



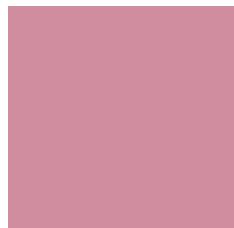
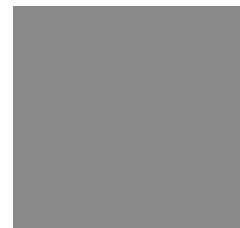
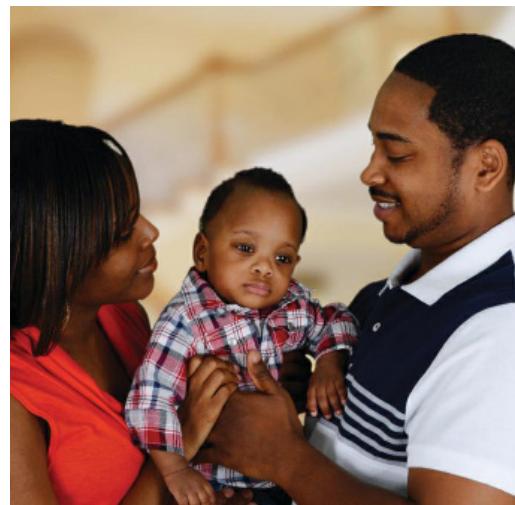
ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021

LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Submitted By:
Social Research and Evaluation Center (SREC)
College of Human Science and Education (CHSE)
Louisiana State University (LSU)

December 2021



LSU

Social Research &
Evaluation Center

AUTHORS

Elizabeth Winchester, PhD
Jada Thomas-Smith, MSW, LMSW
Caitlin Charles, MS
Aimee Moles, PhD, LCSW
Judith Rhodes, PhD, LMSW

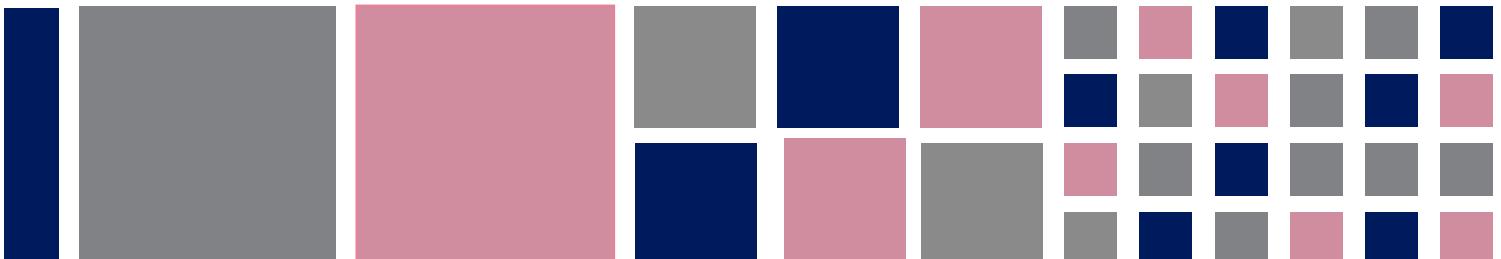
RECOMMENDED CITATION

Winchester, E., Thomas-Smith, J., Charles, C., Moles, A., & Rhodes, J. (2021). Louisiana Children's Trust Fund: 2020-2021 Annual Report. Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana State University, Social Research and Evaluation Center (LSU-SREC)/Louisiana Children's Trust Fund.

The Louisiana State University Social Research and Evaluation Center (SREC) fosters healthy social systems by designing, implementing, and evaluating community and social initiatives. SREC generates knowledge through research on social, economic, and behavioral health. We provide professional services, outreach, and capacity building to our partners through collaborative initiatives, grant development, and rigorous evaluation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

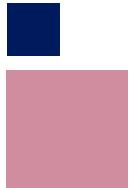
04	MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
05	MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR
06	LCTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF
08	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
10	INTRODUCTION
13	APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY
14	DESCRIPTION OF LCTF GRANTS
22	DEMOGRAPHICS
25	EVALUATION FINDINGS
28	CONCLUSIONS
29	RECOMMENDATIONS
30	REFERENCES
31	APPENDIX A



MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATINA SEMIEN SMOTHERS



“A Brighter Tomorrow for Louisiana’s
Children”



Dear Community Partners:

The needs of families are as unique as the challenges they face. Each day, the safety and well-being of some of Louisiana’s children are threatened by child abuse and neglect. Intervening effectively in the lives of these children and their families is not the sole responsibility of any single agency or professional group, but rather it is a shared community concern. The Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund is proud to be part of the shared community of leaders throughout the State who have made it their mission to work towards the eradication of abuse and neglect and to further collaborate and activate stakeholders statewide for this effort.

One of those collaborations include a partnership with the Louisiana State University Social Research and Evaluation Center (SREC). This alliance has been a vital part of the efforts of the Louisiana Children’s Trust Fund. Through the research and evaluation data provided by SREC, we are able to adequately identify and access best practices utilized by agencies and organizations that receive direct funding in addition to identifying unmet needs in various regions within the State.

It is through these vital relationships that we are able to fulfill our purpose to support community based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance and coordinate initiatives and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect, to support the coordination of resources and activities to better strengthen and support families and to foster understanding, appreciation and knowledge of diverse populations in order to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect. Simply stated, it is our goal to protect Louisiana’s most important asset.... our children.

Sincerely,

Katina M. Semien Smothers, Esq.

Executive Director

MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR FRANCESCA L. HAMILTON-ACKER



THE LOUISIANA CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND CONTINUES TO STRIVE TO MEET ITS MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE IN AIDING TO SIGNIFICANTLY HELP PREVENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.



"The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund continues to be instrumental in seeking to address prevention efforts in the state of Louisiana..."

Dear Community Partners,

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund continues to be instrumental in seeking to address prevention efforts in the state of Louisiana to promote the safety and well-being of Louisiana families. Through our strong partnerships and collaborations, important support is provided to community-based child abuse prevention efforts which are essential in the fight to prevent child maltreatment and promote overall well-being for Louisiana families. The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund is an essential part of the work that is done in Louisiana to lead those prevention efforts and continues to strive to meet its most important objective in aiding to significantly help prevent child abuse and neglect in the state of Louisiana.

The funding that is made available by The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund to community-based programs makes up the foundation for prevention efforts in Louisiana. In addition, The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund administers the "Look Before you Lock" Campaign that raises awareness about children being left in cars unintentionally, especially during the hot summer months. A new campaign was launched this past year called "Know Before you Go" Campaign which helps to raise awareness for parents to learn about the caretakers that they leave their children with. Also, a new monthly speaker series was launched this year called "Coffee and Conversations" in which a different guest speaker is interviewed each month that provides valuable information in this important work and also provides the opportunity to convene LCTF partners and collaborators in the same forum.

Definitely, many exciting things are happening at the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. All efforts keep in mind the focus to help increase better outcomes to protect the children of Louisiana from abuse and neglect, strengthen Louisiana families, and educate the public about children's safety.

Sincerely,

Franchesca L. Hamilton-Acker, Esq.

Board Chair

LCTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF



***Mrs. Francesca
Hamilton-Acker, Esq.***

Representing
The Louisiana State Bar
Association



***Ms. Angela
Bridgewater***

Representing
The Office of Juvenile Justice



***Dr. Angela
Breidenstine***

Representing
The Louisiana Psychological
Association



***Mrs. Patti
Gates,
MSW, LCSW***

Representing
The National Association of
Social Workers, Louisiana
Chapter



Dr. Michelle Demeulenaere

Representing
The Louisiana Department of
Education



***Mrs. Jacqueline
Nash Grant, Esq.***

Representing
The University Community



***Mr. Carnell
Washington***

Representing
The National Association for the
Advancement of Colored People



***Dr. Dana
Hunter***

Representing
The Louisiana Children's Cabinet

LCTF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF



Mr. Martin

McClendon

Representing

The Religious Community



Dr. Rhenda

Hodnett

Representing

The Louisiana Department of
Children & Family Services



Mrs. Katina

Semien Smothers, Esq.

Executive Director,

Louisiana Children's Trust
Fund



Dr. Alicia

Kober

Representing

The Louisiana State Medical
Society



Ms. Michele

Rabalais

Executive Secretary

Louisiana Children's Trust
Fund



Ms. Yolanda

Motley

Representing

The Early Childhood
Community

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund's (LCTF) most important objective is to aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in Louisiana. To support this objective, LCTF provides financial support to a variety of prevention efforts to protect children, strengthen family well-being, and educate the public about children's safety.

LCTF makes annual grant awards to aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect in the state. Grant awards fund programs and conferences which are implemented in five LCTF identified areas of intervention, namely: 1) Teaching children personal safety and life skills; 2) Education and support services for parents; 3) Hospital and/or home visitation and support services to families; 4) Public awareness and education programs for adult; and 5) Training and education of teachers, professionals, and volunteers.

This annual review assessed the grantees' project descriptions, implementation, and evaluations to ensure accountability. The findings and recommendations are summarized below.

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF) awarded 59 grants in 2020-2021 to 40 agencies. These grants included 50 programs and 9 conferences.

Among the 59 grants, 45 grants identified specific regions to serve in the state and 14 grants provided services statewide.

The total amount awarded was \$785,735. The grant awards ranged from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The average award was \$13,318. A balance of \$87,056 was reported at the end of the year.

Grantees selected funding areas covered by their program or conference. The most reported funding areas were Educational and Support Services for Parents (n=26, 44%) and Teaching Children Personal Safety and Life Skills (n=23, 39%).

Many of the grantees (n=38, 64%) reported receiving supplementary support for their program or conference in addition to the financial award from LCTF. The supplementary support included monetary, in-kind, or volunteer support from other agencies.

The protective factors that were most frequently addressed by the programs or conferences were Children's Social and Emotional Competence (n=47, 80%), Social Connection (n=47, 80%), and Parental Resilience (n=41, 69%).

Over 45,000 people were served through programs and conferences. Over 41,000 individuals were served through programs, and more than 4,300 through conferences. Additionally, over 1,100,000 people were reached through media campaigns. Thirty-six grants served historically underserved populations, including 174 children and 158 adults with disabilities.

Most of the grantees (39 out of 59, 66%) reported some type of evaluation of their grant during the year. An evaluation design utilizing a pre-test/post-test (n=20 or 51%) design and surveys (n=38 or 97%) were most often implemented by grantees.

Grantees were asked about barriers to grant implementation. The most commonly reported community barrier was delayed program implementation (n=35, 59%).

Based on these findings, the following are recommended:

1

MAINTAIN CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY in the event another emergency executive stay-at-home order is issued by Governor John Bel Edwards due to COVID-19. This would ensure that programs are not impacted by disruptions and delays. Agencies should also create emergency plans for data collection and evaluation methods.

2

DEVELOP A SYSTEMIC WAY TO COLLECT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION consistently and accurately. There is a need for agencies to improve their capacity to collect demographic information. A large portion of demographic data was not reported among agencies, specifically parents/caregivers, adults, and professionals/volunteers. Collecting basic demographic information will allow LCTF to examine the extent to which programs are reaching their intended population and filling gaps in a particular parish or region. Intake forms could be modified to collect this information.

INTRODUCTION

The safety and well-being of our children remains a pressing concern across the United States and is particularly imperative in the state of Louisiana. Attention to this matter is essential as the 2016–2018 Louisiana child mortality rate for children ages one through fourteen was 23.8 deaths per 100,000 children. In 2020, the Bureau of Family Health ranked Louisiana fourth-highest in overall child mortality for children in that age group, and ranked

Louisiana in the top ten states with the highest mortality rates for infants and children in almost all age groups. In fact, the Bureau of Family Health Child Death Review Report (2020) says that Black children have a higher death rate than their White counterparts.

Child abuse and neglect is a leading factor in the staggeringly high rates of child mortality in Louisiana. In 2017, Louisiana had 44,793 total referrals for child abuse and neglect of which 19,851 were investigated (CWLA, 2019).

Child abuse and neglect can have multiple detrimental effects on a child's physical, psychological and behavioral health. Effective prevention efforts are critical to ensuring the immediate and long-term safety and well-being of children in Louisiana. Each year, the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF) selects high-quality proposals and funds a range of prevention efforts to protect children, strengthen family well-being, and educate the public about children's safety.

Global, national, and local events significantly impacted 2020. In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in the U.S. Due to COVID-19, many governors nationwide issued emergency stay-at-home orders to their constituents (Hauck, Reyes, & Ortiz, 2020). In Louisiana, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a statewide emergency stay at home order from March 16, 2020 to May 15, 2020 directing all residents to shelter in place (Ballard & Karlin, 2020). This mandate, which ordered statewide business and school closures, required residents to practice social distancing. Despite these mitigative measures, high per capita infection and death rates continue to adversely impact Louisiana. To date, over 780,000 individuals in the U.S. have died as a result of COVID-19, creating substantial social, economic, political, and medical crises (Centers for Disease Control [CDC], 2021).

Reis and Lawry (2020) highlighted the many ways the quarantine could negatively impact survivors of intimate partner violence, pregnant women, individuals with behavioral health issues, and children. According to WAFB, during 2020, Louisiana experienced a 50% drop in child abuse and neglect reports, from 34,777 in 2019 to 26,982 in 2020. Despite the decrease, the deputy assistant secretary of child welfare for DCFS attributes this drop to a lack of eyes and ears watching out for the children (Hunter 2020). Due to quarantine and school closures, there was no interaction with teachers, counselors or even doctors—which severely limited child contact with mandatory reporters.

The Mission of the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund is:

“To prevent child abuse and neglect among Louisiana’s children and families through building strong cross-sector partnerships and through increased child safety public awareness” (LCTF, 2021).

History and Background of Louisiana Children's Trust Fund

The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF) is a quasi-governmental organization, under the Louisiana Children's Cabinet within the Governor's Office. In 1983, the Louisiana legislature established LCTF to fund agencies addressing child abuse throughout the state. In operation for 35 years, LCTF is one of the longest established Children's Trust Funds in the nation. A Governor-appointed Board of Directors oversees LCTF, and an Executive Director manages it. The LCTF Board oversees the Louisiana State Plan for Child Abuse and Neglect, which proposes strategies for tackling child abuse and neglect through funding for prevention efforts.

The primary source of LCTF funding is a Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grant awarded by the U.S. Children's Bureau Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (U.S. DHHS, 2017). Duplicate birth certificate fees also provide additional public funding.

The purpose of the Louisiana Children's Trust Fund (LCTF) is three-fold:

1. To support community-based efforts to develop, operate, expand, enhance, and coordinate initiatives, programs, and activities to prevent child abuse and neglect;
2. To support the coordination of resources and activities to strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect;
3. To foster understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of diverse populations to effectively prevent and treat child abuse and neglect.

Funding Areas

LCTF has dedicated funding and support to provide children and families with a wide range of resources, including direct social services, conferences, training, and public campaign events. LCTF awards grants across five funding or programs areas: 1) teaching children personal safety and life skills; 2) education and support services for parents; 3) hospital and/or home visitation and support services for families; 4) public awareness and education programs for adults; and 5) training and education for teachers, professionals, and volunteers.

LCTF provides grants to programs that focus on child abuse and neglect prevention. LCTF grants are awarded for primary and secondary prevention programs. Primary prevention is taking measures to keep child abuse from happening, before it has ever occurred. Secondary prevention is taking measures to keep child abuse from happening before it has occurred to a serious degree, but after certain warning signals have appeared.

Protective Factors

All programs funded by LCTF are expected to address protective factors as described in the *Strengthening Families* model. Focusing on these strategies is effective in reducing maladaptive behaviors that contribute to child abuse and neglect. Protective factors are evidence-based characteristics demonstrated by families as described below:

1. SOCIAL CONNECTIONS — Having positive relationships with friends, neighbors, and other community members that provide assistance and support.
2. CONCRETE SUPPORTS IN TIMES OF NEED — Meeting the basic needs of the family and having access to community resources that provide those needs.
3. KNOWLEDGE OF PARENTING AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT — Obtaining proper knowledge related to child development in the social, emotional, and physical domains.
4. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL COMPETENCE — Teaching children to socialize with others and adequately regulate emotions through modeling positive behavior.
5. NURTURING AND ATTACHMENT — Providing children with a loving and caring environment can help them grow and develop healthy self-esteem and confidence in themselves.
6. PARENTAL RESILIENCE — Coping with adverse life events or activities in an appropriate, effective manner.

LCTF Grant Review and Awards Process

LCTF awards grants based on an annual competitive grant proposal process. Public, private nonprofit agencies, churches, and other organizations submit proposals to LCTF which are reviewed by the Executive Director and board members and scored by at least two reviewers. Recommendations for grant award funding for proposals with the highest reviewer scores along with consideration to the number of child abuse and neglect cases reported per capita in regions from the prior calendar year are made to the Children's Trust Fund's Board of Directors who have the ultimate decision. Grant awards are allocated to parts of the state where child abuse and neglect are the most prevalent. LCTF seeks to make the biggest impact by providing prevention services to areas where children and families are most at risk.

To ensure the accountability of grant funding, an annual review of the funded proposals occurs to assess program planning, implementation, and evaluation. The yearly review involves an analysis of grantee surveys collected at two points: mid-term and end of the grant implementation year.

The current report is a review of the findings of the end of year review for the 2020-2021 grant period. The Louisiana State University's Social Research and Evaluation Center (LSU SREC) conducted the data analysis based on the grantees' end of year surveys and LCTF administrative data. This report includes information about the grantee's project implementation, outcomes, and a description of individuals served.



“A Brighter Tomorrow for Louisiana’s Children”

APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

LSU-SREC employed a collaborative, utilization-focused approach. The goal of this report is to provide LCTF with useful information to demonstrate accountability and review project activities. There are six main evaluation questions addressed in this report.

Evaluation Questions

1. Who are the 2020-2021 LCTF grantees? What are their programs, conferences, and grant activities?
2. How much funding do grantees receive from LCTF? What other, non-LCTF sources of funding do grantees receive?
3. What is the geographical distribution of LCTF grants?
4. Who are the LCTF grants serving?
5. How are grantees assessing the effectiveness of their programs?
6. What are the impacts of programs as reported by LCTF grantees?

Data Analysis

Data Collection Methods

The evaluation includes data from several sources. These sources include:

1. Administrative records obtained from LCTF:
 - Grant award information – Grant funding amounts
 - Grant proposal information: (Region served, agency name, proposal name, evidenced-based intervention used)
2. An End of Year survey was developed by LSU SREC to assess grant information and related activities such as funding, geographical information, participant information, grant implementation, and outcome effectiveness. A data user guide and training webinar were provided to grantees to assist in their data entry.

Data was collected in June 2021 through a web-based data reporting system. All grantees completed the end-of-year survey. Multiple methods were used to analyze data, including statistical analysis of quantitative data (i.e., descriptive statistics), thematic coding, and content analysis of qualitative data.

It is important to note that grantees reported implementation delays due to COVID-19 and one site could not implement their grant. This report will describe the findings of the grantees despite these disruptions to program implementation.

DESCRIPTION OF GRANTS

LCTF awarded 59 grants during the 2020-2021 funding year, including one grant unable to be implemented. LCTF grants included 50 programs and 9 conferences from 40 agencies. Programs generally deliver a specified curriculum. Conferences are usually general events that occur over a short duration, which may include trainings or meetings offered to a particular group. Of the 59 grantees, 36 grantees served historically underserved populations, such as children or adults with disabilities (Table 12 presents a full list). Appendix A has a complete list of grant recipients.

Geographical Reach of Funded Projects

Figure 1 illustrates the number of funded grants per region or multiple regions where children and families were served. Grants serving participants in more than one region are counted in each region. LCTF divides the parishes of the state into nine geographical regions. It is important for grant funding to reach each of these nine regions as these regions represent all areas and communities in Louisiana that have different needs related to child abuse and neglect. A grant may serve participants in a specific region, multiple regions, or the entire state. During the 2020-2021 year, LCTF funded 45 (76%) grants that served individuals in the nine regions, and funded 14 (24%) grants that served populations statewide.

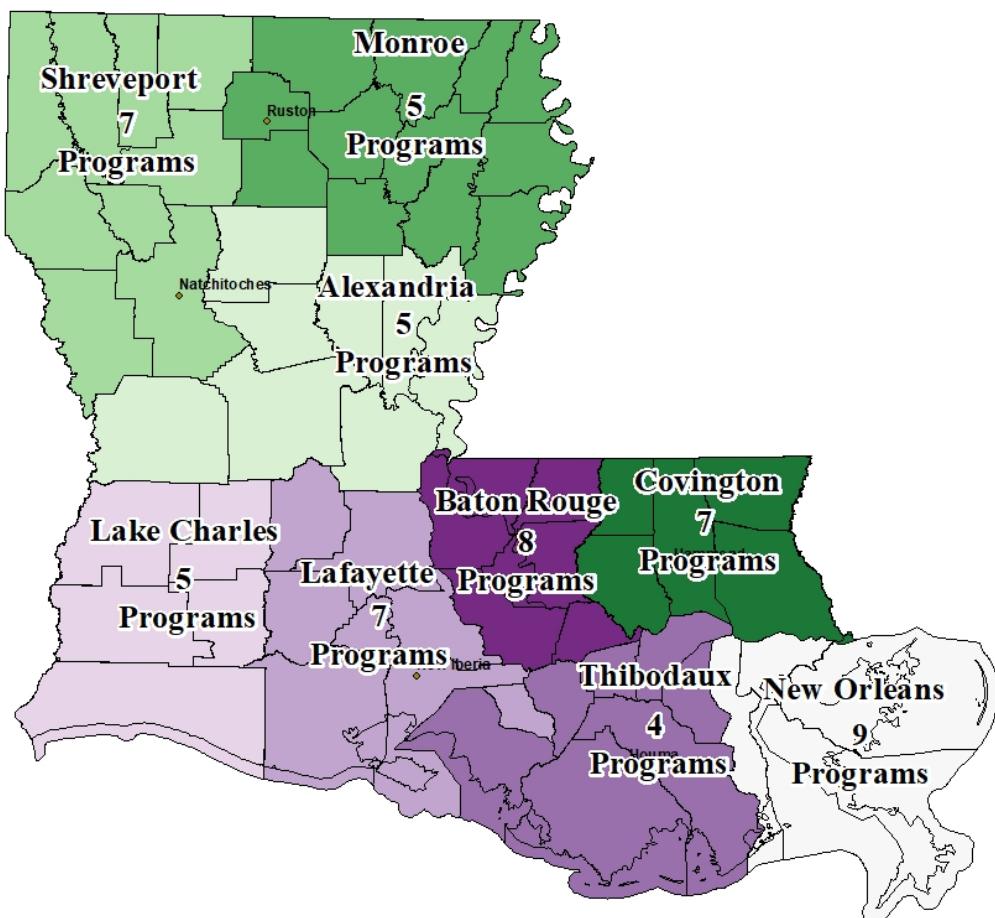


Figure 1. Number of grants funded by the region served

Grant Awards and Expenditures

Table 1 represents a summary of the total amount funded, expended funding and difference. The largest grant award was \$50,000, the smallest grant award was \$5,000, and the median grant award was \$10,000. Figure 2 presents the distribution of grant awards. Of the 59 grantees, 46 grantees spent all their monetary award, 12 grantees were not able to spend all of the monetary award, and one grantee reported no money spent on the original proposed intervention, but was able to use the grant award on the agency's other grant.

TOTAL GRANT AWARDED	TOTAL GRANT EXPENDED	DIFFERENCE
\$785,735	\$698,679	\$87,056

Table 1. Summary of Expended Funding

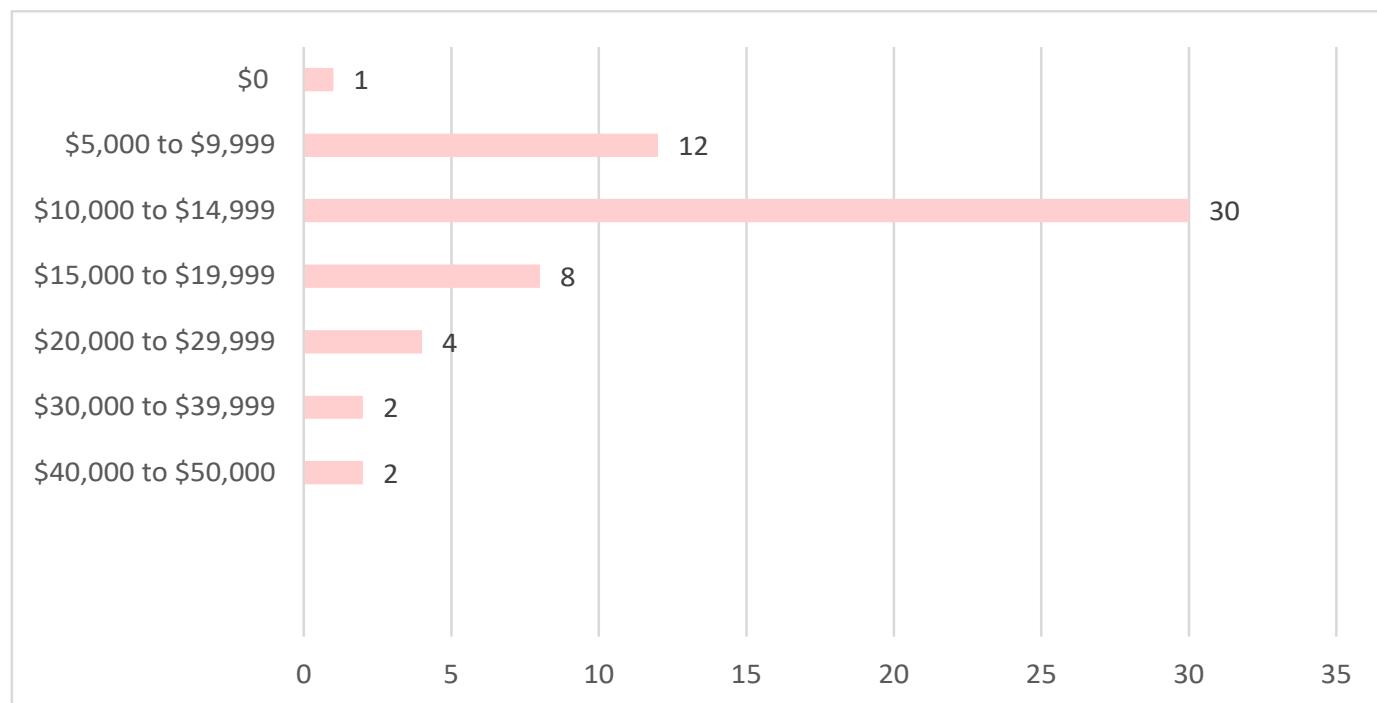


Figure 2. Distribution of LCTF Grants by Funding Amounts

Funding Distribution by Region

The amount of LCTF funding awarded by region is presented in Table 2. As previously mentioned, part of the formula used to make grant awards is based on the number of reported child abuse and neglect cases to the Louisiana Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) in each region. When possible, funding would be distributed to areas of the state with equivalent need, as demonstrated by the number of DCFS cases.

REGIONS	AMOUNT OF TOTAL LCTF FUNDING AWARDED
Region 1 - New Orleans	\$96,428
Region 2 - Baton Rouge	\$83,833
Region 3 - Covington	\$81,833
Region 4 - Thibodaux	\$39,500
Region 5 - Lafayette	\$105,765
Region 6 - Lake Charles	\$36,000
Region 7 - Alexandria	\$62,691
Region 8 - Shreveport	\$51,833
Region 9 - Monroe	\$45,850
Statewide Projects	\$182,000

Table 2 . Funding awards by region

Additional Sources of Support

Table 3 lists the number of grants that received non-LCTF support. As presented, 28 (47%) grantees reported additional monetary funding from sources other than LCTF. In addition to LCTF funding, most grantees (n=38, 64%) reported other monetary, in-kind, and volunteer support for their program or conference. These grantees received financial support from sources such as private foundations, nonprofit community or charitable organizations, churches, fundraisers, local business, government agencies, and private donations. The sum of additional funding was \$4,720,945, with a minimum donation of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$984,000. The median reported monetary support reported was \$61,250.

NON-LCTF SUPPORT	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Monetary	28
In-Kind	21
Volunteer	25

Table 3. Distribution of non-LCTF support

Less than half of the grantees received volunteer support, with over 2,525 volunteers reported. Grantees also received program assistance from interns and employees who donated their time. Grantees benefited from in-kind support in different ways, which included:

- Computer/technology assistance including white boards, and video capabilities for Zoom;
- Food donations;
- Space at community centers, offices, and schools;
- Printing and advertising services;
- Services and supplies (i.e., utilities, food, insurance, vehicles, office supplies, printing, postage, clothing, white boards, diapers, face masks, plexi glass shields, school supplies) .

Grant Characteristics

Program Areas

Table 4 lists the number of grants by program or funding areas. Grantees may select more than one funding areas. Each grantee indicated a program or funding area to categorize their program or conference.

FUNDING AREAS	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Teaching children personal safety and life skills	23
Education and support services to families	26
Hospital and/or visitation support services to families	0
Public awareness and education programs for adults	17
Training and education of professionals and volunteers	20

Table 4. Number of grants by program or funding areas

Protective Factors

Table 5 shows the number of grants that addressed each protective factor. An essential element of an LCTF grant is the ability to address and strengthen protective factors as described in the Strengthening Families' model. Grantees may address multiple protective factors concurrently.

PROTECTIVE FACTOR	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Children's Social and Emotional Competence	47
Social Connections	47
Parental Resilience	41
Nurturing and Attachment	35
Concrete Support in Times of Need	35
Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development	34

Table 5. Number of Grants by Protective Factor Addressed

Evidence-based Interventions

The level of evidence and the number of interventions are presented in Table 6. LCTF encourages grantees to adopt evidence-based interventions with established needs and outcomes appropriate to program participants. Each grantee identified intervention(s) used and the associated levels of evidence. A total of 38 programs reported 53 evidenced-based interventions. All conferences and the remaining programs did not report an evidence-based intervention. Please note that a grantee may implement more than one evidence-based intervention during the year.

LEVEL OF EVIDENCE	NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS
Well-supported Practice	36
Supported Practice	2
Promising Practice	15
Emerging Practice	0

Table 6. Distribution of Level of Evidence-Based Interventions

Program Modifications

The number of program modifications are presented in Table 7. At times, programs make modifications to proposed evidence-based interventions. These changes can be unplanned or unforeseen, but necessary. These changes are not ideal as evidence-based interventions are meant to be implemented with fidelity.

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
Yes	15
No	23

Table 7. Program modifications

Activities and Services

LCTF funders are interested in the number of programs providing direct services to children, parents and caregivers, and families. Most programs reported providing direct services (n=47, 94%).

Table 8 shows the full list of program services and activities implemented during the year. Programs (n=50) described the types of activities and services provided during the year. The most common activities or services were Classes/Workshops (n=26, 52%), Prevention Services (n=22, 44%), and Teaching Children Life Skills (n=21, 42%).

ACTIVITIES	COUNT
Advocacy Classes/Workshops	26
Prevention Services	22
Teaching Children Life Skills	21
Education/Training Program	19
Counseling or Clinical Intervention	14
Advocacy	11
Outreach Events	11
Afterschool and/or Youth Development	10
Other	9
Support Groups	9
Emergency/Transitional Housing Services	4
Hospital/Home Visits	4
Planned and/or Respite Care	4
Court Accompaniment/Legal Advocacy	2

Table 8. Number of Program Activities

Other activities described:

- Provided basic needs and supplies (school uniforms, diapers, food, clothing, meals, emergency assistance);
- Mentoring services;
- 24 Hour Hotline;
- Case management - referrals, intakes, exchange information with schools, check-ins.

Table 9 shows the full list of program service deliveries reported. Programs (n=50) describe the most common methods of service deliveries. Holding events or classes were the most common - virtually (n=38, 76%) and in-person (n=26 , 52%).

MODES OF SERVICE DELIVERY	NUMBER
Virtual Classes	38
In-person Classes	26
Phone Calls	23
Client information	22
Virtual Check-ins	14
Client Resources	12
Virtual Therapy	11
Home Visits	9
Other	9
Pre-recorded videos	3

Table 9. Number of Program Services and Activities

Other service delivery methods include:

- Mentoring support through phone calls, text and email;
- Self-directed trainings for staff and volunteers;
- Distributed resources on digital billboards and bus stops;
- In-person therapy;
- Face-time social engagements;
- Assisted with outside referrals.

Public Awareness Activities

Methods of public awareness activities have been grouped into categories and presented in Table 10. Most grantees (53 out of 59 grantees or 90%) promoted child abuse and neglect prevention or other public awareness activities during the year. Grantees utilized many different methods to advocate for child abuse prevention.

METHOD	EXAMPLES
Social Media/Web Presence (n=40)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twitter• Facebook• Instagram• Website presence
Creation, Distribution of Materials, Handouts (n=28)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flyers• Brochures• Handouts• Mass e-mails• Mailings• Newsletter
Outreach (n=36)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in programs/workshops• Presentations• Speaking engagements• Television program events
Media Activities (n=22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio and TV appearances• Articles in newspaper and local magazines• Interviews
Legislative/Government Activities (n=18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Day at the Capitol• Legislative advocacy• Participating in Governor's task forces, committees, summits

METHOD	EXAMPLES
Public Awareness Activities/PR Campaign (n=29)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue pinwheels • Blue ribbon campaign • Billboards/Bus stop signs
Special Events (n=13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galas/events • Fairs • Fundraising • Tournaments
Other (n=2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newsletters and e-newsletters • In-person safety protocols and social distancing measures introduced through a residential program

Table 10. Types of Public Awareness Activities

Conferences/Events

Table 11 presents the results of the various conference activities. Nine conference grantees also reported grant activities. The majority (n=9 or 15%) of conferences and events described providing speakers, trainers, workshops, and classes.

TYPE OF CONFERENCE/EVENT	COUNT
Speakers/Trainers	6
Workshops/Classes	5
Educational Activities	3
Community Outreach Activities	1
Other	1

Table 11. Types of Conferences

Conferences/Events Modifications

Table 12 presents the results of modifications made to conferences/events. Some programs modified service delivery due to COVID-19. In person trainings and conferences were held in virtual settings. One grantee was unable to offer virtual services so the grant funds were used in a different way than originally proposed. events.

PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS	NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
Yes	7
No	2

Table 12. Conferences/Events Modifications

DEMOGRAPHICS

Characteristics of program participants are reported below.

Participants

Table 13 presents the number of individuals, children, adults, families, and professionals/volunteers served based on the funding category. Grantees in funding category 4 reported the number of services and training activities provided to adult participants, and the number of people reached through large scale public awareness campaigns. About 45% of the demographic characteristics of children served are known. More than 85% of adults, parents, and professionals/volunteers' demographics were not reported. Since adult demographic information is not available, it can not be included in this report.

	FUNDING CATEGORY 1 TEACHING CHILDREN PERSONAL SAFETY AND LIFE SKILLS	FUNDING CATEGORY 2 EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PARENTS	FUNDING CATEGORY 3 HOSPITAL AND/OR VISITATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES TO FAMILIES	FUNDING CATEGORY 4 PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ADULTS	FUNDING CATEGORY 5 TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF PROFESSIONALS AND VOLUNTEERS
Children	7,291	3,967	-	1,816	27
Parent/Caregivers	40	10,695	-	1,462	114
Families			-		
Adults	58	817	-	8,186	96
Professionals/ Volunteers	147	219	-	692	9,896
Families served		11,857		-	-
Number reached through Public Awareness Campaign only		-		1,107,755	-

Table 13. Total Number Served by Funding Category

Children Served

Table 14 presents the demographic information of children served. Grantees reported demographic characteristics of children served by their program or conference.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF CHILDREN	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
Gender		
Female	4,388	33.5%
Male	4,408	33.6%
Unknown	4,305	32.9%
Race		
Asian	103	0.8%
African American	4,074	31.1%
Hispanic	305	2.3%
Native American/Alaskan/Native	19	0.1%
White/Caucasian	4,004	30.6%
Multi-racial	149	1.1%
Other	114	0.9%
Unknown	4,333	33.1%
Age		
Birth – 5 years old	468	3.1%
6 – 11 years old	5,516	42.1%
12 – 17 years old	2,972	22.7%
Unknown Child Age	4,145	31.6%

Table 14. Number of Children Served by Demographics

The number of historically underserved populations are presented in Table 15. LCTF funders, specifically CBCAP, are interested in the groups served .

HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS	NUMBER
Children with disabilities	174
Adults with disabilities	158
Individuals of racial or ethnic minorities	5,545
Homeless youths, families, and those at risk of homelessness	1,059
Adult former victims of child abuse and neglect or intimate partner violence	310
Fathers	187
Non-native English speakers	22
Immigrants	14
OTHER POPULATIONS SERVED:	
Grandparents	2,957
Foster and adoptive parents	200
Children/families involved with DCFS	1,734
Students	1,099
Children who have witnessed abuse	9
Children who have an incarcerated parent	125
Children with a co-occurring illness	39
LGBTQIA+ youth	3

Table 15. Number of Individuals Served in Historically Underserved Populations

EVALUATION FINDINGS

Most grantees conducted an evaluation (n=39 or 69%), as seen in Table 15, despite interruptions and barriers caused by COVID-19. Due to the disruptions, barriers, and accommodations to grant implementation because of COVID-19, some grantees may have had difficulty collecting evaluation data or following an original evaluation plan.

Table 16 presents the number of grants that conducted an evaluation. Many of the grantees reported an evaluation of their program or conference (n=39, 66%) in the end-of-year survey; however, at mid-year, 57 grantees described either an evaluation-in-progress or planned. Twenty grantees (34%) reported no evaluation of their program or conference at end-of-year.

EVALUATION CONDUCTED	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Yes	39
No	20

Table 16. Number of Grantees Conducting an Evaluation

Types of Data Gathered and Data Methods

Table 17 shows the number of data methods used for evaluations, and Table 18 presents when evaluation data was gathered. Grantees reported the types of data gathered and evaluation methods used to determine the outcome of their performance measures. Despite interruptions with implementation, 39 grantees reported an evaluation with a variety of data methods and time periods used to collect evaluation data. Most grantees used surveys, questionnaires and assessments that are either developed in-house or empirically validated.

DATA METHODS	NUMBER OF GRANTS
Survey/questionnaire/assessment	38
Interviews	7
Observations	6
Collection of Secondary Data	5
Focus Groups	3
Other Method	2

Table 17. Types of Data Methods Used for Evaluations

EVALUATION DESIGNS	NUMBER OF GRANTEES
Pre/post test	20
Post test only	12
During implementation	9
Other data collection tool	7
Pre/post test with follow-up	3
Restrospective pre/post follow-up	2

Table 18. Types of Evaluation Designs

Summary Evaluation Findings

LSU SREC reviewed each grantee's end of year report for clarity and alignment of outcomes, performance measures, and evaluation methods. Specifically, researchers determined whether program activities were appropriately linked to reported outcomes and activities designed to address child abuse and neglect. After analyzing each evaluation, grants were placed into four categories: 1) grantees clearly articulated goals and evaluation methods; 2) grantees reported evaluation information, but did not appropriately link goals to desired outcomes; 3) grantees did not report enough information to make a determination; and 4) grantees did not report any evaluation activities.

EVALUATION RESULTS	NUMBER OF GRANTEES
Grantees clearly articulated goals, grant activities and evaluation methods linked to desired outcomes	29
Grantee did not report any evaluation activities	20
Grantee did not report enough information to make a determination	10
Grantees reported evaluation information but did not appropriately link goals to desired outcomes	0

Table 19. Evaluation Results

Barriers Encountered

Grantees described barriers and disruptions during the year especially related to COVID-19 and the continued uncertainties surrounding access to participants and settings for grant operations.

Barriers and efforts to address these obstacles are described in Tables 20. Grantees shared the types of barriers encountered during the implementation of the programs or conferences as well as steps that were taken to resolve these problems. Many of the grantees (n=54, 92%) reported one or more barriers during the year, and five grantees reported no barriers during implementation.

BARRIER	EFFORT TO RESOLVE BARRIER
Program Implementation Delayed, Adjusted, Adapted, or Unable (n=35)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offered virtual trainings, conferences and workshops via Zoom, Moodle, and Whova Created pre-recorded videos and online self study modules Rescheduled and coordinated events with partners to obtain recruit more participants Delivered program materials to participants and volunteers to work at their own pace Modified programs to online with software that allowed engagement and live feedback
Recruitment, Implementation and Retention Issues (n=19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discounted rate to attract more attendees Negotiated with courts to provide COVID-19 testing Built network contacts Developed partnerships within the community to host and promote the training Continued programming, even when participants moved out of target area Virtual training, recruitment, and outreach
Equipment/Internet Issues (n=12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent posttest via email Offered a socially distanced in-person summer camp Applied for a grant that provided computers for therapists to conduct telehealth services Developed a plan to properly resolve IT issues
Evaluation or Data Collection Issues (n=11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated with partners to adjust evaluation collection to include demographic data Relied on school staff to collect data from students Mailed evaluations to participants Continued to expand knowledge and access to web-based evaluation and data collection tools
Coordination Issues (n=10)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned programming delivered to another grade As the temporary solution of offering virtual schooling options and abbreviated attendance requirements at the day schools proved untenable, the decision has been made to requirement on-site attendance for the coming year
Needs of the Family (n=9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated disaster relief Engaged community partners to help assist families Purchase supplies for families and children Worked extended hours to provide needed services to families
Workplace Safety and Well-Being (n=8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained in COVID Health guidelines Developed a virtual-based training for those who have not resumed 'in-person' programming due to COVID Created COVID protocols Hired a nurse, created an isolation area for anyone experiencing symptoms Practiced social distancing at all times

Table 20. Barriers Encountered

CONCLUSION

LCTF awarded 59 grant awards in 2020-2021. One grant did not spend any funds but rolled their money into another grant award. All grantees completed the end of year data collection survey. The grant recipients included 50 programs and nine conferences from 40 agencies across the state. LCTF awarded over \$785,000 to address child abuse and neglect in the state of Louisiana.

A balance of over \$87,000 had not been expended by grantees as reported in the end of year survey. Twenty-eight grants received support from sources other than LCTF which included monetary support, in-kind support, and volunteer support. Grantees received a total of \$4,720,945 in other monetary support from sources like grants, foundations, and other government agencies.

At the end of the year, over 45,500 individuals, about 11,850 families were served by LCTF grants. Furthermore, over 1,100,000 people were reached through public awareness campaigns. Thirty-six grants served historically underserved populations including 359 individuals with disabilities -- 185 adults and 174 children. Demographic information was collected for approximately 65% of children served. Unfortunately, demographic information was not collected for 85% of adults served. The collection of demographic information continues to be a challenge for many grantees.

Many of the grantees (n=39, 66%) conducted evaluations. Most of the grants used questionnaires or survey instruments or assessment (n=38) to collect evaluation data. The most frequently used evaluation method by the grantees was the pre-test and post-test evaluation design (n=20).

Grantees experienced several barriers related to program implementation. The most frequently reported issues were in implementation delays, adjustments or unable to complete the planned grant (n=35). Grantees documented their attempts to resolve all barriers experienced this year. The most described resolution to barriers this year was implementing what was possible but not necessarily what was planned such as shifting to on-line or virtual platforms when in-person wasn't an option.

Overall, LCTF grantees demonstrated continued resilience as delays and barriers prevented planned implementation of programs and conferences. Grantees continued to adapt activities, service delivery and data collection efforts to meet the needs of participants.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MAINTAIN CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ALTERNATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, grantees should maintain contingency plans for alternative service delivery. It is important for grantees to respond to emergency executive stay-at-home orders issued by Governor John Bel Edwards. This would ensure that programs are not impacted by disruptions and delays. Agencies should also create emergency plans for data collection and evaluation methods. Grantees should ensure the safety of families and staff.

2. DEVELOP A SYSTEMIC WAY TO COLLECT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

There is a need for agencies to improve their capacity to collect demographic information. A large portion of demographic data was not reported among agencies, specifically parents/caregivers, adults, and professionals/volunteers. Collecting basic demographic information will allow LCTF to examine the extent to which programs are reaching their intended population and filling gaps in a particular parish or region. Intake forms could be modified to collect this information.

REFERENCES

- Ballard, M. & Karlin, S. (2020, March 22). Louisiana issues statewide stay-at-home order to combat coronavirus spread; see details here. *The Advocate*. https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/coronavirus/article_922869e8-6c6d-11ea-aeee-6b6fd5e8f4bd.html
- Bureau of Family Health. (2020). Louisiana Child Death Review Annual Report 2016-2018. Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana Department of Health. https://ldh.la.gov/assets/oph/Center-PHCH/FamilyHealth/CDR/CDR_Report_2016-2018_FINAL.pdf
- Bureau of Family Health. (2019). 2013-2015 Louisiana Child Death Review Report. Baton Rouge, Louisiana: Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health. Retrieved from <http://dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1348>
- Centers for Disease Control (CDC) [2021]. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_totalcases
- Hauck, L., Reyes, L., & Ortiz, J. (2020, March 29). *'Stay Home, Stay Healthy': These states have ordered residents to avoid nonessential travel amid coronavirus.* USA TODAY. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2020/03/21/coronavirus-lockdown-orders-shelter-place-stay-home-state-list/2891193001/>
- Hunter, S. (2020, November 9). Dip in reporting amid pandemic suspected as number of reported child abuse cases drops. <https://www.wafb.com>. Retrieved December 2, 2021, from <https://www.wafb.com/2020/11/09/investigators-dip-reporting-amid-pandemic-suspected-number-reported-child-abuse-cases-drop/>.
- Louisiana Children's Trust Fund. (2019). <http://www.lctfund.org/about-us>
- Reis, C. and Lawry, L.L. (2020, April 6). *Abused children and families, people with mental illness are more vulnerable in quarantine.* <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-04-abused-children-family-people-mental.html>
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Administration for Children & Families, OPRE (Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation). (2017). <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/topic/overview/abuse-neglect-adoption-foster-care>

APPENDIX

2020 – 2021 Programs, Conferences and Events

AGENCY NAME	GRANT NAME	GRANT TYPE
ARCO	Parenting a Child with Special Needs	Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Acadiana	Mentorining Matters	Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwest Louisiana	Defending Potential	Program
Boys and Girls Club of Acadiana	Boys andd Girls Clubs: Professional Development Conference	Conference/Event
	Project Impact	Program
Boys and Girls Club of Greater Baton Rouge (GBR)	Be Safe, Be Smart: Get Real About Violence (3 Grants)	Program
CASA of South Louisiana	My Community Cares Lafayette	Program
Children's Coalition for Northeast Louisiana	Stewards of Children	Program
Child Addvocacy Services	Recognize, React, Report	Program
	Darkness to Light (2 programs)	Program
	Prevent, Prepare, Protect Using Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Training	Program
Children's Advocacy Center-Hope House	Child Abuse Prevention Project for St. Tammany and Washington	Program
Community Renewal International	Neighborhood Support Program	Program
Crossroads NOLA	Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) Fridays	Program
East Baton Rouge Juvenile Parish Court	Strenghtening Families	Program
Empower 225	My Community Cares	Program
Eternal Crisis Outreach	Enternal Crisis Outreach	Program
Family and Youth Counseling Agency	Social Skills	Program
	Youth Life Skills	Program
	Connections Count!	Conference/Event
The Family Tree	Safe Space Program	Program
Food Bank of Central Louisiana	Back Program	Program
Fostering Community	My Community Cares Alexandria	Program
Gingerbread House	Knowledge is Power	Program
Girls Scouts of Louisiana-Pines of the Gulf	Be a Friend First	Program
Grandparents Raising Granchildren	GRG and Other Relatives Raising Children	Conference/Event
	GRG Infomation Center of Louisiana	Program

AGENCY NAME	GRANT NAME	GRANT TYPE
Life of a Single Mom	Single Mom Child Abuse Prevention Initiative	Program
Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCAV)	Statewide Children's Advocacy	Conference/Event
Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parent Association	Together We Can	Conference/Event
Louisiana School-Based Health Alliance (LASBHA)	LASBHA Annual Conference	Conference/Event
New Orleans Children's Advocacy Center	Society Courage to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse	Program
Plaquemines Community CARES Centers Foundation, Inc	Darkness to Light	Program
	Active Parenting	Program
	Suicide Prevention	Program
	Triple P	Program
Providence House	Emergency Shelter for Homeless Families with Children	Program
Rays of Sonshine	Project Connect	Program
Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response	Teen Dating Violence Prevention(3 grants)	Program
Southeastern University	Systematic and advanced Clinical Intervention for Human Trafficking Survivors to Support Child and Family Resiliency to Break the Cycle of Child Abuse and Neglect	Program
Southern Center for Children and Families	Crisis Intervention Services (3 grants)	Program
	Be the Hope	Conference/Event
VIA LINK	Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Kidline	Program
Volunteers of America (VOA) of Southeast Louisiana	Mentoring Children of Promise	
The Walls Project	JOLT: Teen Empowerment Conference	Conference/Event
The Wellspring Alliance for Families	Project YEP (Youth Empowerment Program)	Program
Youth Oasis	Youth Thrive	Program
Youth Service Bureau of St. Tammany	Family Strenghtening	Program
	Youth Service Bureau Court Appointed Special Advocates (YSB CASA)	Program
	Truancy Assessment and Service Center (TASC) Early Truancy Intervention	Program

