. These events were intentionally designed to increase awareness of prevention efforts and strengthen families by connecting participants to valuable support resources across the region.

Training and Advocacy

The Training and Advocacy Department creates programs to change social norms that support power-based violence. These programs aim to change attitudes and behaviors and raise awareness of community resources for those experiencing family violence. Key areas include employers, health care providers, legal systems, faith leaders, schools, colleges and universities.



8,928

individuals received
training

Key Achievements

- More than 1,477 adults received *Building Resiliency With Youth* training that focuses on building adolescent resiliency through supportive adults. In 2025, 99% of participants reported a stronger understanding of youth resiliency. Participants shared that the training helped them better understand behavior, listen with empathy and support young people in meaningful ways.
- In collaboration with the Columbus Health Department's CARE Coalition, TCFSH facilitated a new cohort of the Community Resilience Series for central Ohio community members. The seven-part, interactive training series explored trauma and resilience at personal, professional and community levels, including specialty information focused on intersections with family violence.

Green Flags: Supporting Healthy Teen Relationships

Green Flags is a campaign that offers a positive and approachable framework for building skills and supporting healthy relationships among teens in central Ohio. In addition to a website filled with educational topics, Green Flags provides call, text and chat support resources operated by our specially trained team of experts to address teens' questions or concerns about relationships and dating abuse. Green Flags also provides safe adults, like parents, guardians and educators, with resources to help support and talk to the teens in their lives about healthy relationships and dating safety. To learn more, visit GreenFlags.info.



22.8K
web visits in
2025



176%
increase from the
previous year

Key Achievements

- Green Flags healthy relationship education was provided to three mentorship programs within the Columbus Division of Police. Programs included the middle school Teen and Police Service Academy (ages 11+), high school Public Safety Corps (ages 14 to 20) and young adults' Cadet Program (ages 18+).
- The Green Flags Youth Advisory Council (YAC) partnered with TCFSH and Nationwide Children's social media teams to develop a series of videos to increase awareness about Green Flags. Topics focused on green flag and red flag behaviors, healthy boundaries, how to manage conflict and recruitment for the YAC.
- The YAC hosted Unapologetically Me, a youth conference for high school students featuring interactive workshops designed to build confidence, self-awareness and healthy relationship skills. Activities encouraged teens to reflect on their strengths, personalities and boundaries. An adult panel provided a safe space for honest questions and supportive guidance. Youth shared that the event helped them stay true to themselves and build stronger connections.



Green Flag Pros are available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Call 844-234-5463



Text 844-283-3393



Chat at GreenFlags.info

Research and Evaluation

Research and Evaluation advances quality improvement and expands understanding of family violence across ages, identities and family relationships. Our community footprint enables innovative studies grounded in real survivor experiences.



19

international or national
conference presentations



Hosted 70+

Ohio researchers and practitioners
at annual Family Violence Research-
Practice Networking Event



20

publications

Accuracy, Variability and Disparities of Physical Abuse Coding: A Multicenter Study

TCFSH faculty and researchers at seven pediatric health systems across the country studied how hospitals assign medical codes related to child physical abuse. They reviewed cases involving children younger than 10 who were evaluated by child abuse pediatricians between February 2021 and December 2022. The study found that hospitals varied widely in how accurately abuse-related codes were assigned. Overall, the codes correctly identified abuse about 80% of the time.

The researchers also found possible disparities in coding practices. Children without private insurance were nearly twice as likely to receive an abuse-related code by mistake compared with children who had private insurance. These findings suggest that differences in coding practices and possible unconscious bias may affect how abuse cases are identified and reported. The study concluded that more research is needed to better understand why these differences happen and how to improve accuracy and consistency across the country.



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Ending family violence requires more than crisis response. It demands coordinated, systemic change. We collaborate across systems to prevent family violence, support child and adult survivors, and address the root causes that allow harm to persist. We work to close gaps, reduce barriers and create survivor-centered systems that maximize healing and minimize trauma. By prioritizing collaborative leadership, lived experience and trauma-informed practices, we aim to create safer communities and lasting change.

Our flagship Child Assessment Center (CAC) is a unique model using a multidisciplinary approach that co-locates cross-sector parents at TCFSH. This allows child abuse pediatricians, nurses, special victim unit detectives, child welfare, prosecutors, counselors and advocates to improve outcomes for children who have been abused.

In addition to the CAC, other new and long-standing collaborative efforts have resulted in meaningful change, including:

- **Franklin County Blueprint for Safety** brings together county and city stakeholders in the justice system as well as local service providers to coordinate training, response and information sharing. Through this partnership, TCFSH has launched the Co-Responder Program with the Columbus Police Department to provide training with law enforcement and advocates who can go on scene with officers responding to domestic violence incidents. TCFSH has court-based advocates at the Franklin County Domestic Relations and Juvenile Court to assist victims navigating the court process.
- **Victim Coordinated Entry** efforts with the Community Shelter Board and its partner organizations led to the development of a more streamlined process that will increase access to shelter, housing and supportive services to help survivors attempting to leave an abusive relationship heal and rebuild their lives.
- **Children Exposed to Domestic Violence** is a joint effort with Franklin County Children Services and Lutheran Social Services' CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence (LSS CHOICES) in which TCFSH provides training, support groups and domestic violence advocates for families when both a child and parent are being abused.
- **The Ohio State University College of Social Work** and TCFSH collaborate on the *Family Violence: Perspectives and Interventions* course, which equips students with foundational knowledge, real-world insights and a multidisciplinary approach to understanding, preventing and responding to family violence. In 2025, the course enrolled 36 undergraduate and 21 graduate students.
- **The Capital University Family Law Clinic** provided legal support and advocacy for clients involved in family violence and intimate partner violence cases. This partnership increased access to legal resources for clients navigating complex family court processes and strengthened legal protections for individuals and families experiencing violence. In 2025, 484 individuals received advice and counsel and 92 civil protection orders were opened. In 2026, the Capital University Family Law Clinic will transition to Lawyers for Kids, the medical legal partnership that supports TCFSH and Nationwide Children's.

Partners in Hope



LSS CHOICES for Victims of Domestic Violence, a Member of the Lutheran Social Services Family



Columbus Division of Police
Special Victims Bureau



Community Shelter Board



Franklin County
Children Services



Franklin County
Domestic Juvenile
Court



Franklin County
Prosecutor's Office



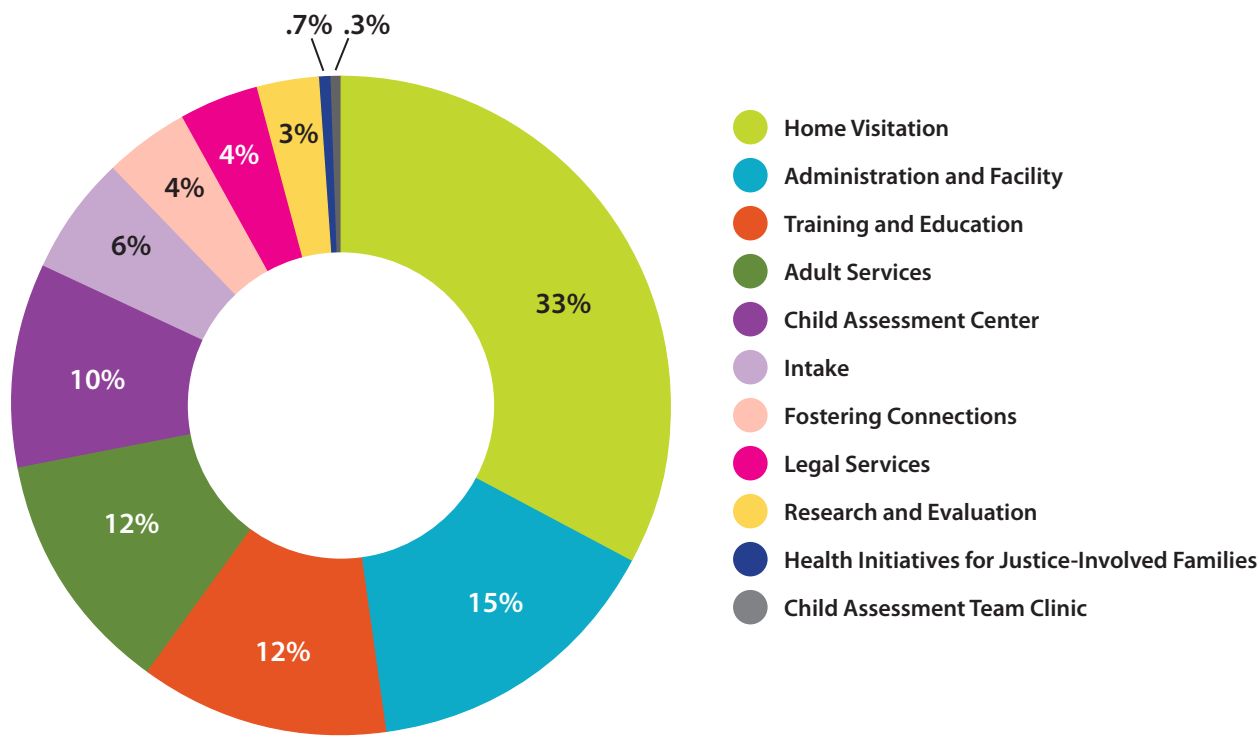
Big Lots Behavioral Health
Services at Nationwide
Children's



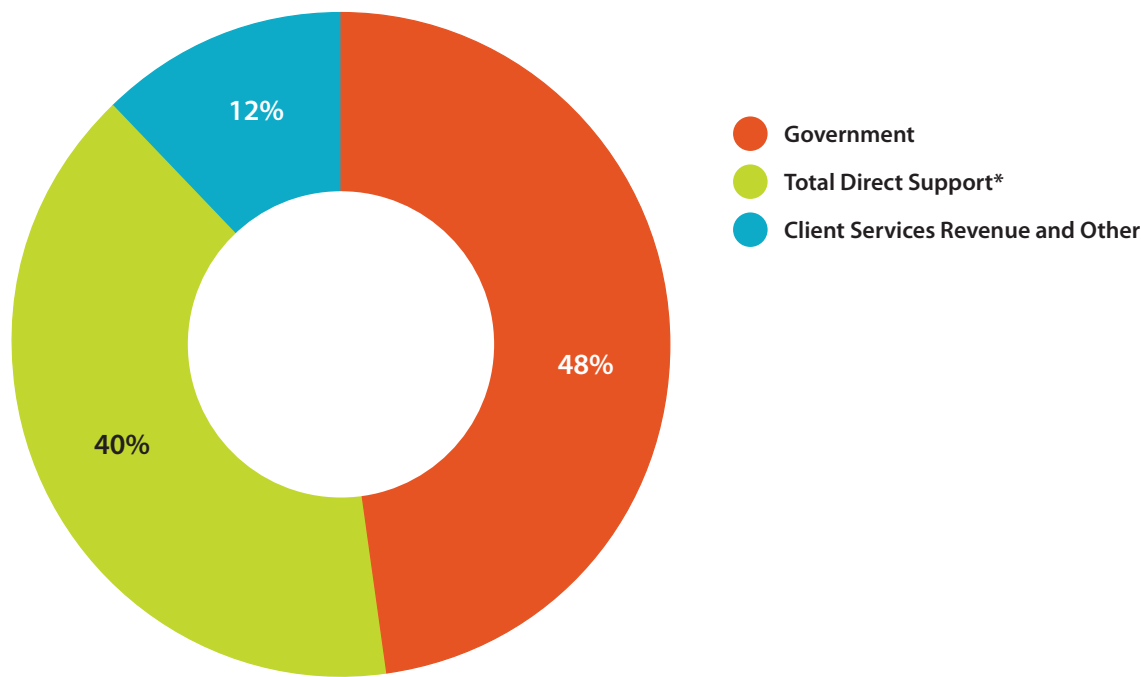
FINANCIALS

TCFSH is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization supported by a critical combination of public and private resources.

2025 Expenses



2025 Revenue



**Direct support includes a combination of funding from Nationwide Children's and philanthropic resources. The information presented here reflects an aggregation of programs that TCFSH manages but are also housed in Nationwide Children's clinics and the Abigail Wexner Research Institute.*

GIVING

Volunteers

Volunteers strengthen the experience for families by offering comfort, engagement and essential items. Their support helps create welcoming appointment spaces for children and ensures families have access to practical resources when they needed them most. In 2025, TCFSH volunteers provided 193 hours of service. Learn more about volunteering at FamilySafetyandHealing.org/Volunteer.

Donations Make the Difference

We appreciate the generous donations of stuffed animals, pajamas, blankets, toys, diapers and other supplies. In 2025, TCFSH received 86 in-kind donations. These contributions bring comfort and healing to the children and families we serve. Learn more about donating at FamilySafetyandHealing.org/Donate.

Amazon Wish List
bit.ly/TCFSH_Wish_List



Rock 'N Bowl 2025 Raises \$102,941

In February 2025, the Development Board of Nationwide Children's hosted Rock 'N Bowl, an annual fundraising event raising \$102,941 with participation from over 600 bowlers. Learn more about sponsoring or donating at NationwideChildrens.org/RockNBowl.



Holiday Party Brings Joy to 575+ Families

More than 575 families attended TCFSH's holiday event, enjoying meals, festive activities and a joyful space for connection. Families received books, toys, crafts, puzzles and pajamas, with support from the Development Board of Nationwide Children's and community partners.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sheriff, Franklin County

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Nationwide Children's

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